

**Foster Parent 1624 Statewide Consultation Team
Video-Conference Meeting
Agenda April 20, 2015
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

AGENDA TOPICS	Consultation - Action Items
<p>Welcome by : Mary Pagni-Leavitt, Nelly Mbajah, Jennifer Strus, Darcey Hancock, Krissy Wright, Michelle Christiansen, Arthur, Amy Gardner, Ashleigh Barraza, Mike Canfield, Diana Chesterfield, Marie Fujii, Denise Hannon, Peggy Hays, Kathy Ramsay, Mike Thomas, Hermenia Jackson, Marilee Roberts, Shala Crow, Amber Sherman, Kerry Bryant,</p>	
<p>Old Business: Work Group Reports / Follow Up</p>	
<p>Foster parents trying to pay for and find extra supports and/or extracurricular activities for children in their home. <i>(previous Reg. 3 North Item)</i></p>	<p>Meri has collected information from all regions. Info has been loaded on CA's Foster Parent web site under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Children's Administration * Foster Parenting * Parenting Resources * Supportive Organizations & Resources *Regional Caregiver Resources (Reg. 1, 2 or 3) <p><i>No additional information was discussed.</i></p>
<p>Expunging infractions and unfounded findings from licensed FH's record after certain period of time <i>(previous Reg. 1 North Item)</i></p> <p>COULD JENNIFER STRUS GIVE A LEGISLATIVE BILL UPDATE?</p>	<p>Previous Concern: CPS unfoundeds are not removed from licensing records. There remains a concern they can appear on Military foster families background checks and impact their security clearances. Two bills in front of the Legislature this year would require any allegations screened in/out must be reported on military families. Foster parents are trying to help support military foster caregivers.</p> <p>On the issue of Unfounded investigation result, foster parents would like to have this finding removed from their licensing record. Clarity about the process is needed for SW.</p> <p>CA's concern/position: Removing the information from the FPs licensing record does not record/report an investigation was conducted related to the allegation. The state could be held liable if something happens later and no record of the allegation exists.</p>

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	<p>Completed Actions from January:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fostering Together has provided more information about supports available to FPs through the FIRST program.</i> • <i>Fostering Together messaged out on FaceBook across the state info on the FIRST PROGRAM and that Support Groups are available across the state to help support caregivers.</i> <p><i>The Bill made it to the Senate from the House Committee but that's as far as it's going to go.</i></p> <p><i>Military Notification Bill would have removed unfounded information after a certain time.</i></p> <p><i>Unfounded is unfounded. Inconclusive can stay. Some AG's like to have the whole history. Cannot deny or revoke security because of unfounded. If it happens then appeal it and tell CA. Jennifer is going to talk to the AG's about being consistent. Quick training on what to do if this is happening to them, knowing the process. Request hearing, don't have to have attorney, denial letter tells them the process. Darcey is very eager to read them if something comes up. Fostering Together has the FIRST program and FPAWS wrote the FIRST advice but can't give them advice.</i></p>
<p>Storage of CAFPT (1624) Actions/Decisions to be accessible. Help inform topics that may come up at a later date (<i>previous Reg. 2 North item</i>)</p>	<p>This would be helpful not only for foster parents, but also for CA line staff who frequently don't receive updated information that occurs in the CAFPT meetings. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/foster-parenting/foster-parent-1624-consultation-team-minutes • 1624 Recent Developments - or "Did You Know" or Highlights from Team Minutes shared with CA staff; i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 18 yr. olds can provide respite • Follow up information could be handled in the debriefing meeting or sent out via email to the team. • Submit 1624 actions/outcomes to CA Daily Tip Reminders for the CA staff log-in. (Info has been submitted to Rhonda Haun) <p><i>Minutes are accessible on website,</i> https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/foster-parenting/foster-parent-1624-consultation-team-minutes CA daily tip reminders</p>

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Foster Care Rate Assessment – inequitable rating for some children in care (esp. medically fragile and behaviorally challenged teens) <i>previous Reg. 3 North item</i>	Consider re-construction of the algorithm? Talk with Program and Policy on how best to address this. (Mary Pagni-Leavitt) <i>Looking at workgroup. ECP plans, what they cover? The system in place that CA uses to measure needs is pretty accurate. Does have means for special cases through ECP process. Pleased with staff who are doing this work. They are working hard.</i>
Concern over children lingering in care 2- 4 years without action on permanent plan <i>previous Reg. 3 South item.</i>	Jennifer S. agreed to talk with AAGs from Cowlitz and Clark Counties. <i>follow-up from Jennifer Debbie has them on a work plan. Cowlitz AG's will not file unless there is an adoption, permanent plan, reunification or change permanent plan before term. Object is to do all we can do, not to force decisions. If you have a specific cases please bring it to Jennifer's attention.</i>
NEW BUSINESS	
Reg. 3 North - Topic 1: NO TOPIC TO SEND FORWARD	
Reg. 3 North - Topic 2: NO TOPIC TO SEND FORWARD	
Reg. 3 South - Topic 1: Foster parents would like to see day care available across the board - not just for working foster parents, but for non-working or retired caregivers as well.	CA's existing policy (P&PM 5400 Child Care) was provided back to the regional 1624 facilitator for distribution prior to the state meeting. <i>Policy will be sent out. The budgets are going through lean cuts. CA is fighting to keep what is already in place. There is a possibility that working foster families will lose childcare payments. Respite can be used for whatever the foster family feels they need to use it for.</i>
Reg. 3 South - Topic 2: Foster parents report obtaining prescriptive glasses for children in their homes is a nightmare. It often takes months and reportedly there is only one person who makes the approval for the glasses to be ordered. There are very few choices for the frames, and children are ridiculed at school for how they look. Also there are only a handful of providers who will take the med coupon in the first place, which adds to the challenge.	<i>Many families wait 6-8 weeks before getting them. The glasses are ugly and the children are getting bullied. According to the flyer glasses should only be taking 2 weeks for delivery. The flyer provides steps for families. Peggy will give info to foster families who need it. It is taking one month before the eye center gets approved and the Doctors are not completing the forms completely.</i>
Reg. 2 North - Topic 1: The phone number on the back of the Provider One Medical Card, people are having 45-60 minute wait times on hold. This is very inconvenient when waiting in an urgent care or Doctor Office for services for the caregiver and	<i>People are complaining because of the 45-60 minute wait when calling the number on the back of the Provider One Medical Card. After hours care is a concern. Do not sign anything from Dr.,</i>

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<p>the medical business if they need to contact them.</p>	<p><i>Hospital or Clinic stating that you will cover medical costs of the child. Follow up with fostering well-being will happen.</i> <i>Solution mentioned about prescriptions was:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have Doctor prescribe more than one prescriptions. This can prevent the family in making multiple trips to the Dr. Office.</i>
<p>Reg. 2 North – Topic 2: Parent-Child Visitation FAQ sheet is needed for caregivers as they feel they have no guidelines around visits. Many families are getting information from the PCV provider as to location or type of visit changes (monitored, supervised, and unsupervised) rather than from the Social Worker. When a child is sick who sets up make-up visits, how sick can the child be to attend the visit, what if the visit time does not fit in the foster families’ schedule? What if the time/date decided by the PCV transporter for a makeup visit does not work with the foster parents’ schedule? Do visits get rescheduled when visiting parent sends the child back to foster home because they are sick? What visits get “made up” and which do not? When a PCV cancels the visit because the parent has not called them in the time allowed, and then changes their mind because parent called late and foster family has already made plans, who is responsible and is the visit “made up”? Transporters are making changes without consulting foster parent or in some cases SW. Who should get information about child from PCV?</p>	<p><i>Meri Waterhouse and Mary Pagni-Leavitt will work on crafting parent-child visitation questions into an FAQ that will be posted on the CA foster parent website.</i> <i>Alliance is working on E training for foster families and social workers. Both will have the same information. Goal is to have this done this summer.</i> <i>Contracted providers will have a different training.</i> <i>Providers will have FAQ’s.</i> <i>When a child is sick for visit goes by daycare rules.</i> <i>Rescheduled visits have to accommodate everyone’s schedule.</i> <i>If transporters are making changes please talk to your social worker. Changes to regular visitations should not be happening. If foster families don’t have a car seat for transport to borrow then don’t send the child. Safety first.</i></p>
<p>Reg. 2 South – Topic 1: Disrespect. We realize that this is an issue that has been brought up over and over, but a recent survey of King County FPs shows that 54% of respondents are not sure if they will renew their licenses, and 63% of those are discontinuing because of anger or frustration. So we are facing a major problem. I have put together a report that breaks the feeling of disrespect into more manageable pieces and provides a suggested solution - I will distribute shortly (Shannon Mead)</p>	<p><i>King County survey findings that went out to foster families have similar findings to Statewide survey.</i> <i>Survey was conducted to get a wide understanding of the issues facing foster parents in the King County area.</i> <i>115 respondents, 26% or ¼ of King County foster families.</i> <i>To the question “Will you renew your license?” 46% responded yes, 38% responded maybe and 16% responded no.</i> <i>To the question “Do you feel like part of the team when it comes to caring for your child?” 62% responded yes and 38% responded no.</i> <i>To the question “Do you feel like part of the team when it comes to making important decisions for your child’s future?” 25% responded yes and 75% responded no.</i></p>

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	<p><i>To the question “Have you ever had a social worker, visit supervisor or other DSHS employee speak to you in a way that felt disrespectful or demeaning?” 61% responded yes and 39% responded no.</i></p> <p><i>Follow up question “If so, how often do you feel disrespected?” 57% responded rarely, 20% responded sometimes and 23% responded often.</i></p> <p><i>To the question “Does your foster child’s social worker keep you updated about court dates?” 33% responded yes, 29% responded sometimes and 28% responded no.</i></p> <p><i>Three different areas of disrespect</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Systematic disrespect – create understanding of what foster families feel. Way system is built</i> <i>2. Passive disrespect – rude things get said on each side. Social Worker overloaded, foster families get forgotten. SW not trying to do it but this adds up</i> <i>3. Emotional toll – When something hard happens to foster family. Result is significant and the response from SW is “you’re just too attached”</i> <p><i>Comments made:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Being a part of the team was not defined</i> <i>• 76% responded almost always or usually on Statewide survey to “Do you feel like part of the team”</i> <i>• CA sets the tone on what the foster parent needs to be involved in</i> <i>• Copy of report is or will be on RDA website and CA website</i> <i>• CA is focusing on the use of shared planning meetings. Caregivers being present and giving input.</i> <i>• Health and Safety policy states SW in home once a month</i> <i>• Develop training for SW on how to deal with difficult</i>

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	<p><i>conversations. How to approach families?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Darcey looked into the trend of foster families renewing their license and the curve has not changed in decades.</i> • <i>We are the only state that has a 1624 meeting</i> • <i>Letter from Jennifer was sent out to CA staff on the importance of how to treat families.</i> • <i>Foster families feel “you against the system”. How to bring everyone together.</i> <p><i>Some solutions that were brought up are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Thank you Thursdays.</i> • <i>Making sure that Fostering Together Liaisons are being used.</i>
<p>Reg. 2 South – Topic 2: Licensing New Homes Licensing of new homes is currently backlogged by at least 6 months, with some potential families being told to expect 9 months. In February there were only 2 new homes approved in our region. With an already-existing shortage, plus the risk of losing so many families because of disrespect, this struggle to license new families is highly problematic. I will have more details and potential solutions ready for the meeting in April.</p>	<p><i>Licensing is a really slow process. Contributing to families feeling frustrated and disrespected. In King Co. everything must be complete before being looked at. Darcey will follow up with King Co. because once application and background info is completed packet is considered done. Staff can assist families after completed packet. Region 3 families feel some frustration. 175 days is way too long. Darcy’s team is going to look into why it’s taking this long. Can you look at Spokane? Why are they so successful?</i></p> <p><i>Solutions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Move them through faster</i> • <i>Making them feel valued (phone call, personal apology)</i> • <i>Create “while you wait” meetings for pending families</i>
<p>Reg. 1 North – Topic 1: Continued discussion over the hardline the Department has taken over the flu vaccination. It has been reported that we have lost 85 beds as a result in R1N.</p>	<p><i>Region 1 lost 85 beds because of this policy.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Flu shots protocol during non-flu season is shots will be required when shots come available.</i> • <i>Working on accepting Doctors notes for individuals w/</i>

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	<p><i>medical exemptions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This policy is not just affecting foster families but the safety of children. Lack of beds.</i> • <i>Measure of resource availability – Every region – Impact. Reflection that we license children from the ages of 0-17. 60-80% of those families have taken 0-1 child under the age of 2.</i> • <i>CA staff partner together with families. How does this policy affect them?</i> • <i>All of this was taken into consideration. Families leave because they choose to.</i>
<p>Reg. 1 North – Topic 2: Discussion of CAN and License Infraction referrals for foster parents and the concern that even unfounded findings continue to remain on their “record” . Kerry is recommending a 3rd kind – “Provisional Intake” . He is proposing a meeting between the foster parents and social workers/supervisors to determine if a referral should be generated or not and if not it would drop off their “record” .</p>	<p><i>Combined with same topic under “Old Business”</i></p> <p><i>Provisional intake, licensur. FAR is doing a great job for Families maybe there can be a Foster FAR, they can help with licensing investigations. Can’t the team go in, have a discussion, and if there is no finding do not enter info into the system? Everything must be entered into the CA system. Would like to see 5 professional individuals meet and make a decision to remove items from records. CA must follow Public Records Laws. Research on Retention Laws will be brought back to the next statewide meeting.</i></p>
<p>Reg. 1 South – Topic 1: NO TOPIC TO SEND FORWARD</p>	
<p>Reg. 1 South – Topic 2: NO TOPIC TO SEND FORWARD</p>	
<p>FPAWS Topic 1: NO TOPIC SUBMITTED</p>	
<p>FPAWS Topic 2: NO TOPIC SUBMITTED</p>	
<p>CA Topic 1: Military MOUs with Children’s Administration Jennifer Strus (<i>this may combine with Old Business</i>)</p>	<p><i>Was a bill that was introduced having to provide info to the Military. Bill is dead. Not moving any longer. Adjourn on the 26th.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Military is altering security clearance due to unfounded</i> • <i>Ashleigh is going to meet with Mike to come up with adjusted language that they would like to see used. Will</i>

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	<i>bring it to the next statewide meeting.</i>
CA Topic 2: On-going Mental Health Screening presentation: Dae Shogren	<p><i>Background information was given to the group.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Federal Grant was given from Creating Connections</i> • <i>Grant focuses on children from the ages of 3-17</i> • <i>Caregiver and child, over the age of 11, are asked 9 questions from the trauma tool</i> • <i>A report is provided to the caregiver and social worker with solutions for this child</i> • <i>Child can be rescreened in 6 months</i> • <i>This report does not have any questions on human trafficking</i>
Announcement from Krissy Wright (DLR)	<p><i>Working on updating licensing policies. Would like to create a workgroup. Needs 7-8 volunteer to meet one day in Tumwater. Look at language to make sure needs are met. If you would like to volunteer or know someone who would like to be a part of this workgroup please email Krissy at wrihks@dshs.wa.gov</i></p>
CA Announcements: Recruitment & Retention RFP, We Are Family, Seattle Aquarium (Meri)	<p><i>Recruitment & Retention RFP update will be in next month's Caregiver Connection. There have been more than 2000 tickets sold for this years "We are Family" event.</i></p>
Next State CAFPT (1624) Video Conference Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2015 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	

Future Regional 1624 Meetings:

Regional Offices	Meeting Date / Time Location
Region 1 N. –Spokane office w/ video conf. (SW Conference Room) 1313 N. Atlantic, David Needham	June 16, 1-3:00 p.m.

509-363-3559 needhda@dshs.wa.gov	
Region 1 S. – Yakima office w/ conf. calling	June 15, 10 – 12 noon
Region 2 N. - Everett	
Region 2 S. - Seattle	June 12, 10 – 12 noon
Region 3 N. - Tacoma	June 8, 2015 11:00 - 1:30 - lunch
Region 3 S. (see office listed)	June 9, 2015 10:00 - 12:00