

**441—156.9 (234) Rate of payment for foster group care.**

**156.9(1) *In-state reimbursement.*** Effective November 1, 2006, public and private foster group care facilities licensed or approved in the state of Iowa shall be paid for group care maintenance and child welfare services in accordance with the rate-setting methodology in this subrule.

*a.* A provider of group care services shall maintain at least the minimum staff-to-child ratio during prime programming time as established in the contract. Staff shall meet minimum qualifications as established in 441—Chapters 114 and 115. The actual number and qualifications of the staff will vary depending on the needs of the children.

*b.* Additional payment for group care maintenance may be authorized if a facility provides care for a mother and her young child according to subrule 156.9(4).

*c.* Reimbursement rates shall be adjusted based on the provider's rate in effect on October 31, 2006, to reflect an estimate that group care providers will provide an average of one hour per day of group remedial services and one hour per week of individual remedial services. Subject to paragraph 156.9(1) "e," the reimbursement rate shall be calculated as follows:

(1) Step 1. Annualize the provider's combined daily reimbursement rate for maintenance and service in effect on October 31, 2006, by multiplying that combined rate by 365 days.

(2) Step 2. Annualize the provider's remedial services reimbursement rate for one hour per day of remedial services code 96153 (health and behavioral interventions - group), as established by the Iowa Medicaid enterprise, by multiplying that rate by 365 days.

(3) Step 3. Annualize the provider's remedial services reimbursement rate for one hour per week of remedial services code 96152 (health and behavioral interventions - individual), as established by the Iowa Medicaid enterprise, by multiplying that rate by 52 weeks.

(4) Step 4. Add the amounts determined in Steps 2 and 3.

(5) Step 5. Subtract the amount determined in Step 4 from the amount determined in Step 1.

(6) Step 6. Divide the amount determined in Step 5 by 365 to compute the new combined maintenance and child welfare service per diem rate.

(7) Step 7. Determine the maintenance portion of the per diem rate by multiplying the new combined per diem rate determined in Step 6 by 85.62 percent.

(8) Step 8. Determine the child welfare service portion of the per diem rate by multiplying the new combined per diem rate determined in Step 6 by 14.38 percent.

EXAMPLE: Provider A has the following rates as of October 31, 2006:

- A combined daily maintenance and service rate of \$121.45;
- A Medicaid rate for service code 96153 of \$5.10 per 15 minutes, or \$20.40 per hour;
- A Medicaid rate for service code 96152 of \$19.92 per 15 minutes, or \$79.68 per hour.

Step 1.  $\$121.45 \times 365 \text{ days} = \$44,329.25$

Step 2.  $\$20.40 \times 365 \text{ days} = \$7,446.00$

Step 3.  $\$79.68 \times 52 \text{ weeks} = \$4,143.36$

Step 4.  $\$7,446.00 + \$4,143.36 = \$11,589.36$

Step 5.  $\$44,329.25 - \$11,589.36 = \$32,739.89$

Step 6.  $\$32,739.89 \div 365 \text{ days} = \$89.70$

Step 7.  $\$89.70 \times 0.8562 = \$76.80$  maintenance rate

Step 8.  $\$89.70 \times 0.1438 = \$12.90$  child welfare service rate

Subject to paragraph 156.9(1) "e," provider A's rates are \$76.80 for maintenance and \$12.90 for child welfare services.

*d.* No less than annually, the department shall redetermine the allocation of the combined child welfare service per diem rate between the maintenance and service portions based on review of verified remedial services cost reports for foster group care services providers. If the new allocation differs from the current allocation, the department shall:

- (1) Reallocate the combined child welfare service per diem for foster group care between the maintenance and service portions of the combined rate; and
- (2) Notify all providers of any change in the allocation between maintenance and service rates and the effective date.

*e.* Effective July 1, 2014, the combined service and maintenance reimbursement rate for a service level under the department's reimbursement methodology shall be at least the amount below. If a group foster care provider's reimbursement rate for a service level as of June 30, 2014, is more than the amount below, the provider's reimbursement shall remain at the higher rate.

- (1) For service level, community - D1, the daily rate shall be at least \$87.60.
- (2) For service level, comprehensive - D2, the daily rate shall be at least \$119.09.
- (3) For service level, enhanced - D3, the daily rate shall be at least \$131.09.

**156.9(2)** *Out-of-state group care payment rate.* The payment rate for maintenance and child welfare services provided by public or private agency group care licensed or approved in another state shall be established using the same rate-setting methodology as that in subrule 156.9(1), unless the director determines that appropriate care is not available within the state pursuant to the following criteria and procedures.

*a. Criteria.* When determining whether appropriate care is available within the state, the director shall consider each of the following:

- (1) Whether the child's treatment needs are exceptional.
- (2) Whether appropriate in-state alternatives are available.
- (3) Whether an appropriate in-state alternative could be developed by using juvenile court-ordered service fund or wrap-around funds.
- (4) Whether the placement and additional payment are expected to be time-limited with anticipated outcomes identified.
- (5) If the placement has been approved by the service area manager or chief juvenile court officer.

*b. Procedure.* The service area manager or chief juvenile court officer shall submit the request for director's exception to the Appeals Section, Department of Human Services, Fifth Floor, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. This request shall be made in advance of placing the child and should allow a minimum of two weeks for a response. The request shall contain documentation addressing the criteria for director's approval listed in 156.9(2) "a."

*c. Appeals.* The decision of the director regarding approval of an exception to the rate determination in rule 441—152.3(234) is not appealable.

**156.9(3)** *Supplemental payments for in-state facilities.* Rescinded IAB 9/1/93, effective 8/12/93.

**156.9(4)** *Mother-young child rate.* When a group foster care facility provides foster care for a mother and her young child, the maintenance rate for the mother shall include an additional amount to cover the actual and allowable maintenance needs of the young child. No additional amount shall be allowed for service needs of the child.

*a.* The rate shall be determined according to the policies in rule 441—152.3(234) and added to the maintenance rate for the mother. The young child portion of the maintenance rate shall be limited to the costs associated with food, clothing, shelter, personal incidentals, and supervision for each young child and shall not exceed the maintenance rate for the mother. Costs for day care shall not be included in the maintenance rate.

*b.* The additional amount included in the maintenance rate for the mother by this subrule to cover the maintenance needs of the young child shall be in addition to the minimum rate provided by paragraph 156.9(1) "e."

*c.* Unless the court has transferred custody from the mother, the mother shall have primary responsibility for providing supervision and parenting for the young child. The facility shall provide services to the mother to assist her to meet her parenting responsibilities and shall monitor her care of the young child.

*d.* The facility shall provide services to the mother to assist her to:

- (1) Obtain a high school diploma or general education equivalent (GED).
- (2) Develop preemployment skills.
- (3) Establish paternity for her young child whenever appropriate.
- (4) Obtain child support for the young child whenever paternity is established.

*e.* The agency shall maintain information in the mother's file on:

(1) The involvement of the mother's parents or of other adults.  
(2) The involvement of the father of the minor's child, including steps taken to establish paternity, if appropriate.

- (3) A decision of the minor to keep and raise her young child.
- (4) Plan for the minor's completion of high school or a GED program.
- (5) The parenting skills of the minor parent.
- (6) Child care and transportation plans for education, training or employment.
- (7) Ongoing health care of the mother and child.
- (8) Other services as needed to address personal or family problems or to facilitate the personal growth and development toward economic self-sufficiency of the minor parent and young child.

*f.* The agency shall designate \$35 of the young child rate as an allowance to the mother to meet the maintenance needs of her young child, as defined in her case permanency plan.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 234.6 and 234.38.

[**ARC 7741B**, IAB 5/6/09, effective 7/1/09; **ARC 8715B**, IAB 5/5/10, effective 7/1/10; **ARC 9778B**, IAB 10/5/11, effective 11/9/11; **ARC 1523C**, IAB 7/9/14, effective 7/1/14; **ARC 1607C**, IAB 9/3/14, effective 10/8/14]