

HB 1624 MEETING Minutes  
Region 1 North  
Chewelah Municipal Building; Chewelah, WA  
June 14, 2011

Cindy Gardner; 1624 Rep; Foster Parent  
Kris Otoupalik, 1624 Rep, Foster Parent  
Dru Powers, FFK, Foster Parent  
Kerry Bryant, FP  
Sandra Kircher, FP  
Sharon Anderson, FP  
Andrea Scherbarth, FP  
Tracy Roberts, FP  
Amber Sherman, FP  
Sandy Kirk, FP  
Wendy Pratt, DCFS Supervisor  
Laurie Palmquist, DLR  
Linda Rogers, FFK, Foster parent

Becky Berry, FTDM  
Lily Haken, FTDM Supervisor  
David Needham; FTDM Staff  
Lisa Johnson, Supervisor  
Donna Stirling, Licensor  
Penny Oliver, DLR  
Launi Burdge, AA  
Brent Borg, AA  
Kris Randall, AA  
Connie Lambert-Eckel, Deputy RA  
Marty Butkovich, RA  
Tim Abbey, AA

**TRAINING:** Handouts on training coming soon were distributed. Highlights include Parenting Plus to be offered in Spokane, Moses Lake, Colville, Newport and Clarkston. See [www.fpas.org](http://www.fpas.org) for all current trainings in Region 1 North.

**FFK:** Linda reported on recruitment and retention. The Recruitment Retention contract will be extended one year from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 at the current levels.

Linda reported on the Clothing Perk and The Teen Closet. The recent fund raiser for the Teen Closet called the TC-50 raised approximately \$7,000 to support the Teen Closet's ongoing resource for teens in Region 1 North.

**SUPPORT CONTACTS:** Dru distributed a list of Support Systems Contacts. The support groups have been very active. See [www.fpas.org](http://www.fpas.org) for contact information.

#### **Issues Submitted– Dru Powers**

**RESPITE:** Why is respite so difficult to get? What is the rule about taking respite for 1 or 2 children and not for all your foster children at once? What takes so long for respite providers to get paid? What happens when you have respite set up and the provider cancels out at the last minute? How long before you want respite are you to give notice and to whom?

1. Brent Borg reported that it is best to allow a couple weeks ahead of time for respite requests. Respite is per home not per child for retention respite. Child specific respite is per child and arranged through the child's worker per the case plan. Allow time for payment but feel free to check up on the progress. Concerns regarding specific respite questions can be addressed by the child's worker or supervisor.

#### **As reported in the latest regional newsletter, the following are tips regarding respite.**

1. You earn 2 days of respite per month and can only "bank" up to 14. You can no longer accrue days after 14 unless you begin "spending" them down. We need you to keep well rested and healthy!
2. Please remember that you must have a child in placement at least 20 days to begin earning 2 days of respite per

month. However, the respite days are connected to the foster family not the children and if you place 2 children in respite for a weekend, it still counts as 2 days of respite.

3. If you know you are planning a lengthy trip this summer and wouldn't be able to take a new child placed with you, please let the placement coordinator know. It would not be in the child's best interests to have to go to respite early in a new placement. The placement coordinator will need to make other arrangements.
4. Please notify your social worker each time you are requesting respite. They must always know the location of the children on their caseloads.
5. Finally, a great way to ensure you have respite when you need it is to develop your own respite resources among your family and friends. They can request a packet from your licenser and become an approved Respite Provider for care **in your home only**. Otherwise, the foster children can **only stay in a home that is licensed or in other out-of-home respite approved by their social worker**.

**Regional Administrator Update:** Marty Butkovich is now the regional administrator for the entire Region 1 (the old Region 1 area is now referred to as Region 1 North and the old Region 2 is now referred to as Region 1 South). Marty gave a brief update on the regional consolidation and coming changes.

- The business manager functions are being consolidated statewide from all DSHS agencies from 24 to 3. This will take effect July 1, 2011.
- The primary HUB for Region 1 North is Spokane and for Region 1 South is Yakima. The region now encompasses 20 offices. The management teams are now combined and meeting monthly. At this point they do not anticipate any further reductions in staff.
- Region 1 South is very interested to learn more about our foster parent outreach. Marty has met with some of the foster parents and will continue to reach out.
- All regional administrators throughout DSHS now meet every two weeks. The goal is to work collectively as one department versus crisis reaction.
- Kudos to the Teen Closet for their TC-50 event as well as to Robyn Nance and Linda Rogers for presenting on the Teen Closet at the statewide Children's Justice Conference in May.

**TRACKING LOG:** Dru asked the group to check the tracking log provided for any questions regarding anything on it. There were no questions at this time.

**1624 MEETING:** The next statewide 1624 meeting will be held on July 18 from 1-4. It will be by video conferencing at the DSHS office at 8517 E. Trent, Spokane. Only Cindy and Kristen may speak, but others may attend. Each Region presents two (2) issues. At the last meeting, Cindy and Kristen took the following:

1. **Social Networking for clarity:** it was confirmed that pictures can be posted as long as they don't identify foster children; and as long as the child's worker approves. They will look into any regulations pertaining to older children using social networking themselves. Jeanne McShane with DLR will review what is disclosable from networking sites. Watch the statewide Caregiver Connections for updates.
2. **When Kids Age Out:** They asked for clarification on what resources are available

**NEXT 1624 MEETING:** The next Regional 1624 Meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011 in the Spokane DCFS office (time to be determined). We will keep everyone informed.