

**Foster Parent 1624 Statewide Consultation Team
Video-Conference Meeting
Agenda / Minutes – October 19, 2015
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

AGENDA TOPICS	Consultation	Action Items
Welcome by:		
OLD BUSINESS		
<p>Jennifer Strus: CAFPT (1624) What are Team's goals/desires for the next year (discussion)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Team Members receive intro training to better understand roles (FPAWS will help with training – revisit at October meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Elections are happening soon Meri is requesting CA reps and 1624 local reps meet with the new elected members and give them an orientation. Region 3 – Peggy Hayes. Region 2 North-Hannah will be responsible for finding someone. Region 2 South-Joyce Thomas. Region 1 North-Shannon Boniface. Region 1 South- Denise Hannon. The 1624 reps will connect with Mike and Beth.</i> • Encourage more foster families to attend regional meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Region 1 North- they had more foster parents attend this last meeting. They used Facebook pages, support group meetings, email blasts to increase attendance. Region 1 South. They are sending out emails and have not had much success. Region 2 North. They are sending out information through Facebook, support groups and emails and they are having success. Region 2 South. They are focusing on using the group leaders this quarter to increase attendance. They are doing 1624 meetings through the support groups.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New elected member should receive orientation training from 1624 and CA reps. (Meri Waterhouse's request).

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	<p><i>Region 3 North. They are having success with attendance because of the liaison. Region 3 South. They are dealing with 12 offices and they are using the liaisons and placement coordinators to get the information out.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come to the table with possible solutions – focus on solutions for presented issues • Can CA now re-initiate 1624 State Team in-person meetings? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (Per Renee Newkirk, Acting Fiscal Director and David Del Villar Fox, CA Legislative Manager): No change to Boards and Commissions Legislation that will allow CA to pay for travel/per diem on meetings. 1624 legislation does not require CA to hold in-person meetings; only to consult with foster parents). ○ The statute related to compensation for part-time boards and commissions is RCW 43.03.220. http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=43.03.220) • Travel reimbursement for FP representatives? Child care? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Refer to statute above. To be added to the list of boards or commissions you need to be added to the legislation. The independent facilitator is a budget issue. Jennifer will look into having a facilitator for the 1624 meeting. The interest is in having as many meetings as possible in person. It could be used as a training day in addition to the 1624 meeting. In order for a 1624 Rep to attend the meeting it cost them mileage, daycare</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Strus will information about how to add the request for reimbursement to the board and commission legislation to 1624 via David Del Villar Fox. • Jennifer Strus will research ability to hire independent facilitator to take minutes and track completed

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	<p><i>and time off work. Fiscal is unable to pay a stipend but could pay for mileage and daycare if there is money in the budget.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve follow through and messaging on actions/decisions to both foster parents and CA staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>There are misunderstandings about what information provided at the meeting can be shared with other foster parents. Clarity is needed on what can be shared. If a decision is made at this meeting do representatives need to check WACS and other information to ensure they are not risking licensing violations? An example was the misunderstanding about how to report runaways. This procedure was modified as a result of WACs changing. Jennifer Strus mentioned there is a process that needs to happen after a decision is made so the implementation of the decision is not immediate. One way to make the process more clear could be to identify action items in the minutes and establish a communication loop. Could we change the agenda to list three columns so we can track action items? We also need to keep items not resolved on the agenda?</i> • Too many topics at the state meeting – reps to meet together to streamline/condense regional topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The 1624 reps have been unable to meet. The plan is for the reps to have a conference call after the agenda building meeting to condense topics.</i> • Not all regional topics identified timely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Meri communicated with Deputy RAs to work with</i> 	<p>topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meri Waterhouse will provide information about the Alliance’s ability to pay for childcare during trainings at the next debriefing meeting.

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	<p><i>1624 leads to schedule regional meetings prior to state agenda meeting. Reg. topics can be fully identified for upcoming meeting. Most regions have final meetings already scheduled and changes won't take place until new year.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>See the sub-bullet above. Meri sends out the list of regional 1624 meetings. Meri also spoke with the regions about setting their regional meetings prior to the agenda building phone calls.</i> • <i>Clearly establish topics that were discussions, identify action items and track follow through</i> 	
<p>FPAWS: Caregivers being respected as a part of the team (<i>see FPAWS Topic 2, a-f, July 2015 Minutes</i>)</p>	<p>Team members to think about possible solutions before next meeting. Having specifics is helpful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Region 1 North- They have reports of foster parents feeling disrespected. They attempt to address issues as they come up. There have been some concerns about court notification as foster parents might want to attend the court hearing and present their report. The court issue was related to one office in the region and they were able to address it with the office.</i> • <i>Region 1 South- They are not hearing foster parents are feeling disrespected.</i> • <i>Region 2 North-There have been issues around respite changes and they are mailing out information in attempt to ensure they are reaching everyone.</i> • <i>This is not what FPAWS intended for this agenda item to read. They wanted the agenda items to come with solutions.</i> 	

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Reg. 2 North: Overpayment Issue	<p>CA's Assistant Secretary's announcement regarding termination of Overpayment Notices and Collections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There are some potential issues with in the initial response Jennifer provided in an email and she is waiting for an email explaining the issues. There is an issue of getting dinged by the auditor if we are not issuing overpayments even if the overpayment is 6 years old. Jennifer wanted to set some parameters around overpayments for example not older than 2 yrs or overpayments totaling \$250 or more. Jennifer will do the minimum of the available presented options. Jennifer asked that foster parents not pay the overpayments at this time and she will get back to the team once she has more information. Jennifer suggested foster parents continue with the appeal process. Current foster payments and adoption support are being garnished. Foster parents are still receiving notices. CA has stopped (November 2015) sending payments to OFR for collections unless they are fraudulent (where the foster parent claimed payments for a child who was not in their care). Foster families need to be notified to continue with the appeal process.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Strus will send information/ letter to Meri Waterhouse to send out the team. • Jennifer Strus will also share the draft overpayment policy from Fiscal. • Jennifer Strus will see if we can send out the same communication through OFR to reach the people who are not active foster parents.
Reg. 2 South: Itemization of Caregiver Mileage	<p>Consideration: Add email for Fiscal to Caregiver's mileage form (this may not be feasible as there are 35 different fiduciaries) Conversation with Fiscal. Have FP communication go to fiscal when questions. Fiscal has asked if it would be possible to email the mileage to both the social worker and the fiduciary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal does not have an answer for why caregiver mileage could not be itemized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meri Waterhouse will talk to Dan Ashby about adding a foster parent to their workgroup and report back at the next debrief. • Meri will post the fiduciaries email on CA's

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		foster parent web page where they will be accessible to everyone.
<p>Reg. 1 North: Increase in referrals against FPs by biological parents; many unfounded but more and more foster parents quit because of this issue</p>	<p>Darcy shared data on closures - sent out to 1624 Team via email. <i>(document attached)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is there any data on biological parents making referrals? There is no data but on the reasons for closure handout the sections to review are quality concerns (revoked) and family's dissatisfaction (response to investigation). There were 16 homes that closed as a result of the flu shot requirement.</i> 	
NEW BUSINESS		
<p>CA – Topic 1: Presentation Pending Changes to Foster Children’s Medical Care-Apple Health Foster Care (30 minutes) <i>Coordinated Care, Sara Robitaille, Mngr. Community Relations Barb Putnam, Supv. Program & Policy Well-Being Unit, and Sylvia Soto, Program Manager – Health Care Authority</i></p>	<p><i>CA has been in the managed care conversation for the last several years by direction of the legislature. Coordinated care is the successful bidder. January 1, 2016 all eligible children will be enrolled. November 20, 2015 there will be a welcome packet sent out caregivers from HCA. The children enrolled in Apple Health Foster care will end up with two cards. The provider one care they already have and there will be an apple Health card in the welcome packet. Coordinated care has provided service to foster children in Texas for several years. Program is built around safety and wellbeing. They are hiring dedicated staff for this program including a call center. The number on the brochure will not be live until January 2016. They will coordinate services around behavioral health and other health care needs. They can screen children to determine if they meet access to care standards and connect with the RSN if needed. Coordinated Care will serve as the point of contact for locating providers. There will be a 90 day transition period to ensure the child’s needs (prescriptions, providers, and medical supplies) continue to be met as they are</i></p>	

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	<p><i>moving to being served by Coordinated Care. Claims data from HCA will be provided to Coordinated Care. Each child will have a specific individual assigned to them to assist with their care. They have a variety of programs Start smart for babies, Dollar rewards, Cell phone program (no cost, unlimited texting and 250 minutes) . They are opened to attending the 17.5 staffing for youth. They are also offering services for adoption support families. They are linked to FPAWS and will be identify trainers for conferences and to meet other needs. Fostering Wellbeing will continue to serve our children who have complicated medical needs. The Medicaid benefits stay the same. HCA is working with Coordinated Care to have the interim medical voucher transition to assist with pharmacy issues. Coordinated Care will have a pharmacy coordinator to assist with accessing medication. When Coordinated Care was responding to the RFP they contacted foster parents to get an idea about the needs. They are working on FAQs . They are going to train on the west side at local offices and they have trained on the east side. They will be training at FPAWS this month. Who makes the decision during the 90 day transition period for what should continue? They are hiring a pediatrician and will have a clinical team evaluating each child on an individual basis. Is there an appeal process? Yes there will be an appeal process. What about families who don't have a placement at the time the Welcome packet is sent? They will explore sending out another mailing and new enrollees will get the welcome packet. Will the nurses on the nurse line be able to access medical information on the child to assist with needs? Yes the nurse is able to access the same medical information visible to the doctor.</i></p>	
<p>Reg. 1 North - Topic 1: Delays in response time from social workers to foster parent questions - over 48 hours and sometimes no response until a foster parent places a second</p>	<p><i>There is no Rep present. They are hiring staff and getting them up to speed. DLR and DCFS is messaging out that Jennifer Strus expects phone calls to be returned within 24hrs.</i></p>	

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<p>call. Regional discussion reflected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>If you need to speak to social worker right away call and leave message as to what you need and always leave your phone number. If you need an immediate answer on an emergent matter and are unable to reach your social worker, call their supervisor and then their AA if needed – move up the chain of command.</i> <i>Jennifer Strus, Assistant Secretary Children’s Administration, recommends that social workers “return all phone calls to caregivers within 24 hours. Even if you are waiting for more information and can’t answer their questions, call them back to let them know you are working on getting the needed information.”</i> <i>Some units are 50% staffed at this time and if caregivers are unable to get a hold of social worker, it is recommended that you go up the chain.</i> <i>Recruitment Peer Mentors (RPMs) from Fostering WA can also be a resource to help caregivers get the answers needed. As persons are hired, RPMs contact information will be sent out via e-mail to the caregiver community.</i> 		
<p>Reg. 1 North - Topic 2: No second topic this quarter</p>		
<p>Reg. 1 South - Topic 1: No Topics this</p>		

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quarter		
Reg. 1 South - Topic 2: No Topics this quarter		
<p>Reg. 2 North - Topic 1: Respite payment process changed for Region 2 (and some emails are reporting the change was in all regions) and caregivers were not notified causing some concerns. Families were not given instructions on how to process the invoices. Families are now getting an invoice for a respite payment and when they receive their respite payment taxes have been taken out. Have families been given the option to filled out a W-2 for the state to be taking taxes out of the payments? Will there be a letter sent to families explaining the new process? Invoice sample attached.</p>	<p><i>Reviewed with fiscal and email to all 1624 members. SSPS coding changes were necessary – CA not informed of changes to notify caregivers; Caregivers were concerned they were not requested to provide a W-2 in advance (W-2 is the end of the year tax statement from the employer) and a W-4 (authorizes withholding by employee) is not required; withholding from Respite payments are for FICA (social security) not FIT (federal income tax); FICA withholdings are a standard 6.5%.</i></p> <p><i>Meri is working with Dan on messaging about Respite changes to include social security taxes.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Meri will talk to fiscal about getting a letter out to foster parents and report back at the debriefing</i>
<p>Reg. 2 North - Topic 2: Overpayment Issue continues to be a concern <i>* In light of the information sent out by FPAWS in regards to Over-Payment Letters- when will an official letter be sent to caregivers from DSHS letting them know the letters have been revoked and repayment will be make for those who have already paid. How far back are repayments being made? Info sent out by FPAWS:</i> <i>Mike and Beth – I met with the fiscal staff today and we will discontinue sending over</i></p>	<p><i>Refer to information in old business section.</i></p>	

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<p><i>payment notices to foster parents. There is an argument that the payments do not meet the definition of "overpayment" anyway. We are working on rescinding the notices that have gone out so far and also refunding the money that some folks have already paid. This will take a bit to accomplish but know that as of today, CA will not refer these cases to OFR for collection anymore. I will keep you posted of how the rest of the stuff will work so you can keep foster parents informed. We can also discuss at our next 1624 meeting. Thanks for bringing this to my attention. Have a good weekend. Jennifer</i></p>		
<p>Reg. 2 South - Topic 1: 1: Continuing Issues with Slow Payment Caregivers continue to report slow respite, mileage and ECP payments. This takes significant time for both caregiver and CA to track and follow up on these late payments, leading to frustration and inefficiency on all sides. Regional team members are working on various ways to streamline the process, but we would like to revisit itemized invoices at the state level. When caregivers do receive a payment, it would be extremely helpful if they could clarify what exactly was paid/not paid. Itemization would save time for both caregivers and department staff.</p>		
<p>Reg. 2 South - Topic 2: #2: Prudent Parenting Confusion There have been numerous reports of confusion about what exactly is</p>	<p>Meri shared this topic with Mary Pagni-Leavitt and she will email her response out to the team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mary Pagni-Leavitt and Mary Waterhouse are working on FAQs for FP,</i>

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<p>allowed within prudent parenting. Often a caregiver thinks that PP provides a specific freedom (i.e. traveling to Oregon without SW approval), but is then frustrated to find out that the language is interpreted differently by the department and that freedom is limited. At our regional meetings we discussed that there are significant grey areas within the rules. Those grey areas need to be clarified and both FPs and SWkrs need clearer guidance about what is allowed.</p>		<p><i>CASAs and staff.</i></p>
<p>Reg. 3 North - Topic 1: Transition Plans For Children The development of a guide or map on transitioning children home or into other placements would be very helpful. <i>Guide for social workers and caregivers was previously developed by Region 3 North</i></p>	<p><i>The Guide is attached with this agenda email.</i></p> <p><i>Ursula doing training and the tips sheet should make it easier for staff to plan. There should be information sent out to foster parents about support during periods of grief related to a transition. It is unclear what supports are available but there was consensus from CA representative that initiation of support is done through AA approval.</i></p>	
<p>Reg. 3 North - Topic 2: Last minute changes to visitation schedules/plans <i>(this isn't new but continues to be problematic for caregivers)</i> Notices to come pick up, decisions to change date/time by contractor, not the social worker and no notice or planning with the caregiver.</p>	<p><i>Social workers are telling foster parents if they are not going to transport they will move the child and this statement is threatening. Visitation is being changed last minute and the foster parent is expected to transport and is causing scheduling challenges. The suggestion is to bring back HSS to assist with visitation and transportation. The message should be sent out to foster parents that they are not required to transport. This should be covered in CCT</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Debbie Lynn will share it is not a requirement for foster parents to provide transportation for visits with her AAs this week during their meeting.</i> • <i>FPAWS will have a conversation with Jennifer Strus about this issue and</i>

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		<i>request a letter.</i>
<p>Reg. 3 South - Topic 1: Mileage & Respite Payment Continue to be Delayed Is problem with child's assigned worker, fiduciary or a combination?</p>	<p><i>There appears to be a communication disconnect between the fiduciary and the placement coordinator. Could there be a process to approve respite in Famlink? This would require a change request to CATS to build in a way to do the approval. There is a situation where a foster parent waited over seven months for a respite payment. Foster parents report hearing for the placement desk that respite is not a priority and they will get to it as they are able. At this time the request for payment is submitted to the placement desk and when it is submitted for payment varies.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>John Marsh will work on centralizing respite payments to one person and will report back at the next meeting.</i>
<p>Reg. 3 South - Topic 2: Caregiver Report and Court Dates Problematic Caregivers at the regional 1624 meetings continue to report they don't know when court dates are. This information is covered at the Regional Core Trainings for workers, but may need to be enhanced.</p>	<p><i>Foster parents need to be informed about court hearings.</i></p>	
<p>FPAWs – Topic 1: Adoption Support Concerns</p>	<p><i>FPAWs will meet Jennifer about this topic.</i></p>	
<p>FPAWs – Topic 2:</p>		
<p>CA – Topic 1: Presentation Pending Changes to Foster Children's Medical Care-Apple Health Foster Care (30 minutes) <i>Care Coordination Washington, Barb Putnam, Supv. Program & Policy Well-Being Unit, and Sylvia Soto, Program Manager – Health Care Authority</i></p>		
<p>CA – Topic 2: Home Schooling - Jennifer Strus</p>	<p><i>DLR has been asked by CA management team to develop WACS to prohibit homeschooling. We are</i></p>	

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Next State CAFPT (1624) Video Conference Meeting: Monday, January 25, 2016 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.		