



# California State Foster Parent Association, Inc.

Representing all California Resource Families

*“To Touch A Life Forever”*

3RD QUARTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 14, 2017

## 3rd Quarter Board Meeting Summary

The California State Foster Parent Association quarterly meeting was held in Sacramento July 21st and 22nd. Kimberly Wrigley, LCSW— Program Implementation Bureau Chief, Continuum of Care Reform Branch, CDSS updated us on the current progress of CCR/RFA implementation. She shared that the RFA unit has gone through some reorganization which includes forming various individualized units to address specific issues associated with the implementation of the RFA process. She explained there are several work groups that meet regularly to discuss areas that need revision or attention including one for allegations and the best way to improve this process. They are constantly revising the Written Directives to implement the RFA program—the most recent version having been released on June 9th. You can read the Written Directives on the RFA website ([www.cdss.ca.gov/infocources/Resource-Family-Approval-Program](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/infocources/Resource-Family-Approval-Program)) . She also shared that currently licensed foster homes can ob-

tain the new RFA status by providing respite to foster children in the current year (2017). Additionally, they are working on enabling Resource Families to obtain an “inactive status” for families who need to take time off without losing their RF status.

If you are interested in receiving the electronic version of the monthly CCR (Continuum of Care Reform) newsletter, you can request to be put on the distribution list at [ccr@dss.ca.gov](mailto:ccr@dss.ca.gov).

The CSFPA annual board meeting will be held at this year’s annual Training Conference being held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Garden Grove on Thursday, October 12th at 9:00 AM. All CSFPA members are invited and encouraged to attend. We are always looking for people interested in helping move the association forward. We hope to see you at the conference in October. See below article for details.

## This Year’s CSFPA 41st Annual Training Conference

**RIDING  
THE WAVE  
OF CHANGE TOGETHER**

OCTOBER 12–14, 2017

Great Wolf Lodge  
12681 Harbor Boulevard  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

The agenda and registration for this year’s conference is now available at <http://www.cvent.com/events/the-41st-annual-foster-parent-training-conference/event-summary-c37b83d8c62e44acb2155567c58600f9.aspx>. This year’s venue promises to provide fun and entertainment for the entire family in addition to offering a plethora of training opportunities for those working in the foster care arena. It is a wonderful opportunity to greet old friends and make new friends.

This year’s theme -“Riding the Wave of Change Together”- was chosen to reflect the important changes we are undertaking together in California. Even though the changes are many, our goal as caregivers is always to ensure that the children in our care feel loved and cared for. You will find outstanding workshop topics to choose from this year including: information from the California Department of Social Services, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Drug Affected Infants, and many more. Our wish is that you will all come away from this conference with new ideas and an increased understanding of the new changes that will affect us all in our role of caregivers. We would like to give a special thank you to those exceptional caregivers, social workers, and representatives of the county and State Department of Social Services who have worked so hard to ensure a successful conference.

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## Membership and Insurance

Mary Haghenbeck, Membership/Insurance Chair

Now is the time to join the California State Foster Parent Association! You will receive a reduced registration rate for the conference if you are a member. In addition, you will receive the quarterly newsletter and be eligible for all benefits membership provides. See our website for a list of membership benefits and to obtain a membership application.



Join Us

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## Native American Update

Lavon Kent, Native American Committee Chair

There are several issues and concerns amongst the Native American communities. Below are some that have been brought to my attention.

- Programs for Cultural Competency of Native Americans are being done by Non-Natives and Social Services in Sacramento. The employees of other tribes from out state tribes are making decisions for California tribes and are not giving our tribes a voice for input. They are not contacting all tribes.
- There is a large turnover of employees in the tribal communities due to it being a rural area. One of the issues is the employees have to travel around the county and have an overload of cases. We recently lost two workers that were very dedicated. We are hoping to establish good working relationships with new workers.
- Our tribal children are mostly in kinship care being cared for by elders/aunts/uncles/cousins, etc. We have children out of state and need to know how they are doing through monitoring. We need to know if they are receiving the skills and information for successful adulthood.
- The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department want to take the Charlie Byrd Youth Correction Center into an adult jail facility. The majority of the youth in the correction center are of Native American Tribal blood. They are planning to move them and others to outside counties. This will be a hardship for the youth and their families and prevent them from receiving their cultural competency.
- I recently attended the foster parent training in our community to encourage our tribal families to take in our children that need help and give hope to the need of parents to reunify with their children. The training was great and the trainers did an excellent job. They have learned to listen to the Native American people's needs and concerns.

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## Nominations Committee: Election Results

Terry Haines, Committee Chair



There will be no ballots sent out this year. We had four candidates running unopposed. Nominations were closed and the positions are as follows.

Secretary – Kay Crockell

Treasurer – Shelly Best

VP North Coastal Region – Sheri Justice-Cook

VP Valley Region – Shirley Bobbitt

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## Check out the newly designed CSFPA Website!

We are excited to introduce our newly designed California State Foster Parent Association website. Many hours were spent updating information and making the site user friendly and easy to navigate. Our website address is [www.csfpaonline.org](http://www.csfpaonline.org). Please take a look and let us know what you think.

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# Here's What's Happening Around the State....

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## Valley Region

*Marylud Baldwin, VP Valley Region*

It is an exciting time as we move closer to the October conference. Our region is hosting the conference, so we have been very busy with securing presenters and setting up the conference brochure and agenda.

Don't forget to register for the conference on the website and reserve your rooms early at the Great Wolf Lodge. (Oct 12 -14<sup>th</sup>). We have secured a low rate for the rooms if you attend the conference. The lodge offers an indoor water park and lots to do for kids and adults alike. There is more info elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website. We need lots of help with the conference, so if you have the desire to do a few extra hours planning, setting up, or working on conference days, please contact me at 804-471-1660 or Shelly Best at 805-570-7782.

Our other big news is that we are soon to have a new VP for our region. Shirley Bobbitt from Fresno has been voted into office and she will start her term in January. Much as I will miss acting as your VP, I welcome her to the position and wish her all the best. Change is a good thing, and I know she will do a great job.

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## North Coastal Region

*Sheri Justice Cook, VP North Coastal Region*

I am interested in how CCR, RFA & QPI are progressing in your area. I'd also like to know your concerns as Resource Parents and the children you care for including C-SEC youth in your areas and what is in place for them, and Common Core and its effect on our children etc. I will be reaching out to the Presidents of each chapter in my region to coordinate a regional meeting in the spring. Please keep this in mind, so, when I call or email you, you can provide some potential times/dates that will work for you. I hope as many of you as possible will be attending the Conference in October in Garden Grove, perhaps we could try to get together and talk during the conference time.

Don't forget to apply for a **possible** scholarship when registering for the Conference. Thanking you for being a part of C.S.F.P.A.'s Village, and your daily commitment to the Children. Sincerely Wishing all Well and Hoping to see you soon.

I hope to see you at the conference in October. I am here to assist any North Coastal Region Chapters with questions, issues or just information. Please contact me at [beniciascook@prodigy.net](mailto:beniciascook@prodigy.net).

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## Northern Region

*Nadine Fleek, VP Northern Region*

A big issue confronting Siskiyou county is the plan to move the juvenile detention center out of the county and use the facility for an adult jail. Many citizens are concerned about not having a facility in county for juvenile offenders with the result being they would be placed out of county.

Chapter #34: Siskiyou- September foster parent association meeting will be held at our bakery on Main Street in Yreka from 12-2.

Chapter #33: Tehama- Our regional meeting will be hosted by Linda on September 3rd at Sherries Restaurant from 12-2.

Chapter #107: Humboldt- Malissa has increased membership. She will hold the regional meeting in April which will include dinner, breakfast and great classes.

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## Central Region

*Carrie Myles, Central Region VP*

Sacramento County sponsored 3 members from chapter 13 to attend the National Foster Parent Association training conference held June 21-24 in Houston, Texas. It was well worth attending with over 350 attendees. Information was bought back and shared with CSFPA at the July Quarterly meeting. On the next page is some information from the conference I found interesting. Chapter 35 is working on rebuilding their chapter. Chapter 70 will soon have a new President. I am here to support all of you with ideas or suggestions.



## Legislative & Policy Update

Jenn Rexroad, Legislation Chair

Emergency Child Care Bridge Program (formerly AB 1164) established in the state budget, will begin January 1. It includes 31 million in funding for child care vouchers for resource families, a child care navigator in counties who opt in and trauma-informed training for child care providers.

**AB507** – Foster Parent Education – training to meet the specific needs of children in a placement

**AB1006** – Foster Youth – Specialized Permanency Services/Planning – require findings that permanency services and planning are being provided

**SB233** – Foster Children Education Records – defines and allows access to records for foster parents to be able to support children

### ACLs & ACNs

June 23, 2017

#### **ACN I-40-17 - IHSS for Children in Adoption Assistance Program and Foster Care Settings**

AAP is not to be used as an alternate resource for IHSS assessment. Each eligible child should receive a complete IHSS needs assessment.

May 3, 2017

#### **ACL 17-24 – Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – (PL 114-95)**

ESSA requires State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to work with local Child Welfare Agencies (CWAs) – dual-agency responsibility for supporting the educational success of students in foster care. There is reciprocal obligations from both agencies.

**School of Origin and Best Interest Determinations:** Foster Youth must be enrolled in or remain in their school of origin, unless there is a determination that it is not in their best interest to do so. Transportation costs are not a factor.

**Immediate Enrollment and Transfer of Records:** When a school transfer is warranted, ESSA requires immediate enrollment WITHOUT producing normally school records and/or documents. (A school must IMMEDIATELY enroll). Additionally, enrolling schools must immediately contact the school last attended to obtain relevant academic information even if the student did not properly check out. The student's previous school must send education records to the new school within two-days of receiving the request.

\*\*\*Register for free membership to [www.cacaregivers.org](http://www.cacaregivers.org) for more updates, and an opportunity to engage in statewide legislation and workgroups.

## Information from the NFPA Conference

Carrie Myles

Children in foster care have been called “the most vulnerable of the vulnerable.” Many come from homes marked by mental illness, substance use and violence, all of which exact a toll. A study by the American Academy of Pediatrics finds children in foster care are twice as likely as their non-foster care peers to have developmental delays, asthma and obesity; three times more likely to have ADD/ADHD, hearing problems and vision problems; five times more likely to have anxiety; six times more likely to have behavioral problems; and seven times more likely to suffer from depression. “All youth come to Resource families with trauma,” said Jim Hatch, M.B.A., LSW, Council of State Affiliates chairman. “There are sometimes visual signs, but sometimes there are not.” It’s important for Resource families to be able to recognize the signs of crisis and become confident in understanding how to intervene appropriately, Hatch added. The Mental Health First Aid foster care-specific scenarios highlight common situations to help resource families respond effectively. Now Resource families who welcome these children into their homes with open arms have a new tool to help. The [National Foster Parent Association \(NFPA\)](#) and its Council of State Affiliates have partnered with Mental Health First Aid to add a foster focus to the [Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) curriculum.

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## SSI Benefits for Disabled or Blind Youth in Foster Care

Disabled or blind youth receiving Title IV-E federal foster care benefits usually cannot become eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) until foster care payments have stopped. However, since August 1, 2016, a temporary pilot program lets Social Security accept applications from youths up to 180 days before their eligibility ends.

NOTE: This is an exception to the general rule of accepting an SSI application in the month before the month of eligibility.

What are the requirements for filing an SSI application?

A disabled youth transitioning out of foster care may file an SSI application if he or she:

- Lives in a foster care situation;
- Alleges blindness or disability;
- Appears likely to meet all of the non-medical eligibility requirements when foster care payments terminate;
- Expects the foster care payments to cease within 180 days of the application filing date; and
- Is within 180 days of losing foster care eligibility.

For information about applying for SSI, visit [SocialSecurity.gov](http://SocialSecurity.gov) and select "Supplemental Security Income" from the menu at the top.

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: Do you have something you'd like to share with the rest of the CSFPA membership? Send it to the newsletter Chair for :  
: consideration for inclusion in our newsletter. [CSFPANewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:CSFPANewsletter@gmail.com). :  
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## Kohls Employee Volunteer Program

Through Kohl's Volunteer Program, Kohl's Associates donate their personal time to make a difference in their local communities by volunteering with eligible nonprofit organizations. With every qualifying event, volunteer efforts are rewarded with a \$500 grant from Kohl's to the benefitting organization. Since the program's inception in 2001, Kohl's, through the volunteer program, has donated more than \$137 million in corporate grants to eligible nonprofit organizations across the country.

Need volunteers? Review the criteria below and visit Kohl's Grant Management System to register your organization.



### Criteria:

- A minimum of five Kohl's Associates from one Kohl's location must volunteer for a minimum of three consecutive hours in one day.
- The activity must benefit an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- Funds must be used to directly support the organization's charitable purpose and the community at large.

As the Kohl's Volunteer Program is completed on Associates personal time, all volunteer requests may not be able to be fulfilled. To request volunteers and manage details of your event, eligible organizations should register through [Kohl's Grant Management System](#). Visit <http://gms.kohls.com> and click the Register: Nonprofits link in the middle of the page. Many CSFPA chapters have taken advantage of this great program to assist with events such as picnics and Christmas parties.

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## Silent Auction Item Donations Needed



Every year, at the Annual Conference, a silent auction is held. We ask that each Chapter donate an item for the auction. All proceeds from the auction go directly to the scholarship fund for foster children. Please contact Marylud Baldwin at 804-471-1660 if you have a donation to give.



## 3RD QUARTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

California State Foster Parent Association  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
272 Devon Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903



***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.***

### Campership Appreciation

Below are thank yous from children who benefitted from the CSFPA Campership Scholarships this summer:

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR  
SENDING ME TO CAMP ROCKIN  
U I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME  
MEETING NEW FRIENDS AND  
SEEING OLD ONES. THE  
STAFF IS REALLY GOOD AT IT  
WAS A SAFE PLACE TO  
BE. THANKS AGAIN KIM S.  
REGION #2

I AM EIGHT, AND MY NAME  
IS NATTIE P. CAMP WAS  
FUN AND I LIKE SWIMMING  
AND LEARNING NEW GAMES  
AND SONGS.

I WANT TO THANK YOU  
FOR GIVING ME THE OP-  
PORTUNITY. NATTIE P.  
REGION #2

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).

If you have an item you'd like considered for inclusion in the newsletter, please submit to the same email.