

FFTA Chapter Revival Meeting
10-9-08
Easter Seals – Greensboro, NC

Attending:

Phyllis Stephenson, Jean Kenefick, Cindy Thomas, Aura Anania- Easter Seals UCP
Michelle Corry- National Youth Advocate Program
Bob Hensley-Division of Social Services
Renaye Owen-Caring for Children
Laurie Whitson-Alexander Youth Network
Bill Harrington-Wm. A, Harrington and Assoc.
Kathy Dobbs-CFSA
Leslie Kellenberger-Omni Visions
Celeste Reed-BSHC
Melissa Cole-FFTA National
Tom Culver-Kids Peace
Valarie Iseah- Youth Homes
Maureen Murray-Duke
Cheryl Morgan-Cardinal Clinic

Phyllis Stephenson welcomed everyone in attendance and turned the meeting over to Melissa Cole from the national FFTA office in New Jersey.

Melissa addressed the purpose of the meeting was to determine if North Carolina wanted to re-establish their FFTA chapter. There are about 11-12 chapters going in other states that focused on therapeutic foster parents and the needs of the parents and each have different goals they are working on.

What worked and didn't work in the previous NC FFTA chapter:

- In the past they discussed licensing issues but it wasn't very effective in creating change.
- Focused on quality of services and training

The chapter disbanded due to multiple factors including down-sizing of agencies, staff turn-over and some disinterest.

There are now in NC:

35,000 regular foster parents and 35,000 therapeutic parents in NC
93 private agencies who do a combination of both services
3 counties agencies who do therapeutic-Guilford, Wake and Catawba

Training for staff who are doing therapeutic care was discussed. It was noted that while there has been improvements, it would be beneficial to look at improving the quality of care through training, curriculum changes, providing mentors and respite services.

Bob Hensley feels that we need another level for treatment care since therapeutic care has become tainted. He has some data on families who serve only 1 child with sexual issues. When

more kids are added to the family things tend to fall apart. There was discussion about the needs of families and expectations of caring for therapeutic level children.

Melissa noted that each state's chapters have different purposes and NC's may look different. National FFTA is looking at federal policy issues, more recently, trying to get therapeutic foster care Medicaid funded. FFTA works with other national agencies to improve policy and practices. Chapters use Listserve to distribute information and stay in contact with one another. FFTA has monthly e-newsletters and a quarterly newsletter, each with a specific focus.

Survey of FFTA members seemed to suggest the desire to meet quarterly with conference calls in between.

Melissa brought to the group the need to have leadership positions as follows:
Chapter Chair-set agenda, oversee meeting and follow-up on those who take on responsibilities.
Vice Chair-organize meetings and assist Chair
Secretary-minutes
Treasurer-financial matters

The following volunteered or agreed to the following positions:
Chapter Chair- Phyllis Stephenson
Vice Chair-Tom Culver
Secretary- Michelle Corry from the National Youth Advocate Program
Treasurer-Leslie Kellenberger

It was decided to do bi-monthly face to face meetings to begin with and use conference calls and other means of communication once the chapter was fully operational.

There was discussion of funding for therapeutic foster parent payment both here and in other states.

Discussion of a Mission Statement
Elements to be included were suggested: implementation, best practice, raising the bar,

FFTA North Carolina Chapter Mission:

The mission of the FFTA North Carolina Chapter is to raise the bar for quality therapeutic foster care for North Carolina's Children.

Objectives for the next year - Next meeting should be for only member agencies, full membership, multi-site, affiliates

- Identify identification
- Explore processes already in place to train staff and families.
- More clearly define the objectives and goals for the Chapter.

Following the meeting, a draft list of Strategic Objectives were created (to be finalized by full membership at next meeting):

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.

Next meeting date was set for **Dec. 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m.**

Minutes taken by Cindy Thomas, Easter Seals UCP, NC

Participant Contact Information:

Name	Agency	Address	Phone	E-mail
Phyllis Stephenson	ESUCP of N.C.	P.O. Box 165 Gibsonville, NC 27249	(336) 263-7491	Phyllis.stephenson@nc.eastersealsucp.com
Jean Kenefick	ESUCP	2111 F. Neuse Blvd. New Bern, NC 28560	(252) 636-6007	Jean.Kenefick@nc.eastersealsucp.com
Cindy Thomas	ESUCP	5107 South Park Dr., Suite 2014 Durham, NC 27713	(919) 452-8910	Cindy.thomas@nc.eastersealsucp.com
Celeste Reed	BSHC	P.O. Box 1 Barium Springs, NC 28010	(704) 873-1011	Creed@bariumsprings.org
Leslie Kellenberger	OMNI	3717 National Drive, Suite 100 Raleigh, NC 27612	(800) 851-8905	Lkellenberger@omnivisions.com
Tom Culver	KidsPeace	3109 Poplarwood Ct., Suite 310 Raleigh, NC 27604	(919) 872-6447	tculver@kidspeace.org
Cheryl Morgan	Cardinal Clinic	1540 Purdue Dr. Fayetteville, NC 28303	(910) 867-8889	cmorgan@cardinalclinic.com
Maureen Murray	Duke	P.O. Box 3454 Durham, NC 27710	(919) 687-4187, ext.302	Murra024@mc.duke.edu
Michelle Corry	National Youth Advocate Program	12816 River Dance Dr. Raleigh, NC 27613	(888) 242-2965	mccorry@nyap.org
Bob Hensley	Div. of Social Services	P.O. Box 229 Spindale, NC 28160	(828) 287-6898	Bob.Hensley@nc.mail.net
Renaye Owen	Caring for Children	184 Charlotte Hwy. Asheville, NC 28806	(828) 298-0186	renayea@yahoo.com
Laurie Whitson	Alexander Youth Network	6220 Thermal Rd. Charlotte, NC 28211	(704) 467-3383	lwhitson@alexanderyouthnetwork.org
Bill Harrington	William A. Harrington Associates	P.O. Box 1073 Hillsborough, N.C. 27278	(919) 616-6870	BillHarrington@yahoo.com
Aura Amania	Easter Seals UCP	1901 E.Ashwood Ct. Greensboro, NC 27455	(336) 266-4973	Aura.Anania@nc.eastersealsucp.com
Kathy Dobbs	CFSA-NC	2609 Atlantic Ave., Suite 105 Raleigh, NC 27606	(919) 828-1864	kdobbs@cfsa-nc.org
Melissa Cole	FFTA	294 Union St. Hackensack, NJ 07601	(201) 343-2246, ext.113	mcole@ffta.org
Valerie Iseah	Youth Homes	601 E.5 th St., Suite 330 Charlotte, NC 28202	(704) 943-9690	viseah@youthhomesinc.org