

Caregiver Connection

APRIL 2016

A monthly publication for Washington State foster and adoptive families and relative caregivers produced by the Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration and the Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence.



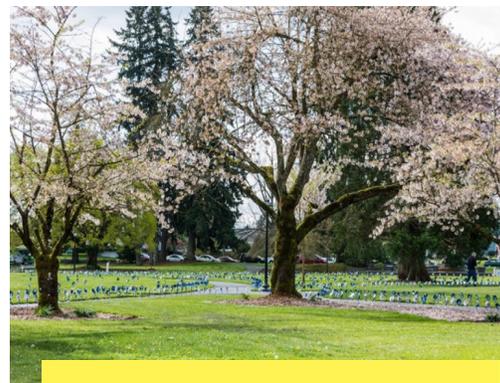
First Lady Trudi Inslee joined about two dozen volunteers to plant pinwheels on the Capitol Campus March 31

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



By Bob Partlow
Former foster parent

"If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to abuse one."



Pinwheels on the Washington State Capitol Campus -- Photo courtesy of ThurstonTalk

Those words are taken from the Oscar-winning movie, "Spotlight," a powerful, moving account of child sexual abuse by Catholic priests in Boston, and of the journalists who exposed the story to the world. It tells the true story of a small group of people – in this case, reporters – relentlessly pursuing a story of massive child abuse in their city, seeking to right the wrongs of a system of abuse well-known to many but swept under the rug for decades. It is a story all too familiar to those who work to keep our children safe, those who have personally witnessed the horror of child abuse written on the faces of its young victims. And it is not limited to the Roman Catholic Church, but is present in most every institution where children are in the power of adults.

One of the most disturbing parts of the movie comes at the end, when screen after screen lists the cities and countries where this kind of sexual abuse has been documented, a horrifying, huge list that can only record the hundreds of locations, not the thousands or millions of individual s who are victims.

But we know these young people. Theirs are the young lives who fill our homes, wrench our hearts, challenge our souls and test our resolve but who, ultimately, if we are successful, renew our faith in the resilience of the human spirit.

We also know without being shown that what happens to these most vulnerable among us is not confined to one city, one country, one institution or one occupation. This month, pinwheels will be planted, symbolizing the individual children in our society who have suffered abuse. All the pinwheels planted cannot possibly begin to convey the breadth of the abuse problem.

It is as far-reaching as the countless young girls who are kidnapped and coerced into sex slavery across the globe. And it is as individual as one parent viewing his or her child as property, beating that child mercilessly behind the closed doors of homes in neighborhoods, rich and poor.

Worldwide, we are swamped in a sea of human suffering, a tsunami of

human wreckage washing up on all our shores that can make us cry out in anguish the Breton Fisherman's prayer, "Oh, God, thy sea is so great and my ship is so small."

But no matter the vastness of the ocean or the size of our ship, those who have volunteered to be the voices of the voiceless and the defenders of the defenseless have all committed to these children, to ourselves, to our village – to our common humanity – that we will pledge our lives to help save theirs.

We are their human pinwheels, the living symbols of what must be done to prevent child abuse. And we know the urgency of the task before us. Tattooed on all our hearts are the words of one former foster child:

"We can't wait one more day to keep one more child from being abused or neglected."

For all of us, that is a message that resonates 365 days a year, not just 30 days in April.

OH BROTHER, IT'S ALMOST NATIONAL SIBLING DAY



Across the United States, 80 percent of people have at least one sibling and it's nearly time to remember these special people in our lives. April 10 is celebrated annually as National Sibling Day, a day to remember and reconnect with our brothers and sisters.

The day was started nationally in the 1990s by Claudia Evert, who lost both of her siblings when they were quite young. The importance of siblings and sibling connections has been stressed for two decades by Lynn Price, who founded Camp To Belong, a nationwide organization, 21 years ago and who has received numerous national awards for her work. Lynn was motivated by her own life experience. She was only 8 and living in foster care when she came home one day and met the sister she never knew she had.

Each of the 11 camps in the United States, including Washington's, brings together siblings separated by foster, relative or adoptive care.

Price and others who promote sibling connection note that brothers and sisters are usually our longest life connections. Our parents die before us and our children live on after we die. Those with whom we travel life's path together, our siblings, teach us lifelong lessons.

"Growing up with siblings is where we learn unconditional love and how to interact with others," Price said. "Think of the phrases 'he started it' or 'it's my turn to sit by the window' and you can hear the age-old message of both sibling rivalry and sibling growth."

Brothers and sisters entering the child welfare system from an abusive or neglectful home often have had only each other to rely on for support. Separating them when they are removed leads to yet one more trauma in their lives.

Price says two people who were part of early camps in the 1990s have reminded her of the lifetime effects of sibling separation.

"We often talk about the effects of sibling separation when you are young and separated from your siblings," she said. "What you don't know is the impact it is going to have on you later in life."

She said she picked up the phone one day and heard crying on the other end – one of the first campers she'd ever had crying about what was now happening in her life.

Such events as planning a funeral for your parents or thinking about birthday parties that were never held with your siblings because you were separated can leave unhealed wounds.

"How do you get past those voids in memories?" Price asked.

Camp To Belong helps ease the effects of such painful separation, and for the 11th year, separated siblings can reconnect at Washington's camp.

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Camp To Belong Washington will be **Aug. 22-27 at Miracle Ranch in Port Orchard.** It is

free, sponsored by Foster Family Connections, with financial and logistical support from Children's

Administration and many private individuals and groups.

- Separated siblings ages 8-18 are eligible for camp. Applications can be made by social workers, caregivers, the potential camper or others. One hundred camper spots are available.

- The camper-to-counselor ration is about 2-1. In addition to the usual summer camp activities, several specially designed events and activities build happy sibling memories for campers to share in the future, helping to ease the painful memories siblings often have.

Applications for both campers and counselors can be found at

www.fosterfamilyconnections.org.



THE COURT EXPERIENCE

One judge talks about the importance of caregivers coming to proceedings

Judges often like to hear directly from caregivers. They have a legal right to be in court and be heard, says Kitsap County Court Commissioner Thurman Lowans, who is retiring this month after 22 years on the bench.

"I like them to come to court," he said of caregivers. "What I want to hear from them is how the kids are."

His experience tells him that about 60 percent of caregivers come to court, despite the fact they are usually not familiar with courtroom procedures and can find the process somewhat intimidating.

Lowans says he usually begins talking with caregivers by asking a general question to get the conversation started: "Is there anything you want me to know?"

That often sparks a general response, such as, "The kids are doing fine."

He then probes deeper: "What are the child's challenges at school? Did (the child) make it to the last dental appointment? Are there any mental or other health issues I should know about?"

That usually gets the spigot of information flowing, he says. Court reports are fine, Lowans said, but he can get a much better feel for how a child is doing in care by hearing and watching the caregivers tell their day-to-day stories.

"People's answers (on the caregiver's written reports) are a lot like taking a test in school," he said.

In court, however, he can watch their body language and hear the tone of their words when a caregiver talks to him in person. These are skills he has honed over the years.

"I tell people, 'Never play poker with a commissioner because they have developed a knack for hearing the truth,'" he chuckled.

Lowans tries to humanize the process as much as possible, he said.

"A lot of times, I will encourage (caregivers) to bring the kids," he said. "And I encourage them to bring pictures."

Sharing pictures of a recent picnic or birthday party, for example, can help show the biological parents what is



Kitsap County Court Commissioner
Thurman Lowans

happening in the life of their child. And there is another key reason he likes to have children present in court.

"It also reminds people we are talking about a real person here," Lowans said. "You get better information – you have made a connection, there is no filter." He added that as judges, "We're sometimes seen as living in this big ivory tower making these decisions. This helps us make better decisions."

PARTNER THE PARROT SAYS: "TELL THE COURT HOW KIDS ARE DOING"

Partner the Parrot reminds you to watch for the next court date for kids in your care – or ask for the date from your child's social worker – so you can provide current information to the judge about how the child is doing. As a child's day-to-day caregiver, you have the best current information about him or her. Sharing it with the court helps the judge make the best decisions about the child.

The court hearing is your best chance to tell the judge – who has final say over a child's case – what you see in the life of that child, how she/he has improved and what would help you help the child.

Don't know when your foster child's next court hearing will be? Make a point to ask the child's case worker at your next health and safety visit – or email the worker and ask for the date. The court date is on the first page of the child's court report, which is prepared two weeks prior to the hearing.

You can submit comments in writing for the hearing by using the caregiver report to the court form. We also encourage you to come to court whenever possible. However, the judge determines who will speak at the hearings.

Thank you!





COURT: JUST THE FAQs

One of the most important tasks you can perform on behalf of children in your care is to make your voice heard at the regular court hearings that assess how the child is doing and plot a path for their future.

Some of the questions about attending court or having your voice heard are answered in the “Frequently Asked Questions” section of the Children’s Administration Foster Parenting online page, <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fp-faq>

The page also includes valuable information about many other subjects of interest to caregivers, such as how to get in touch with your social worker, training information, latest policies and policy changes and much more. It is a great resource for caregivers.

On the subject of getting your voice heard in court, here are some pointers from the FAQs.

Q. Should I attend court? Often I feel like the worker is discouraging me from attending.

A. Caregivers are encouraged to attend and are welcome at the child’s court hearings. Caregivers are entitled to notice of the child’s scheduled hearings. Caregivers are usually most interested in the six-month reviews and the 12-month permanency hearings. We understand it may not always be possible for you to attend, due to your work schedule or other caregiving needs. It is also important to know that long wait times are not uncommon at court.

Many of the dependency courts schedule multiple hearings at the same time. The court then decides which hearings will go first. Sometimes there can be a lengthy wait for your foster child’s hearing (which may only last about 10 minutes). Sometimes the court continues the child’s hearing to another date. Whether you attend the hearing or not, we encourage all caregivers to complete a Caregiver Report to the Court form and provide it to the child’s assigned worker about 10 days prior to the hearing, or take it with you for distribution at the court hearing. Obtain the Caregivers Report to Court form at www.dshs.wa.gov/fsa/forms?field_number_value=15-313&title

Q. How do I learn when the child’s court hearing is scheduled?

A. As a caregiver, you are entitled to know about the date and time of the child’s court hearings. Here are some ways you can learn when the court hearing is scheduled:

- When the child is first placed with you, let the assigned worker know you need the court date.
- Ask the assigned worker for the date and time of the next hearing at the child’s next health and safety visit.
- When you receive a copy of the child’s Court Report, check the front page; the date of the next hearing is printed there.
- If you attend the court review hearings, the court sets the date and time for the next review during the hearing itself.

You can submit your information to the court using the Caregiver’s Report to the Court or you can write your observations in whatever way you feel comfortable and submit these to the court directly or through the child’s social worker.

FEDERAL PROGRAM HELPS FOSTER CARE YOUTH WITH SCHOOL COSTS

Application deadline is April 30

The Education and Training Voucher Program, informally known as ETV, is a federally funded program to help current and former foster care youth pay for the cost of attending an accredited college, university, vocational or technical college.

Applications are being accepted through April 30.

Who is eligible?

Current and former Washington foster care youth may be eligible for assistance if they meet any one of the following criteria:

- They are between the ages of 16 and 20, currently in a dependency action in a Washington state or tribal court, in the care and custody of the Department of Social and Health Services or Tribal Child Welfare Agency, and in foster care.

- They are between the ages of 18 and 20 and they exited state or tribal foster care because they reached the age of majority.

- They were adopted or entered a relative guardianship on or after the age of 16 to 20. How do I apply or help someone apply?

Go to the ETV page on the independence.wa.gov website.

Youth can apply online for:

- The Education and Training Voucher Program.

- The Passport to College Foster Promise Scholarship Program.

Applicants also must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and should do so as soon as possible after Jan. 1 for the upcoming academic year. To complete the FAFSA, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov/

For questions, contact Kathy Ramsay, ETV Program Manager, at 360-902-7990;

kathy.ramsay@dshs.wa.gov

BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT – TECHNOLOGY IS YOUR FRIEND



So you're thinking about becoming a foster parent – or you already are licensed and know someone else who might be interested.

Getting started and connecting to people to help guide you through the system these days is much easier than you might think.

Since 2008, Washington has worked in partnership with Northwest Resource Associates (NWRRA) to build a front-end system that gets potential foster parents the information they need right away and then works to help track them through the licensing process.

The system is called the Statewide Recruitment Information Center. It has been developed to make the process easier for potential foster parents to get started from the first call or click, said Bob Hunner, executive director of NWRRA, which holds the contract with Children's Administration.

The first step of the process is completing the online questionnaire or a phone call, Hunner said. Call 1-888-KIDS-414 or click on this link to fill out a short questionnaire: <https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/f2ws03apps/cafptrainingpub/ca/fosterparents/questionnaire.asp>

"We don't want people to get lost at the beginning," he said.

NWRRA is developing a list of frequently asked questions about becoming a foster parent that will be accessible on the NWRRA website. Children's Administration also has a current list of frequently asked questions on this link: www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/becoming-foster-parent/faq.

Once a potential foster parent fills out a questionnaire, it is sent electronically to the recruitment center. From there, it is automatically routed to designated current or former foster parents who

work for two agencies who contract with the state to recruit and support foster parents.

In western Washington, those people are called "foster parent liaisons," and they work for Fostering Together, a branch of Olive Crest.

In eastern Washington, they bear the name "Resource Peer Mentors (RPMs)" and work for Fostering Washington, a part of Eastern Washington University. As experienced foster parents, the liaisons or mentors can answer questions about the experience of being a foster parent.

Each new inquiry is assigned to a specific liaison or mentor, who then makes contact with the potential foster parent, helping them gather information and giving them a roadmap through the process.

These contacts are made within the first 24 to 48 hours by phone or email. If there is a delay, those who inquired can call NWRRA, which will contact either Fostering Together or Fostering Washington, Hunner said.

"We get about 475 people inquiring a month," Hunner said. A typical month will find about 400 people inquiring through the questionnaire; another 75-100 call. That is about double the number who were inquiring when the system was established eight years ago.

He said outside influences can affect the number of calls. For instance, a Seattle Times story drove the number of inquiries this January to 800, the highest total ever.

Orientation is required and is the first step in becoming licensed. The liaisons and mentors can direct potential foster parents to an in-person orientation to learn more.

In a recent development, potential foster parents can choose to take the orientation online, making it easier to fit into their life.

To learn more about orientation, click

on <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/foster-parenting/training-requirements>.

It is important to note that all information provided to either Northwest Resource Associates or to the liaisons and RPMs is confidential. Legally, it cannot be shared with anyone not working for these agencies.

One of the great things about the information collected is that it is assembled into a database run by NWRRA. The database provides the state and its contractors with information about how far specific individuals have progressed through the system.

As it develops further, information extracted from the database will be able to show those places in the licensing process where potential foster parents most often drop out.

The database also will be able to show how many of the 475 people who inquire monthly become licensed and how long the process took them. It is a technology-driven system with a strong human touch, unlike any other in the United States, and it is getting attention from people who want to replicate it, Hunner said.

"We are putting together a plan to share this with other states," he said.





CHANGES TO YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH CARE BEGIN THIS MONTH

The new Apple Health Care Connections program is beginning this month. Below are some of the Frequently Asked Questions about it. It is important for caregivers to understand the changes that are beginning this month.

To see the complete list of FAQs, go to www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/CA/fos/documents/AppleHealthFosterCare-FAQ.pdf.

Q. Who will be enrolled automatically into this new program?

- Children and youth in out-of-home dependencies (foster care placement).
- Youth in extended foster care under age 21.
- Children and youth receiving adoption support (without comparable private health insurance. If a child has other private, full medical insurance they will remain in fee-for-service).
- Young adults between 18 and 26 years old who were in foster care on their 18th birthday, or were older than 18 when they left the foster care program.

• Alaska Native and American Indian children and youth in foster care, who can choose to enroll in the AHFC program but who will not be automatically enrolled.

Q. What do I need to do?

Caregivers and caseworkers do not need to take any action. The child or youth should have received a "Welcome to Apple Health Foster Care" handbook letter from the Health Care Authority with basic information about the changes and the Apple Health Care Connections Program.

For members currently on other managed care plans, Coordinated Care of Washington (the insurer) will work with these plans to transition the child's care to the new program. Coordinated Care is mailing new member packets this month. Look for a bright lime green envelope. Coordinated Care also will be calling caregivers to review the information, answer questions about managed care, and have a brief discussion about the child's current health care needs and providers.

Q. Why is this change happening?

In 2013, the Washington State Legislature required the Health Care Authority to move children in fee-for-service Medicaid (Provider One) into a managed care plan. Through a competitive bidding process, the Health Care Authority selected Coordinated Care as the statewide managed-care plan to provide Apple Health Care Connections services.

Q: Will my child be able to keep the same providers they have now?

Keeping the child's current provider is extremely important. Coordinated Care is seeking contracts or already has contracts

with providers in your community that deliver physical health care, behavioral health care and related services to children and youth covered by the new program.

* To see if your child's provider is currently contracted with Coordinated Care, go to: <http://apps.coordinatedcarehealth.com/findadoc/showNetwork?prodlid=1874>.

* To tell Coordinated Care about a provider you want to make sure is in their network send an email to: joinfostercarenetwork@coordinatedcare.com.

Q: Do I throw away my child's Provider One card, and only use the Coordinated Care Member ID card?

No. Both cards are used to verify eligibility for health care services.

Q: Were foster parents, child advocates and medical providers consulted about these changes?

Yes. Many stakeholders were included in the creation of this new program. Feedback was solicited by the Health Care Authority and Coordinated Care in their efforts to build the best program for Washington's children and families.

Staff from the Health Care Authority, DSHS Children's Administration and Coordinated Care are traveling around the state (both in person and via teleconference) to meet with stakeholders, including caregivers, CA staff and health care providers impacted by this new program. They also will be able to provide information and answer questions.

Questions about the changes can be sent to hcamcprograms@hca.wa.gov or CAmanagedcare@dshs.wa.gov.

VACCINATION: HEALTHY AND NECESSARY, DESPITE THE MYTHS



By Dr. Michelle Terry
Medical Consultant to Children's Administration

In 1998, Dr. Andrew Wakefield caused an earthquake in the medical community when he published an article in a respected medical journal, Lancet, linking vaccines to autism. After years of controversy, it was discovered Wakefield's research was not based on statistics, but relied solely on people's memories, and made vague conclusions.

Worldwide, other physicians did independent reviews of millions of children who had had vaccines, and no links between autism and vaccines could be found. By 2004, Lancet published a retraction stating Wakefield had falsified all the facts, and he subsequently lost his license to practice medicine because of his unprofessional conduct.

Yet the vilification of vaccines survives. Myths persist that vaccines contain toxic chemicals and are propagated by pharmaceutical companies to make money.

The truth is that vaccines help eradicate diseases, and save millions of lives by preventing deaths, primarily in children. Immunizations help keep you, your family and your community from contracting diseases for which there are no medicinal cures.

Please note that immunizations are required for all children in foster care unless there is a specific contraindication to vaccination documented by a physician. Schools also require children be immunized prior to enrollment, also with few exemptions.

Because children do not receive most of their primary immunizations until approximately two years of age, it is especially important that family members also be fully vaccinated.

The immunization schedules as published by the Centers for Disease Control can be seen at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>.

The Washington State Childhood Vaccine Program provides vaccine to all kids younger than 19 years of age. The program uses a combination of federal and state funds to purchase vaccines. State and local public health offices help providers enroll in the program, order vaccines and meet program requirements. Please seek advice from your child's medical provider when you look for more information on vaccines, because prevention is the best cure.

ANNUAL CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE AND NIGHT OF SHINING STARS

Make reservations now for the seventh annual Pacific Northwest Caregivers Conference,



May 13-15 at Great Wolf Lodge south of Olympia.

Training, networking, basket giveaways and a toy giveaway hosted by Santa will highlight the conference, which is sponsored by the Foster Parents Association of Washington State.

To highlight the great work being done by many people in child welfare throughout the state, the seventh annual Night of Shining Stars Banquet and Award Ceremony will take place during the conference – at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 14. You are encouraged to nominate social workers from around the state who you believe have done an outstanding job.

Full information about the conference as well as nomination forms for the Night of Shining Stars can be found at the association website, www.fpaws.org. If you are planning to bring children, be sure to sign up for Kids Kamp or Toddler Kamp as soon as possible. Forms are available on the website and must be approved beforehand.

Child care will be available at no charge. More details are available at the FPAWS website, www.fpaws.org.

IF IT'S SPRING, IT'S TIME FOR WE ARE FAMILY DAY 2016

On Sunday, May 1, the Seattle Mariners invite foster and adoptive families, relative caregivers, DSHS staff, tribes, private child-placing agency staff, our community partners and their friends and family to Safeco Field in Seattle for the eighth annual We Are Family Day.

The event recognizes May as National Foster Care Month as well as Kinship Caregiver Day May 18. It honors caregivers who make a difference in the lives of children as well as those who work each day to support them.

We Are Family Day is a three-part event.

The doors of Safeco Field's Ellis Pavilion will open at 9:30 a.m. for a short caregiver recognition program from 10 to 11 a.m. Among the speakers will be **First Lady Mrs. Inslee**, along with alumni of foster care, who will share how caregivers made a difference in their lives. Drawings for amazing door prizes and caregiver giveaways are part of the fun, as is free popcorn.

Come meet the Mariner Moose! And 10 lucky individuals will be randomly chosen to have their picture taken on the field with a Mariners player.

Then, at 11:10 a.m., children are invited to walk the warning track on the field.

At 1:10 p.m., the game gets underway, with the Mariners taking on the Kansas City Royals, 2015 World Series Champions.

The Mariners once again are offering exceptionally low ticket prices for this game. Seats are \$12 for the 300-level and \$29 for the 100-level. Everyone who attends the game also receives a free Mariner t-shirt.

All DSHS staff, tribes, child-placing agency staff, our community partners, along with their family and friends, may purchase tickets at the same price as caregivers at the team's We Are Family website, www.Mariners.com/WeAreFamily. Tickets for the event must be purchased online no later than noon on Friday, April 29. The price is not available at the door of the ballpark. For more information, view the flyer at www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/CA/fos/documents/WeAreFamily2016.pdf.

Tickets are selling quickly – don't wait to get yours!

For further information, please contact Meri Waterhouse, (360) 902-8035 or meri.waterhouse@dshs.wa.gov



MORE GOOD NEWS FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS!

In honor of Kinship Caregiver Day, kinship caregivers will be able to stay at Great Wolf Lodge near Olympia from May 17-20 at a discounted rate.

Contact your Kinship Navigator (list is on the More Resources page) for further information about the rates.

State Park Passes and Seattle Aquarium Passes

Free state park passes are available for foster parents and relatives caring for children in state custody. The same is true for use of the Seattle Aquarium.

You can use your foster care license or card for access to the parks. You must have the foster care wallet card to access the aquarium. Relative-caregivers can obtain a card through the worker who is your home study writer in the Division of Licensed Resources.

Relative caregivers whose relative children are not placed with them through Children's Administration can obtain a pass card from their local Kinship Navigator or Kinship Support Programs.

If you have questions about obtaining a card, please contact:

Christie Boyd at: boydcha@dshs.wa.gov or 360-902-7653.

You can learn more about parks in the system at www.parks.wa.gov.

For more information about those passes, go to www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/CA/fos/documents/CCSEPT15.pdf.



COLLEGE SUCCESS FOUNDATION

MAKE IT HAPPEN! 2016

The dates and location have been set for Make It Happen!, the three-day, two-night summer experience for foster youth transitioning into college.

The event, sponsored by the College Success Foundation, will be June 28-30 at Pacific Lutheran University in Parkland.

For more information:

www.collegesuccessfoundation.org
or 425-213-5888.

Don't forget to "like" the College Success Foundation on Facebook.

CARD SAMPLES



IS A RELATIVE RAISING CHILDREN
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE
EXPIRATION DATE

State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
THIS CERTIFIES THAT

IS AN UNLICENSED CAREGIVER WITH
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
Department of Social and Health Services
Children's Administration

Authorizing Signature

June 30, 2016
Expiration Date

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WHEN YOU NEED HELP WITH AN ISSUE, REACH OUT TO YOUR 1624 CONSULTATION TEAM MEMBER

Wondering who to turn to when you have an unresolved concern or problem related to foster care?

A consultation team that enables foster parent representatives to bring issues before high-level Children's Administration leaders was established through a provision in a 2007 state law.

That team, known as the Children's Administration Foster Parent Consultation Team (1624 Team), includes four representatives from each of the state's three regions (two from the north area and two from the south area). Team members were elected in late 2015.

In Region 1 North, centered in the Spokane area, all the spots are vacant. (Contact information is listed below if you're interested in serving as the representative.)

The statewide team meets quarterly.

Regional team meetings also take place quarterly. Here is contact information for the team:

Foster Parent Association of Washington State Representatives

Beth Canfield
bethcanfield@comcast.net
(360) 990-1011, cell;
(360) 377-1011, home

Mike Canfield
mkbeth@comcast.net
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(360) 377-1011, home

Team Representatives

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(206) 856-1508

Yosef Banai
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(425) 378-1625

Region 3 North
Michael Thomas
mlthomas253@hotmail.com
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ashleigh.barraza@yahoo.com
(619) 847-8370

Region 3 South
Vacant

Amy Gardner
michaelamy52@msn.com
(360) 200-2102

Region 3 South Alternative
Cara Leyshon
caraleyshon@hotmail.com
(360) 440-5629 (c)



Do you have a story idea or topic you'd like to see addressed in the Caregiver Connection.

Have you seen a helpful article on caregiving you'd like to share more widely?

Please pass your ideas or articles to Bob Partlow:

bpartlow1970@hotmail.com;

Tel: 360-539-7863.

Additional *Resources*



Washington State's Kinship Navigators

Helping grandparents and relatives raising children

Locate information, resources, and a link to your local Kinship Navigator for support at:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/kinship-care-support-services>

Foster Intervention Retention and Support Team

FIRST

Offers neutral third party advice and support for foster parents when dealing with allegations or a licensing violation.

ALL FOSTER PARENTS STATE-WIDE PLEASE CALL:
253-219-6782

Email:
FIRST@olivecrest.org

Coordinated Care

New health plan managed care for Apple Health Foster Care.

Apple Health Core Connections is designed for:

- Children and youth in foster care
- Children and youth in adoption support
- Young adults in extended foster care (18-21 year olds)
- Young adults 18-26 who aged out of foster care on or after their 18th birthday

Contact information: 1-844-354-9876 (TTD/TTY: 711)

For eligibility, please contact the Health Care Authority Foster Care Medical Team at 1-800-562-3022 ext. 15480.

FPAWS

Foster Parent Association of Washington State FPAWS is an all volunteer, non-profit association, led by experienced caregivers who provide support and helpful services to all caregivers (foster, adoptive, and kinship) in Washington State.

Contact FPAWS at

www.fpaws.org

1- 800-391-CARE (2273).

FOSTER PARENT AND CAREGIVER CRISIS AND SUPPORT LINE:

1-800-301-1868

Foster Care Critical Support and Retention Program

This program was developed to help retain foster parents who care for sexually reactive children, physically assaultive children, or children with other high-risk behaviors. Short term therapeutic and educational interventions are available to help support the stability of the placement.

This service is free of charge and is provided through Olive Crest. Contact the child's worker if a referral would help you in handling the behaviors of the child in your home.

If you would like to learn more about the available services contact Jasmine Hodges Olive Crest's Critical Support Clinician

425-1612 ext. 1356 or

Jasmine-Hodges@olivecrest.org

Additional *Resources*



The Mockingbird Society's mission is to empower foster and homeless youth with the tools of advocacy to make positive changes within the foster care system.



They produce a newspaper, set up constellations of homes for foster parents to connect, and use the power of the voices of youth to advocate for positive changes in the child welfare system.

Visit them at

www.mockingbirdsociety.org



This nationwide organization is based in Issaquah and lists its mission is "to provide students with the inspiration, mentoring, counseling and financial support they need to help navigate their individual path to college completion. We do everything in our power to help our students persist and succeed."

The foundation offers a number of scholarships, including the Governor's Scholarship for Foster Youth, and runs the annual summer Make It Happen! experience to better prepare young people for college.

Read more at

www.collegesuccessfoundation.org



Based in King County, Treehouse serves more than 8,000 foster youth each year. Services are tailored to help them graduate from high school with a plan for their future.

Through educational and financial support, the organization also serves caregivers, helping them navigate the challenges and opportunities of fostering and provide the best possible experience for the youth in their care.

See their website at

www.treehouseforkids.org

Meet Our Recruitment Partners

Who Support You

Children's Administration (CA) works in partnership with two separate agencies to provide foster parent recruitment and retention / support services to prospective foster parents, current foster parents and relative caregivers in all areas of Washington. Our goals are to:

- Increase the numbers of safe, quality foster families to meet the diverse needs of children and youth placed in out-of-home care in Washington State, and
- Offer support to foster parents and relative caregivers

Prospective foster parents are welcome to license through either CA's Division of Licensed Resources (DLR), or any private child placing agency licensed in Washington. Our recruitment partners serve all families, regardless of where they choose to become licensed.



Olive Crest's Fostering Together program supports the west side of the state (Regions 2 and 3) through foster care Liaisons.

Eastern Washington University's Fostering Washington program supports (Region 1) the east side of the state through Resource Peer Mentors (RPMs),



The Liaisons or RPMs provide information, help and guidance for you from your first inquiry, through training, and throughout the licensing process to become foster parents. Liaisons and RPMs both answer questions and share helpful information during your foster care journey. They offer:

- Support at your first placement,
- Support groups , (some with training hours available and some provide a meal and / or child care)
- Mentoring,
- Training, and
- On-line Facebook groups

All supports are designed with our caregivers in mind. We want to help you connect with other caregivers, obtain additional training, and find answers to questions. Both Olive Crest and Eastern Washington University offer information and referral services to foster parents and relative caregivers. The regional liaisons or peer mentors also help resolve issues foster parents may experience in their local area. Contact the liaison or RPM listed for your area with any questions you might have.



EWU's Staff List

Region 1:



Last Name	First Name	Email	Counties	Phone
Boorman	Lisa	lboorman@ewu.edu	Grant, Adams	(208) 484-5725
Christensen	Jennifer	jchristensen6@ewu.edu	Walla Walla, Columbia	(509) 629-1262
Flowers	Meaghan	mflowers1@ewu.edu	Spokane, Lincoln	(509) 991-9692
Harris	Ruth	rharri28@ewu.edu	Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille	(509) 675-8888
Muse	Mon Ra'	mmuse@ewu.edu Assistant Director	Spokane, Whitman, Garfield, Asotin	(509) 359-0791
Morehead	LeDeana	lmorehead@ewu.edu	Chelan, Douglas	(509) 670-7270
Powers	Druska (Dru)	dpowers@ewu.edu First Program Manager	R1 North and South	(509) 230-9608
Sherman	Amber	asherman4@ewu.edu Regional Coordinator	Spokane, Pend Orielle, Stevens, Ferry	(425) 422-6557
White	Wendy	wwhite@ewu.edu	Chelan, Douglas	(509) 731-2060
Hancock	Windy	whancok2@ewu.edu	Richland, Benton	(509) 528-6392 (h) (509) 322-1191 (c)
Curbow	Staci	surbow@ewu.edu	Kennewick, Benton	(509) 308-2950 (h) (509) 308-2950 (c)
Crossley	Cheryl	ccrossley1@ewu.edu	Zillah - Yakima	(509) 985-7038
Acosta	Mirna	amirna@ewu.edu	Yakima – Yakima (Spanish speaking)	(509) 307-3628
Lesley	Molly	mohallor@ewu.edu	Spokane – Spokane	(509) 326-6250
Moon	Lori	lmoon4@ewu.edu	Sunnyside – Yakima	(509) 882-4996
Rogers	Linda	lrogers13@ewu.edu	Spokane - Spokane	(509) 389-7192
Cammack	Heather	hcammack24@ewu.edu	Colfax – Whitman	(509) 288-0207
Thompson	Karen	kthomps9@ewu.edu	Spokane – Spokane Valley	(509) 230-4668
Bludau	Melike	mbludau@ewu.edu	Spokane - Spokane	(509) 714-7728
Farnsworth	Chrystal	cfarnsworth1@ewu.edu	Cle Elum - Kittitas	(509) 304-7000
Tajeda	Brittney	btejeda@ewu.edu	Richland - Benton	(509) 438-9608
Stoebner	Hayley	hstoebner@ewu.edu Regional Coordinator	Leavenworth - Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan	(509) 322-1191 (c)
Whitworth	Tyann	twhitworth@ewu.edu Regional Coordinator	Yakima, Kittitas, Klickitat, Columbia, Walla Walla, Franklin, Benton	(509) 731-2060

Olive Crest's Fostering Together Liaisons: Region 2:

Last Name	First Name	Email	Counties	Phone
Crow	Shala	Shala-Crow@olivecrest.org Program Director	Region 2	360- 220-3785
Parra	Deena	Deena-Parra@olivecrest.org Staff Support	Region 2	360-572-4271
McClure	Leilani	Leilani-McClure@olivecrest.org	NE King County	425-681-2094
Smith	CeCe	cece-smith@olivecrest.org	South King County	509-201-7069
Anderson	Maia	Maia-anderson@olivecrest.org	King West County, MLK, White Center	425-346-8336
Harp	Megan	Megan-Harp@olivecrest.org	Smokey Point	425-350-3839
Buckles	Summer	Summer-Buckles@olivecrest.org	Everett, Sky Valley and Lynnwood	425-830-9400
Pitts-Long	Angela	Angela-Pitts-Long@olivecrest.org	Central District	425-614-6176
Uratsun	Christina	Christina-Urtasun@olivecrest.org	Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom	360-720-0969

Olive Crest's Fostering Together Liaisons: Region 3:

Last Name	First Name	Email	Counties	Phone
Marshel	Leeann	Leeann-marshel@olivecrest.org Regional Director	Region 3 Coordinator	360-909-0421
Fowler	Michelle	Michelle-Fowler@olivecrest.org	Support Assistant for Region 3	360-772-1955
Thompson	Erika	Erika-Thompson@olivecrest.org	Pierce	206-406-2398
Johns	Jeanie	Jeanie-Johns@olivecrest.org	Kitsap	360-265-3398
Hatzenbuehler	Niki	Niki-Hatzenbuehler@olivecrest.org	Mason and Thurston	253-219-3355
Cortani	Linda	Linda-Cortani@olivecrest.org	Jefferson and Clallam	360-640-0869
Mitchell	Tristan	Tristan-mitchell@olivecrest.org	Grays Harbor & Pacific	360-581-3590
Vacant			Lewis, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum	
Glover	Kim	Kim-Gover@olivecrest.org	Clark and Skamania	360-433-7150



Caregiver Training

The Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence provides training for foster parents, relatives, and prospective adoptive parents who are providing care to children placed in their homes by the Children's Administration.

The Course Schedule provides easy access to scheduled trainings in your community.

For any questions, please email registration@allianceforchildwelfare.org

For caregivers that do not have a computer or need assistance registering for classes, the Alliance has registrars available to help you, including a Spanish speaking registrar.

For assistance, please call 1-866-577-1915 and leave a message for a registrar in your Region.

A registrar will contact you and help you with your registration.



As always, let us know if you are seeking training that we are not providing!

Some of the trainings we have coming up in April from experts include:

“Verbal De-Escalation” on April 5 at 9 AM in Yakima.

“Why Children Lie” on April 12 at 5:30 PM in Kent.

“Enhancing Resiliency and Safety for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth” on April 19 at 9 AM in Spokane.

“Internet Usage and Safety: Social Networking 101 for Caregivers” on April 13 at 5:30 PM in Vancouver.

To register for a course you can visit our website at:

www.allianceforchildwelfare.org and click on the Course Schedule.

REGION	NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
R1 Spokane & surrounding areas	Jan Hinkle-Rodriguez, Supervisor	janh5@uw.edu	509-836-5499
	Leon Covington, Trainer	leonc44@uw.edu	509-846-8641
	Renee Siers, Trainer	siersr@uw.edu	509-363-3399
	Kebbie Green, Registrar		1-866-577-1915
R1 Yakima, Tri-Cities, Ellensburg & surrounding areas	Jan Hinkle-Rodriguez, Supervisor	janh5@uw.edu	509-836-5499
	Ryan Krueger, Trainer	krry300@uw.edu	509-358-3096
	Patty Orona	po5@uw.edu	509-225-7927
	Eileen Angier, Registrar		1-866-577-1915
	Maria Amaya, Registrar – Spanish (Español)		1-866-577-1915
R2 Seattle Metro Area	Yolonda Marzest, Supervisor	ymarzest@uw.edu	206-923-4955
	El-Freda Stephenson, Trainer	elfreda@uw.edu	206-923-4922
	Cara Mbaye, Trainer	mbayec@uw.edu	206-923-4914
	Janice Jackson, Registrar		1-866-577-1915
R2 Bellingham, Everett, Mount Vernon & surrounding areas	Yolonda Marzest, Supervisor	ymarzest@uw.edu	206-923-4955
	Julie Gelo, Trainer	jkg@uw.edu	425-339-1811
	Joan Sager, Trainer	sagerj2@uw.edu	360-594-6744
	Julie Kerr, Registrar		1-866-577-1915
R3 Tacoma, Bremerton, Puyallup & surrounding areas.	Arthur Fernandez-Scarberry, Supervisor	sart300@uw.edu	206-276-4549
	Gracia Hahn, Trainer	hahng@uw.edu	253-983-6362
	Luanne Hawley, Registrar		1-866-577-1915
R3 Tumwater, Olympia, Centralia, Long Beach, South Bend, & surrounding areas.	Penny Michel, Trainer	mpen300@uw.edu	360-725-6788
R3 Clallam County and Jefferson County	Robert Judd, Trainer	juddre@uw.edu	
R3 Aberdeen, South Bend and Long Beach.	Stephanie Rodriguez, Trainer	steph75@uw.edu	206-321-1721
R3 Vancouver, Camas, Stevenson & Kelso.	Colleen Cornman-Wilcox, Trainer	cm39@uw.edu	360-993-7991
	Kim Glover, Registrar		1-866-577-1915