

Caregiver Connection

A monthly publication for Washington State foster and adoptive families and relative caregivers produced by the Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration and the Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence.

SEPTEMBER 2015

FREE ENTRY TO SEATTLE AQUARIUM



FOR FOSTER PARENTS AND RELATIVE CAREGIVER FAMILIES

Great news! Foster parents and relative/kinship caregivers can now enjoy free admission to the Seattle Aquarium. Come experience the wonders of Puget Sound and the ocean. Discover playful sea otters, graceful octopuses, luminous moon jellies and more. Be amazed by Window on Washington Waters, a 120,000-gallon exhibit with daily diver shows. Touch live sea creatures in the tide pools. Immerse yourself in the Underwater Dome's 360° view, or take a virtual trip to the tropics in the Pacific Coral Reef exhibit.

The Aquarium offers entertaining, educational exhibits for kids and adults alike—plus daily talks, animal feedings and activities to enrich your experience. With thousands of marine animals and six major exhibits, you'll be amazed and engaged through every moment of your visit. Have a question? Just look for the friendly folks in the blue shirts. They're at the ready to help you learn even more about the animals on display. And if you're ready for a snack, the Aquarium

café, located on the second level, will satisfy any appetite with options including espresso drinks, fresh-baked treats, sandwiches, soups, pizza, burgers and more. Don't miss the gift shop on the way out! A significant portion of your purchase will benefit the Aquarium's exhibits, programming and conservation efforts.

Foster parents and relative caregivers with children placed by Children's Administration, will use the same wallet ID card for the Aquarium program that you use for the Park Pass Program. If you need a wallet card, contact your licensor at the Division of Licensed Resources or your licensing agency (see picture below the next column).

Relative/Kinship caregivers, who have full time custody of relative children, should contact their Kinship Navigator or one of the Kinship Navigator Programs in Washington to obtain the necessary identification card.

To receive free entry for up to two adult caregivers and five children (who are in the full-time, on-going care and custody of the foster parent or relative caregiver) during

the Aquarium's regular hours of operation, simply present a valid, legal form of ID (such as a driver's license or a passport), and one of the three valid foster/kinship cards: either licensed, unlicensed or "kinship navigator." The card must be signed by a:

- DSHS employee, or Authorized personnel of a Kinship Navigator Support Program

The name on the card must match the caregiver's ID. This program does not cover additional adults or children who are not residing in the home.

The Seattle Aquarium is located on the scenic downtown Seattle waterfront at 1483 Alaskan Way, Pier 59. Open daily 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Last entry at 5 p.m.; exhibits close at 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.SeattleAquarium.org.

CARD SAMPLES



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HEALING IN A COMMUNITY OF LOVE



It may have been 60 degrees outside, but that did not stop Counselor Crys (Stardust) O’Grady from throwing herself enthusiastically into the Slip and Slide kickball fun to set an example for campers at Camp To Belong Washington

During the closing campfire at Camp To Belong Washington in August, counselor Crys O’Grady sent out a strong message of hope to the 88 campers and their counselors who surrounded them in a community of love. “Anything you want to be, you can be,” said O’Grady, whose camp counselor name is Stardust.

2015 was the first year Crys came to the camp, which reunites siblings separated because of foster, relative or adoptive placements. Her actions backed up her words, as she threw herself into all the activities, including a kickball game where campers slipped and slid around a base path made of slick Visqueen sheeting – coated with soap – into wading pools filled with soap bubbles (see picture).



Her enthusiasm was contagious: “I just felt like it was important for me to set an example for the kids,” she said. O’Grady, 25, is living proof of those words.

She was in out and of foster care in New Jersey from the age of 13, alternately in care and back with her father. “Some terrible things happened,” during those years, she said. She has siblings, but has little contact with them, since they have been in and out of trouble with the law, including time in prison.

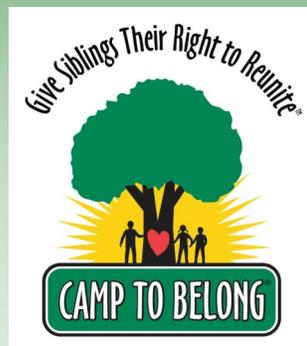
Why did she succeed when her siblings did not? “I was very fortunate because I am intelligent,” she said. She graduated from high school with GPA greater than 4.0 (because of credit for college-level classes she took) and earned a full ride scholarship to Stanford University.

Since college, she has worked for and with organizations that help foster youth. She heard about camp from a state leader of Passion To Action, which promotes activities and support for older youth in care and those who have experienced foster care. Crys says she loved her camp experience and wishes this kind of sibling support had existed when she was growing up. “I struggled a lot with having to cut off contact with my siblings,” she said. “I wish someone could have helped us.” She understands why siblings are so important to each other.

“You really need a community growing up and siblings are a part of that,” she said. “No one knows you like your siblings.”

Crys is heading for a legal career advocating for kids. She plans to graduate from law school next spring.

“I may not have had a childhood, but I will definitely have an adulthood,” she said. And she definitely plans to return to Camp To Belong in 2016.





THE WORLD'S GREATEST

During Camp To Belong Washington 2015, Miracle Ranch in Port Orchard rocked repeatedly to the rhythm of 100 campers and their counselors singing and swaying to the R. Kelly song, "The World's Greatest."

It is a song of empowerment that speaks to the strength of connections created at the five-day camp, bringing together siblings separated due to foster, relative or adoptive placements.

Said one counselor at the Friday night campfire as siblings prepared to leave the next day, "I am always so inspired each Friday night at camp because I know I am sitting among the world's greatest."

It is not a message many of these young people, ages 8-18, have heard in young lives so dreadful most people can't even imagine.

But as the microphone was passed around Friday night, camper after camper echoed the words, "I really want to come back next year."

Said one first-year camper: "You guys are so inspirational. You don't meet people like you every day. Don't ever doubt yourselves."

Camp To Belong is run by Foster Family Connections and co-directors Deb Kennedy and April VanGesen. Children's Administration provides financial and logistical support, as do many private partners who donate time, money and resources.

Along with the usual summer camp activities of swimming, boating and horseback riding, siblings who may not have gotten to celebrate brothers' or sisters' birthdays shop for birthday gifts for each other and enjoy an all-camp birthday party. They create memory books and write messages of love and encouragement on pillows and quilts that their sibling then take home, challenge themselves on a rope swing and doing archery, and get a glimpse into their future during "Life Seminar" activities. Life Seminar can be especially powerful.

Deb Kennedy – whose camp name is Rain – posted this story: *"'Director Rain!!' I could hear my camp name being called from across the room. As the 16-year-old camper made his way over, his smile shined. 'What are you smiling about?'* I asked. *His voice softened, 'I never thought I could be a pilot because I grew up in foster care, but now that's my dream. Thank you so much for teaching us this stuff.'* *Life Seminar changes teens' perspectives."*

Campers also learn their stories are not unique,

lessening the isolation that some feel.

"I love being in a place where you can just be who you are, where you are accepted," said one camper. "You're not judged by your past, what you wear or what you look like. This is a place of acceptance. Everybody here belongs."

Said Camp To Belong's national founder Lynn Price: "I don't like the term 'foster kid.' If someone says that to you, you say back, 'no,

lessening the isolation that some feel."



Joshua Ryan, a Camp To Belong Counselor whose camp name is Private Ryan because of his military service, shows off his ink, signifying that not only is his love for Camp To Belong tattooed on his heart, but he also wears it proudly and permanently on his arm.

"I'm just a kid.' You – all of you – are just kids." The sibling bonds broken or frayed by dysfunctional childhoods and separation can start to be stitched back together when brothers and sisters spend more time together in one week than many may experience during the year.

Counselor Crys O'Grady watched siblings grow and heal during the week. "When they showed up, I saw them fight, blaming each other for what had happened. But throughout the week, they were starting to get over their differences and create some

good memories to replace all the bad ones. That kind of healing is very powerful."

The words of former camper and counselor Vickie Huff, spoken during the 2014 closing campfire, reverberated throughout the room as they were read again in 2015.

"The fact that we go through hell and back every single day proves that we are strong. Just the fact that we are still up and walking around, that life hasn't taken our will away, is absolutely amazing. We are the strongest people I know."

One might even say "the world's greatest."



Understanding the importance of the sibling connection:

Siblings are often our longest life relationship. Our parents typically die before us; our children after.

Siblings teach us how to relate to the outside world by laughing, squabbling, crying and living together.

For kids in care, brothers and sisters have shared memories and experiences. Brothers and sisters often are the only people in dysfunctional family situations that children can rely on.

So strong is the bond that more people who have been in foster care are searching for their siblings than are searching for their parents.

LIFE AS A FOSTER RUNAWAY: DRUGS, DANGER AND PREGNANCY



The August Caregiver Connection included a story about a state worker who helps find runaway foster youth. It was one of a two-part series of stories by Austin Jenkins of Northwest News Network. This second story puts a human face on the issue from the perspective of a former foster runaway. Our thanks to Northwest News Network for their permission to use its story.

By Austin Jenkins

Rural Thurston County, Washington, is the kind of place people move to for a little elbow room. But if you're a teenager from the suburbs, life can be less than exciting.

The day 19-year-old Amber Armstrong arrived at her foster home five years ago, she starting plotting her escape.

"I was like, 'Where the heck is this? And why am I out here?'" Armstrong, recalled. "I actually sat on my tubs of my stuff out in their front porch, pissed off because I didn't want to live there and I was out in the middle of nowhere."

The State of Washington is under court order to address the problem of foster children who run away. Each year, some 400 Washington foster kids run; some will leave more than once.

"It was like my first thought. 'How am I going to run away? How am I going to get out of here?'"

This was nothing new. Amber already had a history of running away from foster care.

When she came to this rural house in 2009 – crossing the railroad tracks, passing the llama corral – she had bounced in and out of four foster homes in a single month.

"This was kind of like a last resort," she said. "This is the last place that anybody would take me. They take troubled teenage girls, so this was, like, they thought, the place for me."

For the next three years, she would test that thinking every chance she got. Soon after moving in, she hit her foster dad in the head with a phone, slapped her foster mom and threw a glass vase at one of the other girls living in the house. "I just had a lot of anger. I was an angry kid," she said.

She chafed under the strict house rules. She felt trapped in the middle of nowhere. She longed for freedom.

"I think the first time I ran away, I ran away from school," Armstrong said. "I went and stayed with one of the girls that lived here and her boyfriend, and he was a meth dealer."

A week later she turned herself in. This cycle would repeat itself numerous times over the next couple of years.

Returning to the former foster home recently, Armstrong was greeted by a barking dog. Her former foster parents were not in. She pointed to a second story window.

"I remember climbing out that window," she said. "I had one of the girls do the sheet trick and I actually fell and hurt my ankle. I think I sprained it actually. Ya, it's pretty weird since I haven't been here in a while. It's strange."

Armstrong's story, though, is not strange. Roughly three percent to four percent of Washington foster youth run away every year. The state is under court order to bring that down.

Mary Van Cleve, an attorney with Columbia Legal Services, said that when foster youth run, bad things happen.

"They are at high risk of sexual exploitation, they're at high risk of drug use, they're at high risk of committing survival crimes just to get by day-to-day," Van Cleve said.

Columbia Legal Services has said the state is not doing enough to address the runaway problem.

Jennifer Strus, the assistant secretary in charge of foster care at Washington's Department of Social and Health Services, has a different view.

"I would say that I think we're doing the best we can with the resources we currently have," Strus said.

Strus said the number of foster runaways and the number of days they're gone is going down. She credits the hiring of six "locators." These are people whose sole job is to find foster runaways and bring them in. But that's just the beginning. The next step is to find out why the youth ran in the first place.



(Licensed purchased to use this picture.)



Former foster runaway Amber Armstrong stands near the railroad tracks where she used to wait for a ride when running away.

"You know, sometimes we have to move kids," Strus said. "They're not in a good place, their placement is not appropriate. It just doesn't work."

National studies have shown that foster youth run away most often because they don't like where they're living or they want to reconnect with family or friends. Girls are more likely to run than boys. Youth who've moved from home to home run more often.

For Amber Armstrong, running away was an escape. But it also led to trouble. She was introduced to meth and alcohol. She missed tons of school. She did time in juvenile detention.

Eventually she stopped running. And for that she credits her foster parents.

"No matter how many times I ran away they still always took me back and that's what didn't happen with other foster homes," Armstrong said.

But the long-term damage had been done. She struggled with addiction. She didn't graduate from high school. And then the thing that changed everything happened: she got pregnant.

"I was going to give her up for adoption because I was so scared," Armstrong said. "I was only 16."

In the end she kept her baby. Today her daughter Janessa is two.

Asked what the foster system could have done better, she said it could have listened to her better.

Armstrong said her main regret is getting mixed up with drugs. It almost cost her Janessa. She's clean now, has a job and is working to get her GED.

"I've already kind of lived that lifestyle of running free and getting to do what I want and doing drugs and I definitely don't want to do that and it's not the right way to go," she said.

National Grandparents Day



Cheyenne Bennett with her grandparents Doreen and Joe Medak and her cousin Luke at the recent Pirate Days celebration in Westport.

National Grandparents Day is being celebrated Sept. 13. At the Governor's Mansion in Olympia, Sept. 14 has been set aside for an event honoring the great work grandparents do raising their grandchildren. For more information on National Grandparents Day, go to <http://grandparentsday.org/>

In the small rural community of Bay Center southwest of South Bend, grandparents Doreen and Joe Medak have been raising their granddaughter Cheyenne Bennett for the past 12 years. When her mom moved to a far corner of the state when Cheyenne was six, Doreen said, "We were afraid for (Cheyenne's) safety." They worked through the legal system so Cheyenne could live with them. "We wanted to be able to keep an eye on her," she says. And so they have.

Cheyenne, who will graduate from high school next spring, says "They made a huge difference in my life. Without them, I wouldn't be able to think about my future. I got to just be a kid and hang out with my friends."

Doreen said Cheyenne was always close to them. They had cared for her off and on since she was a baby. At the time she came to live with them, Doreen was taking care of her father, who was struggling with Alzheimer's Disease. Caring for her father and a six-year-old at the same time was "tough," and she eventually ended up in the hospital due to stress. But she and Joe kept going. Since their last child was graduating from high school the year Cheyenne came to stay, they were starting all over again as fulltime parents. "It was hard being more parent than grandparent," she said. "I felt like I was more like her mom. Sometimes it got a little hard with the discipline part, but she is quiet and calm, and we never had any real problem with her."

The many possible doors to Cheyenne's future are now open. She says she may attend community college or go into the Air Force. She is thinking about becoming an animal trainer. Said Doreen: "I'm just glad I was able to be there for her."

NEW CONTRACTOR SELECTED TO COORDINATE FOSTER YOUTH HEALTH CARE SERVICES



The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) and its Apple Health Foster Care (AHFC) medical program have chosen **Coordinated Care of Washington (CCW)** as its apparently

successful bidder for a new Managed Care program. This means CCW will be the exclusive managed care provider for children in foster care, those receiving adoption support benefits and also for youth in the Extended Foster Care program.

This change is expected to provide a system of consistent and coordinated health care services. Currently health care for children and youth in the foster care and adoption support programs is currently offered through a fee-for-service arrangement. In the health care industry, a fee-for-service is paid to a doctor or other health care provider for each service they provide, such as an office visit, test, or other procedure. HCA State Medicaid Director

MaryAnne Lindeblad stated, "This is a complex and vulnerable population of kids and young adults who may have experienced trauma and toxic stress in their young lives. We want to be sure we are offering comprehensive, high-quality care and smooth transitions among multiple health care providers so that treatment, medication and equipment are well-coordinated."

Apple Health Foster Care at a glance:

- Nurse help-line for caregivers available 24/7
- Recruitment of health care providers who understand the principals of providing trauma informed care and have experience treating children who have been abused or neglected
- Statewide, seamless access to coordinated medical and behavioral care services through a network of providers (doctors, nurses, hospitals, clinics, psychiatrists, therapists, etc.)

Intensive behavioral health services will still be provided through the Regional Support Networks.

You will soon receive information by mail regarding this change. Please review the materials, they provide helpful information. Watch for more information that will include Frequently Asked Questions about this change.



HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS

IT'S TIME TO LINE UP SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE

As high school juniors and seniors prepare for the next part of their life, it is time for those who want to attend college to begin lining up financial support. It's also important for seniors to be aware of important financial aid deadlines.

Young people who have lived in the child welfare system can find a number of financial resources and other supports available.

Two websites are particularly helpful in learning about possible financial aid:

At www.independence.wa.gov, there is a wealth of information about resources and helpful advice on many college-related subjects.

Another important website is www.collegesuccessfoundation.org; the foundation lists specific scholarships and other help that is available.

Among the best resources for financial aid are federal financial aid programs. To get the process started, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can find more information at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>



JOB #1 FOR COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS: COMPLETE YOUR "FAFSA"

If you are a high school senior who plans to attend college or community college next fall, the first and most important step in locating financial aid is completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The application, commonly called the "FAFSA" is the key to federal financial aid, and is used by most states, colleges and universities to determine additional financial aid you may be eligible for. It can also be a requirement for some merit-based scholarships.

What is a FAFSA?

The FAFSA estimates the amount of money you and your parents can contribute to college and subtracts this from the estimated amount you will need to cover college expenses for the year. *Once you're in college, you will need to complete a new FAFSA form each year.*

The FAFSA contains questions about your parents' income, expenses and assets, as well as your own. It also gathers personal information relating to your plans and to their financial status, such as whether they are divorced or they are helping other children attend school. One section of the FAFSA is devoted to determining your dependency status – whether you are dependent on your parents' income and assets or considered to be "independent."

Students who are in foster care or otherwise wards of the court, married students and members of the military normally fall into the "independent" category. Some schools consider students living with relatives as independent, as well. Finally, the form asks you to list the colleges and universities you would like to receive your FAFSA. Each school you list receives your FAFSA information. (Before some schools consider you for a financial aid package, however, they must have sent you a letter offering admission, so be sure to ask what their policy is.)

Early birds get the best shot at financial aid

FAFSA forms can be picked up at your high school counselor's office or at any college financial aid office about mid-November or early December. They also can be completed online at www.fafsa.gov. Because the form requires financial and tax information for the current year, you cannot file the form until Jan. 2, 2016. That said, it's important to file your FAFSA as soon as possible after that time. The tax information can be estimated, which helps you complete the form in a timely way, but must be updated with firm numbers. Why the rush? Financial aid is like a small pool of money, and much of the money is given out on a first-come, first-served basis. When the pool dries up, the amount left for late-comers is less.

It pays to pay attention to financial aid deadlines

Priority deadlines associated with the FAFSA in individual states and colleges are important because they establish priorities for the small amount of funding available. Washington recommends filing as soon as possible after Jan. 1 if you're planning to attend college next fall.

Many colleges and universities have priority deadlines in early February or March to receive highest consideration for financial aid. Again, be sure to check. Also ask whether the school's financial aid deadline is based on when it receives your FAFSA results or the date when the FAFSA is processed by the government. Since it can take about a month for the government to process your FAFSA, it's important to know which date a college works with.

At the University of Washington, for instance, your FAFSA needs to be dated as being *received by the government processor* on or before Feb. 28. You also need to have chosen the university as one of those who should receive your FAFSA information after processing. FAFSA appeals can be made, but being on time is the best bet.

For those who want to start working toward college even earlier, check out the information about the College Bound Scholarship Program on the next page...





If you are a student, parent or educator looking for College Bound Scholarship eligibility information, applications, or other resources, please visit the [College Bound page](#) on our agency's consumer information site, readysetgrad.org.

Established by the Washington Legislature in 2007, the College Bound Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to low-income students who want to achieve a college education. This early promise of financial aid is intended to alleviate the financial barriers that prevent low-income students from considering higher education as a possibility.

The scholarship is available to 7th and 8th grade students whose family income meets the guidelines or who are in foster care.

The deadline to sign up is June 30 of the students' 8th grade year.

The scholarship covers the average tuition (at comparable colleges), some fees and a small book allowance.

In 2014, 89 percent of the Class of 2018 (8th graders whose deadline was June 30, 2014) submitted complete applications. One-hundred [Washington school districts](#) met or surpassed the 90 percent student sign-up benchmark.

Three-quarters of the students who signed up for the College Bound Scholarship by the end of their 8th grade year in 2010 graduated from high school in 2014. In comparison, the 2014 four-year graduation rate for low-income students who were eligible for the program but didn't sign up was 62 percent.

Since the program's inception, more than 200,000 students have applied for the program.

Foster youth in 7th to 12th grade, up to age 21, who have not graduated from high school, are automatically enrolled. They are considered to have a complete application for the College Bound Scholarship via a data exchange between the Washington Student Achievement Council and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

NEW RULES FOR CLOTHING VOUCHERS

New rules surrounding clothing vouchers for children in state care have been adopted. In a letter to staff members, Jennifer Strus, Assistant Secretary for Children's Administration for the Department of Social and Health Services, explains them.

"Effective immediately, \$200 clothing vouchers will be authorized for children at initial placement, whether the child is placed in a licensed foster home or with an unlicensed caregiver. The Clothing Vouchers Policy for Children in Out of Home Care (4537) has been updated. Additional clothing vouchers up to \$200 may be authorized with (regional administrator) approval, not to exceed one time per year after initial placement when there is an exceptional clothing need. Examples of an exceptional need include:

- ***The child's clothing has been destroyed.***
- ***The child has had significant growth spurt.***
- ***The child has a medical condition that requires additional clothing.***

Exceptional clothing needs can be approved by the Regional Administrator or designee if there are no other local community resources available and the need cannot be met through the clothing allowance provided in the monthly foster care payment."

If you have any questions about the above information, please contact your child's social worker.

Foster Care Maintenance Payments

Foster parents will receive an increase in their reimbursement levels beginning in August for care provided in July.

The 2015 Legislature ratified the agreement reached by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Foster Parents Association of Washington State (FPAWS). FPAWS sought an increase to the rates through a lawsuit. The new rate schedule can be found on CA's foster parent web page under "Latest News." <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/foster-parenting>

Beth and Mike Canfield, co-presidents of FPAWS said the settlement shows the power of working together, "We worked with CA and came up with this settlement," Mike said.

New policies, procedures and practice produced in coming months will be shared through the Caregiver Connection.

Further information about FPAWS can be found on its website www.fpaws.org or on its Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/FosterParentsAWS?fref=ts>



Monthly Rate

Child's Age	Level I or Basic Rate	Level II (Includes Basic Rate)	Level III (Includes Basic Rate)	Level IV (Includes Basic Rate)
0-5 Years	\$562	\$739.92	\$1,085.51	\$1,364.30
6-11 Years	\$683	\$860.92	\$1,206.51	\$1,485.30
12+ Years	\$703	\$880.92	\$1,226.51	\$1,505.30

BASIC RATE

Child's Age	Shelter ^①	Food ^②	Clothing*	Personal Incidentals*	Total Level I
0-5 Years	\$272	\$180	\$53	\$57	\$562
6-11 Years	\$272	\$285	\$49	\$77	\$683
12+ Years	\$272	\$313	\$50	\$68	\$703

^①The cost estimate for shelter include a "base housing number" of \$239 based on HUD fair market rent data and additional estimated shelter costs of \$33 based on the marginal cost of certain Consumer Expenditure Survey codes related to IV-E allowable costs.

^② - The cost estimate for food is based on USDA food diaries for moderate income individuals and does not exclude costs related to the availability of WIC for 0-5 year olds and school lunches for school age youth.

*Cost estimates for clothing and personal incidentals are based on USDA average costs for 2 parent/2 child households using Consumer Expenditure Survey codes related to IV-E allowable costs.

PLACEMENT PACKETS: WHERE TO FIND THEM AND WHY THEY'RE IMPORTANT

The Children's Administration website for foster parents contains a section on important forms for caregivers at this link:

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/foster-parenting/important-forms-caregivers>

Caregivers are encouraged to check out the placement packet. Children's Administration encourages both licensed foster parents and relative caregivers to become familiar with this information. The packet contains forms the child's social worker provides to you when a child is placed in your home.

The newest addition to the packet is a "Cover Memo" in Spanish that is attached to the Voucher for Interim Pharmacy and Medical Services. The voucher itself is not available in Spanish because the caregiver must take it to the child's medical providers and/or the pharmacy to use if they have not received the child's Medicaid card. The new Spanish Cover Memo shares information with Spanish-speaking caregivers on how to use the form and who to share it with.

PAQUETE DE FORMAS PARA LA COLOCACION DE NIÑOS: DONDE ENCONTRARLAS Y POR QUE ESTAS FORMAS SON IMPORTANTES.

La página de Internet de la Administración para Menores, tiene una sección con los Formularios Importantes para los padres de crianza en la siguiente liga

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/foster-parenting/important-forms-caregivers>

La Administración quiere que los padres de crianza con licencia y familiares que tienen a su cuidado niños involucrados con la administración, se familiaricen con el Paquete de Colocación, ya que contiene las formas que el trabajador/a social del niño pone a su disposición cuando usted recibe a un niño en su hogar.

La más reciente adición al paquete es un Memo en español que va unido al Vale Provisional para Servicios Médicos y Farmacéuticos para los niños de crianza, (este formulario no está disponible en español, porque el cuidador necesita llevar y entregar este formulario a los proveedores médicos del niño o a la farmacia, cuando no ha recibido la tarjeta de "Medicaid" del niño. El Memo en español provee información a los padres de crianza o familiares con niños en sus hogares sobre cómo usar el formulario y con quien compartirlo.



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Washington State Health Care Authority

Voucher for Interim Pharmacy and Medical Services for Foster Children

Dear Pharmacist or Physician:

This voucher is to be used in cases when health care services are needed by a child in foster care for whom a Medical Services Card has not yet been issued. Children are often placed in foster care during open business hours when Services Cards cannot be issued or coverage verified. Please do not withhold medically necessary health care services based on the lack of a Medical Services Card for a foster child.

Please use this voucher when medically necessary health care services are needed by a child in foster care for whom a Medical Services Card has not yet been issued. The billing, coverage, and reimbursement policies applicable to health care services associated to children with Medical Services Cards is largely the same for the service Medicaid program which will apply to services you provide to a foster child in reliance on this voucher.

- Pharmacy providers, please check your Medicaid list of covered drugs to verify product NDC coverage.
- Please FAX to "Foster Care Medicaid Team" at (800) 725-1156. They will FAX back the child's Provider One Digitally number within 5 business days (Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) with which you can reimburse.
- If you have not received the provider's Provider One Digitally number from their business day please call the Foster Care Medicaid Team at 800-562-3024, extension number 15488. Pharmacists can call Jeff Richson and Jerry Rosenthal at the Washington State Pharmacy Association (825) 228-7372.

Social worker's name: _____

Social worker's telephone number: _____

Provider One eligibility number: _____ Date of eligibility: _____

Child's name: _____

Child's date of birth: _____ Gender: Male Female

Date of service: _____

Foster parent's name: _____

Address: _____

City, zip code, telephone number (include area code): _____

Physician or pharmacy name: _____

Address: _____

City, zip code, telephone number (include area code): _____

Medical provider's telephone number (include area code): _____

Medical provider contact name: _____

1001-1001 (0/0)



THE BEST METHODS TO RESOLVE ISSUES

If you have a complaint or concern relating to a Children’s Administration case, the first step in resolving it should be to speak with the child’s worker. If talking with the worker does not resolve the issue, contact the social worker’s supervisor. If the issue persists, you should then contact the local Area Administrator.

If contact with the Area Administrator does not resolve the issue, you can contact the Regional Administrator.

Here are some other places to turn for help:

- Children’s Administration Office of Constituent Relations

If you need assistance resolving problems and understanding the formal complaint process, **call or email the Constituent Relations office** in Olympia:

1-800-723-4831
360-902-8060



ConstRelations@dshs.wa.gov



Office of the Family and Children’s Ombuds

Anyone may contact the Office of the Family and Children’s Ombuds when they have a complaint or are unable to resolve a complaint about the Children’s Administration. The term "ombuds" refers to a public official who serves as an independent voice for citizens who believe they have been treated unfairly by their government. The Office of the Family and Children’s Ombuds is an independent office within the Office of the Governor and can be reached at:

1-800-571-7321

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/resolve-concerns>

-Publications

Two publications also are available to help you: “[We Want to Hear From You](#)” Flyer, which is available in several language and can be printed in either English or Spanish, at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/node/8344>

“[We Want to Hear From You](#)” Wallet Card, at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/node/8345>

CHILDREN’S ADMINISTRATION ANSWERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do I deduct my respite days from my monthly invoice?

A: No. Although you are using respite care, the child is still placed in your home and will return once respite is over. However, if a child is in respite for 14 days or longer, Children’s Administration considers this a change in placement and requires prior approval from the child’s caseworker. Make sure to talk with the

child’s caseworker when your respite request is 14 days or longer. The request should be made in advance because staffing and approval by a supervisor or an area administrator is required. Get more answers to questions frequently asked by foster parents at this link:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fp-faq>



“Children in respite care are still placed in your home”

**Partner the Parrot says:
Tell the court how your
kids are doing**



Partner the Parrot reminds you to watch for the next court date – or ask for the date from your child’s social worker – so you can provide current information to the court about how the child is doing.

It’s your best chance to tell the judge – who has final say over a child’s case – what you see in the life of that child, how she/he has improved and what would help you help the child.

If you don’t know when your foster child’s next court hearing will be held, make it a point to ask the child’s worker at your next Health and Safety visit, or email the worker and ask for the date. The court date is on the first page of the child’s Court Report, which is prepared two weeks prior to the hearing. You may submit comments in writing for the hearing, using the Caregiver Report to the Court form. We also encourage you to or come to court whenever possible; however the judge determines who will speak at the hearings.

As the child’s day-to-day caregiver, you have the best current information about him or her. Sharing it with the court help’s the judge make the best decision about the child.

Thank you!



Adoption Support Payment Process
Dates

Below are the dates your adoption support payments process for the rest of 2015. Paper checks will be mailed on the process date. Direct Deposit payments deposit to your account within 2-4 business days after the process date. ***This only applies to***

Service Month	Process Date
September	August 25
October	September 24
November	October 26
December	November 20
January 2016	December 23

adoption support payments NOT foster care reimbursements.

Caregiver Mileage

It’s time to submit your monthly mileage form to your social worker.

If you have questions about allowable mileage use this link

http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ms/forms/07_090.pdf.

Please remember: Children’s does not reimburse for mileage over 90 days old.



Additional Resources

Washington State's Kinship Navigators

Helping grandparents and relatives raising children

Locate information, resources, and a link to your local Kinship Navigator for support at:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/kinship-care-support-services>

Foster Care Critical Support and Retention Program

This program was developed to help retain foster parents who care for sexually reactive children, physically assaultive children, or children with other high-risk behaviors. Short term therapeutic and educational interventions are available to help support the stability of the placement.

This service is free of charge and is provided through Olive Crest. Contact the child's worker if a referral would help you in handling the behaviors of the child in your home.

If you would like to learn more about the available services contact Kathleen Walter, Olive Crest's Critical Support Clinician 425-1612 ext. 1356 or

Kathleen-walter@olivecrest.org

FOSTER PARENT AND CAREGIVER CRISIS AND SUPPORT LINE:

1-800-301-1868

Foster Intervention Retention and Support Team (FIRST):

Offers neutral third party advice and support for foster parents when dealing with allegations or a licensing violation.

- ⇒ EASTERN WASHINGTON (Region 1) call 509-928-6697
- ⇒ WESTERN WASHINGTON (Regions 2 and 3) call 253-219-6782
- ⇒ Email (covers all of Washington) FIRST@olivecrest.org

Fostering Well-Being Care Coordination Unit (FWB CCU):

FWB CCU can help answer health-related questions or help you with health related **issues for children/youth in your care.**

Contact information:

1-800-422-3263 ext. 52626 or
 360-725-2626 (8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.) or
 e-mail: fwbccu@dshs.wa.gov.

FPAWS:

Foster Parent Association of Washington State FPAWS is an all volunteer, non-profit association, led by experienced caregivers who provide support and helpful services to all caregivers (foster, adoptive, and kinship) in Washington State.

Contact FPAWS at www.fpaws.org or



CA Foster Parent Consultation Team (1624) Regional Representatives - 2015

Regional representatives have been elected to serve in positions on the statewide Children’s Administration Foster Parent Consultation Team – informally known as the “1624 team” – for 2015.

Meeting four times a year with top-level CA management to discuss issues of statewide concern to foster parents, the representatives serve as the voices of foster parents to the management of Children’s Administration (CA). They also help coordinate regional consultation teams.

Name	E-mail	Phone
Melissa MacDougall, Reg. 1 North	MM@mplawpllc.com	509-846-6405
Jessica Hanna, Reg. 1 South	Jhanna1124@gmail.com	509-899-3329
Audra Krussel, Reg. 1 South	Audra11@mindspring.com	208-3409956
Shala Crow, Reg. 2 North	Shala-Crow@olivecrest.org	360-220-3785
Deena Parra, Reg. 2 North	Deena-Parra@olivecrest.org	360-572-4271
Shannon Mead, Reg. 2 South	Shannon.mead@gmail.com	206-856-1508
Joanne Moran, Reg. 2 South - Alternate	Joanne-Moran@olivecrest.org	206-856-8533
Gerald Donaldson, Reg. 2 South	gwdonaldson@seattleschools.org	425-488-6036
Talya Miller, Reg. 2 South - Alternate	Mytie5683@aol.com	206-786-1491
Michael Thomas, Reg. 3 North	mlthomas253@hotmail.com	253-298-1860
Matthew Wilke, Reg. 3 North	wilkemj@yahoo.com	253-651-1617
Ashleigh Barraza, Reg. 3 North - Alternate	ashleigh.barraza@yahoo.com	619-847-8370
Amy Gardner, Reg. 3 South	michaelamy52@msn.com	360-200-2102
Beth Canfield, FPAWS	bethcanfield@comcast.net	360-990-1011
Mike Canfield, FPAWS	mkbeth@comcast.net	360-990-1255



EWU Fostering Washington

Provides foster parent recruitment, development and support for foster parents and relative caregivers with dependent children.

REGION 1

Kim Fordham (Director)

208.676.1186 Ext 3403

RESOURCE PEER MENTOR:

- ♦ Dru Powers 509.928.6697
- ♦ Ruth Harris 509.675.8888
- ♦ Lisa Boorsman 509.484.5725
- ♦ Meagan Flowers 509.991.9692
- ♦ Angie Derting 509.552.9561
- ♦ Tyann Whitworth 509.656.4838





Fostering Together Regional Recruitment and Retention Staff

REGION 2

Shala Crow (Reg. Coordinator / Community Involvement)

Shala-Crow@olivecrest.org 360-220-3785

Deena Parra (Support Assistant)

Deena-Parra@olivecrest.org 360-572-4271

FOSTER PARENT LIAISONS

- ◆ Leilani McClure (NE King county)
Leilani-McClure@olivecrest.org 425-681-2094
- ◆ Maia Anderson (South King county)
Maia-anderson@olivecrest.org 425-346-8336
- ◆ JoAnne Moran (King West County, MLK, White Center)
Joanne-Moran@olivecrest.org 206-856-8533
- ◆ Angela Pitts-Long (Central District)
Angela-Pitts-Long@olivecrest.org 425-614-6176
- ◆ Christina Urtasun (Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom Counties)
Christina-Urtasun@olivecrest.org 360-720-0969
- ◆ Megan Harp (Smokey Point)
Megan-Harp@olivecrest.org 425-350-3839
- ◆ Stephanie Hanson (Sky Valley)
Stephanie-Hanson@olivecrest.org 360-805-1094
- ◆ Summer Buckles (Everett and Lynwood)
Buckles@olivecrest.org 425-830-9400

REGION 3

Leeann Marshel (Regional Coordinator)

[Leeann Marshel@olivecrest.org](mailto:Leeann_Marshel@olivecrest.org) 360-909-0421

Michelle Fowler (Support Assistant)

Michelle-Fowler@olivecrest.org 360-772-1955

FOSTER PARENT LIAISONS

- ◆ Erika Thompson (Pierce county)
Erika-Thompson@olivecrest.org 206-406-2398
- ◆ Althea Sanders (Pierce county Involvement)
Althea-Sanders@olivecrest.org 208-691-4502
- ◆ Jeanie Johns (Kitsap county)
Jeanie-Johns@olivecrest.org 360-265-3398
- ◆ Niki Hatzenbuehler (Mason and Thurston Counties)
Niki-Hatzenbuehler@olivecrest.org 253-219-3355
- ◆ Linda Cortani (Jefferson and Clallam Counties)
Linda-Cortani@olivecrest.org 360-640-0869
- ◆ Brenda Taylor (Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties)
Brenda-Taylor@olivecrest.org 360-589-9383
- ◆ Niki Favela (Cowlitz, Lewis and Wahkiakum Counties)
Niki-Favela@olivecrest.org 708-653-8912
- ◆ Kim Glover (Clark and Skamania Counties)
Kim-Glover@olivecrest.org 360-433-7150

Caregiver Training

The Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence provides training for foster parents, relatives, and prospective adoptive parents who are providing care to children placed in their homes by the Children's Administration.



We now have an automated **Course Schedule** that can be found at www.allianceforchildwelfare.org.

The **Course Schedule** provides easy access to scheduled trainings in your community. You can visit the list of scheduled courses and register for a class following these **3 easy steps**:

1. Go to www.allianceforchildwelfare.org and click on the Course Schedule.
2. Select the training you want to attend.
3. Select the location of the training and click the Register (green button).

The first time, and only once, you will be asked to set up a profile account. Follow the instructions for setting up an account. Each time you register for a class, you will be asked to update your account. If you are not making any changes to your account, go to the bottom of the page and click save.

For any questions, please email registration@allianceforchildwelfare.org

For *caregivers that do not have a computer or need assistance registering* for classes, the Alliance has registrars available to help you, including a Spanish speaking registrar. For assistance, please call **1-866-577-1915** and leave a message for a registrar in your Region. *A registrar will contact you and help you with your registration.*

NEWLY DEVELOPED AND SCHEDULED TRAININGS:



- **Positive Discipline (2 courses)**
 - o An Introduction to Positive Discipline
 - o Parenting the Positive Discipline Way
- **Caring for Children with Sexual Behavior Concerns (formerly SAY)**
- **Caregiving for Children with Physically Aggressive Behavior Concerns (formerly PAY)**



ALLIANCE CHILD WELFARE TRAINERS IN YOUR REGION

REGION	NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
R1 Spokane & surrounding areas	Jan Hinkle-Rodriguez, Supervisor	janh5@uw.edu.	509-836-5499
	Leon Covington, Trainer Nancy Leigh, Trainer, Renee Siers, Trainer	leonc44@uw.edu Leighn2@uw.edu siersr@uw.edu	509-363-2410 509-846-8645 509-363-3399
	Kebbie Green, Registrar		1-866-577-1915
R1 Yakima, Tri-Cities, Ellensburg & surrounding areas	Jan Hinkle-Rodriguez, Supervisor	janh5@uw.edu	509-836-5499
	Ryan Krueger, Trainer	krry300@uw.edu	509-358-3096
	Eileen Angier, Registrar Maria Amaya, Registrar – Spanish (Español)		1-866-577-1915 1-866-577-1915
R2 Bellingham, Everett, Mount Vernon & surrounding areas	Yolonda Marzest, Supervisor	ymarzest@uw.edu	206-923-4955
	Julie Gelo, Trainer Joan Sager, Trainer	jkg@uw.edu sagerj2@uw.edu	425-339-1811 360-594-6744
	Julie Kerr, Registrar		1-866-577-1915
R2 Seattle Metro Area	Yolonda Marzest, Supervisor	ymarzest@uw.edu	206-923-4955
	El-Freda Stephenson, Trainer	elfreda@uw.edu	206-923-4922
	Vacant, Trainer		
	Janice Jackson, Registrar		1-866-577-1915

TRAINERS IN YOUR REGION (continued...)

REGION	NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
R3 Tacoma, Bremerton, Puyallup & surrounding areas.	Arthur Fernandez-Scarberry, Supervisor	sart300@uw.edu	206-276-4549
	Gracia Hahn, Trainer	hahng@uw.edu	253-983-6362
	Luanne Hawley, Registrar		1-866-577-1915
R3 Tumwater, Olympia, Centralia, Long Beach, South Bend, & surrounding areas.	Penny Michel, Trainer	mpen300@uw.edu	360-725-6788
R3 Aberdeen, South Bend and Long Beach.	Stephanie Rodriguez, Trainer	steph75@uw.edu	206-321-1721
R3 Vancouver, Camas, Stevenson & Kelso.	Colleen Cornman-Wilcox, Trainer	cm39@uw.edu	360-993-7991
	Kim Glover, Registrar		1-866-577-1915