



Foster Caring



Maintaining confidentiality for foster children in our ever-changing technical world

Region 1 Foster Parent Caregiver Newsletter

Winter 2010

Submitted by Melissa Fielding

Technology is a wonderful thing for many of us. We love our gadgets, love to get information in an instant, and love to stay connected so easily with our friends and family. Technology for all its advances and useful purposes is of course, not without inherent problems. Whether it is the worry of identity theft or the stealing of credit card numbers by an online hacker, one thing is for certain- our “personal” information doesn’t seem very “personal” anymore. It is astounding the information you can get by simply “Googling” a person’s name.



parents post photos on these sites that include foster children. Photographs of foster children even if there is no text that indicates who the child is or their name are still considered “information” about

a child and therefore not appropriate as per **WAC 388**. It is assumed that your close friends and family members will be aware you are a licensed foster home and they may even know the children who are currently placed with you. These sites are not considered a “secure” means of communicating even if the information can only be viewed by those you approve to have access to your specific page.

These sites (such as Facebook and My Space) are not considered “secure” means of communicating...

Foster care licensing staff decided the start of a new year was a good opportunity to provide some clarification and remind all foster families that safeguarding the confidentiality of the foster children in your homes must remain a paramount issue for you to keep foremost in your thoughts. Here’s a “quick refresher” on confidentiality!

With many of the popular social networking sites on the Internet such as Facebook and My Space, DLR has become aware of potential confidentiality issues when foster

If you have posted any information about a foster child on one of these sites, we ask that you remove this information right away and take necessary measures in the future to ensure that this information remains confidential. You can also contact your DLR licensor and/or child’s social worker to discuss any other questions you may have regarding confidentiality. ***See pg. 6 for more information on this WAC.***

Check out the calendar on page 5 and trainings on page 3!

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News from the Doc

Submitted by Dr. Don Ashley

One of the most powerful ways to prevent illness is immunization.

The CDC reports that immunization supplies for seasonal flu are limited. If anyone in your home has not been immunized, get that immunization now if it has not already run out in your community.

The H1N1 epidemic seems to be temporarily decreasing. Doctors are still shaking their heads as to why some people did so well and others who should have done well got so sick. There is a high chance the disease will come back next spring. Anyone who has not already been immunized should get immunized now. That way they will already have high immunity if the disease comes back next spring. Children nine years and younger need a booster. The booster dose can be given any time after four weeks after the first dose.

And yes, it looks like washing the hands and covering the cough made a big difference. Continue washing your hands and covering your cough!



Imminent Risk and Initial Placement FTDMs

Submitted by David Needham

Family Team Decision Meetings (FTDMs) are held whenever placement decisions for children need to be made. For example: when a child is at imminent risk of being placed into care; is placed into care on an emergency basis; when a change of placement is about to occur; or when we are looking at reunification. The purpose of holding an FTDM is to encourage and increase family involvement in placement decisions that affect their children and to involve a broad representation of individuals to share in the decision making process. Teams work together to address the safety concerns and to create a network of support for the child and the adults who care for the child. The goal is to develop a plan that will provide the safest and least restrictive placement for children while preventing unnecessary moves and encouraging continued family involvement.

When a child is assessed to be at high risk for abuse/neglect or within 24-72 hours of an emergency placement/removal, an FTDM is called. The purpose of the FTDM in this situation is to decide if: the agency must file for dependency and request out of home placement by the court; the child can remain in the family home with a safety/service plan in place; or, the child should be voluntarily placed by parent(s) into care.

During the course of the meeting, we discuss all possible placement options. If it is determined that child safety can not be ensured in the parent's care, or if more time is needed to re-search relative placement options, or if there are no relatives available, then a foster home placement will be needed. You, as the potential caregiver, may be called to participate if it is believed that the child will need out of home placement. If you are invited to participate, please come as this is a great opportunity

for you to learn valuable information about the child and the family.

Because the term "foster care" or "foster home" can have a negative connotation for some families – be prepared to share the strengths of your home, family makeup, and that your focus is to ensure safety and that the needs of the children are met. In addition, here are just a few other ideas to help you prepare for the meeting. Be open to ideas, suggestions and be willing to try new things to support the child, parents and your family. Come to the FTDM prepared to share concerns, needs, ideas and questions. Finally, know that through participation of all those involved and by gathering as much information as possible, our goals of preventing unnecessary moves, ensuring safety and reducing trauma to the child increases dramatically!

Sometimes birth parents are not accepting of foster parents initially, but over time grow to accept and appreciate the care that you provide for their children. In addition, by developing a positive working relationship with the birth parents you may be considered a resource for the child in the future (unfortunately, this may not be an option in some situations). By working collaboratively as a team for the child and family -- our goals to support, ensure safety, reduce grief and loss for the child, and reduce trauma to the child can be accomplished.

Thank you for the love and care that you provide for the child in your care. You, as the caregiver, play such an important role in the life of a child. Whether you are caring for a child a short amount of time or will be a child's long term placement, the impact you make on that child will create a long lasting impression and could potentially change their lives forever. Thank you for giving of yourself and serving the children in your care.

Family Team Decision Meetings (FTDMs) are held whenever placement decisions for children need to be made.

Upcoming Training:

Engaging Families for Change
Trainer—Michelle Cutlip

Wednesday 2/10 & 2/17 5:30—8:30 PM
DCFS, Spokane, Southwest Conference Room
Register at cumi300@dshs.wa.gov or call 363-4821

Trainer—Nancy Leigh
1/25/10 & 1/26/10 5:30—9:30

Moses Lake DCFS
Register at Lnan300@dshs.wa.gov

Disruptive Behaviors

Trainer—Randi Hankins

Saturday, 2/13/10 from 9—4

Spokane DCFS Office

Register at cumi300@dshs.wa.gov or call 363-4821

Parenting PLUS Wenatchee DCFS

March 8, 22, April 5, 19

5:30—8:30 p.m.

Parenting with Love & Logic—Wenatchee DCFS

March 15 & 16

5:30—8:30 p.m.

Explosive Child

Trainer—Alison Lorton

Saturday, March 20, 9 AM -12 PM

Spokane DCFS Office

Register at cumi300@dshs.wa.gov or call 363-4821

Trauma and Its Effect on Children

Trainer—Gary Benton

Friday 4/16, 9 AM—4 PM

Spokane DCFS

Register at Cumi300@dshs.wa.gov or call 363-4821

Parenting PLUS Moses Lake DCFS

June 15 & 29

5:30—8:30 p.m.

For Spokane classes contact Michelle at
(509) 363-4821 or email cumi300@dshs.wa.gov
For ML & Colville, contact Nancy at (509)846-2089
or email Nancy at LNAN300@dshs.wa.gov

Upcoming Trainings (cont.)

Sexually Aggressive Youth (SAY)

Wednesday 6/2 & 6/9 from 5:30—9

Spokane DCFS Office

Physically Aggressive Youth (PAY)

Wednesday, 6/23 & 6/30 from 5:30—9

Spokane DCFS Office

Washington State Resource Family Lending Library

The Lending Library offers books, tapes and other training materials for Washington state foster parents and kinship providers to check out. The materials will be mailed to you in a reusable pouch with postage pre-paid by DSHS for the return of materials.

The service is free to **all** Kinship Caregivers and Foster Parents in Washington State. You do not have to have an open case with the Department in order to use this library.

Access training materials

<http://fosterparent.dshs.wa.gov>

Region 1 Foster Parent DVD Lending Library

Training credit will be awarded for viewing videos and filling out a questionnaire. A list of available videos is www.fpas.org

To request a video please e-mail cumi300@dshs.wa.gov, and include your name, address and phone number, as well as the video you are requesting. Due to limited quantities videos will be provided one at a time. If you do not have access to e-mail please leave a message at 509-363-4821.

Foster Care Support Network Self—Study Articles

Pamphlets provided by Foster Care Support Network. One hour of training credit is given for each pamphlet completed. Examples of available articles include:

- ◆ Foster Children and Education
- ◆ Anti-Bullying Strategies

Contact Michelle Cutlip (509) 363-4821

Or by email at cumi300@dshs.wa.gov

Training is also available online at
<http://fosterparent.dshs.wa.gov>



Families for Kids

REGION 1 SUPPORT SYSTEMS CONTACT LIST

Regional Coordinator Dru Powers 509-928-6697 dru.powers@juno.com

NOTICE: Support group dates and locations may change. Call facilitator to confirm.



Clarkston Facilitator

Angie Derting (Support/Buddy Program)
angie@homesofhopeproject.org 509-751-8719
Meets 1st Thursday each month @ 7 P.M.
Lewiston First Nazarene Church-childcare provided
Hope Room – Clothes etc.

Colfax Facilitator (established by Colfax office)
Shelly Elkins, Colfax Office Staff 509.397.5043

Colville Facilitator

Sandee Kircher (Support/Buddy Program)
509-937-4151 kircherbob@yahoo.com
Meets 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 at Pizza Factory
Call to verify location.

Looney Lakers

Pam Clifner (Support/Buddy Program)
509-937-2067 ok9corralbed@yahoo.com
Meets 2nd Tuesday at 6 P.M. at
Call or email for location.

Methow Valley Facilitator

Aimee Grant 509-997-0412
aimeegrant@communitynet.org
Call or email for meeting location and time.

Moses Lake Facilitator (Support/Buddy Program)

Deanna & Steven Reed her_shee@yahoo.com
(509) 349-2620; call or email for location & time

Omak Facilitator (Support/Buddy Program)

Jacque Lott 425-478-3237
jacquelott@yahoo.com
Call for meeting day and time.

Oroville Facilitator (Support Program)

Beth Sutton 509-476-2817 – godschild9878@msn.com
Call or email for meeting day and time.

Pend Oreille Facilitators (Support Program)

Kimberly McNaughton 509-442-2433
Bkmc2@iomet.com; call or email for location/time

Wenatchee Facilitator (Support/Buddy Program)

Paula Vanderpool cell 425-327-9544 paulav@ncesd.org
Meets 6 P.M. at DCFS Office—Call for date.

Lori and Jim Bilbruck (Deer Park Support Group)

509-276-4744 - bilbruckfam@hotmail.com
Meets 3rd Tuesday ea month at 10:30 A.M. at the Bilbruck
home – day care provided at the home

Spokane Facilitators

Trudie Nesbitt – Buddy Program Spokane
509-487-8270 - OnSquidRow@aol.com

Night Life Support Group (Spokane)

Amber Sherman, Facilitator (509) 467-2964
(cell-499-2456) asherman@lcsnw.org
Meets 4th Thursday each month – 6:00 to 8 P.M.
Prince of Peace Church; 8441 N. Indian Trails R., Spokane
Day care provided with 3 days notice.

Life Book Support Group – Renee’ Siers

509-251-2936 – siers2u@comcast.net
Meets 1st Saturday ea month – Call for location

Coffee Time Support Group (Morning meeting)

Cindy Gardner, facilitator; 928-2040; rc.gardner@comcast.net
Ginger Schutt; Renee’ Siers; Carissa Stone, Azra Grudic –
Meets 3rd Thursday ea month – 9:30 to 11:30 A.M.
E. Central Comm. Center – 5th and Stone; day care available.

Aimee and Roger Moses (Native Am FF Support)

509-487-1232 and Cell 218-8889 naffsg@live.com
Meets 3rd Saturday ea month 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
MAC (Museum of Arts and Culture) Enter on Riverside - Training
and Craft for the children

Support for Clothing Available in the Spokane Area:



1. Donation Station

The Donation Station is closed until further notice for reorganization. Please check the FPAS website at www.fpas.org or Facebook for updates and more information.

2. Teen Closet

The Teen Closet, a joint effort of the Foster Parent Association of Spokane and Robyn Nance of KXLY offers teen clothing for any teen connected with Children’s Administration in Region 1. Visit their website at www.teencloset.org or call (509) 534-1151 to arrange an appt. Donations of new or gently used clothing are accepted. Now open in the Spokane Valley off Argonne at 9212 E. Montgomery #302. This new location is bigger and can serve more families at a time. Families are welcome from throughout the region by appointment. More information on their website www.teencloset.org
Open 2nd Saturday of each month from 9—1. Referrals by SW must be submitted first. Call 534-1151 for referrals and information!

3. Julianne’s Prom Closet

Julianne’s Prom Closet is open by appointment only and is at 218 N. Bernard St., in the basement of the Fruci Building in Spokane. The Prom Closet accepts donations of quality new and gently used formal wear, as well as shoes, jewelry, purses and wraps. Call (509) 939-6324 to set up an appointment or make a donation.



Regional News

Next HB 1624 Meeting—Tuesday, March 9th

—Regional House Bill 1624 Meeting in Pullman from **1:00—3:00 PM** at a location to be determined

—**this is a consultation forum for caregivers to have their voices heard.** As part of the bill that was passed in 2007, we are required to have quarterly meetings between Children’s Administration (CA), foster parents/caregivers and members of the Foster Parent Association of WA. The purpose is to receive information and comment regarding how CA is performing the duties and meeting the obligations regarding recruitment, retention, effective training as well as having a coordinated and comprehensive plan that strengthens services for the protection of children.

—**all foster parents & caregivers are encouraged** and welcome to attend; please call (509) 928-6697 or for more information.

—**ALSO, nominations are now being accepted for one of our region’s representatives to the statewide quarterly meetings**

***Please contact Dru Powers at (509) 928-6697 for information**

FP Advisory Board Meetings in Spokane for 2010:

All foster parents are welcome & encouraged to attend

(SW Conference room; check in with reception first)

- ◆ Tuesday, Feb. 9; 12:30—2
- ◆ Tuesday, April 13; 12:30—2

Check out the Foster Parent Association Website for training materials, event information, contact numbers and more for all caregivers in Region 1.

Be sure to check soon for a possible **St. Patty’s Day Party!**

Check it out at www.fpas.org

*Sponsored by Foster Parent Association of Spokane,
Children’s Administration and Families for Kids*

Teen Closet Brings Fashion to Teens

The Teen Closet in Spokane is almost two years old and is proud to say that they have provided clothes for approximately 260 teens since their doors opened.

Teens are referred by their social worker up to two times a year. Once the referral is received then the teen is invited to come shop and pick out new clothes.

The Teen Closet is always looking for donations of new or gently used fashionable clothing for teens as well as toiletries and outerwear. Volunteers are also needed each month on their open house day.

Next open house is February 13 from 9—2

SW referral must be submitted prior to that

For more information, please call 509-534-1151 or see the website at www.teencloset.org

Foster Caring Information

F.I.R.S.T.

Foster Intervention/Retention Support Team

Provides non-judgmental support to foster families experiencing allegations of abuse or neglect.

1-253-219-6782

Foster Parent & Caregiver Support Line

4:30 PM—8 AM Monday—Friday

24 hours a day on weekends and state holidays

1-800-301-1868

Do you have any openings in your home?

Please contact your local office placement desk

This newsletter is mailed to all foster parents, caregivers and interested persons in Region 1

To submit articles for future issues, or to sign up for email alerts contact: Foster Caring; c/o Laurie Palmquist 1313 N. Atlantic, Ste. 2000 Spokane, WA 99201

Or email R1FPSupport@dshs.wa.gov or call (509) 363-3523.

Toll Free: 1-800-558-3040

Fax: (509) 363-4617

Submission deadline for the Spring Issue is March 19, 2010

Div of Children & Family Services
1313 N. Atlantic St., Ste 2000
Spokane, WA 99201-2318

**Region 1 Foster Parent
Caregiver Newsletter**



**Foster Parents—
Our Greatest Resource**



Foster Caring

(continued from page 1)

The WAC on confidentiality states (WAC 388-148-0130):

- (1) Information about a child or the child's family is confidential and must only be shared with people directly involved in the case plan for a child.
- (2) You may discuss information about the child, the child's family and the case plan only with:
 - (a) A representative of the department, including staff from DCFS and DLR; department of health and the office of the state fire marshal;
 - (b) A child-placing agency case manager assigned to the child;
 - (c) The child's assigned guardian ad litem or court-appointed special advocate; or
 - (d) Others designated by the child's social worker.
- (3) You may check with your child's social worker for guidance about sharing information with the child's teacher, counselor, doctor, respite care provider, any other professional, or others involved in the case plan.

Help us go GREEN!

Sign up to receive this quarterly newsletter by email instead of by mail at www.fpas.org and you'll receive up-to-date information all year long.

Plus sign up during this winter and be eligible to win a prize!