

**1624 (CAFPT) Meeting  
Recruitment/Retention  
Region 3 N  
June 8, 2015**

- Attendees: Peggy Hays, Brandy Otto, Arthur Fernandez, John March, Ashleigh Barraza, Vicki Stock, Xuan Chung, Mark Fullington, Joanne Stimson, Ruben Reeves, Kim Tengel, Erika Thompson, Althea Sanders, Ernest Blackwell, Rebecca Taylor, Jeff Clare, Jeannie Johns, Erika Thompson, Authur Gilmore, Lori Amburgey, Leslie Campbell, Angie Wilson, Ana Stapleton, Lori Jensen, Ursula Petters

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 remainder of the meetings in 2015 will be in room 195, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm with a light lunch.

Peggy handed out data from each of the three Pierce County offices. This included data of the children entering placement from 1/15 – 5/15 by race, initial placement setting, and removal zip. (total of 302). It also included a count of removals for each office by month, as well as the ages of the children within the previous month (May). Headquarters has asked each local RDS group pull this data, and look for trends, and/or specifics that might be useful in foster parent recruitment/retention. We took a close look at Pierce South, as Vickie was in the meeting. The data with zip codes reflects a very high removal rate in Lakewood. This didn't seem to be much of a surprise to most in the room, but it is good information. We will compare data at the next meeting to see if there are consistencies or discrepancies with what we are collecting. Ruben and DLR will also collect data to reflect the same characteristics of foster parents – licensed and pre-licensed – so we can determine how that may or may not match up.

Arthur reports there were 94 in CCT (attending training) during this same period of time (Jan – May), so comparatively, less than a third of the number of children entering placement.

Peggy asked for recommendations of who we may be missing at the table for our RDS meeting. It was suggested we invite Mandy Moore from the Puyallup Tribe, and to contact the Family Advocacy Center at JBLM.

**Recruitment, Development and Support (RDS)**

Erika Thompson - Fostering Together:

Erika consistently works on her data base, contacting potential caregivers. She continues to have around 350 names. There was a CCT class on Saturday with 20 attendees. This number has been consistent, and Pierce County is holding 2 classes each month. (more from Arthur later). The foster parent appreciation event at the Tacoma Rainiers Game went well, with over 300 families. Erika is planning another "farm day" on July 18<sup>th</sup>, where families will enjoy food, pony rides, games, prizes, etc. She feels the fostering community is "in a good spot", cohesive, and supportive of one another. The Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner was a huge success with over 200 in attendance. I believe this is partially due to the

great work Erika has done as the liaison in Pierce County, and the relationships she herself is building with foster parents.

Erika will be attending a PRIDE event on Tuesday at JBLM. This will be an “on base” recruitment effort in partnership with the Family Advocacy Center.

Support groups in Pierce County continue to grow with one in Bonney Lake, one in south Tacoma, one in North Tacoma, one in Spanaway, one with Foster Care Resource Network, and one at Lighthouse in Puyallup.

Althea has been working with the school districts and “Peach Jar”, an on-line program in which she has been able to post electronic Fostering Together recruitment flyers to 11 districts. (Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, Bethel, North and South Kitsap, North Thurston, Everett, Federal Way, Highline, and Lake Stevens) The flyer stays on this site for one month, and can be posted as many times as needed.

#### **Update – Xuan Chung:**

Xuan reports the vacancies in DLR for Region 3N are filled, and with the hiring of a new AA in King County, she will be able to spend more time in Region 3. DLR has seen a decrease of applications and an increase of closures (mostly due to adoption completions), over the last quarter. New WAC revisions are out related to the flu shot (compliance agreements developed in the off season state foster parents will get the shot when available), and for guns/ ammunition (which can now be locked together in one cabinet/location).

#### **Alliance Report – Arthur Fernandez**

Training statistics: (Jan – March 2015)

12 CCT Module 1 and 12 CCT module 2 were completed  
30 CCE classes completed  
822 participated – 728 completed  
576 participants in CCT – 476 completed  
273 participated in CCE – 252 completed  
83 unlicensed kinship caregivers participated – 73 completed  
39 licensed kinship caregivers participated – 37 completed

The Alliance will be rolling out new curriculum over the fiscal next year. This includes:

Positive Discipline: The Full Series (15 Hour)  
Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development  
Teaming for Parent-Child Visitation  
An Introduction to Indian Child Welfare  
Infant Safety and Care  
Partners Make Better Decisions (for Social Workers and Caregivers)  
Youth Missing from Care

Arthur also reports a new partnership with the Children's Museum of Tacoma, who will be providing day care to foster parents while attending training. This is fabulous!! It was one of the 1624 topics brought to the table several months ago! This collaboration occurs in Thurston County as well, but will need to be developed in other areas of Region 3.

### CAFPT (1624) Discussion

Acknowledgement : for the past several months there have been no topics to take to the statewide meeting out of R3N. Most often topics are resolved within this meeting. Ashleigh (1624 rep) had a question for clarification on social media – workers on Facebook, etc. Peggy will send out the policy.

A foster parent in the meeting shared an experience that prompted a lengthy discussion amongst the group. Out of respect for her, and the specifics of this incident, I just want to list some concerns/topics. There has been an increase and a large number of referrals/allegations made against foster parents by biological parents. Many of these complaints are unfounded. Foster parents feel some referrals are an overreactions and the "punishment does not fit the crime". Often children are removed from the home, (trauma to both child and foster parents) and in this case it was 5 days before DLR came out to the home to speak to the foster parent.

Bottom line: How do we recruit and retain foster parents when this is occurring so often. Reportedly more and more foster parents quit because of this.

There was also discussion about supports and resources for foster parents. Vicki Stock told of a new service at Harborview and has sent the following:

The Clinic has some exciting news - we have a new website (click on link below) that offers information about our services, as well as a dedicated resource page for social workers and other professionals. Another wonderful feature is that you can make a referral directly on the website! We hope you check it out and let us know any feedback you have. We also hope you will consider referring children on your caseload who might benefit from our medical and psychological services - this includes diagnostic clarification, treatment planning, brief screening for Fetal Alcohol Effects and Autism Disorders. We want to work with you to help foster care youth achieve safety, permanency and well-being!

Starting **July 2015**, the Clinic will be serving children and families all day on **Wednesdays** (appointments from 9:00am -3:00pm) in order to better accommodate families' needs.

We'd be more than happy to come to your office to talk about the clinic or another topic related to the medical and psychological needs of children in foster care. Should you have any questions about making a referral or requesting an in-service, please contact Terri Stewart, Nurse Coordinator, at [irret@uw.edu](mailto:irret@uw.edu). The Foster Care Clinic website can be found at: <http://www.hmcfostercarewa.org/>

Harborview Foster Care Clinic

Specialty clinic with integrated care for foster children and caregivers for comprehensive

evaluations including medical and psychological evaluations. We serve foster children in the greater Seattle area and Washington State.

[Read more...](#)

Remove preview

Sincerely,

The HMC Foster Care Clinic

- Dr. Gillenwater, Dr. Sedlar, and Terri Stewart

### **Community and Family Services – Mark Fullington**

CFSF has 172 licensed homes, many of which are working with overcapacities. The good news is that there are lots of new homes “in the hopper”. They have a CCT coming up in Kitsap County. Mark is encouraged by the slow growth and feels foster parents are working well together

### **Youth for Christ – Jeff Clare**

They are recruiting teen homes – seesuch a need in this area.

Next Region 3N 1624 meeting will be on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, Room 195

Hope to see you all there.