

**Foster Parent 1624 Statewide Consultation Team
Video-Conference Meeting
Agenda/Minutes - January 26, 2015**

AGENDA TOPICS	Consultation - Action Items
<p>Welcome by : <i>Meri Waterhouse 1:04 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Attendance: Betsy Rodgers, Jeannie Bennett, Joel Odimba, John March, Glory Tichy, Ashleigh Barraza, Jeanie John, Josh Hinman, Leah Davis, Shala Crow, Deena Parra, Diana Chesterfield, Kathy Ramsay, Connie Lambert-Eckel, Shannon Boniface, Rick Holcomb, Kerry Bryant, Melissa MacDougall, Pam Knapton, Amber Sherman, Nicole LaBelle, Jeff Kincaid, Crissa Eisen, Meri Waterhouse, Peggy Hays, Amy Gardner, Chris Kerns, Mary Pagni-Leavitt, Beth Canfield, Mike Canfield, Darcey Hancock, Pamela McKeown, Christina Garcia, Kristina Wright, Melanie Meyer, Michelle Bogart, Ryan Cook, Chris Kerns, Jennifer Strus, Darcy Hancock and Michelle Christiansen.</i></p>	
<p>Old Business: Work Group Reports / Follow Up</p>	
<p>Regional Administration Participation – Continue to check in on regional administration supports at CAFPT (1624) team meetings.</p> <p>October discussion related to scheduling conflicts. 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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post minutes from meetings on Facebook suggested. • Reschedule meetings if CA / other reps are not able to attend. • Review Charter <i>(Jennifer Strus)</i> 	<p>Connie Lambert-Eckel (New Director in field ops) Marilee Roberts (RA stationed in Yakima) Joel (RA from Tacoma) Darcy Hancock (Administrator from DLR) is present at this meeting representing DLR.</p> <p>Jennifer would like CAFPT team meetings to be helpful. A meeting for sharing information/ideas and people suggesting solutions. “Don’t bring something up if you do not have a solution.”</p>
<p>CA Topic 1: New WAC on required influenza immunization when caring for infants under age 2 years. <i>(Darcey, Jennifer, Christy Garcia)</i></p>	<p>Foster Families with a child in care under age 2 years are required to have the Influenza immunization according to WAC. Memo came out from Jennifer Strus and Darcey Hancock with directions for staff. According to WAC Foster Families who cannot get Influenza vaccination or who choose not to get one then children under the age of 2 will not be placed into those homes. A FAQ’s Document will be sent out on listserv. Children under age of 2 that have had all their immunizations are still vulnerable because their immune system is not strong. September is beginning of flu season. While in May it is not. Foster Families who get licensed in May may not have to receive vaccination until Sept.</p>

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	<p>Other things mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is one more thing foster families have to do. • Who else is going to be required to have vaccination? • With this policy children under the age of two are more protected than before. • At this time daycare is not required to have this vaccination. • Common themes were gathered and answered. This will continue via listserv. FAQs o multiple subjects will be published on website for Foster Families. First group will have 20 then every month 10 more will be added. • FAQ for influenza will be out on the listserv tomorrow. • DLR will carry hard copies. • RA provides copies in offices. • If adults were told by their Doctor not to have flu vaccination then they should not have a child under the age of 2 because they are compromising the safety of child. • 1 of 6 adults that are with these children is being required to have shot. • Does CA have legal authority to require this? • Is SW going to be required to have vaccination?
<p>CA/Alliance workgroup: Continue to follow Alliance on efforts to implement a reimbursement for FPs on some of the costs for training/child care. Payments will not be retroactive. <i>(Theresa Tanoury)</i></p>	<p>No further information at this time. Stuck on Financing. Several different models that include daycare reimbursement are being considered. Some foster families may be using the prudent parenting program. Still other options need to be offered.</p>
<p>The training calendar at www.dshs.wa.gov was not working correctly, showing incorrect information and the Alliance site was difficult for caregivers to navigate. Fixes were underway both at CA and the Alliance with regional map showing</p>	<p><i>(Changes made December 2014 and improvements are on-going)</i> Issues have been corrected and modified. Alliance staff is working on changing the directory.</p>

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<p>counties added, regional training listings completed (Reg. 2 North)</p>	
<p>FP Mileage, respite, day care payments are not paid 60 days or greater post service completion. Some reimbursement forms get lost in the process. Appears when regional administration staff are notified the payments are quickly processed. Have the regions looked at this issue over the last three months? (Reg. 2 South)</p>	<p><i>October: This issue has been directed back to the regions.</i> Region 1 - Nothing has been brought up at this time about late payments. Region 2 - has a draft plan on respite payment. Problem solving issues. Region 3 - Has not been an issue.</p>
<p>Foster parents concern for children testifying in court,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offender is in the same room • interviewed by multiple workers, agencies, law enforcement, etc. <p>more sensitivity/consideration for child's well-being, can the courts/CA develop alternatives to children testifying in court?</p> <p>Goal: have Children interviewed only once, be well care for and prepped for interview. More sensitivity is still needed. Child's testimony is a constitutional right of accused. Suggestions were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Justice Conference. • Provide FPs info on statewide procedure on these cases to help FPs understand process. • Short training for caregivers • Fostering Together putting info out. <p>(Reg. 3 South) <i>(Peggy and Amy will work on this)</i></p>	<p>Children's Justice Office in Region 3 has a tip sheet for foster parents on ways to be support a child when testifying in court. This tip sheet will be uploaded to appropriate websites. Region 3 is going to provide copies at regional meeting and forward copy to Meri to distribute to:</p> <p>Region 1 Marilee Roberts. Region 2 Shala Crow. Dr. Michelle Terry will develop article for a future Caregiver Connection topic.</p>
<p>Foster parents struggling to pay for and/or provide extracurricular activities for children in their home. Regional Resource lists will be posted on the new CA website in December 2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each region needs to reach out to their community partners to seek "scholarships" or other forms of payment for activities for foster children. • Regional CA 1624 liaisons submit lists to Meri for inclusion on new website. • Include link to FP resources on the Fostering Together website. • Discuss issue at local FP Support meetings - help FPs with found resources 	<p>Peggy Hays is in region 3 David Needham is in region 1 Kathy Ramsay is in region 2 N Joyce Thomas is in region 2 S</p>

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to disseminate the information to others (Reg. 3 North)	
<p>Concern about CA workers & contracted visitation providers transporting children with car seats inappropriately installed. All staff/contractors transporting children to be trained on car seat installation prior to transporting a child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA Regional Administrator needs on which staff do not know how to install a car seat correctly. • Outdated car seats need to be replaced. Staff in each office/region responsible to know if seats are outdated • Training for social workers will be held. Training begins in December. • FPs asked to inform the office when this happens. • I-800-buckleup is a resource. • WAC requires FPs to follow state law. • FPs don't want to report concern over retaliation CA said that there would be no retaliation. (Reg. 3 South) (Mary Pagni-Leavitt) 	<p>October: FPs should report to supervisor or CA's regional contract manager when staff/contract provider are not able to correctly install car seat. Updated training for social workers Dec. 2014. Outdated car seats will be replaced</p> <p>Updated information will be on new visit provider's listserv about concern. If FPs see that child is being transported in an inappropriate car seat, FP could allow the worker or transporter to borrow their car seat so the child could attend the visit. If FP does not have one for them to borrow please do not let the child go with the transporter - Safety first.</p> <p>A list of who to contact needs to be given to families. Always report these situations. All visit report forms are now standardized. The workers name and Agency name will appear on the form given to the caregiver. The transporter always needs to have an ID on them. At least a Driver's License.</p>
New Business	
<p>Reg. 1 North - Topic 1: Expunging infractions and unfounded findings from licensed FH's record after certain period of time</p>	<p>Currently, when a foster family has an investigation/inquiry it stays on their license even if nothing was found. Can this get removed? Criminals can get crimes taken off their record. Why can't families that have no violation found be allowed - only 51% sure is needed to be founded. What about some type of "conversation/planning before investigation" actually happens. Removing the information from their license record shows there has not been an investigation and the state will be held liable if something was to happen later. Clarity about the process is needed for SW.</p> <p>Maybe more training could be shared by Fostering Together about supports available to FPs through the FIRST program. Support group information being shared. The concern is that an unfounded is not being removed. Unfoundeds can be brought up on Military background checks. (CPS unfounded)</p>
<p>Reg. 1 North - Topic 2: The need for step up/step down foster homes to be put on</p>	<p>Per 1624 representative this is a tool CA SW would like to have. A</p>

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hold until more information is gathered.	lot of work is going to have to be done to make this tool, before they do the work they would like to know that this will be allowed to be used. "Therapeutic special model". Half the price of a BRS home. One parent can be full time at home. What is the difference from Staff Residential? Parents taking care of the homes are being mislabeled. Need to be looked at more.
Reg. 1 South - Topic 1: No topics for January	
Reg. 1 South - Topic 2: No topics for January	
Reg. 2 North - Topic 1: (For Other Region's Info.) There have been number of calls from local after-hours staff to foster parents (legitimately seeking placement of our local kids). However the caller ID is showing the phone call is originating from out of state areas like Florida, Russia and Montserrat. Most foster parents state they are not calling these numbers back as they do not know who is calling. Not only is this an issue for caregivers not knowing who is calling but also to return the call there is a long distance charge for many of them. Some foster parents reported they had 3 calls from the same phone number in one night; as the after-hours placement staff hadn't noticed someone had already called and left a message with the foster family. Does DSHS have the ability to have in-state numbers show on caller ID when calling caregivers afterhours? (Marie Fuji)	Numbers are no longer in service. Cannot find out where they came from. King St. phone numbers are being looked into. Some of the calls may have been made from SWkrs personal cell phones that carry an out of state number. Use of personal phones will be discontinued.
Reg. 2 North – Topic 2: Storage of CAFPT (1624) actions/decisions. Decisions made in past continue to return over and over again. (Actual Reg. 2 South topic)	No trickle down affect to these meetings. Going back to find the information is a challenge. Mileage forms toke months to get to the offices. Foster Families are getting the info not CA staff. Some suggestions on ways to get info the CA staff are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily tip reminders to CA staff on computers. • All Staff Memo's • Foster Families have access to CA Memo's. Have foster families show copies to SW. • Get the information that 18 year olds can provide respite care out to SW. Darcey will be sending an email out to her staff and it will be placed on websites.

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<p>Reg. 2 South – Topic 1: Consistency in information disseminated through training: There are discrepancies in adoption support information that foster parents received during the training at the Great Wolf lodge. The trainer stated that the rate of adoption support is not based on a child’s needs. However, state adoption workers are telling foster parents that it IS based on needs.</p>	<p>Need of consistency and clarity. Adoption Support is reviewed on a case by case basis. Program staff looks at both child’s needs and family’s circumstances/ability to meet the child’s needs. Some families may have a child placed who has no special needs – but the family has financial needs to meet the daily care for the child. Other families may have a child placed with special needs and needs assistance meeting those special needs. Once a month unit meetings are held with adoption support staff. Melanie will bring up this topic with staff again.</p>
<p>Reg. 2 South – Topic 2: Need an FTE to recruit medical/MH/Dental providers who accepts medical coupon and treat dependent children This will be addressed on local level once the local contract is in effect.</p>	<p>Being discussed in the region.</p>
<p>Reg. 3 North – Topic 1: Foster Care Rate assessment: not equitable for foster parents caring for many of the children we serve - especially teens, special needs (behaviorally or emotionally challenged), children with mental health issues, etc. This could not be discussed previously due to the FPAWS lawsuit, so now the foster parents are eager to be heard. They also would like time counted when they sit to wait for children during appointments. Foster parents also mentioned the rate assessment does not apply to placements under 6 weeks in duration, no matter what the level should have been. Foster parent question why rates are dropped as soon as the child’s behavior improves. They feel like they are being punished for good work. Also several foster parents are wondering why the rates are lowered just prior to adoption finalization.</p>	<p>Rate assessment is inadequate. Teens, medical, challenging behaviors are not being assessed correctly. Assessments are not consistent for kids with behavioral issues Alliance training on this topic. Rate assessment needs to be updated. What we think it would will take to revamp. Jennifer will review issue with CA Leadership team to look at how the rate assessment system and algorithm actually works.</p>
<p>Reg. 3 North – Topic 2: No second topic this quarter.</p>	
<p>Reg. 3 South – Topic 1: FPs report (throughout the Region) they have many children in their care for 2, 3 or 4 years with no permanent plan. This is not in the best interest of children, and they are wondering what happened to the “permanency push”. They would like to advocate for permanency for all children in a timelier manner.</p>	<p>Courts keep pushing back dates. No movement on continuing plan. Jennifer is going to talk to the AG’s about Cowlitz/Clark counties.</p>
<p>Reg. 3 South – Topic 2: FPs have brought this topic to the Statewide meeting many times, but it continues to be an issue they would like addressed. FPs feel they are not treated well by the Department. They feel disrespected, not appreciated, never</p>	<p>General Discussion on importance of supporting C.G.</p>

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<p>valued. FPs are not comfortable giving feedback to SWkers on how they feel for fear of retribution or “black-listing”. They are tired of being told their opinion doesn’t matter because they are “just volunteers”. They are also concerned with the lack of information they receive from workers including child/family specific information, when court dates are held and/or changed, visitation schedule changes, etc.</p>	
<p>FPAWS Topic 1: When other children of mom’s whom have kids already removed have additional children come into the system, the department needs to find a way to assure that they have looked for siblings in care or that have been adopted. This should be policy if it isn’t already.</p>	<p>Policy (4261 Placement Priorities) distributed with agenda for the meeting. How do we insure policy gets followed consistently? It would be helpful if FamLink could flag this information up front showing that a foster/adoptive family has a sibling and should be contacted first. This would require a change request – which would not be highly prioritized, based on existing change needs. A tool would help call this to a SW attention; SW shouldn’t need to dig for the information.</p>
<p>FPAWS Topic 2: FPAWS would like to add the youth voice and the relative voice to our meetings. This would be done regionally and at the Statewide meetings. I propose this be discussed at the next Statewide meeting. The Charter was developed by a team of foster parents and members of Children’s Administration. The charter would need to be amended and this would not require legislative action.</p>	<p>Kinship relative voice and one youth brought into group. This topic will be brought up for legislative action.</p>
<p>Next State CAFPT (1624) Video Conference Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2015 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.</p>	

Future Regional 1624 Meetings:

Regional Offices	Meeting Date / Time Location	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>March 17, 1-3 p.m.</p>	<p>June 16, 1-3:00 p.m.</p>

Region 1 S. – Yakima office w/ conf. calling	March 16, 10 – 12 noon	June 15, 10 – 12 noon
Region 2 N. - Everett		
Region 2 S. - Seattle	March 13, 2015 10:00 – 12:00	June 12, 10 – 12 noon
Region 3 N. - Tacoma	March 9, 2015 11:00 - 1:30 - lunch	June 8, 2015 11:00 - 1:30 - lunch
Region 3 S. (see office listed)	March 10, 2015 Olympia 10:00 - 12:00	June 9, 2015 10:00 - 12:00