



KFCA NEWSLETTER

Kitsapfostercare.org

August 2008

Activity!

**Back to school event August 13 th,
11a to 1pm @
Evergreen Park in Bremerton**

Are you and the youth in your home ready for back to school? Get ready with a free age appropriate backpack from KFCA and filled with many of (not all) the items your child will need for school. If you haven't yet done so, please fill out the back-pack reservation form on the KFCA website; call your social worker or Deb Converse. No backpacks will be distributed with out a form on file. Sorry, this rule is firm.

Board of Directors Meetings are Open to All!
Join us—participate. We want to hear your input! The Board of Directors meet monthly on the first Monday of the month at 6pm to 8pm. Usually, the meetings take place in a local restaurant—most often in Port Orchard or Silverdale. Contact any Board Member for the location of the next meeting.

A REMINDER ABOUT SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

When you enroll a child placed in your care list the social worker as the second parent on the school's enrollment forms. Doing so will alert school staff that there maybe safety issues for the child. The school will send the social worker the child's progress reports. The school has information so they can alert the social worker of if disciplinary issues become a problem. It also provides the school with contact information about who also needs to be included in planning for the child and a number in case of an emergency.

August KFCA Dinner Meeting

Picnic in the Park

Wednesday the 20th

6:00—8:00pm

@ Evergreen Park in Bremerton

No GUEST SPEAKER this month—just a nice relaxing picnic in the park!

Volunteer Opportunities!

Do you want to lend a hand and attend the Blackberry festival? Please consider volunteering a few hours of your day to help man the booth and talk to prospective foster parents. If you would like to assist in this please contact Elizabeth Griffin to sign up.

Email is elizanngriffin@aol.com or phone: 360-876-7515

WHALING DAYS WAS TONS O' FUN!

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers and staff who helped man the booth and speak to visitors about fostering youth and children in our Region.

Whaling days was well attended this year in spite of the cool weather on Sunday.

There were a number of prospective foster and relative caregivers who stopped by to chat about the joys and heartaches of caring for kids. A wonderful time was had by all. Once again, THANKS!

Health Matters:
Well Child Exam Schedule:

- Within 30 days of placement regardless of the child’s age. This is a requirement even if the Well-Child exam is not due according to the following schedule. You can reassure the care provider and the health care provider that Medicaid will pay for this exam.
- 5 examinations during the first year of life
 - o by 1 mo
 - o 2 mo
 - o 4 mo
 - o 6 mo
 - o 9 mo
 - o 3 exams between 1 and 2 years of age

NEW FISCAL YEAR Means NEW RATES for REIMBURSEMENT!

July 1 is the first day of the new fiscal year for the state—here are the updated and increased foster care reimbursement rates and breakdown:

Breakdown of Foster Care Payments

July 2008

Age:	R & B	Clothing	Personal	Total:
0–5	\$317.81	\$44.41	\$61.46	\$423.68
6-11	\$390.28	\$44.41	\$66.00	\$500.69
12+	\$453.63	\$51.66	\$70.11	\$575.30

WASHINGTON STATE MAKES ID CARDS FOR KIDS IN CARE A LITTLE BIT EASIER TO OBTAIN!

Have you ever tried to get a foster kiddo an ID card only to be derailed at nearly every step? Do the kids in your home want to be ‘normal’ and have an ID so they can get a job; a permit or travel? Well finally, things are changing. Did you know you can now get a Washington State ID card for youth in care? Ask your case worker for more details.

Racial Dis-proportionality Fact Sheet

In 2007 the legislature passed **SHB 1472** creating an advisory committee convened by DSHS Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams to report on racial dis-proportionality in the Child Welfare System by June 1, 2008 and create a remediation plan by December 1, 2008.

This committee is comprised of:

Five representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives

Five representatives appointed by the Senate Majority Leader

Five representatives appointed by DSHS

According to the report:

Racial dis-proportionality exists in the child welfare system in Washington

The greatest dis-proportionality for children of color occurs when:

The initial referral to CPS is made

The decision to remove the child from home is made

A child is in care for over two years

In Washington :

Indian children are almost three times as likely to be referred to CPS as White children

Black children are almost twice as likely to be referred to CPS as opposed to their White counterparts

Hispanic children are 1.3 times as likely to be referred to CPS as White children

The data shows that compared to White children referred to CPS, after referrals:

Indian children are:

1.6 times as likely to be removed from home
twice as likely to remain in care for over two years

Black children are

1.2 times more likely to be removed from home
1.5 times more likely to remain in care for over two years

Hispanic children are:

no more likely to be removed from home
no more likely to remain in care for over two years

Asian children are:

No more likely to be removed from home
Less likely to remain in care for over two years

Children from low income families are more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare system than children from affluent backgrounds

Children of single-parent families are more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from two-parent households

Lengths of stay in foster care differ for children of color as compared to White children with:

Indian and Black children having less favorable outcomes

Asian and Hispanic children having outcomes similar to White children

Once children are referred to CPS certain decisions appear to contribute to dis-proportionality, including:

For Indian children as compared to White children, Indian children are:

More likely to have a high risk tag
More likely to be removed from home

Less likely to reunify with parents within two years
Less likely to be adopted within two years

For Black children as compared to White children, Black children are:

More likely to have an accepted referral
More likely to be assessed high risk at intake

As likely to reunify with parents within two years
Less likely to be adopted within two years

What Is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is an opportunity to make a big difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. It's a chance to apply your skills and ideals toward helping others and meeting critical needs in the community.

Each year, AmeriCorps offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups. Whether your service makes a community safer, gives a child a second chance, or helps protect the environment, you'll be getting things done through AmeriCorps!

AmeriCorps members address critical needs in communities all across America. As an AmeriCorps member, you can:

- Tutor and mentor disadvantaged youth
- Fight illiteracy
- Improve health services
- Build affordable housing
- Teach computer skills
- Clean parks and streams
- Manage or operate after-school programs
- Help communities respond to disasters

Build organizational capacity

Benefits of Service

As an AmeriCorps ***member, you'll gain new skills and experiences—and you'll also find the tremendous satisfaction that comes from helping others. In addition, full-time members who complete their service earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$4,725 to pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans; members who serve part-time receive a partial Award. Some AmeriCorps members may also receive a modest living allowance during their term of service.***

AmeriCorps Programs

AmeriCorps is made up of three main programs: AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).

AmeriCorps NCCC: The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a full-time residential program for men and women, ages 18-24, that strengthens communities while developing leaders through direct,

How Do I Join?

There are thousands of opportunities to serve in AmeriCorps. Each one provides an incredible opportunity to make a difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. To search for an AmeriCorps national service opportunity that fits your interests and desired location,

- Call 1-800-942-2677
- E-mail questions@americorps.org.



Mary Bridge Children's Hospital

has reduced cost helmets, loaner life jackets, free car seat checks!

For more information about Kitsap SAFE KIDS' efforts to prevent injuries or to learn more about this event, call the local coalition coordinator, Michele Jennings Mich-ele.Jennings@multicare.org at Mary Bridge Children's Health Center in Silverdale at (360) 662-1198.

A Driving School of Gig Harbor, Inc

now has a DSHS Provider Number (112426). They will accept DCFS SSPS vouchers for payment for teens taking a Driver's Ed class. There are several classes starting soon. The business is listed in the SBUS file. School info is on their website: www.a-driving-school.com.

THE STAR CARD IS COMING SOON!

Look for it in the mail—good for discounts at your local merchants. For More info check the Fostering Family Connections website:

www.fosterfamilyconnections.org

Fred Kemp is coming to King County to present an excellent training: Ready....Fire!....Aim? Understanding and Managing Behavior of Children with ADHD. The Harvard educated Dr. Kemp will present the most recent scientific research available, and will focus on intervention techniques for dealing with children and adolescents who have been diagnosed with ADHD. This class has been scheduled for Saturday, August 9th from 9:00a to 4:00p @ Treehouse in Seattle. FREE! Contact Shelley Myers @ Mysh300@dshs.wa.gov to enroll.

KFCA has free duffel bags for kids! Please don't send kids off to camp; their next placement or back home w/o proper luggage. Say 'No!' to garbage bags. Contact Deb Converse for more information.

First Aid/CPR Training 4 Foster Parents

Www.keepthebeatcpr.net
Or call (253)217-1105

Training Opportunities: Resource Family Training Institute

Orientation for Licensing:

1st Wed of the month, 10:00a – 12, at DCFS Bremerton. register @ 360-475-3598.

Pride Pre-Service Training for Caregivers

August 5, 6, 7, 13, 14th, 5:30p – 9:30p & Sat. 9:00a – 4:45p.

Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6th, 9:00a – 4:00p & 10th, 9:00 – noon.

On Site Classes for Caregivers in Kitsap County:

Parenting Sexually Aggressive Children & Youth

Aug. 1st, 9:00a – 4:00p

Parenting Physically Assaultive Children & Youth

Aug. 22nd, 9:00a – 4:00p

Ansell-Casey Life Skills—for teens and older youth

Sept. 19th, 9:00a – 1:00p

There is no charge for classes.

classes are at Bremerton 1st Methodist 1150 Marine Dr. Register w/ H. Stone, 360-475-3586; 800 423-6246, or sthi300@dshs.wa.gov

FREE On-Line classes thru Pierce College for

Foster & Relative/Kinship Caregivers

Topics include: Online Learning, Addiction Basics; Alcohol & chemical Abuse, Behavior Management, Care-giving for children w/Extreme Behavioral Issues, Cultural Identity: Self-Esteem, Educational Advocacy for Caregivers, Introduction to Children's Administration for Kinship Caregivers, Maintaining a Connection: Importance or Birth Families, Multiple Placements-Impact on Children, Stuck in the Middle - Guide for Kinship Caregivers, Success Beyond Foster Care, Working with Developmentally Disabled Children.

Register @ <http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe>

Useful Links for Relative & foster caregivers:

DSHS Electronic Forms Link

[Http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html)

Check out these helpful web sites & numbers:

www.familieslikeours.org

www.usfosterfamilies.com

www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/

24hr support line (800) 301-1868

Info@safekids.org

This site offers information on recalls related to child specific items as well as other kid related issues

Info@adoptionreferralservice.com

Ctboxnews@ku.edu

Join kfca!

Are you a foster/kinship care provider interested in receiving support from & networking with other foster parents in our community OR interested in offering support to local foster parents??

Kitsap Foster Care Association Membership

is open to all foster/kinship care providers, as well as others interested in youth and foster care!

Annual dues of \$15, entitles you to:

A monthly dinner/training meeting;

Annual events, such as:

The Back to School Event &

Holiday Party as well as the monthly newsletters; other fun activities supportive of foster families, ample opportunity to network with and provide/receive support while parenting local children in need!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Are You: (check all that apply)

Foster Parent

Kinship Provider

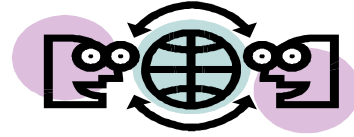
Other: _____

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

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

Board of Directors Meetings are open to all members of the Association and visitors are welcome. The meetings are held the first Monday of every month—generally in a local restaurant from approximately 6 to 8pm. If you would like to attend please contact any board member for the exact location of the next meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:



Debra Converse, *President*

president@kitsapfostercare.org

Phyllis Bishop, *Vice President*

vicepres@kitsapfostercare.org

Chuck Converse, *Treasurer*

treasurer@kitsapfostercare.org

Jenny Brusco, *Secretary/Membership*

secretary@kitsapfostercare.org

Sharon Williams, *Historian*

historian@kitsapfostercare.org

Lesla LeClair, *Child Care*

childcare@kitsapfostercare.org

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Debra Converse, *Education/ Training*

education@kitsapfostercare.org

Barbara Holbrook, *Newsletter*

newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org

**Phyllis Bishop, *Special Events
Coordinator***

Phone 275-5725

events@kitsapfostercare.org

Laura Marshall, *Culinary Coordinator*

culinary@kitsapfostercare.org

Mary Jones, *Legislative Liaison*

Phone 792-0249

Teresa Walton, *Foster Parent Liaison*

Cell (360) 990-9995

liaison@kitsapfostercare.org

Fact Sheet: Positive Youth Development

The Positive Youth Development approach suggests that helping young people to achieve their full potential is the best way to prevent them from engaging in risky behaviors. Organizations and communities that promote Positive Youth Development give youth the chance to exercise leadership, build skills, and get involved. The self-confidence, trust, and practical knowledge that young people gain from these opportunities help them grow into healthy, happy, self-sufficient adults.

Positive Thinking Leads to Positive Results

When community members and policymakers harness the positive energy and initiative of youth, good things happen:

- Youth believe they can be successful instead of internalizing the negative stereotypes about them that often appear in the media.
- Youth engage in productive activities that build job and life skills and reinforce community-mindedness.
- Youth grow comfortable questioning and exploring their roles as citizens in a participatory democracy.

In addition, adults who work closely with youth—and therefore see their dedication, responsibility, and willingness to learn—tend to view youth positively.

Positive Youth Development Takes Many Forms

Organizations and communities put Positive Youth Development into practice by allowing young people to help make important decisions about their own lives, the organizations that serve them, and their communities.

You can put Positive Youth Development into practice by:

- Recruiting young people to volunteer for local grassroots organizations
- Showing youth how to start their own newspapers or Web sites
- Asking high school students to co-teach classes with their teachers
- Teaching young people to conduct surveys on community and school resources
- Encouraging local businesses to sponsor job fairs and job shadowing days
- Inviting youth to serve on the board of a local nonprofit organization
- Creating a youth board that advises State or local government on issues young people care about such as violence prevention, transportation, and afterschool activities

Many local programs offer young people positive opportunities. The Boys & Girls Clubs of America, National 4-H Council, and YMCA of the USA, for example, are national organizations that promote the Positive Youth Development approach through their local program affiliates. Smaller organizations—such as local runaway shelters, afterschool centers, mentoring programs, and job training sites—promote Positive Youth Development, too.

A Role for Everyone

Everyone has a role to play in helping his or her community promote Positive Youth Development:

- Neighborhood leaders and community members can involve young people in measuring how well the community supports youth, and then work together to improve services.
- Policymakers can engage youth in discussions about policies that affect them.
- Business leaders can teach young people the skills they will need for successful employment.
- Youth service organizations can encourage youth participation in every aspect of their work.
- Members of the media can help give young people outlets for expressing their views.
- Treatment providers can engage adolescent treatment recipients in service to others, for instance, as peer educators.
- Teachers and school administrators can ensure that school policies, procedures, and teaching methods engage young people fully.
- Faith-based institutions can involve young people in community activities.
- Parents can strive to engage their children in positive activities that nurture their talents, skills, and interests.

Contact

For more information on Positive Youth Development, visit <http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov>. Or contact the National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth, P.O. Box 13505, Silver Spring, Maryland 20911-3505; (301) 608-8098; fax: (301) 608-8721; e-mail: ncfy@acf.hhs.gov.

Hello all,

Hope your summer is going well. KFCA has been busy this summer with many events. We have had both a bowling and miniature golf activity for the foster and relative caregiver families. At both events fun was had by all. If you were unable to attend you missed out on a free and family friendly activity put on by KFCA. One of the big events this summer was the 3rd annual "Tee it up for Kids" Golf Tournament. The Tournament went smoothly and raised funds for The Dream Project (Kitsap County) as well as High 5 for Kids (Pierce County). Thank you to all the community sponsors, volunteers, golfers and workers who made this event possible. You truly have influenced children's lives through participating and raising funds to benefit local foster children. Thank you!

We also have been busy working with our local foster parent FCRN recruiters to help recruit new foster homes. We have been working together at the Whaling Days Festival booth in Silverdale handing out flyers and talking to prospective foster families in a joint recruitment effort to increase the number of local foster homes. Coming up soon is the Blackberry Festival (Aug 30- Sept 1) and we will be needing volunteers to assist with recruitment at the KFCA Blackberry Festival booth. If you would like to be involved in this please contact Elizabeth Griffin. She may be reached by phone at (360) 876-7515 or by email at elizanngriffin@aol.com.

As I have mentioned in the preceding months many changes and updates are happening at the state level and within Children's Administration. You will be seeing changes in the near future in the way some things are done (CA is getting a new computer system/program- go live date of Dec 8th) and benefits to foster care givers such as the FP business discount card, the Star Card. Did you know that the mileage reimbursement rate is now 0.585 cents per mile effective July 1, 2008 and that the monthly child reimbursement rate also increased? One big change on the horizon is the all Medicaid coupons are going away and are being replaced by Priority One Cards (health insurance cards like everyone else). This is expected to roll out in Dec 2008. More information will be available in the future closer to the roll out date.

And one last thing, a reminder to mark your calendar for KFCA's Annual Picnic on Wednesday, August 20th at Evergreen Park from 6 PM- 9ish? The Picnic will be on our regular meeting night of the Third Wednesday of the month. Please join us for great food, games, and the great outdoors. The decision is still out as to whether or not the raffle or the ice cream truck visit is the favorite event of the picnic. Either way, the picnic is usually an event enjoyed by all. Remember, dinner is on us this month so we hope to see you there!

Debra Converse,
KFCA President

Notice of Quarterly Regional & State Wide Foster Parent Consultation Meetings

House Bill 1624 is legislation requiring Children's Administration to consult with foster parents. The goal of the legislation is to ensure foster parents participate directly or through a representative selected by foster parents, and have a meaningful opportunity to offer input at each stage of ongoing work regarding:

- Recruitment of foster homes.
- Retention of foster homes
- Effective training for foster parents
- Development of coordinated and comprehensive plans that strengthen services for the protection of children

**Quarterly Region 5 Meeting
September 15, 2008**
Bremerton DCFS Office
Room 308—10:00 AM to noon.

**Quarterly Statewide Meeting
October 13, 2008**
Region 3
SPO Community Room
1:30-4:30 PM

You are invited to bring your issues in person, or be represented by

Debra Converse, KFCA President
(360) 692-1927

Teresa Walton, Foster Parent Liaison
(360) 990-9995

Donna or Shannon at the Placement Desk
(360) 475-3535

Questions?

Contact Cherrie Druffel at (253) 983-6235.

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