

Foster Family-based Treatment Association
North Carolina Chapter Meeting
Friday, August 27, 2010
11:30am-2:30pm
Burlington, NC

11:30am Began NC FFTA Chapter Meeting

- I. Welcome (Introductions and New Member recognition)
 - A. Recognition of new members who have joined FFTA (as printed on agenda). As of 7/22/10 there were 403 memberships; 292 full members; 77 multiple sites and 34 affiliates.
- II. Brief Committee Updates:
 - A. Membership – Leslie Kellenberger recognized Lee and Jeff who are prospective members and requested that current members provide her with contact information on any colleagues who may be interested in joining the association.
 - B. Public Relations – Tara Fields invited members to join her committee and talked about some of the goals of the committee, including providing a forum for “Tips for Foster Families.”
- III. Training and Resource – Aura Anania announced she is looking for a co-chair and additional members for her committee. One of her goals is to bring topics that we agree on to the National Conference and ensure that the chapter is up to date on what is occurring Nationally.

Other committees referenced were Public Policy and discussion related to working on getting signatures on the House Bill. Goal of obtaining at least 100 new signatures by January will help move the process along. Research Committee was also noted to be working towards developing a practical guide on models, what is working, how they’re working and recommendations for FFTA National.
- IV. FFTA Administrative Report: Benefits of Membership
 - A. Phyllis reported a financial surplus for FFTA National.
 - B. A card was passed around and signed by members in support of Bob Hensley who has been ill.
 - C. A posthumously financial donation was presented on behalf of the mother of Leslie to fund a scholarship for families to attend FFTA National next year. Flowers and a resolution were also presented.
 - D. A resolution was read in the memory of Julie Smith and her memory honored as the chapter voted in favor of making a financial donation to a charity selected by the family.
- V. Training – highlights from FFTA National Conference 2010
 - A. Lane Cooke - from the Jordan Institute gave a brief overview of their lunch and learn webinars that has been developed and is now available on line. How to access the webinars and payment information was presented with registration forms.

Some of the webinar topics included Making the most of Family Visitation, Attachment and Separation, and Brain Development in Children at Risk.

- B. Kim Morgan – remarks included, “stellar trainers, evidenced-based training went on, encouraged members to attend next year and put money in their budgets. Highlighted “Parenting with Love and Limits” session that focused on group work with birth parents, family and therapist. Also talked about the wounds of trauma and the effect trauma has on child development.

Tom Culver – stated how impressed he was with the level of presentations and presenters. “Brains, Bonds and Behavior” and “Importance of Listening” were two of the sessions he highlighted. He talked about how important it is to involve emotions when we train foster parents and how emotions affect our perspective in service delivery and relationship building. He pointed out that a lot of people are uncomfortable with silence but reminded the group it is important that once the question is asked, “just shut up and listen” to the child.

Kim Henley – remarked how the sessions focused on more trauma related topics this year and how it affects child development. She highlighted Julie Alvarez’s session that also focused on trauma, not only with the foster child, but also the foster parent and foster care staff and how it is passed on from one to the other. She engaged the group in an activity where text message abbreviations that children use in communicating with one another was used and asked the group what did the letters mean (ex. PAL = Parents are listening).

Phyllis Stephenson – stated she focused more on sessions that addressed Risk Management, Liability and top trends in foster care. She highlighted resources such as a Book by Dr. Catherine Purvis, “The Connected Child,” that shows you how to use your behavior instead of your voice to communicate with the child. She also talked about the “Diana Screen,” a screening tool that is used to assess the risk or tendency for a child to interact inappropriately with other children.

- C. Discussion of Special training event for membership and foster parents
Phyllis opened the floor for discussion and suggestions about having the chapter bring in speakers to NC for our members and foster parents. Possible topics recommended by members included, “Cultural Diversity, Trauma associated with staff and with children. A volunteer committee was formed, which consisted of Tom Culver, Kim Henley, Kim Morgan and Ted, to explore topics, speakers and logistics for putting together a possible 2-day session for staff and foster parents to attend. Tom was designated the chair and asked that this committee be ready to make a report at the next chapter meeting on their progress.

VI. State Update: Karen Mcleod

- Announced 1.35% rate reduction will be rescinded by DMA
- DSS Responsible Person list – lawsuit resulted in some changes to process and names previously appearing on the list has been cleared off; providers will need to start using it in their hiring procedures but beware that the list will need to be rebuilt

- DSS going through exploration of Best Practices Models and applied for 15 million dollar grant to focus on NC Permanency and Partnership.
- Exploring partnership with Casey Foundation for foster and adoption models.
- CFSA and Duke Endowment assisting DSS to focus on quality of care when it comes to child placement
- National Accreditation will become a requirement for all foster care providers (focus will be on outcomes)
- Working to identify gaps in services so CABHAs can begin to ramp up services
- CFTs ramping up to bring in trained facilitators to assist families
- Private providers are treating “higher end” kids with behavioral issues while DSS appears to be keeping kids less troubled
- New rate for TFS – only want to pay for clinical services only (way of screening out providers who are not appropriate)
- CFSA convened a group to explore transition living for children aging out
- DJJ awarded a 6 million dollar grant to explore gang involvement, and to assess what can be done to help those kids

VII. National Policy Update: Laura Boyd

- Currently 24 co-sponsors for HR 4787 (1 week left to visit legislators in their districts)
- Goal is to have 50-100 co-sponsors by January (need members to contact legislators) reach out via emails, calls, visits, numbers matter
- Key House members (Myrick, Butterfield, & Ethridge) identified as needing to be - Contacted
- Tara McMinn will resend previous HR 4787 out to members for legislative effort
- CMS put out a call for modifying Medicaid/Medicare (deadline Monday 8/30)
- CMS will not pay for anything that “sounds like” training since it not considered “medically necessary” (providers must be aware of the language used in providing services (CMS likes terms such as Life Skills, Psychosocial Rehab Skills)
- Oklahoma treatment parents are being reimbursed based on the “skill set” of the treatment parent specialist (Phyllis requested a copy of what Oklahoma is using)

VIII. Next FFTA Meeting - October 8, 2010 at The Cutting Board Restaurant in Burlington, NC

- Possible topics: Bob Hensley presentation
 Kevin Kelly – Links program
 Training Subcommittee

Meeting concluded at 2:40pm.