



California State Foster Parent Association, Inc.

Representing all California Resource Families

"To Touch A Life Forever"

2ND QUARTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

MAY 18, 2018

2nd Quarterly Board Meeting/Training

The California State Foster Parent Association's second quarter board meeting and training was held at the Sacramento Hilton April 27 and 28. In recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention month, Friday's meeting started with a moment of silence to honor those children who did not survive abuse. We then were provided with updates on initiatives being enacted by California State Department of Health and Human Services followed by a Q&A session. Thank you to the following representatives from the state who shared their time and knowledge with us: Aleta Prudhomme and Daisy Braxton from Foster Care Rates Bureau, Valerie Earley, Wendy Cook and Kendra Elmendorf from the RFA unit. The most recent RFA written directives—Version 5—was released in February. There are still changes and revisions being made to the RFA process to streamline and improve it for everyone. One important update is already existing foster parents now only need participate in one home assessment (versus the original 3 assessments).

In the afternoon, another training/presentation was provided by Cindy Kaiser from the California Victim Compensation

Board. She explained how anyone—child or adult—who is a victim of a crime is eligible to access funds from the CAVCB. If claims are filed prior to a child's 21st birthday, the funds are available for their lifetime.

While Mary Haghenbeck continues to recover from major surgery, Carol Ihlenburg is acting as Membership Chair. 25 chapters were presented for ratification. Total CSFPA membership is 750. Each Regional Vice President provided updates on their region's activities and Committee chairs provided updates for their respective responsibilities.

The next Quarterly Board meeting/training will be held July 20-21 at the Sacramento Hilton. All Chapter Presidents are encouraged to attend. All members are welcome. Training hours are available for the training/presentation provided at the Friday meeting. For more information, contact Joyce Hammerich at Ham_Mom@yahoo.com.

42nd Annual CSFPA Conference and Training: It's a New Day; Let's Band Together

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 5-7, 2018

**IT'S A NEW DAY
LET'S BAND TOGETHER**

Hilton Sacramento Arden West • 2200 Harvard Street • Sacramento, CA 95815

Legislative & Policy Update

Jenn Rexroad, Legislative Advisor



Many foster parents/resource families attended two days of Assembly and Senate budget subcommittee hearings in April in Sacramento to advocate for laws and budgetary concerns. The voices were heard as is evidenced by changes in some of the procedures and laws regarding CCR (Continuum of Care Reform) and RFA (Resource Family Approval).

Update from California Alliance of Caregivers in Sacramento:

The Governor's May Revision of the 2018/19 budget includes funding for emergency (relative) placements for 6 months during the RFA process. The budget also includes funding for additional social workers to clear the RFA backlog and for the additional workload of Level of Care assessment/implementation.

There are several funding requests from child welfare advocates, including: Foster Parent Retention, Recruitment, and Support; funding for emergency placements (so caregivers can receive foster care payments while completing the RFA process); a 24-hour emergency hotline and mobile response for mental health crises; and a pilot parent coaching program. We are waiting to learn more!

Child Care Bridge - The funding began January 1, however, many counties are still waiting to get contracts finalized. The funding can be retroactive to January 1, 2018. Counties (Santa Barbara, Riverside, and a few others) can opt in for year 2 by June 1. An ACL should be released next week. This program **NEEDS** stakeholder

input. Your county's child care resource and referral program will house the Navigator. This person should be a huge resource to caregivers. Most R&Rs would be happy to have stakeholder input into how they can best help caregivers find a child care placement. Ask them to set up a meeting with your group.

Child & Family Team Meetings - An ACL regarding CFTs will come out soon. If there is any input that you would like to give about what makes a successful CFT, please email jrexroad@cacaregivers.org.

California Alliance of Caregivers **Ambassadors** meet monthly on the 2nd Monday from 1-2pm. Each chapter of CSFPA can have a representative participate in the monthly meeting and a monthly meeting with Greg Rose, CA Child Welfare Director. Please contact jrexroad@cacaregivers.org if you are interested in joining this group to represent your chapter.

A Statewide Caregiver Policy Agenda is in development for **Caregiver Day at the Capitol 2019**. If you would like your chapter to contribute to the statewide agenda, please contact jrexroad@cacaregivers.org.

The **Foster Youth Bill of Rights** is being updated this year. There will be a new and expanded plan for implementation and training youth with age appropriate versions.

Bills Affecting Children in Foster Care: AB1784, AB2043, AB2083, AB2183, AB2247, AB2323, AB3046, SB925, SB940, SB1083. To read more: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>

Level of Care implementation is being delayed until June 30 in order to improve the assessment tool and ensure each child and family is assessed properly.

Website Update

Carol Ihlenburg, Website Chair

If you haven't checked out the newly updated CSFPA website, you should! The website address is www.csfpaonline.org. Many of the CSFPA forms have been updated and are available online. All current chapters are available online as well. Review your chapter's information, and let me know if anything needs to be added or revised. CSFPAnewsletter@gmail.com.

CSFPA Newsletter: Email or Regular mail? *Carol Ihlenburg, Newsletter Chair*

Please Respond: Let us know how you prefer to receive our quarterly newsletters. The first quarterly newsletter was distributed electronically. We have received feedback from members that prefer to receive their newsletters via regular mail. Although electronic delivery saves resources (both environmentally and financially), we are happy to mail you a paper copy if that is your preference. Contact Carol Ihlenburg at csfpanewsletter@gmail.com or call (415) 507-1822.

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



Northern Region

Nadine Fleek, Northern Region VP

A Northern Regional meeting was held April 19-20 in Humboldt County. It was well attended and several informative workshops were offered. College of the Redwoods assisted in providing the location and organizing the event. We are appreciative of their help. The next regional meeting will be in Del Norte County. Dates and times to be announced soon.

If you have any questions regarding the happenings in the Northern Region, please contact me at (530) 937-3246.

North Coastal Region

Sheri Justice-Cook, Northcoastal Region VP

I'd like to thank those in my region who attended the March meeting featuring Margaret Coyne, Executive Director of Advokids. For those that were unable to attend due to the weather, I hope to see you at the next one. Hearing of how each County is progressing or not was quite informative relating to RFA, Day Care, and FPRRS funding. Claiming our youth on your income tax return and getting court hearing dates from the County about our youth were some of the discussions. It was a very good morning, and I look forward to continuing to have these meetings, so we have the opportunity to meet with and discuss issues with foster parents/resource parents in other counties.

I hope to see more Chapter Presidents and members at the Quarterly in July, and to see all of you at the Conference in October at the Sacramento Hilton. Please inform your counties of this training and request assistance to send some of your families. There will also be some scholarships available through Sacramento State.

Central Region

Carrie Myles, Central Region VP

The Sacramento chapter of CYC, in partnership with the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson, will be hosting a forum delving into the complex realities that African American children and families face within the child welfare system on May 29th in Sacramento. For more information, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-in-foster-care-tickets-45392078930>. Additionally, there will be a youth awareness Resource fair on Thursday May 31st, 2018 from 11:00a - 2:00p in Sacramento. Vendor space available for 25 organizations. Thanks to all Region 3 chapters for their continuous support of the quarterly training while obtaining great information. Wishing all members having health issues a speedy recovery.

Valley Region

Shirley Bobbitt, Valley Region VP

Fresno County: We are eagerly working on recruiting members to join our association. We recently had a town hall meeting to talk about the future of QPI (Quality Parenting Initiative) in our area. Two of our members join regular conference calls with CAC (California Alliance of Caregivers) to learn about what is going on at the legislative level concerning foster parenting.

San Luis Obispo County FPA: Our association elected a new President (Mary Lud Baldwin) and Vice President (Franchelle Ellison). On June 19, a Youth Wellness & Resource Fair will be held in San Luis Obispo with over 20 free youth activities, resources and community members on site to inform, pamper and assist youth. For more information, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-wellness-and-resource-fair-tickets-42798256738>.

Santa Barbara County: Our association elected a new President, Stacy Demmin. We have collaborated with a local organization—R-Fast Resource Family Support Team - to offer childcare at our meetings by approximately forty high school students who want to learn about foster care. This has also become a source of recruitment as many of the high schoolers express interest in becoming a foster parent in the future. There is also a therapist on site who supervises the students. This effort is a big win-win for everyone. We've also partnered with a culinary school to provide food at our meetings. Another win-win—mainly a win for our members as we are treated to delicious food during our meetings.

May is National Foster Care Month!

May is National Foster Care Month, a month set aside to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. During National Foster Care Month, we renew our commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than 430,000¹ children and youth in foster care, and we celebrate all those who make a meaningful difference in their lives. Thank you for all you do for the children in your care.



National Foster Care Month 2018

"It's All Relative: Supporting Kinship Connections"

www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth



Meet Your Executive Board Members

Treasurer: Shelly Best



I wanted to become a foster parent from a VERY young age in Arizona when I volunteered at an Arizona child crisis shelter. I now live in Santa Barbara and became a foster parent over 15 years ago. I am a self-employed accountant (train business owners and personal clients on financial matters) and a registered tax preparer.

I have one biological son, who is 24 years old and is a TSA Agent at the Santa Barbara Airport. He was always such a loving, calming presence for all of the foster chil-

dren who came through our home.

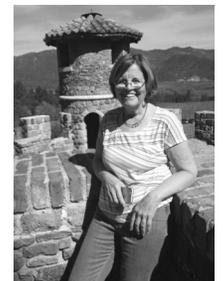
I am on every committee I can find that helps to advocate for foster children, their foster families and education and support for foster families and bio families to work together to help our communities become stronger and healthier.

I became the Treasurer of the CSFPA in January of this year after serving as the Budget and Finance Committee Chair for four years. I look forward to meeting you all and serving as your Treasurer.

Acting Secretary: Joyce Hammerich

I am the acting secretary for the California State Foster Parent Association. My husband, Jim, and I have been county licensed foster parents for 16 years doing emergency foster care. We have four grown children, four grandchildren and have been blessed to have more than 100 children of all ages come through our home. I

am the President of the Redwood Empire Foster Parent Association in Sonoma County. My passion is...you guessed it.....all things to do with foster care!



2018 Conference Details

It's A New Day; Let's Band Together

Carrie Myles, 2018 Conference Chair

SAVE THE DATE. Upload information at: www.csfpaonline.org/event. Forward to all parents and agencies to get the word out. As chairperson for the CSFPA conference being held October 5th - 7th at the Hilton Hotel Sacramento, I am working on your behalf obtaining exceptional trainers for an educational and exciting weekend. I appreciate all who have offered suggestions and contacts.

Some trainings that will be offered include:

- Have you had a Active Recognition? What about an Experiential Recognition? And don't mention a Proactive Recognition— Well just have A Creative Recognition -not sure? Check it out
- Did you know there is no such thing as a Bad Kid?
- And, of course, our Youth must know about Healthy Sexual Behavior.
- And More!

See you in October in Sacramento! Contact me if you have any questions carriemls53@gmail.com.



California State Foster Parent Association, Inc.
Representing all California Resource Families
"To Touch A Life Forever"

CSFPA OFFICER NOMINATION FORM

For the term of: January 2019 through December 2021

For the office of:

_____ **President**

_____ **Vice President**

_____ **Northern Region Vice President** (Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity)

_____ **Central Region Vice President** (Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tuolumine, Yolo and Yuba)

Individual Being Nominated:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Chapter Name: _____ Chapter Number: _____

Region: _____

Number of State CSFPA meetings attended in the last two years? _____

If attendance is based on regional meetings, name of person who can verify regional meeting.

Contact: _____ Phone Number: _____

Local county licensing or certifying agency who will verify that the nominee is in good standing and open for placements:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Statement of Acceptance:

Should I be elected to the position for which I was nominated,

I accept the position of _____

_____ Date: _____

(Signature of Nominee)

Please attach a resume and an article of introduction on a separate sheet of paper. (Note: not all members of the Association in your region will know you. Therefore, it is advisable that you provide additional information about yourself, as you feel appropriate, including your goals for the position and/or the Association. You may want to include such information as:

- Number of years as a foster parent and number of children currently in placement
- Past/Current positions held in local and state foster parent association(s)
- Education (high school, college, special foster parent related training)
- Past/Current positions held on other associations (social, civil, volunteer, etc.)
- Social Achievements/Awards Received
- Other information you think may be important for the voters to know

Individual making nomination:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Chapter Name: _____ Chapter Number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Nominations by mail must be received by July 1, 2018.

Mail nominations to:

Terry Haines, Nomination Chair

PO Box 1072

Yreka, CA 96097

Nominations may also be turned in at the quarterly board meeting no later than July 20, 2018

Please make a separate copy for each person you wish to nominate.

Nominations for 2019-2021 Officers *Terry Haines, Nominations Chair*

It is time for nominations for officers taking office beginning 2019. See previous page for Nominations form. This year, there will be elections for the President, Vice President and Regional Vice Presidents for the Northern, and Central Regions. Each position has specific requirements as noted in the CSFPA bylaws. All elected officers must be a member in good standing and must be nominated by a member in good standing.

Below are additional requirements for noted offices:

President - (a) Must have proven leadership qualities and basic parliamentary knowledge, or ability to obtain it; (b) Held an elected office on the Executive Board for at least one term and (c) not have accepted nominations for any other office.

Vice President- (a) above, (b) above in addition can hold a current office, except President, Secretary or Treasurer and (c) Have the ability to assume the President's duties in the President's absence.

Regional Vice President- (a) Must reside in their respective region when nominated and/or while serving as a board member and (b) Be nominated by another member residing in their respective region.

Please refer to the By Laws for the duties of each office. They are also available on the CSFPA website.

When submitting a nomination, please make sure resumes and a letter from the nominee's licensing agency (stating that you are in good standing) is provided. Please read all requirements on the Nomination form including deadline information.

Join The CSFPA Team!



2018 CSFPA Executive Board

President	Patricia Negus	patnegus@msn.com
Vice President	Nadine Fleek	Memories_95503@yahoo.com
Acting Secretary	Joyce Hammerich	Ham_mom@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Shelly Best	shellybest@hotmail.com
Northern Region VP	Nadine Fleek	Memories_95503@yahoo.com
North Coastal Region VP	Sheri Justice-Cook	beniciascook@gmail.com
Central Region VP	Carrie Myles	carriemls53@gmail.com
Valley Region VP	Shirley Bobbitt	bobbitt777@sbcglobal.net
Southern Region VP	OPEN	



2ND QUARTER 2018 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.

3rd Quarter Training and Meeting 42nd Annual CSFPA Training Conference

The CSFPA 3rd Quarterly Meeting will be held July 20th and 21st at the Hilton Hotel in Sacramento. All members are encouraged and welcome to attend. There is also a training offered on the 20th. Please contact Joyce Hammerich,

CSFPA Standing Secretary for more information at Ham_Mom@yahoo.com.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

This year's CSFPA Training and Conference will be held October 5-7 at the Hilton Hotel in Sacramento. More information included in this newsletter.



Due to the request of some of the board members, we will be mailing the newsletters to all members. If you prefer to receive your newsletter via email (assisting with the conservation of resources), please email CSFPANewsletter@gmail.com. You can also access the newsletters online at our website (www.csfpaonline.org).