

**Region 3 Children's Administration**  
Recruitment, Development and Support Meeting 11/10/08  
9:00am – 12:00pm  
Hawthorne Suites, Arlington

ATTENDANCE:

Greg Dootson	Debra Ellsworth
Shala Crow	Tracey Squiers
Ruth Graham	Molly Hanson
Marilyn Hatfield	Anna Arnold
Tracy Fosty	Leah Dunn
LaVonna Dunn	Karen Richman
Bob King	Michael Tyers
Margie Forbes	Laurie Alexander
Betty Lensky	Mary McGauhey
Gigi Calvo	

UPDATES:

Bellingham Family to Family is focusing on clarifying their values and goals and identifying what they will be working on. In their last meeting, they met as a large group and focused on strategies to support relative caregivers. They also discussed how to ensure timely personal responses to those calling to inquire about being a foster parent. They want to eliminate lag time that could potentially lose applicants.

Tracy Squiers reported that her agency, LKI, is working on hiring case aides to support their foster families. Tracy will explore attending Family to Family RDS meetings in local R3 offices. It was noted that there is some back log of private agency licenses that need CA approval. Bob King is following up.

Olive Crest reports they are promoting blending of Region 3 and 4 ideas to create best strategies and new synergy. A new Liaison for the Lynnwood office has been hired; Sue Morrin.

Everett Family to Family reports continued work with Casino Road Ministries. The Everett Mockingbird Family Model Constellation is up and running successfully. Further recruitment of foster families in 3 Everett zip codes is needed to add to the POC pilot numbers. Molly Hanson continues to work on starting up "coffee house groups" for foster parents' networking and support. She is currently getting the word out. Molly will ask grocery stores to put foster parent recruitment flyers in shopping bags in the few days prior to Thanksgiving. She will send all team members flyers that they can ask their local stores to distribute. A suggestion was made to put a local contact on flyer as the 800

number is sometimes slow to respond to inquiries. Each liaison can put their number locally.

A suggestion was made to try putting foster parenting info on Pizza boxes

Smokey Point Office – Their last F2F meeting was held at the Arlington Free Methodist Church. They have identified a housing area that they would like to focus on supporting. They have made contacts with the Arlington School District, attended a Church Leadership group to talk about foster parent recruiting. They have also talked to counselors at Howard Middle School and are looking at accessing a local mentoring program. A team member has a connection with someone who might be able to provide massages to foster parents. Their foster parent support groups are very interactive with good questions being asked. There have been new families attending. Deena (liaison) will meet with the local ministerial group for recruitment.

Mount Vernon Family to Family is focusing on supporting relative caregivers. They now have a mailing list of all relative caregivers for mail outs. A local Hispanic group would like to bring in a foster recruitment presentation.

Foster Care Resources – They have new homes in Skagit county, Arlington and Marysville area.

Oak Harbor Family to Family- They have identified a housing area where there was a presentation on Emergency Preparedness. The presenter was a foster parent. They have identified a barrier with fingerprints; applicants have to travel to Mount Vernon to get fingerprinted for licensing. This is an inconvenience for the families. Bob King notes that if we can get a group of families, the finger printers will come to Oak Harbor. There was discussion on having fingerprinting available at foster parent orientations. There was also discussion on challenges of rejected fingerprints without any ability to do waivers. Bob King has been working on addressing fingerprint issues.

Michael Tyers – Boeing has done road mapping of the foster license process with CA and Olive Crest. They are working on eliminating barriers to licensing and improving communication.

FPAW's is focusing on Tacoma area, appears to be the most need for focus on foster care support at this time They are actively recruiting a new board member from Region 3.

Youthnet has teamed with Mockingbird Society to provide support services to teens in foster care. This is Foster to College and includes mentoring, tutoring, helping with applications. This program has received good reviews. The contact is Kim Sager at Youthnet at 360-336-1610, extension 1212.

Greg Dootson reported on the limited budget situation and the need for future collaboration, pooling of resources to find and fund the most effective services for our clients. Region 3 is ahead of the game with many evidence based practices.

The three RDS strategy groups had break out sessions and identified issues to work on with 3 top goals reported back. The group leads have this information and will distribute to all. The *Communications* group members and *Training/Retention* group members will have a conference call on Monday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 to discuss a foster parent support group survey. Michael Tyers and Greg Dootson will set up.

Licensing/recruitment (Bob King lead)

Training /Retention (Greg Dootson lead)

Communications (Mike Tyers lead)

The **December 8<sup>th</sup>** meeting is cancelled due to FAMLINK implementation day. The next Region 3 RDS meeting will be **Monday January 12<sup>th</sup>**.  
Location TBA.