



December 20, 2021

Dear Foster Parent:

We are writing to provide you with important information that will affect you in your role as a foster parent. As you may be aware, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Saint Francis Ministries (SFM) have mutually agreed to transition Eastern Service Area (ESA) case management services back to the State of Nebraska. SFM will continue providing Child Placing Agency (CPA) services for ESA families. Starting on **January 3, 2022**, families currently receiving case management from SFM in the Eastern Service Area will be transitioned to DHHS over a six-month period.

DHHS expects to hire many of the SFM case managers; the SFM case managers hired will remain assigned to the same families as they begin their work with DHHS. If DHHS does not hire your SFM case manager, we will assign a new case manager immediately. There will be a formal case transfer staffing to ensure all vital and pertinent information is shared with the newly assigned case manager. You will be contacted by your caseworker regarding this and to address any questions you have regarding this change.

All payments for services and foster care placements previously made by SFM in the ESA will become the responsibility of DHHS. However, if you are an agency supported foster home, your foster care payment will continue to come from the agency with which you are licensed. If you are currently licensed with SFM, SFM will continue to be responsible for your foster care payment (because SFM will continue to be a Child Placing Agency in the ESA).

Your case manager will keep the same phone number so you can contact them with your questions and concerns. A special phone number has been created for you to use if you aren't able to reach your case manager and you have immediate questions or need additional information; this phone number is **402-480-8574**. If you have general inquiries or concerns, you may also email the transition team at DHHS.ESASFContract@nebraska.gov.

DHHS is committed to working with you to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible.

Sincerely,

Stephanie L. Beasley, Director
Division of Children and Family Services

Dr. Alger Studstill, Jr., Deputy Director
Division of Children and Family Services