



KFCA Newsletter

www.kitsapfostercare.org

April 2006

KFCA CURRENT EVENTS

Upcoming Dinner Meeting Training Topics...

Join us at the KFCA Dinner Meetings for updated information and training topics...**April 26, 2006**, George Dannells, from Kitsap Mental Health Services, will be speaking about Managing challenging behaviors using positive behavior support and emotion coaching. **May 24, 2006**, is Kitsap Foster Care Association's Annual Business Meeting. The Membership will vote on nominee's for Vice President and Secretary.

If you have ideas or suggestions for training topics, please contact any Board Member.

Check it out...Kitsap Foster Care Association's web site has undergone some major revision and has great updated information. <http://www.kitsapfostercare.org/>

For example...DSHS/DLR is organizing two upcoming golf tournaments. And although the official brochure hasn't been released yet, the details are on the web site. www.kitsapfostercare.org/events/golf.htm

Please remember...if you have moved or simply do not wish to receive the KFCA Newsletter any longer, we need to hear from you about your change of address or request to be removed from the list. Thank you.

If you are in need of additional training, please see Page 3 of the Kitsap Foster Care Association Newsletter!

May 4, 2006 will kick off the recognition of Foster Care Month. Ceremony to recognize foster care, foster parents, and Casey Family Programs' birthday. Luncheon to follow at the Space needle. 10-1:30pm. More information to follow.

Staff

Appreciation Luncheon

Wednesday,
April 19, 2006
11:00AM to 1:30PM
Bremerton DCFS
Office

We are in need of foster parents or others who are willing to support this function by donating and/or cooking food for the lunch, as well as setting up and cleaning up. Food should be prepared and delivered by 10:30am. Anyone interested in helping with this event, please contact:
Phyllis Bishop,
pjsfullhouse@aol.com
Or (360)275-5725



Join Us Now!

Kitsap Foster Care Association membership is open to foster parents and others interested in foster care.

Make \$15 check payable to: KFCA, PO Box 4542, Bremerton, WA 98312

Thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____

foster parent agency staff renewal?
Affiliation: _____

KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

• GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- **Where:** Silverdale Community Center, 9729 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale, WA 98383
- **When:** Fourth Wednesday of each month, Dinner 6pm, Guest Speaker and Discussion 7pm.
- Free child care available on site.
- Members pay \$4 for dinner (50% off) and receive a free raffle ticket to win great prizes (additional raffle tickets may be purchased in support of KFCA).

• BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

- **Where:** Changing locations, contact any board member for this month's location.
- **When:** First Tuesday of each month @ 5:30pm.
- KFCA Board Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend. If you'd like to add an item to the agenda, please contact Rick Williams two days prior to the meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Williams, *President*
president@kitsapfostercare.org

Jeff Bishop, *Vice President*
vicepres@kitsapfostercare.org

Sharon Williams, *Treasurer*
Phone 876-1994 Treasurer@kitsapfostercare.org

John Vail, *Secretary/Membership/Community Awareness*
Phone 876-5207
secretary@kitsapfostercare.org

Luanne Vail, *Resources*
Phone 876-5207
resources@kitsapfostercare.org

Karen Randleman, *Dream Project*
Cell 731-9052 dreamproject@kitsapfostercare.org

Henry Castanares, *Historian*
Phone 692-0207
historian@kitsapfostercare.org

Diane Castanares, *Child Care*
Phone 692-0207
childcare@kitsapfostercare.org

Debra Converse, *Education/Training*
education@kitsapfostercare.org

Chuck Converse, *Webmaster/Com. Awareness*
webmaster@kitsapfostercare.org

Teresa Walton, *Foster Parent Liaison*
Cell (360) 990-9995
liaison@kitsapfostercare.org

Jennifer Martin, *Newsletter*
newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org

I am always looking for insightful information to add to the newsletter... Please share your ideas to be added to the upcoming month's newsletter by the last day of each month. Your input and assistance are greatly appreciated!!



Upcoming Training

PRIDE Pre-Service Classes

April 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 2006

5:30pm to 9:30pm; Apr. 29, 9:00 to 4:30pm
Orientation: April 5, 2006 @ 9:00am to noon

May 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 2006

5:30pm to 9:30pm; May 6, 9:00am to 4:30pm
Orientation: May 3, 2006 @ 9:00am to noon

June 2, 3, 9, 10, 2006

9:00am to 4:30pm

Orientation: June 7, 2006 @ 9:00am to noon

June 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 2006

5:30pm to 9:30pm

Orientation: June 7, 2006 @ 9:00am to noon
Location, Port Orchard, TBA

First Methodist Church

1150 Marine Dr., Bremerton, WA 98312

Orientation @ Bremerton DCFS Office

To register, contact Hildegard Stone

1-800-423-6246

sthi300@dshs.wa.gov

Grow and Go...Online Workshops for Foster Parents

www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe/

Check out this web site:

www.familieslikeours.org

First Aid/CPR Training for Foster Parents

The Resource Family Training Institute sponsors First Aid training free of charge to all currently licensed and perspective foster parents. For a complete schedule and registration please visit the website at:

www.keepthebeatcpr.net

Or call (253)217-1105

Behavior Management – Adolescents

With Wendy Warmen (item #5786)

April 8, 2006 @ 9:00am to 4:00pm

Bremerton

Care-Giving for children with extreme behavioral and other mental health issues

With Sharon Young (item #5785)

May 6, 2006 @ 9:00am to 4:00pm

Pierce College

Multiple placements-Impact on Children

With Dinah Martin (item #5775)

June 10, 2006 @ 9:00am to 4:00pm

Pierce College

Pre-registration is required

Space is limited to 30 people. Fax or mail your registration to Pierce. Forms will be available through your trainer or online at:
<http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/Distance/ofpe/index.php3>

2006 ANNUAL CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

September 17-19, 2006

Subcommittees have been identified and volunteers are needed to participate. The Subcommittees are: Volunteer Coordination, Workshops, Fund Raising, Entertainment, Regional Meetings, Food, Vendors and Keynote. If you would like to participate or know someone who would like to participate in any of the subcommittees, please contact

Barb Bofinger at (360) 902-7986 or

boba300@dshs.wa.gov

The committee unanimously is recommending that the conference be at the Mirabeau Park and Convention center in the Spokane Valley.

The website if you would like to have a look is:

www.mirabeauparkhotel.com/

FOSTER PARENT/CAREGIVER CONFERENCE
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

March 20th, April 17th, May 15th, June 19th, July 17th, August 21st, September 18th, October 16th
(for debriefing after the conference)

All meetings will be in the KENT DCFS
Office, Federal Way 9:30 – 12:00



Kitsap County Resources...

- 1) **ABRAHAM'S HOUSE (405-0488)**
*free furniture, household goods, etc.
- 2) **DR. CHARLES BROWN (779-7115)**
*children's dental care with med coupon
- 3) **FIRST** (foster intervention prevention support team) 1-800-391-2273
- 4) **GALAXY LIMOUSINE INC. (874-2565)**
(1-800-874-2565)
*offers discounts to foster families
- 5) **KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION**
(475-3513 or 876-1994)
*free duffel bags for foster children
WWW.KITSAPFOSTERCARE.ORG
- 6) **MARY BRIDGE Center for Child Safety**
(360-662-1198)
*Free child safety seat checks, bicycle helmet sales & fitting, free loaner life jackets
- 7) **NK FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**
(206-842-2362) or Sufisher@aol.com
*meets @ Eagle Harbor Congregational Church; 105 N. Winslow Way, BI 98110
11:30am to 1:30pm
- 8) **NORTHWEST ENTERAL SUPPLY**
(1-888-885-2386)
*free pull-ups for foster children
- 9) **OLYMPIC PHARMACY & HEALTH CARE**
(1-253-858-9941)
*free delivery of diapers, medical supplies
- 10) **PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS (337-4738)**
Youth Services Program
- 11) **SKILLS CENTER (478-5168)**
*free hair cuts for foster children

Kitsap Foster Care Association is attempting to keep an ongoing list of resources in the newsletter each month. Your contributions are vital to the resource page. Please email Jennifer with additional resources you would like to share with foster parents. Thank you for taking the time to share your information.

Calendar of Events

April 2006:

- 4: KFCA Board Meeting
- 8: Behavior Management Adolescents
- 13: NK Foster Parent Support Meeting
- 19: Staff Appreciation Lunch
- 19: PRIDE PreService Training
- 26: KFCA Dinner Meeting
Nominees will speak

May 2006:

- 2: KFCA Board Meeting
- 4: PRIDE PreService Training
- 6: Care-Giving for Children with Extreme Behavioral and other mental health issues Training
- 11: NK Foster Parent Support Meeting
- 24: KFCA Dinner Meeting
Association Votes
- 25: 2006 Graduation Tea
(details on page 6)

Cuddle Bug carriers will provide all foster parents with infants and toddlers, free or low cost baby slings. Call Marybeth @ 360-779-8139

Family Team Decision-Making Meetings in Kitsap County

Family Team Decision-Making meetings, better known as FTDMs, have been occurring in the Tacoma office this last year and the Bremerton office for the past few months. Effective February 1st, 2006, FTDM meetings became required whenever a **placement decision** needs to be made: at the time of initial removal, when a placement disruption is identified and prior to a reunification.

When possible, the team meets before a child is removed from home to see if supports and resources can be identified to allow the child to remain safely at home.

If a child has already been removed on an emergency basis, the team meets within a day or two of the removal to discuss services and whether a safety plan can be developed which will allow the child to return home. If the risk is too great for an immediate return home, the team focuses on helping the child to adjust, searching for relatives or friends who could care for the child, planning for visits, and identifying services the parents need to provide a safer home environment. FTDM meetings are also held when there is the chance of a disruption to the child's foster placement.

FTDMs are inclusive meetings: The meetings invite and encourage involvement of the parents, concerned relatives, designated family support persons as well as the foster parents. The social worker may identify and invite concerned community members such as a teacher or counselor. Sometimes a trained member of the local community is asked to participate who is knowledgeable about helpful community resources. A trained facilitator runs the meeting, sets the ground rules, and makes sure everyone has a chance to speak, and assures the resulting plan provides protection measures for the child. In the event an agreement cannot be reached, the state social worker has the final authority and the responsibility to make safety decisions for the child. If the decision involves the child living outside the home, the juvenile court will become involved and a hearing will be scheduled so a judge can review the issues and determine next steps.

The goal of FTDM meetings is to have an open, honest discussion with the development of best safety plan for the child. In the Tacoma office, 49% of the time the child was able to remain in his/her own home following a FTDM meeting and with the development of a safety plan. The 2005 statistics for the Tacoma office also show that children were able to be maintained in their foster placements 60% of the time following a FTDM. Questions about FTDM? Please call Bremerton's two

facilitators: Donna **Fisher** 360-475-3583 or
Melissa Hansen 360-475-3522

HELP WITH SCHOOL ISSUES:

Education Advocacy Coordinator

Most children and youth in foster and relative care have had some issue related to their education and school placement. Foster parents and relative caregivers often find it difficult to navigate the school system to meet these needs. We now have help for you in this area. Recently through a contract with Treehouse, we have added an Education Advocacy Coordinator (EAC) to the supports available to foster parents and relative caregivers.

The work of the Education Advocacy Coordinator is designed to improve educational outcomes in the following areas:

- Academic achievement (grades, GPA)
 - Attendance issues / truancies
 - Behavior and discipline in school (suspensions, expulsions)
- Accessing school-based services (Special Education, 504 Plans)
- Other obstacles to foster youth's success in school.

The Education Advocacy Coordinator will provide direct and referral services as well as act as a consultant to social workers, foster parents and relative caregivers. The Education Advocacy Coordinator will intervene on behalf of children and youth who are faced with challenging obstacles to being successful in school. The Education Advocacy Coordinator will be available to negotiate issues between school staff and a particular student.

The Education Advocacy Coordinator in our area is Barbara Holbrook. Requests for her help are made through your assigned social worker. If you have been struggling with a school issue for a child in your care, you can talk to your social worker about making a referral to the program for the Education Advocacy Coordinator to work with you.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ARE NOW CLOSED. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOMINATED WILL BE EXPECTED TO SPEAK AT THE APRIL DINNER MEETING, AND THE MEMBERSHIP WILL VOTE AT THE MAY DINNER MEETING. NEW APPOINTMENTS WILL TAKE OFFICE AT THE JUNE DINNER MEETING. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME INVOLVED AND ADD YOUR TOUCH TO THE KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER.

"On May 25th, we are celebrating in a special event at the Gig Harbor Wesley Inn graduations from High School, Vocational School or completion of GED by our youth in foster care. Foster Parents, pencil it in your calendars and plan to attend! You are very much a part of that success; because of your support and efforts our youth has accomplished this major benchmark. You will soon be contacted with more details and asked to RSVP. Thank you for all that you do for our kids!"

BRS LICENSOR/TREATMENT-LEVEL AGENCY SOUGHT

We are trying to identify a private licensing agency (preferably in Kitsap) which has a Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) contract with the State (WA), which also licenses therapeutic/treatment-level foster homes. Our child is a King County child, so a King County agency would also be appropriate should the agency feel the distance was not prohibitive. We are soliciting referrals to agencies that offer excellent support services for BRS level kids and that would be comfortable with the fact that we are a same-sex couple. The agency would also need to know that we are transferring our licenses, along with the established case management of our, long-term placement, 11 year-old child.

Please contact:
Van-John & George
vanjohnsf@comcast.net
360-377-6178

Kitsap Foster Care Association's Annual Mariner's Event

Friday, June 2, 2006 @
7:05pm

The association has purchased 200 tickets and will have two buses available for transportation. Tickets may be reserved for active foster parents, relative care givers, and the children in their homes. This event is to support foster and relative placements, please do not invite friends, relatives, or have your children invite friends. Reserve your tickets and bus seats now! Both buses will leave from the East Bremerton Walmart parking lot. Time to be announced.

**To reserve your tickets and space on the bus now,
Call Luanne Vail @ 876-5207
Please join us for this fun,
family event!
Thank you for all that you do!**

Despite the weather, spring will soon be here and shortly there after the end of the 2005-2006 school year. We are anticipating high school graduations!!! As in years past, we are planning a celebration for those youth in foster and relative care who are graduating or who have completed a GED in the last year.

We are inviting you to assist us in making this a joyous event for these students who have attained this important milestone in their lives. As you know not every youth in foster care attains this goal, for many there have been many challenges and barriers that they have had to conquer. It is important that we congratulate them on their success and celebrate their achievement.

First, we need your help in identifying the youth served by your agency who will be graduating or who have completed their GED. You can e-mail me their names and the name of their assigned social worker. We will be asking our own staff this same question, but don't want any child to slip through the cracks because we did not ask you.

Second, do you have any resources that you can offer to make this event bountiful? It will be held on May 25th at the Wesley Inn in Gig Harbor so that much is taken care of, but there is so much more we can use:

- § *The names of potential guest speakers*
- § *Contacts for entertainment*
- § *Gift bags*
- § *Items for gift bags: disposable cameras*
- § *Gift cards/certificates*
- § *Quilts*
- § *Phone cards*
- § *House wares and other items they will need to set up independent living*
- § *Catering services*
- § *Your suggestions for ways to make this a very memorable event for these students*
- § *Funding*
- § *Flowers, center pieces, balloons*
- § *Transportation (Sadly, in the past some youth have not participated because they didn't have a way of getting to the celebration.)*

Third, please put the date on your calendar and encourage your graduating youth, their caregivers, birth parents/siblings (even) and your staff to participate in this event.

We will continue to keep you advised of planning and what you can do to make this a very special occasion for these deserving kids.

*Cherrie Druffel
Program Manager
drch300@dshs.wa.gov
253.983.6235*

From the President...

The year is rapidly moving along with no let up in sight. That may be a very good thing but is your life getting better or easier? Is there a quality in it that makes you happy to awake each and every day? Hmmmm, not the answer I was hoping for. So what could you or should you do different? What would make you just a little more satisfied? If you don't take an aggressive stance and make changes happen, then do you honestly think that anyone else will do it for you? Think and then do. You deserve a good quality of life with happiness in it. Actually you deserve it as much as your kids in care do. It sounds like a very large challenge, doesn't it? Chuck Converse is doing such an incredible job with our web site that I now look to it to see what is happening. I hope you explore it and find out just how useful it is! The "Luanne Vail Mariner's Event" (catchy huh) is approaching so be sure to get in on the tickets before they are all gone. You have heard the saying, when they are gone, they are gone. (how profound is that)? We have elections next month as well as our annual business meeting (in May). During that meeting, we will be honored and served desert by Staff and Social Workers. This will be a relaxed time to chat and enjoy each other's company and drop the business chit chat.

This month we have those running for office speaking to us. John Vail is running unopposed for the Secretary's job. For Vice President, we have Jeff Bishop (current VP) and Kay Arens looking at that job. Your vote in May will decide those outcomes.

*Please show up for an exciting meeting!
KFCA Training's are a topic that needs clarification.*

Seems there are mixed messages that have confused me as well as others. Linda Kalinouski who heads Licensing has the last word on this matter and having read the printed matter, realize there may be some (one)? training that will be disallowed. When Nancy Sutton spoke last month, it didn't meet the qualification of a training so toss that one. Sorry about that. In the future, since we are required to provide at least 10 training's a year, a one hour training each month, we may not have time for others to speak or make presentations and possibly, they will need to find another way to reach us with their messages. More than ever, we are on the receiving end of higher expectations and requirements. I doubt that it will ever get easier. We will just do our best. With Spring and Summer so close, many of you are thinking of a vacation and this is the time to search for a respite provider. You can't start too early. Finding someone to give you a break be very difficult so start early!

I want to see all of you at our meetings!

Come rock our world!

Yer President.....Rick

KFCA Newsletter
P.O. Box 4542
Bremerton, WA 98312

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Per # 0015
Bremerton, WA

