

FFTA NC Chapter Meeting
3-11-09
Burlington, NC

Melissa Cole-National office of FFTA
Lance Oldham-Youth Focus
Beth Waterson-Youth Focus
Marc Murphy- Barius Springs Home for Children
Jenny Simmons-Eliada Homes, Inc
Bob Hensley-NCDSS
Leslie Kellenberger- formerly of Omni Vision, currently self contractor
Bill Harrington-formerly of Omni Vision, currently self contractor
Michelle Corry-NYAP
Maureen Murray-DUMC
Cindy Thomas-ESUCP
Phyllis Stephenson-ESUCP
Tom Culver-Kid's Peace
Aura Anania-ESUCP
Kim Morgan-The Children's Home

No corrections to last meeting's minutes.

Melissa Cole called in and shared about the national FFTA organization. The major focus is planning National Advocacy Day on May 18-19. The first day will be educational and the second day will be going to the Capital to talk with Senators and Representatives.

The Annual conference will be in Atlanta on August 2-5. There are opportunities for networking, training and best practice models. Hotel rate at the Hyatt is \$129 a night.

Just issued foster parent nominations for scholarships for attending the conference. The scholarship includes hotel, food and transportation. Deadline is April 10th.

Just about to issue articles regarding evidenced based practice and foster parent training. Those will be released electronically. Phyllis copied some of this data which is on the table for each of us to have. They are collecting the last part of the data for analyzing data of children entering and exiting the foster care system. They are submitting articles for publication in various journals.

These articles will be released in the fall.

Guide to consumer satisfaction survey has not been completed. It may be June before it is done. FFTA is looking at national outcomes.

Bill introduced late last year that creates and allows therapeutic foster care to be Medicaid funded. The bill last year didn't go through. They plan on introducing a similar bill again this year. Melissa will send last year's bill out.

Melissa's email and phone number are: 800-414-3382 x 113 and mcole@ffa.org

CQL is not one of the accrediting agencies listed in the bill that an agency would have to be accredited by. Tom Culver and Phyllis Stephenson both will continue to advocate for CQL to be added as one of the accrediting agencies.

Leslie Kellenberger is no longer with an FFTA agency so we had to elect another Treasurer. Jean Kenefick has said that she would do it if needed. Tom Culver nominated Jean and Maureen Murray seconded. Vote was taken and she was unanimously approved.

Tom Culver did a presentation on kids aging out of the foster care system. There are more kids aging out of care now than even 2 years ago. Lack of support for education, housing and social support were main reasons incarceration. 3 out of 10 homeless adults were in foster care. 25% of kids leaving foster care have post traumatic stress. Employment-72% worked but only 40% were employed at time of survey. Most made less than \$9 an hour. The survey looked at DSS kids and therapeutic foster care kids have more problems and issues to deal with. 5.4% of general population has serious emotional issues. 70% of NC kids have serious emotional issues.

Adolescents aging out of the foster care system have much higher drug use, homelessness, mental health issues and criminal activity. The ability to read is a protective factor. Spirituality is also a protective factor as well as having someone who believes in them. Tom stopped since Rob called in.

Rob Brotemarkle from Foster Parent Professionals, called in to talk about foster parent liability. Foster parent insurance in case they are sued and if they have household damages. Covers errors or omissions of the foster parent. Foster Parent Professionals deals with child death, injury or physical and sexual abuse within a foster home. Bob Harrington asked about home owner's policies coverage. Home owners covers if a foster child injures a neighbor's child or property. The gap is when someone files a claim against the foster parent.

Key exclusions include:

- communicable disease. If a foster parent takes a child with HIV and that child exposes someone else to HIV then the foster parent could be held liable for that.
- intentional acts. Arson,
- Deductible on the foster parent's property.

Auto insurance comes before home owner's policy.

Cost- \$100 per year and the agency can pay for the family. Agencies can reduce foster parent pay to cover the cost of insurance.

Incidental malpractice is covered. Professional liability is covered under the profession's insurance. Fosterparent.com is the website to get more information. Now endorsed.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 21st at the Cutting Board in Burlington.

Agenda items might include what our kids are entitled to when aging out of the system. Tom will work on having someone to share on this. Bob shared that Joan McAllister is a state person is retiring who is the guru on independent living. Fostering Connections is sending out a letter next week about those resources for kids aging out and the things that these kids qualify for. Dannia

Sutherland is also a great person who could address this.

Jean and Phyllis will report back on the National Advocacy Day.

Jimmy Wayne has a free video for foster care agencies.

Kim mentioned that she has had success in getting an additional 60-90 days of authorization for a transitioning period. VO doesn't want to cover if no medical necessity. What can we do? Find homes that are committed for the long term; mentoring the child, provide support, financial skills, social skills, educationally, spiritually, etc.

Maureen Murray shared on Together Facing the Challenge, a Train-the-Trainer Model for Therapeutic Foster Care and had a handout of all of her slide presentation. Betsy Farmer, formerly of Duke but now at Penn State, were foster parents and she now does research on foster care. Patty Chamberlain in Eugene, Oregon has a model on social learning. This is a very structured program and expensive to duplicate. Betsy Farmer got grant to study treatment homes in NC. Findings included, little use of proactive behavior management strategies. As length of stay increased trauma issues emerged.

There is a tremendous variation in TFC. Training, supervision and parent/child relationships make a big difference.

Together Facing the Challenge-2003-2008 worked with 40 agencies to implement initial study. 250 youth in 16 sites. (125 youth/families in each condition) Duke trained supervisors of the kids.

Data collected was characteristics of children served and treatment parents, training, relationships with supervisors, existing approaches to behaviors. Maureen went through some of the demographics of the study.

Rusty Martin-Tips was mentioned in preparing for the future.

Maureen covered tracking behaviors and developing relationships. She also shared on incorporating the model into usual practice in agencies.