

Washington State Children's Administration and Foster Parent
Quarterly Regional Consultation Forum (HB 1624)
12/15/2015; 1:00 – 3 P.M.
Minutes

Welcome/Introductions: Robert Larson, AA; Amber Sherman, Fostering WA (FW); Sandra Hilzendeger, CHET SW; Joey Charlton, Homefinder Sup; Shannon Boniface, F2F Sup; Nicole LaBelle, DRA; Renee' Siers, Alliance; Dr. Don Ashley; Meaghan Flowers, FW and one fabulous foster parent!

Issues brought forth:

1. How does it work for a foster parent to have childcare provided in their home, especially for a medically fragile child who isn't doing well in daycare? What are the requirements for the care provider, how does the payment work, and who should the foster parent talk to begin the process?
 - Some children need 1 on 1 ratio due to medical or behavioral issues. The Department of Early Learning does not like the creation unlicensed care providers and this is the main reason as to why not every child has this option.
 - From a DLR perspective: A foster parent has to qualify for childcare based on employment, school etc. A child is unable to attend in-home licensed daycare or child care center. DCFS SW has to get approval for the in-home childcare and payment (exception to cost); DLR can assist getting the person cleared if they have not been cleared already. DLR can also assist and provide information on what is needed for a person to get their own provider and SSPS number, such as fingerprinting, TB Test, CPR/First Aid, Flu shot and immunization requirements etc.
 - From a SSPS perspective: A background check is required prior to service. Care must be provided in the licensed foster home. In-home child care is paid at \$2.42 per hour (equivalent to licensed daily rate). An additional \$10 per hour can be authorized for "special needs" children. A maximum of 230 hours may be authorized for non-school aged children – this equals 10 hours per day – 5 days per week. A calendar with all hours is submitted at the end of each month to the SW and then SW turns this in to SSPS – this is an invoice service (example of calendar attached).

2. Review respite payment procedure. It used to be that when respite was approved, it would be automatically generated to pay the respite foster parent. Recently, I have heard the respite parents need to complete an invoice for payment. Can you clarify expectations?
 - Respite is now an invoice service. Payment changed from a direct one-time to an invoice service about 1 year ago due to tax reporting purposes.
 - In Spokane, respite requests come through Homefinders and the respite reimbursement requests are taken to SSPS on Mondays and Thursdays of each week.
 - Reimbursement can take up to 4 to 6 weeks. Concern that this is too long of a wait. Also discussed cases where foster parents never received an invoice or were paid.
 - If you have not received your invoice by mail within the normal billing-mailing cycle you can call SSPS staff to see if it was entered into the payment system and if it has, they can provide you with invoice number so you can call in and get the process started.
 - Nicole plans to have a conversation with Melanie Scoggin about SSPS process and length of time.

3. What are the requirements to obtain individual counseling for foster youth in care? Are there different rules/expectations based on age? Who is responsible for making the referral and getting authorization? Who can children see for providers? What is the foster parent's role when they feel individual counseling is needed?
 - 4/1/2016 is the date that Apple Health will take this over. With Coordinated Care they will look to work with providers who are willing to contract. If a provider is not willing to contract, Coordinated Care will look for those who would fill the service need identified.
 - Hand out of RSN providers given (see attached).
 - Social workers need to fill out a preauthorization for contracted providers. Social workers should be talking with foster parents about the child's needs to identify the best options for that child.
 - CA staff are being told to exhaust RSN resources before CA will pay for the service.
 - Your licenser can be your advocate when a need is identified for a child in your care.
 - Many physicians have not been trained to child trauma and what their needs may be.
4. Further discussion of need for HB 1624 Reps.
5. Time set aside to give opportunity to share concerns not on the agenda.
 - Rob shared that he has three new supervisors and Geri Phillips has one new supervisor. Many social worker positions are vacant and there are many new staff. HR is working closely with EWU.
 - Social worker 1s will be hired to support fulfilling BRAAM requirements of Health and Safety visits and 15-300s. These are 18 month positions only. Money has been set aside specifically for these positions.
 - Lutheran is licensing homes specifically for the refugee population. Gonzaga University could potentially be involved in this project as they were asking about licensing families for this population 3 years ago. Shelly Hahn is heading this effort for Lutheran.
 - Request made to inquire further about WACs that may have been rewritten or reworked to make clearer.

Statewide Consultation Meetings:

1. What are the two issues that you would like to have taken to the next statewide meeting in January? No issues going forward.

Training Update

- Upcoming trainings for Region 1 North and any updates – Renee' Siers
 - About a month ago, there was a hold on trainings but now have been given the go ahead to begin scheduling. Caregiver Core Training has been scheduled for the next 6 months. There are a number of great trainings being offered this next year (see attached training schedules). A great deal of work is being done on the site.

Recruitment Update – *Fostering Washington*

- Update on recruitment activities/plans
 - There is a new How to Becoming a Foster Parent Facebook page and R1N Facebook Group.
- Personnel Updates:
 - Tyann Whitworth was hired as the new Recruitment Coordinator for R1S. There are some areas that Fostering WA would like to hire in.

Retention / Support – *Fostering Washington*

- Update on support groups (see attached)
- FIRST – none at this time.
- Critical Support – none at this time.

Children’s Administration Updates:

Region 1 North DCFS updates – Merilee Roberts or other designated representative

Region 1 North DLR updates – Jeff Kincaid or other designated representative

Regional HB 1624 Meeting – Tues., March 15, 2016; 1:00 – 3:00 PM; Spokane Children’s Admin. Video Conferencing available.

Next Spokane FP Advisory Bd. Meeting –Tues., January 19, 2016; 1 – 2:30; Spokane Children’s Admin.

Statewide HB 1624 Meeting – January 2016 (official date to be determined) 1 – 4 p.m.; video conference site in Spokane at the Spokane DCFS office

Evaluations and Wrap Up