

KFCA September Dinner Meeting

Wednesday the 17th—6:00—8:00pm

@ Silverdale Community Center

Back to School Feast

Chicken fried steak
Mashed potatoes and gravy
Fresh peas ~ Cornbread
cobbler

Annual Caregiver Convention

This year's conference will be held September 21-23, 2008 in Yakima, WA at the Yakima Convention Center. Participants will be able to choose from over 40 exciting and educational workshops, receive training hours, listen to inspiring keynote speakers, participate in activities, eat delicious food, and hear success stories from children and caregivers and a whole lot more! Please visit the website for enrollment forms and additional information.

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/fosterparentsnews>

The August Back to School Event was a HUGE Success this Year—Your Kitsap Foster Care Association distributed nearly 360 backpacks to foster families and kids in relative care. It was a beautiful sunny day at Evergreen Park. Barb Bofinger kept the hotdogs grilling and the soft drinks chillin'! Thank you so much Barb for your hard work in the hot sun!

A **Very Special Thank You** to our many generous donors:

Poulsbo Christ Memorial Church—supplied many backpacks and school supplies; Hill Moving Company—loaned KFCA the trailer; Peninsula McDonalds—donated cards and coupons for free hamburgers; fries and lattes; Community Family Services Foundation; Wendy's; Hollywood Video—donated popcorn; Morningside Bakery provided those great chocolate chip cookies; VF Outlet; Safeway and Sigma Gamma Rho Seattle Graduate Chapter—also donated supplies and backpacks for the kids! **THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!**

KFCA NEWSLETTER

Kitsapfostercare.org

September 2008

Activity!

Please join KFCA at Skateland 1740 NE Fuson Road in Bremerton September 28th from 5-7pm for an evening of skating; pizza and fun and as always, it is 100% Free for KFCA members!

What is ProviderOne?

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is replacing its' current Medicaid Management Information System with a new payment processing system we have named **ProviderOne**.

ProviderOne will be DSHS' primary provider payment processing system. When fully operational, it will pay about 100,000 providers who serve 1 million people who qualify for DSHS services each year. That's about one out of every five Washingtonians.

ProviderOne is being developed with unprecedented cross-administration support within DSHS - hundreds of DSHS employees have participated in discussion on development and design. The state teams are working with the project's contractor, CNSI, which is based in Rockville, Md.

Non-Needy, “Loco Parentis Procedures”

The Bremerton Community Service Office (CSO) works collaboratively with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to streamline Non-Needy and In Loco Parentis Placements to immediately access Temporary Assistance for Non-Needy Families (TANF)

The DCFS liaison, Tewanah Johnson will:

- ü Assist Non-Needy Relatives in completing the DSHS application (14-001) and ensure that a working phone number is included on the application.
- ü Gather all necessary documents, including Identification for Head of Household.
- ü Fax the application packet with all documents directly to the CSO Liaison.

When applying for “In Loco Parentis”, what is needed from the social worker is a cleared BCCU background check (not an NCIC clearance) the Supplemental Order of Placement/Voluntary Placement order, also the **placement must be updated in CAMIS** prior to the application being processed.

WHAT IS THE MCKINNEY VENTO ACT?

The McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a Federal Law, the main purpose of which is to provide continuity of education for students who are highly mobile. The Act was created to **remove barriers to equal access** to the same public education (including preschool) provided other children and youths. The goal is to provide the opportunity to such students **to enroll, attend, participate and succeed** in school, including **meeting** the same challenging **State student academic achievement standards** to which all students are held.

HOW DO FOSTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH QUALIFY AS HOMELESS?

“Homeless” specifically includes children who are “awaiting foster care placement.” This includes **any living arrangement which is not intended to be long-term**, such as a receiving home, a short-term placement in a group home, a temporary foster home or relative placement, a Crisis Residential Center, etc. **Whenever a child enters care or changes placements**, consider whether the McKinney Vento Act might apply. The child’s placement history, permanency plan, and whether the placement is expected to be long-term all contribute to the eligibility determination. In cases where a child has been successfully placed for 6 months or more, it would be inappropriate to argue that the child is still “homeless.”

REMAINING IN THE SCHOOL OF ORIGIN

Statistics show that students fall four to six months behind with every school move. When a child first comes into foster care, there is more than a 50% chance that they will return home within 60 days. School and related activities may be the most stabilizing environment in a child’s life. For these reasons, in most cases, it is to the benefit of the student to **remain in their “school of origin”** (the school they were attending at the time they became homeless). The McKinney Vento Act makes it possible for them to do so **through the end of the school year** in which their placement becomes long term or permanent. If the student moves during summer vacation, the school they were attending before their move is considered their school of origin.

TRANSPORTATION

If a student chooses to remain in the school of origin, **transportation must be provided free of charge to and from school by the district**. In the case of a move out of district, the two districts involved are responsible to work out a transportation agreement. The person to **contact** to obtain transportation is **the McKinney Vento Liaison** of the district in which the school of origin is located. Until district-provided transportation can be arranged, the foster family or some other volunteer is encouraged to transport the child.

CHANGING SCHOOLS

When deciding whether or not to switch schools, consider the student’s relationships, academic needs, special programs and activities, safety, travel time and input from the student. If the decision is made to switch schools, **choose a logical break in the school year**. The McKinney Vento Act provides homeless students the right to **immediate enrollment** in their new school, even **without records**. If the family has copies of student records or knows the student has special needs, a history of dangerous behavior, significant disciplinary referrals, or is on suspension or expulsion, providing such information to the new school when registering will facilitate appropriate placement, or the creation of necessary safety or behavior plans. After enrollment, records are requested by the receiving school. For those in state custody (even if not McKinney Vento eligible) unofficial records are not to be withheld for non-payment of outstanding fees or any other reason.

In Step with: UNIT 5-CFWS

Unit 5 consists of Andrea Ringer, Dawn Schichtel, Ruth Bourne, Jean Austin, Bob Waldorf, Denise Baldy and Michelle Ford and our newly appointed leader Ursula Petters. Nancy Sanders rounds out the group as our unit clerk and has the onerous task in making sure we meet our court deadlines and our reports look wonderful.

Our rag tag group is made up of former members of DOC, JRA, Chemical Dependency providers, Counselors, Home Support Specialists and a variety of other social support services adding up collectively to 95.5 years of experience between us. We try most days to work as a team so that our knowledge is collective resulting in better services to children, families, foster families and relatives.

If you walked past Unit 5, you may hear us laughing hysterically and see a few toys on our desks (or flying through the air.) We all have strong senses of humor, we love to laugh and find the strengths and positives of the situations we find ourselves as well as our clients in. Our many talents are varying and may include baking, bowling, arts and crafts (mostly collecting and starting projects but rarely finishing them), knitting, music (all kinds), hiking/biking, kayaking, pottery, gardening, participating in retail therapy and an enjoyment found in procrastinating around chores and other projects.

We are a diverse group and individually have had a wide range of interesting and colorful experiences which contributes to our ability to laugh and not take ourselves too seriously. Just ask one of us! Though most of the members of the unit are cat lovers (they are forgiven) there are a few canine aficionados.

**EXCELLENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!****Sexually Aggressive Youth-Understanding Children and Adolescents with Sexual Behavior Problems—presented by TIM KAHN**

Will be offered on two occasions in the following locations: Friday, October 10th from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Kent DCFS Building and Friday, December 5th, 9:00am to 4:00pm at the 2100 (Treehouse) Building in Seattle. As many of you are aware, Tim is an excellent trainer, this class is full of great, useful information!

The target audience is the foster parent/relative caregiver but anyone working with the foster care population may attend the trainings, free of charge on a space available basis. Feel free to share this with CASA's, private agency staff, teachers, etc.

To reserve your space—contact:

Shelly Myers, Program Manager
Resource Family Training Institute
206 923-4950

mysh300@dshs.wa.gov

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

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

KFCA has free duffel bags for kids! Please don't send kids off to camp, their next placement or back home without proper luggage.

Say 'No!' to garbage bags.

Often suitcases are available too.

Contact Deb Converse for more information.

YOUR INPUT IS VITAL TO KFCA. PLEASE ATTEND; CONTRIBUTE YOUR TIME AND EXPERTISE AND BE A PART OF KFCA!

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.

SEPTEMBER MEETING IS AT THE BAYVIEW CAFÉ IN PORT ORCHARD September 8th 6 to 8pm

**Training Opportunities:
Resource Family Training Institute****Orientation for Licensing:**

1st Wed of the month, 10:00a – 12, at DCFS Bremerton and offered online

register @ 360-475-3598

Pride Pre-Service Training for Caregivers:

09/3—09/10 Day classes 9a—4p

09/25—10/4—Evenings 5:30—9:30 + 1 Saturday

11/13—11/22- Evenings

12/1—12/5—Days

On Site Classes for Caregivers in Kitsap County:

10/14– 10/28—Days 9a—4p + 1 Saturday

Parenting Physically Assaultive Children & Youth and Sexually Aggressive Youth—

no Kitsap trainings scheduled at this time. There are courses available in Tacoma or online please visit the website below for more detailed information on course availability and content:

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

Ansell-Casey Life Skills—for teens and older youth

Sept. 19th, 9:00a – 1:00p @ Bremerton Methodist

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 of 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 4 Relative & foster caregivers:**DSHS Electronic Forms Link**

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html>

Check out these helpful web sites & numbers:**First Aid/CPR Training 4 Foster Parents**

www.keepthebeatcpr.net

Or call (253)217-1105

Join kfca!

Are you a foster/kinship care provider interested in receiving support from & networking with other foster parents 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, entitle 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)

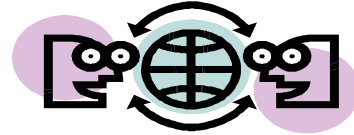
Foster Parent

Kinship Provider

Other: _____

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:



Debra Converse, *President & training coordinator*

president@kitsapfostercare.org /
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Mary Jones, *Legislative Liaison*

Phone 792-0249

Elizabeth Griffin-Hall *Foster Parent Liaison (temporary)* (360) 876-7515

elizanngriffin@aol.com

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

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

Questions?:

Call Cherrie Druffel @ (253) 983-6235.

Hello all,

I'm sure you all have experienced this phenomenon, the one where summer is never long enough, yet at the same time is WAY too long? Ok, let's admit it, how many of us parents are eagerly anticipating the start of another school year? I know I am. HOORAY for school back in session!!

Speaking of back to school, the Association's annual back to school event was a huge success with over 355 Kitsap foster and relative care youth receiving backpacks and school supplies. Thanks to all our community sponsors and volunteers as we would not have been able to do this without you! Along with this note of thanks, I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped at the foster care recruitment booths at both the Silverdale Whaling Days and the Bremerton Blackberry Festival. Several new contacts were made thru this collaborative effort of KFCA, FCRN and other local agencies. Thank you for your time and commitment to fostering.

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. Children's Administration will be converting to a new computer system with a go-live date of Dec 8th so reports and such may have a different look. With this in mind, during this period of adjustment, please have some additional patience and understanding as the office staff and caseworkers learn to work with the new system in the middle of the busy holiday season.

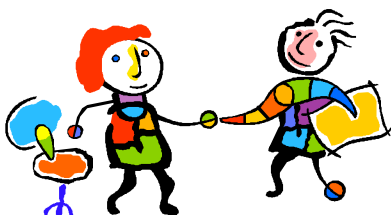
Another big change coming is the way Medicaid coupons are issued. The monthly paper coupons are going away and are being replaced by Priority One Cards (permanent health insurance cards like everyone else). This is expected to roll out in Dec 2008.

And one last thing, a reminder to mark your calendar for KFCA's Upcoming events: Sept 28 Skating Party 5-7PM at Bremerton Skateland. October dinner meeting Weds Oct 15th will be the annual Harvest festival (costume party) and silent auction. So, be saving your money for bidding on the great gift baskets and items (donations are tax deductible as the Association is a non-profit charity). The funds raised go towards funding KFCA events during the year.

Look forward to seeing you at the September dinner meeting on Wednesday, Sept 17th.

Sincerely,

Debra Converse,
KFCA President



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

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