

Washington State Children's Administration and Foster Parent  
Quarterly Regional Consultation Forum (HB 1624)

**Region 1**

Pullman, WA

April 15, 2008

Minutes

**In attendance:**

Foster parents - Portia Hebdon, Moses Lake; Elisa Adolphsen, Moses Lake; Kristen Otoupalik, Spokane; Mary & Gregg Baldrige, Palouse; Kerry Bryant, Deer Park; Linda Rogers, Spokane; Ginger Schutt, Spokane; Dru Powers, Spokane; Angie Derting, Clarkston; Carey Brown, Clarkston; Marla Heugen, Pullman

Staff - Regional Administrator Marty Butkovich; Deputy Regional Administrator Connie Lambert-Eckel; DLR Area Administrator Connie Morlin; DCFS Area Administrators Kris Randall and Brent Borg; DLR Staff Penny Oliver, Jeff Kincaid, Linda Eastham and Laurie Palmquist; DCFS Staff Connie Dillard - Clarkston, Barb Sheffler - Colfax, Lisa Johnson - Spokane, Donnet Neu - Colfax, Leah Black - Colfax, Janet Beitelspacher-Harwick - Clarkston, Shelly Elkins - Colfax, Paul Kosewski - Spokane, John Traylor - Spokane, Hanna Copeland - Spokane.

Jeff Kincaid opened the meeting with a welcome back to the third House Bill 1624 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for July 15 at 10 am, followed by the Statewide 1624 meeting with Cheryl Stefani which is also in Spokane this time from 1 - 4 p.m.

**Training Update:** Michelle Cutlip, one of two regional foster parent trainers, called attention to the training packet enclosed in today's handouts. These are sent out to her half of the region to every licensed foster parent and relative caregiver. Nancy Leigh is the other trainer. We will need to confirm with Nancy on her distributions.

- ☞ As follow up to questions asked last meeting, Michelle will now have a representative from the Native Unit come to PRIDE to address issues specific to Native children. Terri Bishop was at the last training and it was very successful. They can also offer a separate three hour class.
- ☞ There were also comments/concerns about training for the high needs children coming into the system. Michelle has a speaker who will speak at the FP dinner in Spokane on May 16 and stay over to do an all day training on May 17 on succeeding with difficult children. Also, the new SAY/PAY curriculum is off the ground with new trainers being trained which will make the course more accessible.
- ☞ In each packet was also a yellow sheet on training resources including online trainings and a DVD library soon to be set up.
- ☞ Michelle also mentioned a new more in depth training like the old SCOPE that will be available this fall.

### **Statewide HB 1624 January Meeting:**

Ginger Schutt was one of the regional representatives at the January meeting. Ginger gave a brief rundown on the meeting and the direction it is heading. You can see the full minutes online at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/meetMin.asp>.

Ginger called attention to the following:

- ☞ The importance of having consistent representation from our region
- ☞ The concern about only 10% statewide who attend PRIDE getting licensed. Connie Morlin elaborated on this explaining how some regions use PRIDE as a recruitment tool to just get them in the door instead of getting applications first which is what is done in Region 1. This makes the best use of the trainers time and available training space.
- ☞ Another concern on the length of time for fingerprinting. Connie Lambert-Eckel explained that a new provider is due to come on in May to provide fingerprinting which should expedite the process.
- ☞ Communication continues to be an area needing attention which Cheryl Stephani is committed to addressing and resolving.
- ☞ There was talk of new staff and Marty Butkovich explained it comes down to eight new full time staff for our region. He said anyone is welcome to call him for a fuller explanation.
- ☞ Additional discussion pursued on ways for foster parents to help their social workers; on publishing feedback surveys; on how much better the foster parents feel Region 1 treats foster parents after hearing from other regions; on relatives increasing as caregivers;

### **Recruitment Update:**

Linda Rogers, Families for Kids and Laurie Palmquist, Children's Administration/DLR gave a brief update on the new recruitment contract with Families for Kids. Laurie's position is now under DLR but is a collaborative role working with all CA administration to serve as a foster parent liaison. The new contract began April 1 and is modeled after the successful grassroots type model in Region 6 with foster parents as recruiters working with each community. Currently the recruiters include Linda Rogers – regional recruiter; Amber Sherman – Spokane and surrounding areas; Carey Brown – Clarkston and surrounding areas; and Karen Arnold – Wenatchee and surrounding areas. Dru Powers continues as the regional support person for Families for Kids working with the support group leaders and offering support to foster parents.

Recruitment/Retention Activities, Events, News:

- ☞ We now have a regional budget for retention activities with dinners in every office, picnics, holiday events and more. This is approved by RA Marty Butkovich for the 2008 calendar year and will be renewed/reviewed each year for ongoing support.
- ☞ Linda gave information on the new recruitment logo and slogan which will now be used statewide. The old 800 number is being discontinued so all toll free calls should be directed to 1-888-KIDS-414.
- ☞ Activities such as the KHQ-TV HelpLine tonight; the fairs in communities, the Our Kids Our Business campaign and more are all going on currently.
- ☞ Robyn Nance of KXLY is a supporter of our agency and needs. Robyn and Linda began the Teen Closet which is now available region wide for teens to get new clothes. Referral information is available online at [www.teencloset.org](http://www.teencloset.org) In addition the Spokane Shocks are now supporting the Teen Closet at their games with money donated per score and will collect clothes from the community in June.

- ☞ Marty mentioned that KXLY is doing stories on two workers, a supervisor and parents that have experienced the system and they came out as positive stories. He said the relationship with KXLY is positive.
- ☞ Laurie mentioned that it is the stories of children in care that really bring new foster parents in. As an example, Jeff mentioned that if not for this one foster parent the foster child would not have gotten her GED. It was Portia Hebdon.

### **Retention/Support Updates:**

Dru Powers mentioned that another resource in Clarkston is the Homes of Hope clothing room that Angie Derting founded. Angie added that she has preemie on up to adult size, cribs, high chair, and back packs. She said the community has been terrific.

Another resource in the Spokane and surrounding area for foster parents and adoptive parents is the Donation Station which offers free clothing once a month.

Support groups are now active in almost every office area. Dru reports that foster parents want to start new group in the Loon Lake area as well.

Support agenda items submitted prior to the meeting (sheet in packet):

- ☞ Social Workers need to be trained on guardianship for ICW – Brent Borg agreed. Everyone has training but there is a lot that the social worker needs to know. Said it's easy to be wrong. They will work on it & with other offices. They are regionalizing adoptions. The idea is to have adoption staff work on adoptions only. This is Brent's group if you need to go to someone. Bobbi Lloyd is the regional supervisor.
- ☞ Requesting information on birth certificates and the process – Connie Lambert-Eckel said the federal funding staff take the lead on this. Requests for birth certificates should be made through the assigned social worker on a case. The social worker will coordinate with Federal Funding staff to make the request through the Social Security Administration.
- ☞ Braces – orthodontia – any info on how to obtain – Connie L-E explained it is a matter we struggle with. If the child is eligible because of medical problem such as the bite doesn't line up then it is more likely. However, it really is a case by case determination depending on what is the dentist/orthodontist is saying on whether it will be authorized. Brent mentioned it is the same for post adoption.
- ☞ New foster parent who is not fully trained and high needs kids are placed and then they blow out of the placement. What can be done? Connie Lambert-Eckel and Connie Morlin said this speaks to the issue of working closely with homes, meeting with them and having licensed staff or social worker staff accessing family as to the best fit. That is something we haven't mastered. Feedback is important. Dru mentioned that foster parent can say they can manage and they don't realize that they can't handle it. Connie Morlin explained how seasoned foster parents understand this. Need to work with social worker & foster parent. Portia mentioned the placement book profile in Moses Lake. They place kids using this now. Lisa mentioned that for Spokane they use the statewide data base not a book. That is why the personal relationship is important. It is a running text that they use. Laurie mentioned that the critical support contract is just getting started. Starting in Spokane and then expanding to the whole region to work extensively with families.
- ☞ Compensation levels and feeling penalized for doing a good job. John Traylor explained it is complicated and fluctuates based on the needs of each child and the work of the foster parent. Connie Morlin explained that one piece missing is assessing children after getting better and determining what type financial support the child needs to maintain that level. We need to do a better job of letting the foster

parent know that they won't be left out there without help. Need to move more towards something like this. So everyone can celebrate the success of the child. Paul and John will be handling the entire region.

- ☞ All foster parents should be at all FTDMs. Connie Lambert-Eckel said foster parents should be invited to all of the FTDMs. After initial placement there is the first FTDM meeting and another if the child needs to move.
- ☞ Out of control teens – the department needs to take more control. Connie Lambert-Eckel explained the critical support region wide contract will soon be available. Lisa will be the gatekeeper. This will help because it's another resource. If foster parent is not getting response then they need to call someone else.
- ☞ Dru – what social worker needs to do their jobs?

### **Next Statewide Consultation:**

Dru explained that the reps for statewide are Kerry Bryant & Portia Hebdon. They want to take info to meeting about what has worked out well & what needs to be improved.

- ☞ Kristine - Team building – team meetings between foster parent & social worker – communication ideas to head off frustration on both sides. Needs to be implemented on a larger scale.
- ☞ Barb Sheffler – training booklet needs to go out to all foster parents. It did go out to Michelle's half of the region but will suggest it go to each office to have on hand as well. Need to consult with Nancy Leigh to see if she does the same.
- ☞ Connie Dillard applauded Angie for her great work. Foster parents have embraced this resource. The same idea could be a resource for other communities too.
- ☞ Connie Morlin stressed that we need to make sure contact is made with the social worker for all children in home when a plan is presented. Penny assertive about talking about the needs of all of the kids. How foster parent will accommodate the new kids, sleeping, evacuation, how will your family handle, if fragile child in home how will that child handle. All AA will review this type of thing when supervisor wants to put another child in home. What can be done collectively?
- ☞ Angie – continue to help on communication. Improvement in last 1 1/2 year is great. Foster parent may not know how to word a question or social worker may not know. Continue this type of format. Keep positive and continue to strengthen. Really appreciates her office. It's wonderful.
- ☞ Jeff –you are being heard!

**Next Regional Meeting – Tuesday, July 15 from 10-12 in Spokane**

**Next Statewide Meeting – Tuesday, July 15 from 1 – 4 in Spokane**

Close of meeting.

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**Region 4**

April 23, 2008 @ Casey Foundation

Minutes

Handouts included: an agenda; a flyer for foster parents to participate at the social worker academy; a Region 4 resource list; ESHB 1624 Regional and Statewide Meeting and Consultation Framework; a flyer for Friends of Youth free Support and Retention Services; a Flyer for "Did You Know" re: Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA), Foster Care MEDS Team; and a King County Support Groups for Foster, Adoptive & HB 1624 survey.

Introductions: Cheryl Stephani-Assistant Secretary Children's Administration (CA), Michael Luque of CA, Stephanie Noone of CA; Pat Barnhart, of CA; Paula Bentz of DLR; Adell Richardson, CA.

Erin Lawrence-Cook, of Treehouse, stated that Treehouse is there to provide support to foster children, and foster parents. A Treehouse referral for a child is good for 1 calendar year.

Enrichment and Education programs include: assisting children in enjoying childhood, ie. summer camps; and now is the time to look into camps. The Education program knows that children move around, and had school based tutoring in 6 Seattle schools.

Afterschool tutoring is also at their location

The Little Wishes program assists with school pictures, prom tickets, athletic items etc.

The Warehouse, with 4 or 5 visits allowed per year, has the following items: clothes, sometimes luggage/bags, some new things that teens like right now, an unlimited supply of books, some toys.

The Treehouse Educational Advocacy program is available statewide; it assists schools and families in working together on Individual Education Plans, and dealing with school issues. Advocates can help represent the child, and family, at the school.

Information is available about a Coaching & College program for middle-school and high-school children, for students to gain skills for doing well in high-school, and promote the idea that they can go to college/post-secondary schools. A June event is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> grade children, including a mentoring group to help prepare them for high school. In the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, they have a mentor for college awareness etc. The College Bound program, if a child is eligible, occurs during their senior year, with free college tuition at state colleges – the money is banked for the child, and will be available when entering college. Treehouse will help apply for this College Bound program-deadline is June 1, 2008. Many brochures of the College Bound program are available at Treehouse. There are different brochures geared towards foster children, low income children, caregivers brochure, and child brochures, includes information about 2 year and 4 year college.

For College resources on the internet about applying for colleges, financial aid etc

Go to [www.independence.wa.gov](http://www.independence.wa.gov)

For further questions about Treehouse program, Erin Lawrence-Cook can be reached at 206-267-5150.

Ruth Graham, Olivecrest, distributed a breakdown of concerns from the last meeting. Tess Thomas reviewed the ESHB 1624, the reason for quarterly and statewide meetings between foster parents and Children's Administration. The first two Region 4 meetings were successful with many foster parents and caregivers in attendance. Ruth requested that caregivers review previous concerns, and identify the three most important concerns for Region 4, and break into volunteer work groups, in order for Region 4 caregivers to continue to work with CA on resolving the concerns. The 3 main issues with most votes are as follows:

### **Group #1- Training**

\* All staff meetings at CA. *Paula Bentz, DLR, will ask DCFS supervisors- one from each office - to attend HB 1624 to participate. Solution focused- Respect and communication – have a meeting talking with people where there are ongoing from all staff participation.*

\* Carseat training – for CA staff and foster parents. / ICW trainings-RFTI looking for new contractors. Look for training in fall 2008 / Transition training and 2 hr court training for foster parents / Birth to Three training-coming out early 2009. *Yolonda Marzest, DLR, will follow-up on the training information. Talya Miller & Cindy Pace will bring back and identify more training needs form the foster parent -committee.*

\* Definitions/Glossary of different types of staffing/meetings (Family Group Conferences, CPTs etc. ). Tool Box of Info – transitions; legal terms ie: adoptions, guardianship. *Cora Phillips, DLR, will send out recommendations to be added to the tool box.*

\* Outside training and tracking- *Stephanie Long, CA, will contact Robbie at Olympia/RFTI and will follow-up.*

### **Group # 2- Resources**

\* Respite – share resources between agencies and coordination. – *ongoing problem, who can provide services in geographical area, want to provide tools and not be complicated and also be confidentially aware-something IT based, ability to possibly email in needs for respite and someone/something technical could then address request, and whatever it is will be accessible to all foster parents.*

\* Email-geographics

\* Looking for resources / Finding resources / Social worker knowledge of resources / Developmental Disabilities resources – *Guide of resources to include respite resources --Need for comprehensive resource guide; forming a workgroup to brainstorm the categories and what is needed as resources and pool all the info into a “thing”, available electronically or web-based. Placement book to include forms, and pieces of information that might and will be needed for foster parent.*

\* Foster parent recruitment, and knowledge of resources to retain

\* Creation of new resources: ie faith-based

\* System knowledge to help with resources - *Create a website / listserv*

\* See the value of resources for retention of foster parents and social workers

- \* Bridge the gap
- \* IT network
- \* Support
- \* CA staff commitment to foster parents

*Problem solve barriers*

**Group #3 – Teamwork**

- \*Timely response: a) email and acknowledge receipt; b) prioritize and agreement on resolutions; c) who's who, chain of command
- \* Notification of change of social worker
- \* 24-48 hour contact after placement
- \* Clear information around adoption possibilities
- \* Development of a standard for Medically Fragile children, and children with development disabilities
- \* Authorizations of daycare payments for foster parents (acceptance of DSHS payment and may need raise) -disbursement of child specific kinds of daycare to include: 1) sick, 2) special needs, 3) time transitions, 4) afterhours.

Next Meeting will be held July 20, 2008 4pm-7pm, location to be announced.

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**Region 6**

ESHD 1624 Meeting Minutes

Vancouver – Lewis Room

April 9, 2008

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**Last Meeting Review/Updates:**

- African American hair/skin care training-Region staff is working with other Regions to find a trainer and to look into getting a video to add to the foster flicks program. Foster Flicks is a program DLR in Region VI has for Foster Parents to check out training videos in order to complete training requirements.
- Liaison Issue: Liaison services are being worked on at a State Level with a group of CA Staff and Foster Parents. They are looking at programs like Common Ground and other services in use throughout the State to see what works and what does not. They are looking into developing a survey to gather more information with the goal of possible Statewide formalized liaison services.
- There is a new provider for the Foster Parent and Social Worker teaming trainings and the feedback has been very positive from both Foster Parents and Social Workers who have attended.
- Crisis Line: 1-800-301-1868 Foster Parents at the last meeting asked for this number.
- Foster Care Month Celebration May 6 @ Capital Bldg (More information at the end of the notes.)
- Understanding policies: At the State Level they are working on providing more information about policies and procedures to inform Foster Parents about social work practice and personnel practices.
- A new Recruitment logo and Slogan are now in use throughout the State to build more consistency and familiarity in our efforts to recruit Foster Parents.

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The meeting was held in the Vancouver DCFS Office with the Port Angeles, South Bend, Aberdeen, Shelton, Tumwater, Centralia and Kelso offices present by phone. We asked each office to share their list of issues/concerns in their area that they made during their local office meeting prior to the conference call. Below is the complete list of the topics brought up in each office. From this list we then chose four to work on to brainstorm solutions.

**Topics:**

- ❖ Return phone calls – Discussion included the idea of having more detailed voicemail messages to let Foster Parents know the Social Worker's schedule.
- ❖ Removal of children from a Foster Home without a reason given to the Foster Parent.
- ❖ Supervisor to hold Social Worker accountable when a Foster Parent contacts them with concerns. Foster Parents want follow up contact from the Supervisor to know what is being done.
- ❖ After Hours & Central Intake – Foster Parent's voiced the desire for After Hours Intake to be decentralized and brought back to the local offices. Foster Parents would like a local number/worker to contact directly on weekends and after hours regarding emergency placements and/or respite. Multiple Offices brought up this topic.
- ❖ WAC's –

- Need for training and education on the WAC's
- How can WAC laws be changed? Discussed avenues for advocacy through FPAWS and Nationally
- Discussed working with AAG to interpret the WAC's
- Concern that offices interpret the WAC's differently
- Darcey Hancock would like to have a list WAC's that Foster Parents are concerned about.
- ❖ Adoption Support – Cost of living increases not provided with adoption support.
- ❖ Visits
  - Foster Parent needing more protection from an angry parent in the parking lot before and after visits. Discussed advocating for yourself and your needs.
  - Concern and Question regarding what can be done if things happen during visits that are harmful.
  - How can visits be stopped?
  - Want a list of things that are not acceptable during visits.
  - When a visit is unsupervised and there are concerns what can be done to assess the risk and make changes to the visit?
  - What is the policy around Background checks on others in the home when a Foster Child is having unsupervised overnight visits with a parent? (Concerns about others in the home who may be unsafe)
  - What are the laws and guidelines for visitation?
- ❖ Methamphetamines:
  - Foster Parent is concerned that children are being exposed to meth contamination during visits. They wanted to know if there is research and data available about what the risks are.
  - What's the course of action to protect the children from transmittable contaminants?
  - What can Foster Parent do to stop the visits when they have concerns? (Visits are often Court Ordered)
- ❖ Communication during disasters. DLR has sent out requests asking Foster Parents for their emergency contact numbers. This information will be asked during Annual assessments to make sure they are up to date. Please notify DLR if your contact information changes.
  - Foster Parents reported feeling supported by the Department during the storm disaster this winter.
- ❖ Foster Parent had a question about changes in Guardianship.
- ❖ Foster Parents voiced a need for more Mental Health Services for Foster Children. Multiple offices brought up this topic.
  - Shelton has a support Group
  - Limited providers who will take medical coupons
  - Foster Parent voiced a concern about not being heard on their recommendation that a child in their care needed mental health services.
- ❖ Communication Issues between Foster Parents and Social Workers
  - Concern that Foster Parents are being told what to do instead of working together
  - Tumwater is working on this through their Foster Parent Advisory board for resolution. Advisory Board meeting once a month to find ways to improve issues: Currently they are working on FP/FP mentorship, implementing changes where needed and Team Building with the Department.
- ❖ Foster Parent shared a situation where they believed that the Social Worker was not following court order - Solution:
  - The Foster Parent would like to have a copy of the court orders. (Can they have these? What are the rules?)

- Others suggested that they attend court hearings.
- Foster Parents voiced a need to be notified about Court Hearings.
- ❖ Lack of Respect/lack of Power. What is a Foster Parent to do when a Foster Child is out of control and unable to get help from the police or the Social Worker.
- ❖ Foster Parents having issues with getting Foster Children driver's Licenses and then the costs of insurance.
  - Foster Parents want a link as to where they can go to get their legislator information.
  - Foster Parent stated that costs of insurance should be funded by the Department.
- ❖ Foster Parents shared confusion over the process and procedure for asking a child to be removed from their home.
  - Questions arose regarding if services were offered to maintain the placement, was a placement team put together, or an FTDM set up.
  - Foster Parent said they were told there needed to be a five day notice required to have a child moved.
  - Foster Parent said that if the move was based on an Emergent Need the child should be moved that day.
- ❖ Limits of Independent Living & Transitional Living funds. Needs to be more training offered in every office on available college programs. A Foster Parent was told by a Social Worker that it was their responsibility.
- ❖ Weekend Health Care Services – Concern over lack of providers who will take medical coupons.
  - Asked about having a website or booklet that would have a list of providers.
  - Suggested using the hospitals when a provider can not be found.
- ❖ Rate Assessment/Tiered Classification: Foster Parents would like improvements to the rate assessment to capture the level of care they are providing.
- ❖ A need to share the positive and negative information about a child as they move through different placements.
  - Looking at a formal book that travels with a child (Tumwater has a binder they are currently using to track medical/education/achievements/etc. Will look into if this can be used throughout the Region.)
- ❖ Foster Parent voiced concern of bio-parents making referrals on the Foster Parent.
  - Concern about how long the referral will stay on their record: group wanted more information regarding the rules. Darcey Hancock will provide more information on the new legislation to Foster Parents.
  - Concern about disrespect towards Foster Parents during the investigation.
  - Question as to the timeframe of licensing investigations: Darcey reported that they are to be done within 45 days.

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**Brainstorming/Solutions:** Foster Parents chose four topics to work on during the meeting. Below are the suggestions and requests made by the Foster Parents present at the meeting regarding these topics.

After Hours Central Intake:

- The Foster Parents present would like After Hours to be handled directly by local office staff.
- They would like each office to have one number to call for After Hours assistance. They suggested a cell phone that would be given to the Worker that is on call.

- Foster Parents stated that there would need to be clarification about the role of an After Hours worker and when it would be appropriate to call.

Tiered classification “rate assessment”:

- The Foster Parents present feel that the Rate assessment needs to be readjusted.
- Rate assessment should take into account: risk, diapers, clothes, damage costs and repair time, adjudicated youth, mental health and physical health issues, haircare time, visitation demands, mentoring, extra curricular activities, food allergies/specialized food preparation, driver license/car insurance, time frame of filing out forms, and ability to add actual hours which Social Workers cannot change.
- A Foster Parent suggested looking at DDD’s assessment as a possible assessment tool to use.
- It was also mentioned that there is someone else in the State that is developing a Rate Assessment. The Foster Parent Representative will gather more information about this.

Visitation:

- Foster Parents voiced multiple issues and concerns in relation to visitation safety, items needed for visits, and a desire to have a say in determining the appropriateness of visits. Visitation is often a component of the court orders so part of the discussion centered around how to work with the court systems and advocacy.
- Participate in court hearing
- Notification of court hearings needed
- Communicate with GAL/CASA
- Document behaviors, issues, concerns
- Bridging Foster Parents, Judges, and Commissioners:
  - Develop a process to communicate with the court system about these issues. What will they tolerate in regards to visits?
  - Concern that Caretakers report to the court not always submitted in its entirety. (It was reported that in Spokane the Foster Parent sends their report directly to the court. The Foster Parent Representative (Marci Miess) will gather more information about this process.)
- Be an Advocate for changes in State laws. If you feel visitation should be canceled when the parents have dirty UA’s, are under the influence during visits, have drug paraphernalia, or drug residue present; these are things to advocate for with law makers.
- If there are concerns or issues with the visit, team with the Social Worker and the bio-family to address them. Foster Parents voiced a need for the Social Worker to be respectful in hearing and addressing the concerns of the Foster Parent.
- One concern was what items the parents bring to the visit such as candy, inappropriate gifts, or junk food. One idea to address this was to give the bio-parents a list of appropriate items to bring.
- Another issue was diaper bags. Who is responsible for bringing one? Some felt that Social Workers should tell the parents to bring their own bag. One office is working on putting together sample visits bags for each family so that

they can start their visits with a bag full of items such as food, toys, and basic needs that are appropriate to have at visits; it would then be the parents responsibility to bring the bag and to replenish it when needed.

- There needs to be a strong guideline to differentiate between what is harmful to children verses what is irritating in relation to visitation needs.
- Myra Casey (RA) will check in with the Regional Medical Consultant Dr. Kelvie to find out more information regarding the medical research on possible contamination/exposure risks to children during visits.

**Mental Health Issues/Services:**

- Foster Parents feel that more Mental Health Services and providers are needed for Foster Children.
- The Region is working on a Service Improvement Plan. Each office met with the Regional Administrator and stated the needs and suggestions for their local offices. Mental Health Services were listed as a need in multiple offices. Region staff have been working with local offices to identify service providers who could contract with the Department.
- Foster Parents and staff were encouraged to send Amanda Meyer names and contact information for mental health providers in their areas with whom the Department could look at contracting with to increase the number of mental health providers for Foster Children.

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The Foster Parent Representatives are able to bring two topics to discuss at the Statewide Meeting. In order to chose which two topics, we took a vote of all in attendance. The Foster Parent Representative will also provide a complete copy of the minutes from this meeting to everyone at the Statewide Meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Votes by Office:**

- (A) After Hours: 3
- (B) Tiered Classification/rate assessment: 6
- (C) Visitation: 4
- (D) Mental Health Services: 3

**Two Topics Chosen:**

1. Tiered Classifications “Rate Assessment”
2. Visitation

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**Next Meeting:**

- The Statewide meeting will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 in Seattle at the Casey Field Office 1123 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave Seattle WA 98122 (206) 322-6711.
- The next meeting for Region VI is on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in the Tumwater DCFS Office. The Regional Meeting will begin at 10:00 and conclude at 12:00. Local Office meetings will have a pre-meet beginning at 9:00.

**Foster Parent Representatives:**

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