

1624 Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2010 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Office

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	DECISIONS	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES	LEADS
Introductions	Attendees introduced themselves.				
Meeting Formats	Stephanie Allison-Noone spoke about the possibility of changing the meeting formats. Instead of one large regional meeting CA staff may start attending some of the support group meetings. There is ongoing discussion about this possible change.				
Respite Care Tracking	Foster parents wanted to know if there is a way to track the amount of respite care hours available to them.		Stephanie Allison-Noone to speak with John Allen to see if the Placement Unit is tracking this information.		
Respite Care Payment	Those foster parents providing respite care indicated that they are not getting paid for the last day that the child is in their care. There has been discussion about this issue at the state-wide 1624 meetings. Discussion followed on whether or not payment should be made. Celeste Carey indicated that foster parents should be paid, but	Celeste Carey indicated she would email information regarding this policy, but noted that this information was from 2002 and policy changes may have been changed since she left state employment.	Stephanie Allison-Noone will check on current policy.		

	<p>both Tess and Talya indicated that the answer was “no” at the state-wide meetings.</p> <p>Some foster parents indicated that they still have not been paid for respite care they’ve provided, and wanted to know how to get paid. If the social worker on the case it is hard to get paid.</p>	<p>Foster parents should work with their local office to resolve this issue.</p>			
DLR Issues	<p>Tess is still working on issues with Gia Wesley and reported progress is being made.</p> <p>Talya indicated that the Region 4 foster parents and DLR have a more open and cooperative relationship than some other regions around the state. DLR in Region 4 make more of an effort to communicate with foster parents.</p>				
Budget Issues	<p>Foster parents expressed concerned that they are hearing different messages about cuts and what is happening to CA staff in relation to budget cuts.</p>				

	<p>Sandy Hart spoke about the cuts CA as a whole, and Region 4 in particular, will face. Sandy also indicated that as soon as information is available it is shared with CA staff. However, decisions are still being made, and changes can happen rapidly.</p> <p>Foster parents also wanted to know if scholarships funds would be cut. Sandy indicated she did not know at this time whether these funds would be cut. Sandy will check with HQ to find out the answer.</p> <p>Foster parents indicated that it would be helpful for Jim Jones and HQ staff to present at a 1624 meeting, or support group meeting.</p>		Sandy Hart		
Additional Concerns	<p>Lack of support for liaisons and the foster parent community.</p> <p>There was discussion about CA staff needing to go out and attend support groups so that communication can take place so that the anxieties of foster parents will be reduced.</p>				
Foster Parent Liaisons	Talya Miller and Tess				

	<p>Thomas talked about more and more meetings being held via video conferencing and conference calls as methods to help reduce expenses since funds have been cut to reimburse foster parents for attending 1624 meetings and travel related costs.</p> <p>Tess and Talya also spoke about how issues are being resolved at the state-wide level, even though issues may not be resolved how foster parents think they should, or when the issues should be resolved.</p>				
Rate Assessment	<p>Foster parents asked about rate assessments. Foster parents had questions about the process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How often are they done? A: When child is placed or moved and done after 30 days. Then reevaluate every six months, unless requested sooner by foster parent, social worker or private agency. 				

	<p>Sarah Jackson explained her approach to making an assessment.</p> <p>As part of this discussion Talya indicated that she would like to see a new form, or the current form changed, to that would be more helpful to foster parents in indicating the kinds of activities and the time needed to meet the foster child(ren) needs. Ann Travis-Barker suggested a form specific to certain types of behavior such as drugs, IEP, or other.</p>				
Foster Parent Issues	<p>One foster parent shared that they have one social worker (SW) that is visiting almost every day. When the SW was asked why they indicated they just wanted to come by; the SW thought that the foster parents should be seeing a certain type of behavior in the foster child; when the foster parents didn't see the behavior and neither did a professional the SW called in a referral on the foster parents.</p>				

	Discussion ensued and several foster parents felt they were being retaliated against by social workers, especially when they were advocating for foster children, or if they didn't agree with everything the social worker said.				
	Foster parents indicated that if they do not want to be foster adopt they are told that the child is going to be moved.				
	Foster parents also indicated that although they are being invited to FTDM meetings they feel they aren't being listened to or heard. They want to be part of the team but feel their input is being discounted or ignored.				
	Stephanie Allison-Noone shared about how she handles concerns and/or complaints about social workers. Foster parents were interested in the conflict resolution process.				