

## 1624 Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2010

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	DECISIONS	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES	LEADS
Budget	<p>Dr. Odimba shared about the state of the budget and that Children’s Administration is working with community partners on areas where cuts are possible. The legislature is finalizing its work on the budget. Region 4 has managed its budget very well.</p> <p>Dr. Odimba also shared that the collaboration between caregivers and the region resulted in a record number of finalized adoption last year (328 total- a 60% increase); and a 14% overall reduction of children in out-of-home care. Dr. Odimba stated that we are seeing lower caseloads in the back-end cases.</p> <p>We have updated the regional staff directory and mailed it to all caregivers. We have also updated our email list of caregivers and mailed over 800 invitation letters for the 1624</p>				

	meetings.				
Caregiver Transportation and Mileage Protocol	Information about this protocol was distributed at the meeting, as well as being sent out to everyone on the R4 1624 mailing list.				
CPA Agreements	?				
Capacity					
Mailing List	Foster parents and care givers continue to express concern about receiving mailings about the R4 1624 Foster Parents' Meetings. A mailing of over 700 names is sent each time.	Foster parents can contact their two liaisons – Tayla Miller or Tess Thomas, or Stephanie with their address information to confirm that they are on the mailing list.			
Licensing Concerns	The foster parent liaisons will meet with the Children's Administration area administrators and DLR A.A.				Tayla Miller Tess Thomas Gia Wesley
Respite	The amount of respite is being addressed at the state-wide 1624 meeting. The WAC and administrative codes need to be studied and revised.	Tayla and Tess will continue to carry this forward at those meetings.			Tayla Miller Tess Thomas
1624 Meetings	Foster parents were asking for information regarding the background and purpose of the 1624 meetings.	Stephanie will research the information and bring copies of the		June 2010	Stephanie Allison-Noone

		information to the next quarterly R4 1624 meeting.			
Performance Based Contracts	Dr. Odimba discussed the HB 2106 regarding performance based contracts. Foster parents and care givers had expressed concern that they had had little input in to the discussions surrounding this issue.	This will be discussed at our next R4 quarterly meeting, with the Assistant Secretary in attendance. Information about this bill is available on the Internet and attended by foster parent representatives.	Develop fact sheet to be sent out to foster parents. Information is already available --- will be provided to foster parents at or before the next meeting.	March 2010	Stephanie Allison-Noone
Rate Assessment	A question was raised about why a child starts out at level one when they move from their current home, at a higher level. Sarah Jackson – the rate assessment contact for King East – explained that the levels are based on the amount of time a foster parent spends in coordinating all of the child’s needs. There is a concern about the rate assessments beginning and starting at the end of the month. Foster parents would like help with articulating their activities with the child(ren). Address the movement of children due to issues such	Foster Rate Assessors have been identified in each CA office in R4 to help standardize this process and address problems or concerns from caregivers. Review process with A.A.’s and Rate Assessors. Send out a guide to foster parent regarding rate assessment. The Rate Assessor and social worker should review the fit of the child’s need to address the level of parenting care needed.	Management to discuss this issue at their meeting.		Stephanie Allison-Noone

	as level of care needed and foster parents being able to address those needs.				
Information on child	Foster parents stated that information is not always being provided to them at the time the child is placed with them, and are not always receiving the whole picture of the child's needs when they receive a placement call.	Dr. Odimba and A.A.'s to remind staff to provide information. Stephanie Allison-Noone will talk with Afterhours workers.			R4 Management
Accusations Training Support Cultural Sensitivity	Foster parents indicated that they would like to know before a child is placed if accusations are a concern. Foster parents also indicated that they would like more training support, and in many cases social workers have not seemed to be sensitive to cultural issues.	DLR and R4 Management will address this issue.	First Program – send out information to foster parents with a contact number.		CA/DLR
Social workers telling foster parents it's not about the kids – it's about the budget.	Dr. Odimba stated that this is not the case. We do have budget concerns, but many of the changes are to help improve our work with children and caregivers; e.g. the use of solution based casework.	R4 Management will talk with workers in their office about this issue.			R4 Management
ICPC	DLR is currently working on revising the WAC for this issue.	Gia Wesley will invite someone from Headquarters to one of our meetings to			Gia Wesley

		discuss these revisions.			
Conflict Resolution	Foster parents were asking what the process is when an issue cannot be worked out with a social worker and/or that worker's supervisor.	R4 management has developed a conflict resolution process for these types of situations.	Information about the R4 Conflict Resolution process will be mailed out.	April 2010	Stephanie Allison-Noone
WAC Code – Relative non-licensed care giver	The process is different for non-licensed care givers. Social workers can provide a list of resources for non-licensed care givers, such as kingship support groups and CSO information.	A.A.'s to remind workers to provide this information to non-licensed care givers.			
Voucher for clothes and/or supplies needed for child	Foster parents indicated that children have been placed with them in the middle of the night but no supplies, such as diapers or a change of clothes was brought with the child.	CA can provide an initial voucher. Social workers can provide a list of resources for items for the children, as well as information on how to connect with CSOs.	Case is from MLK, Jr. office	Cynthia Blair followed up with the caregiver the same night and will follow up with the office.	Cynthia Blair