

Foster Family-based Treatment Association
North Carolina Chapter Meeting
December 11, 2008 – Greensboro, NC

IN ATTENDANCE			
Name	Agency/Local Area	Work Phone	Email
Aura Anania	Easter Seals UCP/Guilford	336-266-4973	Aura.Anania@nc.eastersealsucp.com
William A. Harrington		(919) 616-6870	billharringtonCC@yahoo.com
Maureen Murray	Duke University Medical Center	(919) 687-4686 x 302	murra024@mc.duke.edu
Jean Kenefick	Easter Seals UCP	(252) 636-6007	jean.kenefick@nc.eastersealsucp.com
Phyllis Stephenson	Easter Seals UCP of North Carolina	(336) 449-7904	phyllis.stephenson@nc.eastersealsucp.com
Tom Culver	KidsPeace National Centers	(919) 872-6447	tculver@kidspeace.org
Nakia Batts	Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas	(704) 940-3305	nakia.batts@lfscarolinas.org
Beth Waterson	Youth Focus Therapeutic Foster Care - Guilford	(336) 375-8333 x 3020	bwaterson@youthfocus.org
Claire Finch	Youth Focus, Inc./ Guilford		aumstead@youthfocus.org
Valerie M. Iseah	Youth Homes, Inc./ Mecklenburg	(704) 943-9690	viseah@youthhomesinc.org
Cyd McDaniel	Youth Homes, Inc./ Mecklenburg	704-9439691	cmcdaniel@youthhomesinc.org
Stacey E. Carias	Omni Visions/Raleigh	919-334-0249	scarias@omnivisions.com
Alycia Blackwell	Orange County Dept. of Social Services	919-968-2000 ext. 280	ablackwell@co.orange.nc.us
Cindy Thomas	Easter Seals UCP	919-452-8910	Cindy.thomas@nc.eastersealsucp.com
Melissa Cole	Foster Family-based Treatment Assn./FFTA National Office	800-414-3382, ext. 113	mcole@ffta.org
<i>Attending by conference call:</i>			
Ted Lane, Ph.D.	Cardinal Clinic	(910) 692-3929	tlane@cardinalclinic.com
Antoine C. Lassiter	Thompson Child & Family Focus	(704) 536-0375 x 133	alassiter@thompsoncff.org

Agency sharing:

I. Rate Changes / Capacity / IVE impact discussion

Discussion was started around the changing rates for children in care. The current distribution of IVE funds changed effective December 1, 2008. There are now established facility rates for family foster placement that are consistent across the state. Providers will need to negotiate rates for children needing more care than basic family foster. These will be done on an individual child's needs. Providers will ensure that the placement needs for children are met and will track the children who do not have funding to meet their care needs. FFTA NC chapter would like to be informed of any children at risk of having a placement disruption due to inappropriate funding to meet their needs. If the FFTA NC chapter is aware of such needs they will support advocacy for an additional level of funding for children if needed.

The FFTA NC Chapter would also like to be made aware of disruptions related to recent changes in capacity in regulations and the impact on children and sibling groups.

DSS agencies in the East are not negotiating rates. Mecklenburg is still working on this, asking questions, etc. Lutheran is finding the rates a plus for them. They are having trouble getting additional funding for medically fragile kids. Some agencies have only a few kids affected and will most likely keep those kids but it may hinder future placements. ESUCP has a significant number of affected kids and are making adjustments to placements, rates to families, and are trying to negotiate rates with DSS agencies. There are inconsistencies between where kids get assessed, and whether or not they qualify for MH services.

Kids who may not be adequately serviced include medically fragile, kids who run constantly, and those with difficult behaviors.

What can the FFTA do?

- ▶ Talk to the rate setting group regarding the tiered level of payment based on special needs of a child who doesn't qualify for MH funding.
- ▶ FFTA continue to advocate for changes
- ▶ Another concern is agencies who may close due to the cost effectiveness of the rate changes and where will those children go.
- ▶ Siblings placed together may be disrupted when one child becomes leveled
- ▶ FFTA could take numbers of kids affected back to the state for them to see the degree of impact.
- ▶ Having children needing the higher level of care with additional funding will also impact foster parents who are able to manage the behaviors, deal with the increased needs, etc, possibly resulting in burned out parents or parents who chose not to stay licensed.

II. Children Aging out of Foster Care Discussion

It was shared that North Carolina would not be participating in the program for children aging out of care available at the federal level due to the rate of the state match required. Our state will continue to look at ways to support these children transitioning to adulthood.

III. Connection to CFSA

CFSA will look at the definitions at the legislative level. Phyllis will email the focus of CFSA for the next year after it is released. We will continue to partner with the CFSA to have the most impact on issues effecting children and families.

IV. National FFTA Update and NC Chapter Connection

- ▶ FFTA continues to expand with 407 members currently.
- ▶ Melissa Cole passed out a flyer for the Public Policy Institute and Advocacy Day in Washington DC on May 18-19 and for the Foster Family-Based Treatment Association conference on August 2-5, 2009 in Atlanta, GA.
- ▶ The Public Policy Institute & Advocacy Day will feature workshops on how to lobby legislators (May 17th) and on policy issues of interest to TFC providers. On May 18th participants will go to Capitol Hill to meet with legislators.

- ▶ Legislation was introduced that would make therapeutic foster care Medicaid reimbursable. This bill will be picked up again in 2009. National FFTA is looking at having 2 FFTA representatives in each state that would be the liaison between National and the local FFTA members. Phyllis Stephenson and Jean Kenefick also work on the National FFTA Public Policy Committee.
- ▶ With respect to the FFTA Benchmark TFC Project, the FFTA data and reporting system was discussed. Maureen Murray commented that the data that came out of the Duke study will start to be published after the first of the year. The data is in and now they will start doing the analysis. Maureen is planning on presenting at the national conference.
- ▶ “Implementing Evidence-based Practice in Treatment Foster Care: A Resource Guide” is now available in hard copy and electronically.
- ▶ An issue brief on “Evidenced-based Practice in Foster Parent Training and Support” will be available in January 2009.
- ▶ FFTA will release a 2nd Issue Brief on permanency in the near future.
- ▶ An idea was discussed whereby NC FFTA-agencies could be assigned or volunteer to explore a specific area of information from the monthly TFC e-newsletter and provide a highlight of the information at the chapter meeting. Different agencies could do different topics each time.
- ▶ FFTA offers liability insurance for foster parents. Tom Culver shared that he had a situation where a foster parent was sued and the foster parent’s own insurance would not cover it. The foster parent liability insurance program that FFTA endorses could likely cover those issues. Each agency would buy insurance coverage that would protect the family. Tom Culver will bring information about insurance next time. Melissa will try to get Rob Brotemarkle, who works with the insurance, to call in at the next chapter meeting.
- ▶ FFTA was just accepted into the National Foster Care Coalition.
- ▶ FFTA is also working on a project surveying how agencies do satisfaction surveys. Looking who is surveyed, how is the survey administered, what are the challenges, what is done with the information. This information should be reviewed to improve services, secure further funding, etc. The guide will be available in February.
- ▶ FFTA is looking for persons interested in joining their committees. Melissa will send out a list of the committees. Tom Culver is interested in working on the Conference Committee. Maureen Murray and Aura Anania would like to be on the Research Committee. Alicia from Orange County DSS may also be interested in the Research committee. Maureen Murray suggested someone from Alexander Children’s Center to present at the conference on Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care, a Oregon model of care that Alexander is trying to implement. We discussed how Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care is expensive to duplicate and has its challenges.

BREAK

V. FFTA NC Chapter Moving Forward:

We reconvened and Phyllis passed out a recent issue of *TFC e-News* which lists many topics that could be brought back for discussion at the next meeting. Tom Culver will take the Youth aging out of foster care. Phyllis would like to see the array of foster care training used across the country. Phyllis and Jean

Kenefick will look at that topic. Maureen mentioned that the trainings have many similarities and that the success of the training is more in the implementation. Mecklenburg uses its own model.

Nakia Batts from Lutheran Family Services uses a model that addresses mal-adaptive behaviors and a program called “Collaborative problem solving”. There is a website that describes the model.

Tom Culver said that it’s not so much about looking at different models but more about how to best implement a program. Staff needs more training on implementation.

The Duke model does follow up consultations by phone for its training. Maureen will bring information on the Duke model to the next meeting.

Alycia Blackwell will bring back information on Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008

Each presenter will either bring handouts or email them in advance so that they can be printed off for distribution.

Topic recap for next meeting:

- ▶ Tom Culver- Youth Aging Out
- ▶ Alycia Blackwell-Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
- ▶ Maureen Murray- Duke research project
- ▶ Rob Brotemarkle - Conference call-in on liability of insurance.
- ▶ Phyllis Stephensen and Jean Kenefick – foster parent training and support

Next meeting will be **March 12th** from **11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (note this is a change from 2/26) at The Cutting Board Restaurant in Burlington, North Carolina (outside of Greensboro). This is right off the interstate and should be more convenient for everyone traveling. We can order lunch at the restaurant and have a private meeting room for our usage.

Phyllis presented Melissa a small gift and card for her efforts in coming.

The members in attendance expressed support of three strategic priorities that were developed, based upon input from some of the members. The members agreed to have the North Carolina Chapter embrace these goals:

1. Serve as a clearinghouse for practice tools that are used in therapeutic foster care.
2. Keep providers and advocates informed of state and federal policy issues impacting therapeutic foster care.
3. Serve as a forum for networking and sharing of expertise to improve the quality of therapeutic foster care.

Members in were in support of having the quarterly agenda be set around the 3 priorities. To meet the 3rd item, agencies could share what is working in their agency.

Minutes draft submitted by Cindy Thoma. Revisions by Melissa Cole and Phyllis Stephenson