

FEBRUARY 2012
Foster and Adoptive Newsletter

Important Notice:

Please make sure that you have your Foster Parent I.D. Card each time you visit the agency.
If you do not have an I.D. Card or it is misplaced, please contact your Foster Care
Caseworker.

Welcome to our New Foster/adoptive families:

James and Denise Allen of Leavittsburg

Happy Anniversary

Thanks for another great year of service to children to the following foster families...

February

Patricia Fink
Terry and Theresa Langley
David and Pamela McCafferty
Mark and Julie Stimpert
Kelley and Elizabeth Williams

*May you continue to be a blessing to all
the children and their families.*

2012 Foster Parent Association Meetings

The FPA is a group of foster and adoptive parents who organize activities for our children, offer information on the journey of fostering and adopting, always keeping you updated on any changes in laws, rules and classes regarding foster/adopting. They also hold fundraisers to help fund the children's activities that are not fully funded by CSB. New members are always needed, so don't hesitate to join us on the second Tuesday of 8 months out of the year! See you there!

Mark your calendar for the following FPA Meetings held at CSB in the Coffee Room once a month on Tuesdays at 6:30PM.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Feb. 14
Mar. 13
Apr. 10

FPA Support Meetings

Our monthly support meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. This is a time of fellowship to support each other as we care for the children placed in our homes. At times, we all face trying and difficult situations with the children we care for and talking to other foster parents gives us the encouragement that we are not alone on this journey. Volunteers are needed to host a support meeting, so pick a month & please call one of the officers to let them know you are willing to help out. Thank you in advance!

The January FP Support Meeting was canceled due to the weather. However, the February meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 16, 2012 at the home of Richard and Trina Kneubehl, 7881 Service Ave., Masury, OH 44438, ph 330-448-2716.**

FPA Officers

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cathie Metz 330-876-0283 | Sherry Davis.. 330-373-6622 |
| Marci Bashir 330-369-8346 | Pat Nolan..... 330-898-3145 |
| Becky Hall 330-876-0649 | |

FPA~ FAST TEAM

The following foster parents are members of our FAST team. They are advocates; they support and guide you when you have questions, concerns, or problems with your journey as a foster/adoptive parent. Never hesitate to call and gain from the wisdom and encouragement they offer, always in confidence.

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marci Bashir 330-369-8346 | Becky Hall 330-876-0649 |
| Lorrie Perks 330-924-2075 | Sherry Davis 330-373-6622 |

Foster Care Review by ODJFS **Cynthia Mason**

The Agency just completed its Foster Care Record and Site Review for recertification by ODJFS. The ODJFS Licensing Specialist, Jennifer Winebrenner, was at our agency January 24-26, 2012. We are pleased to announce that there was only one finding of non-compliance in which we have to submit a Corrective Action Plan. There were 52 areas reviewed! This is a tremendous improvement from 2008 and 2010. Special thanks are extended to the Foster Care Workers: Dee Dee, Debbie, Kim and Stephanie, Social Service Specialist: Sally and Supervisor: Tracy Miller for preparing for the review. Also we extend thanks to foster parents: Mark and Wendy Wagner, Louise McGhee, Alice Farris and Mark and Melanie Reese for opening their homes for site visits by Ms. Winebrenner. Congratulations to all for a job well done!

Upcoming CPR Training

We are in the process of arranging CPR training classes for the Spring. Please notify your Foster Care Caseworker if you have interest in receiving CPR training. After we determine the number of sessions we will need, a schedule will be mailed to you.

February and March Foster Parent Trainings

Please register by calling (330) 372-2010 x 1403

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT 1: MANAGING SURFACE BEHAVIORS WITH ACTING OUT CHILDREN – 925-1

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|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012 | Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM |
| Facilitator: Brian Lowery | Location: Trumbull County CSB |

Objectives:

- Learn the model for structuring a supportive and therapeutic setting for behaviorally challenged children.
- Review fundamental learning theory and examine twelve tried and true techniques for handling surface behaviors.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT 2: VERBAL DE-ESCALATION – 926-1

Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Facilitator: Brian Lowery **Location:** Trumbull County CSB

Objectives:

- Examine how pre-placement experiences and current stressors affect behavior.
- Learn the skills of active listening, non-violent communication and de-escalation.
- Review levels of crisis and the conflict cycle.

THE OPENNESS PUZZLE: 3-2-1 CONTACT - 949-PA15-S

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2012 **Time:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Facilitator: Ann Bagley **Location:** Trumbull County CSB

Objectives:

- Review the reasons for openness in adoption and examine the many anxieties felt by adoptive parents in open relationships with birth parents.
- Explore different options in openness and identify guidelines for decision making about when openness is appropriate.
- Understand the importance of collaborative communication.

WHEN LOVE IS NOT ENOUGH – SESSION 1 – SPOTLIGHT ON THE SUBJECT – 924-28

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Facilitator: Kathleen Terry **Location:** Trumbull County CSB

Objectives:

- Identify attachment related issues in foster and adoptive children.
- Understand the definitions, types, causes and consequences of attachment disorders.
- Identify what happens if children are left untreated and the importance of the correct treatment.

WORKING WITH BIRTH PARENTS – MAKING IT A POSITIVE FOR EVERYONE - 928

Date: Thursday, March 8, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Facilitator: Sherry Doherty **Location:** Trumbull County CSB

Objectives:

- Understand the importance of the birth parent in the child's life.
- Understand the importance of visitation and the foster parent's role in visitation.
- Identify interventions to use when working with the birth parent.

PEELING BACK THE LAYERS:

SEEING PAST OUR CHILDREN'S DEFENSE MECHANISMS – 952-13

(This class will include a finger painting activity.

Participants should dress accordingly or bring a paint shirt.)

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Facilitator: Beth Philley **Location:** Trumbull County CSB

Objectives:

- Learn about defense mechanisms and how and why they are formed.
- Understand why foster children are likely to use defense mechanisms and the function they serve.
- Identify strategies to see past the defense mechanisms their children may be using and how to help develop mature and healthy defenses.

ADOLESCENTS IN FOSTER CARE AND EMOTIONAL RESILIENCY - 941

Date: Saturday, March 24, 2012 **Time:** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Facilitator: Lisa Dickson **Location:** Trumbull County CSB

Objectives:

- Understand the need to develop boundaries, emotional health and the skills to build lifelong relationships.
- Gain awareness about the high rate of PTSD experienced by former foster children, and review an overview of symptoms associated with PTSD.
- Learn tools to illustrate boundaries and to map out a circle of supportive relationships for teenagers in foster care.
- Gain insights into the benefits and methods of involving adolescents in foster care as active agents in the healing process.

REAL LIFE 101:

PREPARING ADOLESCENTS IN FOSTER CARE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING – 941-20

Date: Saturday, March 24, 2012 **Time:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Facilitator: Lisa Dickson **Location:** Trumbull County CSB

Objectives:

- Explore the risk factors, resources and national best practices related to young people “aging out” of care.
- Identify activities including *Personal Mission Statement, Life Management Plan, Bridge to the Future and Ladder to Success*.
- Identify paths that young people can take to map out a successful adulthood.

