

**Washington State Children's Administration and Foster Parent
Quarterly Regional Consultation Forum (HB 1624)
December 6, 2011
Minutes**

Present:

Linda Rogers, FP	Tim Abbey, AA
Amber Sherman, FP	Connie Morlin, DLR AA
Dru Powers, FFK	Candice Achenbach, FP
Susan Brooks, FFK	Melike Bludau, FP
Lisa Johnson, DCFS Supervisor	Launi Burdge, AA
Michelle Cutlip, RFTI Trainer	Ginger Schutt, FP
Donna Stirling, DLR Licensor	Cindy Gardner, FP
Terri Jones, DLR Licensor	Laurie Palmquist, DLR Program Mgr.
Mashelle Hess, Homefinders	Suzanne Peringer, Homefinders
Penny Oliver, DLR Supervisor	

Training Updates:

Handouts were distributed with the current training schedules. See attached. There will soon be passports for the foster parents to track their progress on completing their 36 hours of Parenting Plus. Michelle also gave an update on the Trust Based Relational Intervention support group.

Recruitment Updates:

Linda Rogers and Amber Sherman gave an update on activities during the past three months and plans for the coming year. This included:

- Clothing Perk, Teen Closet and Safety Net are all doing well in the same Valley complex.
- Call To Action Campaign – during the past three months there were 318 new PFPs (prospective foster parents) with 100 families attending Orientation. This is up from the usual 200 new PFPs and 60 families. PRIDE classes have also been full.
- Teen Closet fundraiser – the TC continues to receive 15% from sales at Papa Murphy's on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at selected locations.
- The TC 50 will have its 2nd annual 50 mile race on June 3, 2012.
- December 21, 2011 – the Home for the Holidays will air.
- Good news – Sleep Country is coming to Eastern WA which means support of the foster care programs like they receive on the west side!
- Santa Breakfast – approximately 600 attended representing 200 adults and 400 children! Special thanks to the Junior League!

Retention/Support Updates:

Dru Powers gave an update on the support groups in the region as well as an update on support activities. This included the following:

- There is a new support group in the Cheney/Medical Lake area facilitated by Cindi Roderick.
- Wenatchee still needs a new support group leader. Dru is filling in.
- Support groups have been taking advantage of applying and using the special activity fee of \$200. Clarkston and the Life Book have used it so far and Wenatchee will in February.
- The Spokane Support Groups are having their holiday lunch/recognition on Wednesday, December 14th at the East Central Community Center.

Statewide Consultations Meetings

1. Our new representative is Ginger Schutt who begins a two year term. Cindy Gardner will serve her second year. Kristen Outopalik is now the alternate.
2. Cindy talked about the last meeting and the report on long term foster care. There is work being done on a permanency matrix.
3. Issues to submit for the next statewide meeting:
 - ✓ How to address grief and loss counseling for foster parents and caregivers statewide.
 - ✓ Job descriptions – where does my job start and end in relations between foster parents and social workers? Keeping confidential. Where to draw the line? Legal fathers vs DNA genes? Court wants bio? Why delays?
 - ✓ Methadone/psychotropic drugs

Request from Marty:

- Marty asked for a volunteer from the FP community to come forward to serve on a statewide work group to look at the Title 4E waiver changes. The Title IV-E Waiver Advisory Committee that was established to make recommendations about Washington State's Title IV-E Waiver application for a federal demonstration project. Dru Powers volunteered to serve on this group. Tim Abbey will pass this on.

Cindy Gardner ended the meeting sharing a few funny quips about her adult son doing stand-up comedy in Seattle. His family is the focus of many jokes and about growing up with his parents as foster parents. He said something about how when his parents becoming foster adopt parents it really got interesting – called it the Rent to Own program. ☺

Next Regional Meeting – Tuesday, March 20, 2012 in Spokane; 1 – 3 p.m.

Next Statewide Meeting – Monday, January 23; 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.; Nisqually Room, Tumwater DCFS and by video conferencing (in Region 1 that is available at the DSHS office at 8517 E. Trent)