



California State Foster Parent Association, Inc.

Representing all California Resource Families

"To Touch A Life Forever"

4TH QUARTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 25, 2018

2018 Annual CSFPA Conference/Training *Carrie Myles, 2018 Conference Chair*

The California State Foster Parent Association's 42nd Annual Conference and Training held October 5-7 in Sacramento was a huge success. More than 130 attendees had the opportunity to participate in over 30 different workshops on a variety of topics with many wonderful trainers/speakers. Many classes were standing room only! I'd like to thank our opening speaker, Michelle Callejas, Director of Sacramento County Child and Family Services and her staff for their overwhelming support and participation. The Saturday luncheon was entertaining with laughter as Charlie Applestein engaged us all. Sunday's awards luncheon featured Congresswoman Blanca Rubio who received the Outstanding Service award for her dedication and commitment to the lives of children in foster care and their caregivers. She vowed to continue her passion in Sacramento on our behalf. Other awards pre-



Scott and Kim Streeter,
Joyce Hammerich

sented were as follows: Outstanding Foster Parent award: Scott and Kim Streeter of Sonoma County, Outstanding Social Worker award: Rose Eshe of Sonoma County and Outstanding Kinship award: Jill Parker of Marin County. Haghenbeck scholarships were awarded to Jordan Vicario and Haylee Diaz both from San Bernardino County. A special thanks goes to Hilda Navarro and her helpers and everyone who helped with and attended the event. It was a pleasure being the committee chair for 2018. Mark your calendars now for the 43rd Annual Conference and Training to be held in Ontario, California October 10-12, 2019. Details will be available soon.

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Shirley Bobbitt, Blanca Rubio,
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Insurance Update

Karen Daniels, Insurance Advisor to CSFPA

With the holidays quickly approaching, your chapter may be planning holiday parties for your foster families. If you use the CSFPA insurance policy for your events, please note the following information.

I act as advisor to the CSFPA's President, and also the insurance agent providing the insuring coverage for the CSFPA. While the CSFPA always welcomes the opportunity to increase the association's membership, if your chapter operates under the CSFPA non-profit and uses the available insurance coverage, it is important to note and follow the requirements of the insurance coverage. Any paid member of your chapter may attend all meetings and events, and is covered under the CSFPA insurance policy. For events such as Christmas parties, attendees must always consist of only paid members of the CSFPA with ONE non-member guest of a paid member in good standing. Each guest (non paid member) is only allowed at ONE event, then they are welcome to join to attend additional events. This is necessary for both your insurance coverage purposes and use of the CSFPA's non-profit status. Insurance certificate requests are to be sent to Advisor.CSFPA@gmail.com for review and issuance. As there may be additional information required, please be sure to leave your full name, phone number and email in addition to Chapter you represent. In order to streamline assistance, the CSFPA President has requested that each Chapter have a designated person who represents the membership of the Chapter to please contact me before January 15, 2019. I will note the contact and activate your Chapter to be able to directly request Certificates of Insurance. This is only necessary once/year. The comprehensive insurance coverage is available to each Chapter and has the following exclusions: Inflatables (bounce houses, slides, etc.), Dunk tanks, and Hard liquor at events and meetings. My email address is Advisor.CSFPA@gmail.com and my phone number is (805) 227-6760. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any CSFPA insurance related questions or concerns. Thank you for your participation in the CSFPA – you matter!

Legislative & Policy Update



GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL IMPROVING RFA

Governor Brown signed **SB 1083** (Chapter 935, Statutes of 2018) into law on September 29. The bill, co-sponsored by the Alliance for Children's Rights, makes improvements to the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process to ensure that the process is both timely and supportive of caregivers and the children in their care.

Provisions in SB 1083 include:

- extending the RFA conversion deadline for existing certified, licensed, or approved families by an additional year (until December 31, 2020);
 - requiring the RFA permanency assessment to be completed within 90 days for all families who have a placement prior to being approved as a resource family, such as placements on an emergency basis;
 - allowing a family that withdraws a RFA application to resume the RFA process at the point it was withdrawn, if it is within 12 months of the withdrawal, and
 - clarifying that a youth can be placed with an approved relative or extended family member through a Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) without that person being approved as a resource family.
- SB 1083 is effective starting January 1, 2019.

NEW LAW PROVIDES FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

AB 2289 (Chapter 942, Statutes of 2018), intended to support educational outcomes for pregnant and parenting students, was signed into law on September 30.

The law establishes the following:

- the right of pregnant and parenting students to take eight weeks of parental leave;

- requires schools to notify both the pregnant and parenting student and their parent or guardian of the student's rights and available options, and
- requires schools to provide excused absences for parenting students to take care of a sick child without requiring a note from a doctor.

The law is intended to address inconsistencies across school districts that have hindered pregnant and parenting students and support such students in completing their education while at the same time making allowances to support them in bonding with and caring for a child.

NEW LAW BRINGS STATE INTO COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING INDIAN CHILDREN

On September 27, **AB 3176** (Chapter 833, Statutes of 2018), became law, bringing about a number of changes regarding the removal of Indian children from their families and their out-of-home placement. The new state law is intended to conform to changes to federal regulations governing the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) published by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on June 14, 2016.

CAREGIVER DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Caregiver Day at the Capitol is January 22, 2019. On January 30, 2018, 50+ caregivers came to Sacramento to share their stories and experiences with decision-makers in order to improve supports and services for children in foster care. Caregivers were empowered by the opportunity to share their insight into the realities of foster care. Caregiver Day at the Capitol is co-hosted with the California Alliance of Caregivers, Alliance for Children's Rights and the Step Up Coalition. To register go to: www.cacaregivers.org/cdatc.

Annual CSFPA Chapter Paperwork due January 15th

Each CSFPA Chapter is required to submit the following information by January 15th to be ratified (i.e. confirmed as a current chapter): (1) Signed Chapter Roster Form, (2) Membership List (your membership list should include (preferably typed) each member's first and last name, address, email address and preference on how to receive the quarterly CSFPA newsletter) (3) All quarterly financial reports from prior year (4) Copies of President and Vice President's license or RFA certificate from licensing agent (Note: If license or RFA certificate is not dated within the last year, a letter of good standing from the licensing agency is required) (5) Any changes to by-laws and/or asset ownership. All Chapter Presidents should be receiving a packet of information by mid November. If this information is not received by January 15th, a late fee will be applied and your access to the CSFPA insurance will be in jeopardy. Please send all information to: Carol Ihlenburg, Membership Chair, 272 Devon Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

Importance of JV290 and De Facto Status in Juvenile Courts

My name is Katelyn and I am a foster parent. My husband and I were approved through the RFA process in November 2017. Since December, we have had three young children placed in our home. Two have moved on to a kinship home and one has remained in our care for eight months.

We are very grateful that our foster child has a wonderful ongoing social worker who does so much to advocate for him. My husband and I feel it is our responsibility, as caregivers, to do our own research before court hearings to make sure we are doing whatever we can from our end to advocate for him as well.

Through our RFA classes, we received a lot of information about how foster care and dependency court work. We are so grateful that our classes were in-person because we made invaluable connections with our teacher and our fellow caregivers. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of building connections in your foster community, especially to get through those first couple months with a new placement. My husband and I continue to rely heavily on the connections we've made with other foster parents for advice and support.

I think frustration over not having a voice in court is a common feeling for foster parents. One of the many valuable things we learned about during our RFA classes is the JV-290 form. The JV-290 form allows current caregivers to submit information to the court. This form can be submitted in advance of the six-month hearing and then at each subsequent hearing. Our instructor told us it is important to state facts, not opinions, regarding the activities, development, and health of the child in your care. She recommended that we include a picture of the child on each of the eight copies. It's also helpful to attach brief, relevant letters from doctors, teachers, or therapists to give the court a better sense of the child's needs or to help demonstrate the progress the child is making.

We had our first opportunity to turn in a JV-290 form a couple weeks prior to the six-month hearing. The judge and each of the lawyers took a moment during the hearing to look at the picture of the child and put a face to the name they had been discussing for months. We often feel helpless as caregivers when it comes to advocating for the kids in our care. Completing the JV-290 for the little one we've been caring for felt good because it allowed us to contribute to the court's fuller understanding of the life of the child in our care. We hope any additional information will inform the court's decisions regarding the child's best interests. In addition, we hope taking the time to thoughtfully fill out and turn in the JV-290 gave the court a sense of who we are as caregivers.

My husband and I also turned in the JV-295 form to apply for what is called *de facto* parent status before our most recent hearing. *De facto* status is granted to people who assume the role of parent on a day-to-day basis for a child. We were told that the *de facto* status would give us more access to court records and family history, allow us to become a party to the case and have other rights in court. We are still learning about the benefits of *de facto* status but we are eager for any opportunity it might give us to advocate for the little one in our care.

My advice for foster parents is to fill out the JV-290 form before the six-month review hearing and at each subsequent hearing. AdvoKids has a webpage (www.advokids.org) that provides more information about *de facto* parenting status and has many of the court forms caregivers can complete and submit including the JV-290.

Meet Your Executive Board Members

Central Region VP: Carrie Myles

When I was a Medical Assistant Eligibility worker (now retired after 30 years), I was so impressed with parents as they registered their foster children to be seen by their doctor, Many were denied because of Medi-Cal eligibility. I knew I could do something to help parents and advocate for them. I was Inspired to become a foster parent alone, with three empty bedrooms, when my 2 Bio children went off to college— one a MBA; the other a Lab Tech. I raised two guardianship sons. They are

still a part of our family now over age 25. In all we have fostered 15 other children . We have three grand children and two great grand. One grand in early college.

My husband and I both retired, during our spare time we loved to travel as time permits. We just celebrated our 54th year of marriage!!! I love love..I enjoy advocating....



North Coastal Region VP: Sheri Justice-Cook



I am a New Jersey girl with North Carolina roots. In New Jersey, I was an extended family caregiver, a therapeutic parent, a kinship parent and a biological parent to two fine young men Sean Lemar Justice in Florida

and Duane' Anthony Justice in Avenel N.J. I am step-mother to Jaemi Rollins and Dawn Boggs, both of CA.,

grandmother and great-grandmother of many biological and extended family children. I moved to California in 1988 and became a foster parent with Moss Beach, and I have been caring for children here since. I am the President of The Solano County Foster Parent Association Chapter # 30 in addition to being the CSFPA North Coastal Region V.P. and CSFPA Legislative Chair. I am always willing to lend a hand or an ear. All of these jobs are important to me, doing what I love and loving what I do. 707 747-5329

Valley Region VP: Shirley Bobbitt

I became a foster parent for emergency placements in 1990, at the age of 50, In Fresno County. Within the first year, Katrina, a four year old girl, was placed in my home waiting for a group home placement to open. She had already been in 3 prior homes. My husband and I decided to keep her in our home because we felt we could nurture and care for her rather than her being moved to a group home and, eventually, adopted her.

In 1993, I became an Adolescent Female home, with a capacity of 6, and served at full capacity at all times. In 2002, I decided to down size and semi-retire. My daughter moved in with me, and we provide care together. For the last 15 years, we have taken between 1-3 children at a time.

In the mid, 1990's, I helped establish the Blue Ribbon

Run, a run against child abuse. I worked, along with others, to obtain a proclamation against child abuse from our County.

At the age of 78, I keep saying I am going to retire, but continue to care for the children of this county. I am currently the President of the Foster, Adopt, Kinship, Parent Association of Fresno County Chapter #5. I serve on Committees and Panels for the Fresno County Department of Social Services. I like to live life to the fullest! I am especially blessed that her eldest grandson, Jase, married Heather, a very special foster daughter that she cared for from the age of 11. They have been married for 16 years and have 3 beautiful children



Do you have something relevant and informative related to providing foster care in California?

Please send your ideas, information, suggestions to CSFPAnewsletter@gmail.com for consideration to be included in our next newsletter. We welcome your input.

Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE)

Advisory Committee Update

Carol Ihlenburg

A FKCE Advisory Committee meeting was held October 9th in Sacramento sponsored by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Regional FKCE coordinators, representatives from CDSS (California Department of Social Services), CWDA (County Welfare Directors Association), Alliance for Children's Rights, Kinship Caregiver's Panel, and the Foster Youth Ombudsperson's Office attended. I was there to represent CSFPA. The purpose of the meeting was to review and receive input from stakeholders on proposed state policy and processes in addition to providing input on program implementation activities and develop a strategic plan for the FKCE program. There is an anticipated cut to the FKCE program budget in the 2019/2020 fiscal year of approximately 10%.

At the meeting, ideas were suggested on ways to reduce costs such as combining trainings and efforts with areas that are close in proximity. Also discussed were distance training (online). This is a convenient option but there is hesitancy to implement too much due to the need for resource families to have face to face contact and support. Much of the meeting was centered around discussing funding factors for a new funding allocation formula to insure all counties receive a fair and appropriate amount of funding due to the upcoming reduction of funding.

Membership And Insurance

Carol Ihlenburg, Membership Chair

We are pleased to announce Mary Haghenbeck has made a 100% recovery from her unexpected illness and surgery she experienced last January. She has very generously offered to continue as Insurance Chair and assist me as I continue to navigate my way as Membership Chair. I find her experience and knowledge invaluable and am so happy she has agreed to assist and guide me in 2019. Please be patient with me and respond to any requests made by Mary or myself to insure your Chapter memberships are complete and compliant for ratification. You will most likely hear from either Mary or me regarding membership in 2019. Thank you for your patience with the uncertainty last year. Mary and I look forward to working with each Chapter. Please refer to previous articles concerning both insurance and membership. For information or questions regarding Insurance, contact Mary at mhaghenbeck@gmail.com. For membership questions, contact Carol at CSFPAnewsletter@gmail.com.

2019 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	



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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.

2019 Quarterly Trainings and Meetings 43rd Annual CSFPA Training Conference

The CSFPA 1st Quarterly meeting will be held in January (specific dates to be announced) at the Hilton Hotel in Sacramento. All members are encouraged and welcome to attend. A training by CDHHS will be provided. We will try to have it available via webinar for those unable to attend.

We are always looking for new energy and participants to join our executive team!



This year's CSFPA Training and Conference will be held October 10-12 at the Ontario Airport Hotel.

Check our website for updates as they become available. [Www.csfpaonline.org](http://www.csfpaonline.org).

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).