

**Recruitment/Retention
Region 3 N
September 14, 2015**

Attendees: Peggy Hays, Jeannie Bennett, Arthur Fernandez, Ashleigh Barraza, Xuan Chung, Mark Fullington, Joanne Stimson, Ruben Reeves, Kim Tengel, Erika Thompson, Ernest Blackwell, Jeff Clair, Betsy Rogers, Sandy Phelps, Kathy Keenan, Gracia Hahn, Althea Sanders

Welcome and introductions. We had a full meeting room, with foster parents, DCFS staff, and private agency representation. I thank you all for coming and look forward to good attendance at future meetings. The meetings scheduled for 2016 will be March 14, June 13, Sept 12, and Dec. 12. from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

We were fortunate to have Kathy Keenan present today to discuss rate assessment (RA) and answer questions regarding the process. A foster parent had a question regarding an 8 yr old on a feeding tube, in a wheel chair, with no language. She believes this case and others are not adequately compensated with rate assessment. Kathy explained how RA measures specific time spent on a child, and each case is child specific. There could be other resources (i.e.: case aide). Also Kathy mentioned some cases may be eligible for an exceptional cost payment. Recommended this foster parent to speak to the AA (who was present in the room).

Question: what happens if a fp disputes the rate assessment? There is a process. A notification letter is sent to fp when new rate assessment is completed. The letter has instructions for next step – fp must contact Kathy within 20 days. Kathy then has 10 days to determine if rate is adequate or should be changed. Following that, the foster parent has another 20 days to request a fair hearing. These are very rare, as most always the dispute is resolved. There is a handbook that comes with the letter. This information can also be found on-line.

Question: why is there no RA while children are n receiving care or a contracted BRS placement? These children are coded as basic rate. We wait for 30 days to do a rate assessment. By then resources are in place, “honeymoon” is over, etc.

DCFS is in the process of writing new policies for rate assessment. Although we cannot change the instrument itself, we can add more questions and gather more information that can be beneficial.

There are only 7 rate assessors across the State. Three of those are in Region 3. All are more than happy to discuss rate assessment or answer questions from foster parents. If need be, don't hesitate to contact Kathy – 253-983-6241.

Recruitment, Development and Support (RDS)

Erika Thompson – Fostering Together

Last week there were 52 participants in CCT in Tacoma. WOW!!! Erika currently has 400 names in her data base. Schools continue to recruit with the Peach Jar (newsletter).

November events included a resource fair at Expedia. Erika has scheduled a toy distribution for Christmas this Wed. at the Red Lion from 12:00 – 5:00 pm.

There is a new support group starting up at JBLM. Contact Erika for dates/times.

DLR Update – Xuan Chung:

Xuan reports 52 new homes were licensed in R3N last quarter. Of those, 12 were for a specific child, and 31 were CPA homes. October showed a huge increase in applications. DLR is currently working on 61 state licenses.

There is no longer a backlog for criminal history checks. This is great! We continue to be increasing with applications this month even with the holidays.

Private Agency Update:

Community and Family Services Foundation – Mark Fullington

Numbers for CFSF are up a little. They have increased by 15. Mark states they are seeing a lot of interest from the community. Out of the 250 children in their homes, 180 are level 1. So far this year, they have completed 27/28 adoptions!

Youth for Christ – Jeff Clair

Jeff reports YFC is staying even with licensing. They have 30-35 families in the process of becoming licensed. They are now in King, Pierce and Thurston counties. Their BRS application should be approved by the end of the year. YFC is also one of the agencies implementing the Mockingbird Family Model and are looking to increase with another 2 homes.

Arthur Fernandez – Alliance

Arthur reports the Alliance has been very busy! July through September stats:

11 CCT

17 Caregiver Continuing Education courses representing 81 CCE hours

585 people participated in classroom training and 541 completed

424 participated in CCT and 386 completed (both modules)

161 participated in CCE with 155 completing

49 unlicensed kinship caregivers participated in training with 46 completing

75 licensed kinship caregivers participated in training with 72 completing

Question rose: is CCT interchangeable? No, participants must complete module 1 before starting module 2. Currently the Alliance is re-writing the curriculum for CCT, reducing redundancy, expanding and creating a better flow, etc. They are piloting in Tacoma and Aberdeen. Looking at March for “train the trainers”.

Update – “office moms” will be launching this month in Pierce West. Volunteers have been trained and are ready to start. This group will be on-site in the local office, to sit with and entertain kids who are

awaiting placement. This program started in Vancouver and has been adopted in several offices. A wonderful program, which is expanding to most all offices throughout the Region.

1624 – CAFPT

There were no concrete issues brought to the table for the Statewide 1624 meeting. We did have a long discussion on lice – (which was discussed one or two meetings ago). One of the new concerns involves when a child goes home on visitation, and then continually comes back to the foster home with lice. If the bio mom is infested, it is nearly impossible to “stay ahead” of the lice issue. Resources were discussed and Betsy stated she would look in to what could be offered to mom for treatment.

Next meeting: March 14, 2016 – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm