



California State Foster Parent Association, Inc.

"To Touch A Life Forever"

4TH QUARTER 2015 NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 16, 2015

CSFPA 2015 Annual Conference a Success

The 39th CSFPA Annual conference: Communication and Support "Can You Hear Me Now?" was a wonderfully successful and informative event for foster parents and those involved in the foster care system. We had many great reviews this year. The keynote Speakers, Dr. Jaiya John, poet, novelist and global speaker for our Friday luncheon and Michael Solomon founder of "Embrace Me" for our Saturday luncheon were refreshing, uplifting and wonderful. Our Thursday seminars with Margaret Coyne and Janet Sherwood, Directors of Advokids and Anita Ross, Author and Life Coach made for an awesome beginning for the three day conference. I received many compliments on the variety of workshops offered and how renewed many caregivers felt during the conference as well.

I would like to thank all who attended this year and the many presenters who partnered with us. I would also

like to thank Gladys Glaude, Program Manager, and her assistant Leah from Sacramento State for all their hard work in keeping everything running smoothly. Dayna Haldeman, Foster Care Support Service Bureau of the California State Department of Social Services for her many hours of planning and support with us, thank you. If not for the support from the California State Department of Social Services, this conference could not have such a big success.

I would also like to thank the many counties across this great state for their participation and support in making it possible for caregivers to attend the conference. I am very pleased that the local counties came and spoke at the opening session of the conference and for embracing a brighter future for all involved with the children in out of home care in California; LA County Karen D. Richardson, Division Chief Out of Home Care, Riverside County Rosemary Jiron, Deputy Director of Children's Services, and San Bernardino County Karen Hill, Child

Jocelyn Hill, CSFPA Secretary

Welfare Services Manager.

Our hope and goal for the CSFPA is to play an active role of better communication & support throughout California for the children in care and for those who care for them.

Last, but definitely not least, I'd like to thank the many volunteers that worked so hard to make this conference the success it was- Hospitality, Ms. Cain and Ms. Davis; Room Monitor Chairs, Kay Crockell, Sandra Aguirre & Patty Kitt along with all those who monitored; Silent Auction Chairs Sheri Justice-Cook and Carol Ihlenburg, and Co-Conference Chair, Maria Malone. Additional thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Johnson, IEHP, HOPE Coalition and the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Victim Unit just to name a few for the donations of goodies for the registration bags. It was nine months in the making, we had a few snags and uncertainties but in the end we gave birth to a beautiful conference.

Update on Kaye Storey

Leroy Storey, Endowment and Insurance Chair

While on vacation in Penn. and Washington, DC, my wife, Kaye, suffered a falling accident while attending a conference. Her left leg was severely injured. It was not broken, but swelled up to double its normal size. It was wrapped securely and she was able to walk on it, so we got home by plane okay.

Three days later, when we attended the CSFPA conference in Ontario, she had a seizure, fell down and broke her right hip. Three days later, the doctors repaired her hip putting a nail in it. During this operation, she suffered another seizure. The doctors immediately scanned her skull and found a tumor. Two days later, they transferred her to another hospital where a brain specialist operated and removed the tumor. There is a possibility that it might be cancerous.

At this writing, she is at a Rehab unit in Loma Linda Hospital. She is getting daily physical therapy. She is starting to walk again, very carefully. She has 30 stitches from her right ear up and across her forehead. When they are taken out, her hair will cover the scar. She is expected to be at Loma Linda for most of the month of November. We ask for the prayers of everyone for her full and speedy recovery.



Continuum of Care Reform/AB403 Summary

Vision

- All children live with a committed, nurturing and permanent family
- Services and supports are tailored to meet the needs of the individual child and family being served with the ultimate goal of maintaining a stable placement with the family.
- When appropriate, transitioning the child or youth to a permanent family and/or preparing the youth for a successful transition into adulthood.
- When needed, congregate care is a short-term, high quality, intensive intervention that is just one part of a continuum of care available for children, youth and young adults.

Key Guiding Principles:

- The child, youth and family's experience and voice is important in assessment, placement and service planning.
- Children should not have to change placements to get the services and supports they need.
- Different parts of the service system needs to work in concert together to improve services to children.
- Recognizing the differing needs of probation youth.

Key Elements of Reform

Increased Engagement:

Child and Family Team: Emphasizes the need for placing agencies (child welfare and probation) and providers to engage the child, youth and family, and their formal and informal supports in the assessment, placement and service planning processes.
Up-front and Continuing Assessment: Use of a robust assessment

instrument, covering standardized do-

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main and based upon 360-degrees

reviews by providers, family and youth of the youth's needs, development and progress, to determine initial and changing service needs.

Increased Capacity for Home-based Family Care:

Increased Capacity and Support of Resource Families (foster families):

Beginning 2017, all counties, Foster Family Agencies and Short-Term Residential Treatment Centers will approve resource families to provide care to children and young adults in foster care whether temporary or permanent.

All resource families, including relative caregivers will receive training prior to approval.

Training requirements have been updated to include such topics as trauma-informed care, child and adolescent development including sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, accessing local services, serving commercially sexually-exploited children, etc.

Increased Retention, Recruitment, Training And Support Of Resource Families:

Increased funding for counties to develop and implement strategies for retaining and recruiting quality relative and non-relative resource families.

Foster Family Agencies: Re-envision foster family agencies (FFAs) to:

Make available core services and supports that are trauma-informed and culturally relevant, including specialty mental health services for eligible children.

At county request, make supports and services available to children placed in county approved resource families (related and unrelated).

Background Checks for Tribally-approved Homes by tribal agencies

Limited Use of Congregate Care:

Group Homes to Short Term Residential Treatment Center: Re-envision group homes as short-term residential treatment centers (STRTCs) as an intervention limited to children and youth assessed as needing 24 hour intensive supervision and treatment for their own or others safety.

STRTCs make available core services and supports that are trauma-informed and culturally relevant, including specialty mental health services for eligible children. Service plans are individualized in collaboration with a child and family team and designed to transition children back to their own or another permanent family.

All STRTCs and FFAs: Accreditation and Mental Health

Must be accredited by a national accrediting body.

Must be able to deliver or arrange for specialty mental health services to eligible children either as a certified program, a certified organizational provider or through arrangements with the county mental health plan or certified providers.

Transition of County Shelters: GH

→Temporary Shelter Care Facilities:

Short-stay only for assessment to placement. The need for TSF's to be reexamined in 2021.

Overarching Elements:

New Provider Rate Structure: One rate for STRTCs, tiered structure for FFAs.

Multi-year, Phased-In Implementation:

These changes will be phased in over several years beginning 2017, providing extensions and provisional licenses and rates to allow time for accreditation and mental health certification.

Accountability and Provider Performance:

Publicly available provider performance data and a system of cross-departmental oversight (CDSS/DHCS).

STRTCs and FFA may be public or private.

November is National Adoption Month



BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

All young people deserve a safe place to live, and with each passing year, more children know the warmth and comfort of a loving family thanks to adoptive parents. People who adopt do so for a variety of reasons, but they are united in the kindness and devotion they show toward children -- the people who need it most. During National Adoption Month, we recognize the selflessness of adoptive families, and we thank them for opening their hearts and their doors to young people in need of a safe, stable place to call home.

More than 400,000 children are in foster care across America today, and over 100,000 of these children are waiting for an adoptive home. Last year, over 23,000 youth aged out of the foster care system without having found their forever families. When people adopt, they open up a world of promise and possibility by providing a steady, supportive environment for youth to live in. November 21 marks National Adoption Day, when we unite as families, advocates, and communities -- and as a country -- to raise awareness of the barriers to adoption and recommit ourselves to moving more of our young people into permanent homes.

My Administration is dedicated to supporting adoptive parents and making it easier for families to adopt. Earlier this year, I implemented new Federal Government leave policies aimed at expanding workplace flexibility and helping employees who are balancing the needs of their family, including the birth or adoption of a child, with the demands of their job. I was proud to permanently extend the Adoption Tax Credit, which helps provide necessary financial support to adoptive families to ease the economic burden of the adoption process. And last summer, the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act went into effect -- a law I signed to enforce our high legal standards for adoption service providers and to protect parents and children of adoptive families around the world.

Families across our country won a victory earlier this year when the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution guarantees marriage equality -- affirming the notion that LGBT couples deserve to be treated equally. This ruling was a victory for same-sex couples who have fought for equality and for children whose parents' marriages will now be recognized as legitimate throughout America. And because of the ruling, more kids in foster care

will now have the chance to be welcomed into a loving and supportive family to call their own.

As we come together to give thanks and show our appreciation for the professionals who work tirelessly to ensure the adoption process runs smoothly and efficiently, we celebrate the stories of those who have been permanently and positively affected by adoption. During National Adoption Month, let us embrace the unique place adoptive families have in America, and let us extend our fullest gratitude to all those who have welcomed home a child in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2015 as National Adoption Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month by answering the call to find a permanent and caring family for every child in need and by supporting the families who care for them.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

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NEWSLETTER



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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.

“You Raised Me” by Jaiya John

Here’s a tribute to all of you who raise, serve, guide, mentor, support, advocate for, love, and believe in children and youth touched by foster care! Thank you for receiving and please feel invited to share. We who have traveled this peculiar road cherish you!

Gratefully,
Jaiya

Listen to his tribute he read at the CSFPA Conference on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0iRQoen25Y&feature=em-share_video_user



The CSFPA board wishes you and your family a healthy, safe and joyous holiday season!

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