

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2013, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, DAVID H. UIBLE AND ROBERT L. PROUD IN ATTENDANCE.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND CONNIE TIBBE, CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.

LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2013 INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS VIDEOTAPED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IN ADDITION, THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AT <http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/videos-worksession.aspx>.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Issue - Foster Care Rates

Additional Attendees - Brenda Gilreath, Tim Dick and Hope Shinkle of the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS).

Discussion - Tim Dick, DJFS Assistant Director, Children's Protective Services (CPS), addressed the Board with regard to a proposal to increase the per diem rates for foster parents. Documentation outlining the current foster care rates, as well as, the proposed new rates was provided (copy attached). An overview of the rates by age groups was provided for the three levels of foster care services including (1) base rate, (2) moderate behavior/medical and (3) three or more children. Emergency rates and therapeutic rates were also provided and discussed. It was noted that the current foster care rates have been in effect since 07/01/10.

Mr. Dick identified the proposed increases for each service level as outlined on the documentation provided, with a total increase to the maximum weekly foster care rate of \$25.00 (increasing from \$100.00 to \$125.00 per week). It was noted that there is no recommended change to the foster parent mileage reimbursement rate.

The advantages of the proposed new foster care rates were identified including (1) the changes will assist in keeping children local (in lieu of placements outside of the community) which is beneficial to the children, (2) more sibling groups will stay together, (3) a cost savings for the county will be generated by avoiding contracted foster care which is more expensive, (4) less CPS staff time will be required due to fewer visits to network providers and (5) the number of foster parents will increase due to the more competitive rates.

Mr. Dick indicated that the goal is to make foster parenting more financially feasible. He further reported that, currently, the county has already surpassed last year's total foster care placements. With four more months left in the year, it is anticipated that county placements will reach an all-time high this year. Consequently, the need for foster parents is crucial.

Additional discussion was held regarding upcoming foster parent events including a regional Foster Parent Conference scheduled for September 6th and 7th, as well as, a Foster Parent Open House to be scheduled in the near future.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed – The Board indicated their concurrence with the recommended per diem rate increases for foster parents as discussed and directed the Administration to prepare the foster parent rate increases for their approval in regular session. (10-0526-001)

Adjournment

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, PRESIDENT

DAVID H. UIBLE, VICE PRESIDENT

ROBERT L. PROUD, MEMBER

STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE APPROVED