



# California State Foster Parent Association, Inc.

*“To Touch A Life Forever”*

3RD QUARTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 23, 2016

## 3rd Quarter Board Meeting

*Joyce Hammerich, CSFPA Secretary*

The 2016 3rd Quarter California State Foster Parent Association's Board meeting and training was held July 21-23 in Sacramento. On Friday, a training was provided by Ellie Jones, Assistant Deputy Director Community Licensing Division. Ms. Jones talked about the changes that are occurring related to the new RFA (Resource Family Approval) requirements. She stressed the biggest change for current foster parents is needing to have a psycho social assessment completed in addition to current licensing requirements. She also talked about CSEC (Commercially Sexually Exploited Children) youth and how to provide services for them including how the new directives will effect the ability to help them. She announced there is a CSEC Action Team meeting being held in San Francisco on September 7th. To find out more about this meeting, you can go to

[www.chhs.ca.gov](http://www.chhs.ca.gov). Rochelle Trochtenberg, California Foster Care Ombudsman spoke briefly as well. She explained the state is working on updating the Foster Care Ombudsman marketing materials and would appreciate any input in this endeavor. She is happy to come to your county to speak and introduce herself to foster parents. You can contact her at 877-846-1602. During the Friday afternoon session of the meeting, various committee chairs provided updates and reports and each area VP shared updates on what is happening around the state. Saturday's meeting consisted of additional committee reports being presented. The next quarterly board meeting will be held at the annual training conference in October.

## 2016 Annual CSFPA Conference and Training: Wheel of Change— Still Powered Through Love

*Nadine Fleek, 2016 Conference Chair*

**SAVE THE DATE:** The 40th Annual CSFPA Conference and Training will take place October 28-30, 2016 at the Concord Hilton. Please start making plans to attend as it promises to be a great time of meeting together with people who provide care and services to children in the foster care system.

Scholarships are available.

Brochures were sent out the beginning of August. If you did not receive one, please contact Nadine Fleek at 530-937-3246 or [memories\\_95503@yahoo.com](mailto:memories_95503@yahoo.com) to request one. You can register online at [www.cvent.com/d/yfqt11/4w](http://www.cvent.com/d/yfqt11/4w).

## 2017/2018 CSFPA Board/Officer Nominations

*Terry Haines, Nominations Chair*

The nominating committee met at the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly board meeting in Sacramento. The committee received two nominations in the mail and no nominations from the floor. All candidates ran unopposed. Nominations were closed, and the following offices were filled:

President – Patricia Negus  
Vice President – Nadine Fleek  
Northern Region VP – Nadine Fleek  
Central Region VP - vacant  
Southern Region VP – Patricia Welsh





## Legislative Updates

Carrie Myles, Legislation Chair

**SB: 731 - (Leno), Chapter 805**, gives critical guidance to child welfare workers regarding the placement of transgender youth in out-of-home care. The bill amends the Foster Care Bill of Rights to specify that foster youth have the right to be placed according to their gender identity, regardless of the sex listed in their court or child welfare records. Went into effect on January 1, 2016. By providing specific guidance to the child welfare field, the bill promotes the safety, permanency and well-being of transgender foster youth.

**AB: 1984- LINDER E**

Requires the State Department of Social Services to convene a workgroup to develop an implementation plan for the State Foster Youth Enrichment Grant Program. Provides funds to foster youth to enable such youth to participate in activities that enhance the youth's skills, abilities, self-esteem and overall well-being. Requires the submission of related reports to the Legislature. Amended 4/16

**AB: 2359- WILLIAMS D**

Establishes rights for foster families, kinship guardians and relative placements, adoptive families, and resource

families, including the right to receive information from the department and the right to be treated with dignity, respect, trust, and consideration as a member of the professional team caring for foster children.

**AB: 1580: GATTO - IRWIN**

Allows a parent to freeze their child's credit with the three credit bureaus, preventing identity thieves from opening fraudulent credit accounts and ruining their credit at an early age.

**ACL. NO. 16-50 Pg. (1) June**

**1,2016**, AB 2668: Created an opportunity for a NMD parent living in a SLIP to obtain an additional \$200 payment by entering into a Parenting Support Plan (PSP) with an identified responsible adult mentor. Effective 7/1/15

**ACL. NO. (16-57) JULY 1, 2016**

Aid to families with dependent children-foster care (AFDC-FC) California Necessities Index (CIN) increases

of 2.76 percent for fiscal year (FY) 2016-17) Effective 1/1/2017

There will be a new rate structure and rates for the Home-Base Family Care setting

(HBFC) and (STRTP) Short term Resi-

dential Therapeutic program.

**ACL. NO. (16-55) (11-74) July 6, 2016**

Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) rates increase 2.76% for fiscal year (FY) 2016-2017.

**ACIN. NO. (1-53-16) JULY 14, 2016**

**ACL. . NO.-94-7**

Authorization to Make Retroactive Foster Care Payments without a Court Order. If a County determines that a caregiver is due retroactive payments for a period more than 18 months earlier, the County may make those payments without obtaining a Decision from State Hearings.

The 18- months claiming limitation is imposed on the County (not providers)

**ACL. NO. 16-58 JULY 11 2016**

**AB 403**

Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program - CLARIFYING

Conversion of Licensed Foster Family Homes, Approved Relative and NREFM Homes. State law requirements.

## California Overhauling Foster Care Rates to Support Family Caregivers

Farida Jhabvala Romero, KQED News

Starting January 1, 2017, California's foster care rates will be tied to the health and behavioral needs of each child. In the present system, the income of the home the child was removed from and whether the child was placed with relatives or non-relatives were bigger factors in determining support. The new system will replace a "tangled mess of rules" that ends up penalizing thousands of foster children who are cared for by relatives—even though such children have better educational outcomes and less trauma when cared for by a person with family ties, says Angie Schwartz, policy director for the Alliance for Children's Rights, which advocated for the changes. "This is a very historic change in California," says Schwartz, whose nonprofit provides legal services for children in foster care. California Gov. Jerry Brown approved the new rate system in June as part of the state budget, and allocated about \$40 million to begin implementing the payment changes.

## News Flash

*Gwen McWilliams, Kinship/Adoption & Guardianship Chair*

### REPEALS CalWORKS Family Cap:

The 2016-17 budget repeals the CalWORKS "family cap" rule, a punitive policy that prohibited additions to CalWORKS grants for children born while the family was receiving a grant. The budget agreement repeals, effective January 1, 2017, the MAXIMUM FAMILY GRANT or "family cap" rule. This policy change will benefit an estimated 130,000 children by allowing their families to receive an increase in cash assistance (\$136.00/month/child) to help cover basic living expenses.

### RESTORING FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES:

This budget will raise reimbursement rates for early childhood providers, in part to address the minimum wage increase, so they can cover the cost of their services.

\*The budget will add nearly 9,000 preschool slots over four years

\*The budget deal does (not) include the Governor's proposal to combine early childhood program funding into a block grant and eliminate transitional kindergarten, a proposal which was not supported by the early childhood community and which the Legislature rejected.

\* Outside of the budget process, a Blue Ribbon commission proposed by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon will be established to develop an action plan for providing and improving quality early education and care.

## Grievance and Allegations Report

*Pam Sokol, Allegation & Grievance Chair*

During the past three months I have received 13 calls from various counties requesting assistance with complaints against foster homes. Most of these were dealing with civil penalties being assessed against the foster home for not reporting un-cleared adults moving into the foster home and failing to have children turning 18 fingerprinted within 30 days. The civil penalty is usually \$100 per day for up to five days and when there are two or more individuals who haven't been fingerprinted it can cost more than \$1,000 to the foster home. The foster parents can appeal the penalty locally and ask for the amount to be reduced or eliminated for good cause. The appeal information is on the back of the form that cites the civil penalty.

I also received requests for assistance because of removals of foster placements from the foster home when the County did not give proper notice of the intent to remove the child. Unless the foster parent agrees to removal of the child the County must give a written 7 day notice when removing a child for a reason other than an emergency and they have the right to file an objection to the removal. Once they file the Objection to Removal a hearing will be set within 5 days and a judge will decide if the County has the right to remove the child.

I am on a committee in San Diego with County staff looking at the RFA Directives regarding Complaints and Allegations and am developing a workshop for the conference that will discuss the differences in the way they will be handled in 2017 when all homes become Resource Family Approved Homes.

## Awards and Scholarship Report

*Sandra Aguirre, Awards/Scholarship Chair*

Three nominations have been received for Foster Parent of the Year award and The Haghenbeck Scholarship award. The Foster Parent of the Year award nominee will be sent to the state for final clearance and determination. The Haghenbeck Scholarship award nominees will be sent to Lucy Berger for final determination. There was no committee meeting this quarter.



## News from the North Coastal California Region—Sonoma County

*Joyce Hammerich, CSFPA Secretary*

This year, the Redwood Empire Foster Parent Association (REFPA) and Family, Youth, and Children's Division have worked together to develop a Caregiver Support Program in Sonoma County. All newly licensed homes will be assigned a trained mentor who will work with that family for the first year of caregiving. The program is being funded by the County who will also provide the necessary ongoing training to the mentors. Our community is very excited that this program is a reality in our county.



## 3RD QUARTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

CSFPA  
c/o Patricia Negus, President  
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***Our main focus is to address issues of foster parents, guardianship and adoptive parents, as well as kinship placements which now includes over 55% of all children in out-of-home placements in California.***

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## 4th Quarter Training and Meeting 40th Annual CSFPA Training Conference

The CSFPA 4th Quarter Meeting will be held at the 40th Annual CSFPA Training and Conference October 28-30 at the Concord Hilton Hotel, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA 94520. This annual event is not to be missed. There is a variety of workshops/training opportunities available. Register online at [www.cvent.com/d/bfqt11/4W](http://www.cvent.com/d/bfqt11/4W). The business meeting will convene Friday, October 28th at 8:30 A.M.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.



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## CSFPA Membership

*Mary Haghenbeck, Membership Chair*

There are currently 23 ratified chapters in the California State Foster Parent Association and over 1,000 members. If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact: Mary Haghenbeck, CSFPA Membership Chair,

4377 Wesley Way, El Sobrante, CA 94803/Tel. 510-223-2022.

If you prefer to receive your newsletter via email, please send an email to  
Carol Ihlenburg, Newsletter Chair at [CSFPANewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:CSFPANewsletter@gmail.com).

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