

Washington State Children's Administration and Foster Parent
Quarterly Regional Consultation Forum (HB 1624)
09/15/2015; 1:00 – 3 P.M.
Minutes

Welcome/Introductions: Chris Rhodes F2F; Barb Sheffler F2F; Wendy Hunt DLR; Jon Pemberton DLR; Melissa Fielding DLR Sup; Meaghan Flowers, Fostering WA (FW); Kim Fordham FW; Amber Sherman FW; Jeff Kincaid DLR AA; Terri Jones DLR; Dr. Don Ashley, R1 Medical Consultant; Nicole LaBelle Deputy RA; Shannon Boniface F2F Sup; Renee' Siers Alliance; David Needham F2F and 2 amazing foster parents ☺

Issues brought forth by representatives:

1. Michelle Bogart, Health Program Manager, to share information on the Apple Health Foster Care program which will be the source of health care Medicaid coverage for our children and youth in foster care and adoption support.
 - Beginning January 1, 2016, health care will be under a single managed health care plan and the child's health history information will be available to all health care providers in the Coordinated Care network regardless of what provider the child has seen. The program through Coordinated Care will follow children from foster care through adoption and up to 26 years of age. For more information go to <http://www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/>
 - The desire and goal is to build the best program for kids and to ensure that kids are getting the best quality and most appropriate services. They are taking into account safety, permanency and well-being.
 - Characterized as a one-stop shop – helps to navigate the system and remove barriers.
 - Coordinated Care, the Health Care Authority, and Children's Administration will work together to create a system that considers all available information about the child to help identify appropriate physical and mental health services. Coordinated Care will be able to monitor progress and treatment compliance. Eventually an on-line application will be developed that allows different levels of access for caregivers, doctors, mental health staff, social workers and when kids become adults.
 - Coordinated Care goes live on 1/1/2016. For the first 90 days current providers will continue to see clients as they have been and the plan is to build into their current provider network. People calling in to Coordinated Care will have a direct phone line to the Apple Health Foster Care program. There will only be one number to contact at Apple Health Foster Care with dedicated staff specifically assigned to work with the population we serve.
 - Every child will have access to a team of professionals who are working to support that child and the families that care for them.
 - There are other programs offered through Coordinated Care such as Healthy Kids' Club, Cell Phone Program, Tobacco Cessation; Start Smart for Your Baby and Maternity Benefits, and NurseWise (Registered Nurses available to answer health related questions 24 hours per day and 365 days per year).
 - Children in care will be automatically enrolled in program.
 - A "consent" and "who to call?" matrix is currently being developed in collaboration with Fostering Wellbeing.
 - Caregivers will still be able to contact the Foster Care Medical Team for questions regarding eligibility and requests for replacement ProviderOne cards.
 - The Fostering Wellbeing Unit will continue to stay in place.
 - There is an option to be able to change a child's primary care physician.
2. Delays in response time from social workers to foster parent questions - over 48 hours and sometimes no response until a foster parent places a second call.

- If you need to speak to social worker right away call and leave message as to what you need and always leave your phone number. If you need an immediate answer on an emergent matter and are unable to reach your social worker, call their supervisor and then their AA if needed – move up the chain of command.
 - Jennifer Strus, Assistant Secretary Children’s Administration, recommends that social workers “return all phone calls to caregivers within 24 hours. Even if you are waiting for more information and can’t answer their questions, call them back to let them know you are working on getting the needed information.”
 - Some units are 50% staffed at this time and if caregivers are unable to get a hold of social worker, it is recommended that you go up the chain.
 - Recruitment Peer Mentors (RPMs) from Fostering WA can also be a resource to help caregivers get the answers needed. As persons are hired, RPMs contact information will be sent out via e-mail to the caregiver community.
3. Long delays in permanency. Children are in care for over a year (in certain circumstances nearly two years) and bio parents appear to be making no progress yet no term petition is filed.
- All cases are tracked in FamLink and reports are generated frequently to ensure that we are meeting standards. The Department has to show good cause as to why termination has not been filed.
 - There are cases where there is good cause as to why termination has not been filed. Overall, the Department is on track with appropriate timelines. Termination is to be filed for at 12 months or there must be extenuating circumstances.
 - If a caregiver is unaware of the legal status of the case it is recommended that caregivers talk with the social worker (if needed, go up the chain of command), talk with the GAL or CASA and attend Review Hearings.
 - Caregivers state that it was very helpful and informative having Lisa Lydon AAG share on termination and the process. If Lisa is available, it would be great to have her present at a conference or share at local caregiver support groups.
4. FIN -- what is it and how it affects kids in foster care?
- Family Impact Network (FIN) is to serve as the Network Administrator of performance based contracting system. Performance based contracting is legislatively mandated.
 - Visitation requests through FIN for the Spokane office have also been suspended for now, as well as, for outlying offices. As of 9/4/2015, social workers in Spokane are requesting all visitations directly with the provider.
 - A couple of the reasons for suspension of further rollout include delays in setting up court ordered visitation and visitation providers backing out of contracts with FIN.
5. Time set aside to give opportunity to share concerns not on the agenda.
- Caregivers have been told that if a child in their care is less than 1 year of age Medicaid/Apple Health will not pay for thickeners – this decision is based on recommendations from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Thickeners such as **Simply Thick** are commonly prescribed for Dysphagia. The concern comes when a baby is prescribed a thickener by the doctor and caregivers are told that it won’t be paid for. Out of pocket costs for caregivers are \$80 to \$200 per month.
 - There is concern that giving thickener to a baby under 1 year of age can lead to Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC).
 - Please discuss any recommendations or prescriptions for food thickener with the child’s pediatrician as there are other ways to thicken food that are safe for babies.

- Caregivers and assigned workers may contact the Fostering Well-Being Care Coordination Unit whenever there is a question or concern about a child's physical or mental health care. Nurses and program specialists are available 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday – Friday at: 1-800-422-3263 ext. 52626 or fwbccu@dshs.wa.gov.
- FDA recommendation: <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm256250.htm>

Statewide Consultation Meetings – R1N representative – Melissa MacDougall (**Unable to attend**)

1. Any update from the July 20, 2015 statewide meeting?
2. What are the two issues that you would like to have taken to the next statewide meeting on October 19, 2015?

Training Update

- Upcoming trainings for Region 1 North and any updates (**None**)

Recruitment Update – *Fostering Washington*

- Update on recruitment activities/plans
- Personnel Updates: See attached Org. Chart
- Fostering WA is looking for experienced foster parents to fill vacant positions.
- Fostering WA is working on promotional items/flyers and giveaways

Retention / Support – *Fostering Washington*

- Update on support groups: Many support groups took a break for the summer and are now starting up again. Support groups are wonderful opportunities to connect with other caregivers and to receive training hours.

Region 1 North Annual Caregiver Conference:

- Scheduled for 9/19/2015 from 8 am to 4:30 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church (3606 South Schafer Rd, Spokane Valley, WA 99206).
- This year's conference will feature a morning session with Rhonda Shrivastava and Peggy Slider from the Spokane Regional Health District speaking on the subject of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and Resiliency. You will leave this session equipped with tools for trauma sensitive parenting.
- The afternoon will include two 1.5 hour breakout sessions which will include a variety of subjects: Shame and Shame Resilience, Indian Child Welfare, Life Books and Parenting Victims of Sex Abuse.
- Contact Sandy Rowe at 509-363-4845 or sandra.rowe@dshs.wa.gov if you would like to attend.
- Very limited childcare.

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., December 15, 2015; 1:00 – 3:00 PM; Spokane Children's Admin. Video Conferencing available.

Next Spokane FP Advisory Bd. Meeting – Tues., October 20, 2015; 1 – 2:30; Spokane Children's Admin.

Statewide HB 1624 Meeting – Monday, October 19, 2015; 1 – 4 p.m.; video conference site in Spokane at the Spokane DCFS office