

**Foster Parent 1624 Statewide Consultation Team
Video-Conference Meeting
July 21, 2014**

AGENDA TOPICS	TEAM DECISION	ASSIGNMENTS (lead &/or workgroup members/due date)	REPORT TO TEAM	COMPLETE DATE
<p>Welcome by : Meri Waterhouse & Molly Herzog</p> <p>Introductions and Attendance: Angie Wilson, Jessica Hanna, Maria Tovar, Kerry, Jeff Kincaid, Nicole Labelle, Joey Charlton, Amber Sherman, Gerald Donaldson, Ram McKeown, Kathy Ramsay, Shala Crow, Marie Fuji, Diana Chesterfield, Natalie Green, Yen Lawlor, Joel Odimba, Brandy Otto, Darcey Hancock, Elizabeth Griffin Hall, Amy Gardner, Mary Pagni-Leavitt, Molly Herzog, Mike Canfield, Beth Canfield, Ron Effland, Peggy Hays, Debbie Lynn, Meri Waterhouse and Talya Miller.</p>				
<p>Old Business: Work Group Reports / Follow Up</p>				
<p>Parenting Plus Mandatory Training –FP impacts in child care & transportation costs discussion with CA Leadership Team Workgroup continues to meet. UW Alliance training has lead with participation by CA fiscal, Program and Policy and DLR. Goal: implement recommendations in July. Another meeting with Alliance in 2 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still under discussion as to other training – Question is: is it child specific? Write statement that can be disseminated to FP’s • FP’s can claim mileage for CPR/First Aid under current mileage form. 		Meri		
<p>Utilization of DDA providers – can they provide respite care in their own home could the approval process be shortened to assist with respite care? Darcey shared info with the DLR Management team to share info in their regions that DDA providers can choose to provide respite (if they choose to accept the CA rates) which are outside of their DDA contract. These people are generally DSHS employees, or contractors and do not necessarily have all the requirements that DLR expects (background checks, TB testing, CPR certification are some of the requirements); the pay for DDA providers is higher than for regular respite; DLR will work with them if they are willing to accept the CA rate of pay.</p>		Darcey		Completed
<p>Visitation: Foster parents to need/want report of how the child’s visit went? The SFY 2015 visitation contracts have been modified to improve information</p>		Carrie		Completed

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<p>shared back to caregivers. Training has been created for contract providers that is required before providing a visit service and covers the information that needs to be given to the caregiver about the child's visit.</p> <p>FPs may review the Visit Services - Pre-Service Training For Contracted Providers at: http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/partners/intro.asp (The training is the last item listed under "Training.")</p>				
<p>The long wait for intake. Reports of up to 45 minutes just to make a referral continue</p> <p>Follow up on question of FPs sending referrals via email to Intake if not emergent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPs were urged to call in morning whenever possible. <p>Joel reported that in R3, they have established regional goals to reduce wait time to 5 min. or less; structure issues on organizing shifts to maximize staff at peak times; vacancies impacting response time as well; continue to encourage morning call times; update internet information to reflect correct phone numbers; R3 allowed callers the choice of what office they want to contact, but will eliminate that option to maximize the use of staff in each office and reduce wait time; will set up call back option; no clerical support at intake so impacts availability; R3 has begun allocating staff starting with Tacoma; improve liaison relationship with LE.</p>		Joel provided report at July meeting.		Completed
<p>Regional Administration Participation - review regional supports at CAFPT (1624) team meetings.</p> <p>Jennifer will lead a discussion at the October meeting on the regional and state 1624 teams</p> <p>Randy & Jennifer had to attend the Braam hearing today and Jennifer has committed to addressing it at the Oct. mtg. Discussion as to the delay in resolution due to the schedule conflict. How can we avoid this in the future? Do we need to change meeting date so either she or Randy could participate? What is Plan B when either Randy or Jennifer cannot be present? Add this to</p>		Jennifer – holds discussion with team on 1624 structure	Continue to October's meeting	

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agenda for next meeting.				
<p>Support for foster-adoptive parents related to developmental, behavioral, mental health problems that arise after the adoption. Refer issue to Melanie Meyer for discussion, workgroup and reporting back. Have work group begin to identify how other states are responding in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Molly Herzog will participate in one of the next adoption support team meetings where they provide training to the AS staff. <p>Melanie Meyer invited Molly to participate in meeting in Sept with AS staff. Molly would like input from FP's- email would be preferable and she would like this by end of Sept.; Some disagreement about the focus of the discussion; Issue was an adoptive parent was told they could not get any help with an adopted child who exhibited serious mental health symptoms and when the FP stated they would drop the child off at DCFS, they were told it would be abandonment. This incident was said to be the result of no full disclosure about the history of this child. FPAWS stated the problem is that adoptive parents are treated more disrespectfully than any other parent with a child with similar problems. FP's asking for a system to be put into place to handle these cases as CFWS intakes and services be provided to the child and the family to address the problem. Jennifer was at the last statewide meeting and acknowledged this is a problem and the dept. is looking into it.</p>		Melanie and Molly	October	
New Business				
<p>Reg. 1 North - Topic 1: Due to 'regular' foster homes/parents not being adequately trained to handle some of the high needs, severely challenged children placed within these homes, and due to the lack of resources for respite, lack of beds in BRS placements, we need to consider creating professional homes who are staffed and trained to adequately care for these children. In our region, particularly some of the outlying areas, we have had situations where foster parents are stressed, stretched and challenged beyond their abilities. These parents have asked for help, and none came. Social workers cannot force others to take children in for respite, our regular foster</p>		Darcy, Connie, Nicole	Oct	

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<p>parent training does not prepare us for these often beyond the pale situations, and while a child may truly need BRS, bed space is limited. We realize there is a lack of funding, and money is always an issue, but there is a critical need for professional home setting for some children.</p> <p>Melissa McDougal related situation brought up by a FP who was struggling with a high needs child and no resources were available (respite, in home services, etc). Story highlighted the issue of placing children in homes not trained or licensed for kids with behaviors or of an age not originally identified by the foster family as preferable. Recommending the utilization of professional homes trained to handle children with these behaviors. Training is not adequately addressing what to do when these children are acting out or exhibiting these severe behaviors. Timelines needed when FP's ask for these kids be moved and for CA to respect the requested timeline. FP's are encouraged to be to say "no" if the child(ren) do not fit the age/sex/behavioral characteristics they have identified and to ask for the child(ren) to be moved if this information was not available at the time of placement and is causing disruption in their home or unsafe conditions for the other children in the home. Darcy reported there is a model for licensing staff residential homes. Another issue is inadequate rate assessments. FP Critical Support and Intervention Team from Fostering Together would be an appropriate service and this information needs to go out to the fostering community. Are new homes being told they can't turn kids away or send them back? FTDM would need to be held to determine if the placement could be salvaged. If so, what services need to be put into place? New SW's need to be trained that they cannot tell a FP they "can't" have a child moved. If no immediate safety issues, transition would be ideal. Darcy will meet with Connie &/or Nicole to pursue this request. Kerry would like to be included at some point. Report back in Oct. to the group.</p>				
Reg. 1 North - Topic 2 - No Second Topic				
Reg. 1 South - Topic 1: House Bill 6479 Prudent Parenting: Update on WAC and Policy development - What are other areas doing for training on this law? Emergency WAC is in place changing travel requirement and who may watch		Meri – send out info on updated WACs, and		August – all updated materials

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<p>the child out of the home. New WAC reflects the policy language. Newsletters, Caregiver Connection, Facebook pages, FP Support meetings. Chapter references will be included in notes for this meeting. New guidelines will be coming out in the next few weeks. Prudent Parenting Legislation does not negate a child's supervision plan. As for foster kids being able to go to the FP's relatives' home along with their bio children for a weekend, this is an example of what this legislation was intended to allow.</p>		<p>continue messaging in the Caregiver Connection and FB pages</p>		<p>delivered and new Caregiver Guide is sent state wide 8/14/14</p>
<p>Reg. 1 South - Topic 2: Request for discussion – How do other regions collaborate and work with their social workers to improve communication and problems solving? Do you use meetings, mini-conferences, trainings, etc.? How have you worked to resolve concerns and build stronger relationships with the social workers in your area? Is there any type of funding or resources available for this type of training/work/collaboration? Do foster parents know the process to resolve concerns/Constituent Relations Olympia? In Thurston Co. a FP Appreciation Dinner was held and they played a version of "Family Feud" that encouraged FP's and SW's to learn more about each other. Including the SW supervisor in communication between FP and SW. Encouraging informal gatherings involving dinner or dessert shared by FP's and SW's to include kids. Another idea was to include the SW's family as well. BBQ in Seattle, potluck at MLK, RDS events being held. R2 N has lots of events for FP's and invited SW's and management staff to attend. Monthly meeting with Foster Liaisons and AA's. Include placement and licensing staff as well. Lots of support and training available right now. Mockingbird Hub homes being developed in some regions. Lots of emphasis on appreciation and support across the state. Email ideas out using the 1624 distribution list. Constituent Relations encourages FP's to utilize chain of command. Their number is 360-902-8060</p>				<p>Completed via July discussion</p>
<p>Reg. 2 North – Topic 1: Transportation requirements for foster parents are unclear. Many foster parents are being told if they do not do transportation to visits or appointments for medical or counseling that were made by the SW the child/ren will be moved from their home. What are the WAC or Policy around what types of transportations a foster parent is required to provide?</p>		<p>Meri will send comments to Randy and utilize towards efforts to improve Caregiver</p>		<p>Completed – Issue shared with Randy Hart.</p>

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<p>No WAC regarding this. Issue is specific to a SW making the appointment for the child without consulting with the FP. Training needed for SW's around this. How is the issue being addressed when threats are being made by SW that child will be moved? FP's need to notify the supervisor and go up the chain if necessary. If on-going appointments are needed for a child, placement referral needs to reflect this. <i>Caregiver Support Issue.</i></p>		Support		
<p>Reg. 2 North - Topic 2: WAC # 388-148-0260 An adult must be on the same floor or within easy hearing distance and access to where children under 6 years of age are sleeping.</p> <p>Potential foster homes are being told that if their home has the master bedroom on a different floor it is also a fire safety issue and being denied a license for age 0-5 license based on that regardless if they can hear the children on the other floor or have easy access. They are also being told if they have another child age 16 or older on the same floor as the children 0-5 then they would be approved to be licensed for ages 0-5. In the WAC it does not address either of these. Many homes are built with the master bedroom on the main floor and the other bedrooms on the second floor. This is eliminating a large group of potential foster families as most families cannot sell their home and move to accommodate foster children. Town Homes, new construction and older farm houses are also built this way. DLR is turning them away after the family has done all the required training and paper, only to find out they cannot license for younger children based on where their master bedroom is located.</p> <p>Darcy reported this is a fire/safety issue. Safety issues will not be waived. Newer homes tend to have the floor plan mentioned above. May need to switch bedrooms around or take in older kids. Discussion around this issue has been initiated. Baby monitors have been allowed in some circumstances as long as a safety plan is in place for quick access to the child in case of fire. Make sure this is addressed at Orientation so families don't get all the way through the process and then are told they can't have children under 5. Darcy will discuss this with R2 N Licensing supervisors.</p>		Darcey		
<p>Reg. 2 South - Topic 1: Age of in home respite providers: Why 18 yo is not allowed to be an in home respite provider.</p>		Meri	CA's FP page in	Completed – Respite info

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a new WAC that allows 18 year olds and above to be a respite provider. <i>In-home respite providers who are providing respite in the foster parent's home (they are not licensed) can be 18 years old. They need to meet the respite provider requirements.</i> People under 21 are not being approved for provider numbers. Hence no payment. We are hoping that the clarification of WAC and policy will resolve this piece as well <p>18 year old providing respite in FP's home cannot be living in the home. Nothing in our system prevents payment. Must have a SSN. Meri will put on FP Web page.</p>			redesign new material isn't being added. Respite article is in Sept. Caregiver Connect.	will be added to the newly redesigned FP webpage when launched.
<p>Reg. 2 South - Topic 2: Teaming issue. There are concerns of lack of teaming between social workers and foster parents. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster parents reporting major decisions being made without including foster parents Foster parents being routinely asked to prepare documents, such as supervision plan, and provide information repeatedly that should be handled by social worker Foster Care Rate Assessment: Foster parents being asked for information to complete assessments and then being denied a copy of the assessment due to confidentiality <p>FP's need to be included in FTDM and Shared Planning meetings. Emphasis on giving FP adequate notice of meeting. Short falls in day to day relationships/communication between SW & FP's. Mary P-L and AAG will follow up on issue of the Rate Assessment not being given to FP.</p> <p>In Service training being developed through the Alliance to help cover the gap in knowledge of SW. This will be addressed through this process.</p>		Mary	Oct	
<p>Reg. 3 North - Topic 1: 1. Foster parents are struggling to pay for and/or provide extracurricular activities for children in their home (gymnastics, karate,</p>		Meri	Meri has sent a list	

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<p>music lessons, summer camp, etc). It becomes very expensive to pay for several months of a class/activity and there are no resources available. This is vital in “normalizing” the life of a child in foster care and should be available to all children.</p> <p>Peggy developed a list of resources for R3. If there is an identified therapeutic need for an activity, payment will be looked at. Each region needs to reach out to their community partners to seek “scholarships” or other forms of payment for activities for foster children. Ask each regional Liaison to submit lists to Meri and they will be put these resources for each region on the website. Also put on Fostering Together website. Discuss this issue at local FP Support meetings. Often FP’s have found resources but need a means of disseminating the information.</p>			to all regional liaisons staff and to Olive Crest to partner work on regional lists of resources	
<p>Reg. 3 North - Topic 2: 2. Foster parents would like to see a protocol/guide consistently USED with all SW’ers, when children transition out of placement. This should include (for both the child and the foster parent) looking at best interest of the child, best outcome, permanent plan, attachment, grief and loss, support following removal/placement, transparency, etc. Who makes the decision, does it get reviewed by management, what is the follow-up? We are losing good foster parents after the first placement, but this could be prevented with some transition planning and support.</p> <p>R3N is in process of developing a plan/protocol. What do we have in place to address/support the needs of the FP when a child is moved? Could the FTDM facilitator send a notice to the licenser to encourage follow up with the FP to see how they are doing, acknowledging the difference they made in that child’s life and thanking that FP for the care they provided? Include this in the in-service training.</p>		No one assigned	Meri has arranged discussion with prog. Mngers. To review	
<p>Reg. 3 South - Topic 1: “The Parent Mentoring Program (PMP) utilizes foster parents to mentor birth parents whose children have been placed in out-of-home care due to abuse or neglect. This pairing is made with the goal of providing individually targeted services to families designed to remediate their parenting deficits, increase their capacity to meet their children’s needs, and expedite the reunification with their children or completion of another permanent plan.</p>				Completed

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<p>Evaluation of the program conducted by the University of Washington in 2008 determined PMP to be a “promising practice”. When families who were assigned to a mentor were compared to families in a comparison group matched for all relevant demographics it was determined that the PMP families reunified twice as often and 8 months earlier.</p> <p>Of the 69 families involved with PMP whose cases have closed since January 2013, 50 have reunified (72%)</p> <p>This program has been eliminated by the Region. Foster parents would like to see it re-instated in the best interest of children.</p> <p>FP’s want to let the State know that the Parent Mentoring Program is the key to successful reunification and would love to see this funded statewide. The state is not able to contribute financially but perhaps could offer other supports.</p>				
<p>Reg. 3 South - Topic 2: Foster parents are not receiving the safety/supervision plans from Social Workers and continue to receive incomplete child placement referrals on new placements. There are times when foster parents are being held responsible for specifics in the safety/supervision plan, when they are unaware of the content. These need to be provided to respite providers as well, as they have nothing in writing regarding the child’s individual needs. Reminder/training for SW’s to make sure the supervision plan is given to the provider. This plan needs to follow the child especially when child goes into respite. In R3, supervisors are directed to review this in unit meetings. CIPR is not being completed fully by SW’s. SW needs to find out who the previous medical providers were and access this information, check with the child’s school about behavioral or dev. When a child moves from one home to another, the ChIPR needs to be updated. When a FP calls regarding behavioral issues of a child, a new supervision plan should be initiated. Care needs to be taken to avoid labeling kids but the information needs to be shared with care givers.</p>				
<p>FPAWS Topic 1: DSHS staff members need to post as staff on the regional Foster parent support Facebook group.</p> <p>Request that any staff that visit or post on the FB page for Foster Parent Support, identify themselves as staff. Meri will send this issue to Randy &</p>		Meri – sent info up chain to Randy & Jennifer	Oct	

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Jennifer to address .				
<p>FPAWS Topic 2: Foster parent investigations are not meeting time lines. Foster parents not being told when they have an allegation. Sometimes they do not know until they apply for a job and it comes up with the background check.</p> <p>Before a case is closed, DLR SW required to call FP and ask for additional input prior to findings letter being sent. At last review, this was reinforced as a requirement and the information was disseminated to supervisors to make sure this is standard practice in all DLR units.</p>		<p>Note sent to Darcey.</p>		
<p>Children’s Topic 1: Video Conference Capacity Changes – sites becoming available in all CA local offices</p> <p>All of CA offices have virtual conference room sites. Meri will send out the list of sites and how to access.</p>		<p>Meri – has communicated with all 1624 reps.</p>		
<p>Children’s Topic 2:</p>				
<p>Next State CAFPT (1624) Video Conference Meeting: Monday, October 20, 2014 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.</p>				

Future Regional 1624 Meetings:

Regional Offices	Meeting Date / Time Location			
<p>Region 1 N. –Spokane office w/ video conf. (SW Conference Room) 1313 N. Atlantic, David Needham 509-363-3559 needhda@dshs.wa.gov</p>	<p>Sept. 16, 1-3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Dec. 16, 1-3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>March 17, 1-3 p.m.</p>	<p>June 16, 1-3:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Region 1 S. – Yakima office w/ conf. calling</p>	<p>Sept. 15, 10-noon</p>	<p>Dec. 15, 10-noon</p>		
<p>Region 2 N. - Everett</p>	<p>Sept. 8, '14</p>	<p>Dec. 8, '14</p>		
<p>Region 2 S. - Seattle</p>	<p>Sept. 11, '14</p>	<p>Dec. 11, '14</p>		

Region 3 N. - Tacoma	Sept. 8, '14 11:00 - 1:30 - lunch	Dec. 8, '14 11:00 - 1:30 - lunch	March 9, 2015 11:00 - 1:30 - lunch	June 8, 2015 11:00 - 1:30 - lunch
Region 3 S. (see office listed)	Sept. 9, 10-noon Kelso	Dec. 9, 10-12 noon Centralia	March 10, 2015 Olympia 10:00 - 12:00	June 9, 2015 10:00 - 12:00