

**Washington State Children's Administration and Foster Parent  
Quarterly Regional Consultation Forum (HB 1624)  
September 26, 2012 10am-12pm  
Locations: Richland Children's Administration  
Sunnyside Children's Administration  
Walla Walla Children's Administration  
Yakima Children's Administration**

**Meeting Minutes**

Present

Laurie Richardson, Reg Licensor	Ernie Gowen, DCFS Area Administrator
Rosy Nechodom, FP	Marlene Simla, Licensor, Yakama Nation
Jocelyn Heemsah, FP	Verna Coleman, FP
Peggy Mahoney, DLR Licensor	Bill Coleman, FP Applicant
Maria Tovar, DLR Supervisor	Anna Enriquez, DLR Licensor
Deborah Sovy, DLR Licensor	Valli Ross, FP
Valerie Garay, DLR CPA	Emily Volland, FP
Laurie Schoffstall, Lutheran Family Services	Ryan Greenhalgh, DLR Supervisor
Stephanie Wainani, FP	Mary Perkins, FP
Laurie Palmquist, DLR Program Manager	Monica Jenkins, CA FTDM Program Manager
Chris Coburn, FP	Theresa Malley, DCFS Area Administrator
Dorene Perez, DCFS Area Administrator	Jenny Gourley, DCFS Supervisor
Pauline Sullivan, Foster Care Rate Assessment	Ana Avilla, FP
Elaine Rodriguez, FP	Eunice Beard, FP
Victoria Erwin, FP	Shanda Knowles, FP
Marty Butkovich, Region 1 Regional Administrator	Andrea Owens, DLR Licensor
Karolyn Wess, DLR Licensor	Sirrel Maldonado, DLR Licensor
Marilee Roberts, DLR Area Administrator	Alice Carranza, DCFS Supervisor
Dru Powers, Retention Specialist	

Agenda

1. **Training Update:** Ryan Krueger
  - a. Provided information about Pride, Parenting Plus and First Placement, Now What training opportunities in Region 1 South.
  - b. Reminder: Foster parents needing interpreter services at training can notify their licensor and arrangements will be made.
  - c. Handouts: Pride and Parenting Plus Training Schedule
2. **Recruitment Update:** Laurie Schoffstall
  - a. Richland recently had a barbeque with a strong turnout of foster parents and DLR staff on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Laurie Schoffstall provided an overview of recruitment activities and the pending closure of the Recruitment/Retention contract (9/30/2012) with Lutheran Family Services.
  - c. Lutheran Family Services, Olive Crest (CPA awarded new Recruitment/Retention contract) and DLR met to discuss the transition of services from Lutheran to Olive Crest. **NOTE:** The **1-888-KIDS-414** phone number will remain and foster parents can continue to contact that number for questions.
  - d. Linda Rogers has been hired by Olive Crest and will be the Recruitment/Retention Coordinator in Region 1. Linda will be stationed in Spokane and oversee services throughout Region 1.

- e. Olive Crest is currently recruiting for positions in the southern part of the region. There will be 4 individuals hired to provide contracted services to foster parents from Ellensburg to Walla Walla. Persons had not yet been hired with interviews scheduled for October 4, 2012.
  - f. A letter will be sent out to all foster parents regarding the Recruitment/Retention Program and its services within the next 30 days.
3. **Retention/Support:** Dru Powers
- a. HUB Activity:
    - i. Yakima: Contact Bobbi Oliphant as she indicates she will continue to have meeting in the Yakima area
    - ii. Richland Spanish HUB is planning a Halloween Party in October. Contact Carmen Leiva-Paredes
4. **Statewide Consultation Meetings:** Victoria Erwin and Dru Powers
- a. Nominations for Region 1 South representative closes October 5, 2012. Dru Powers has received nominations and ballots will be sent to foster parent in mid October for voting purposes. The new representative will serve a 2 year term and join Gina Coats (1 year left on her term) of Yakima at the December 2012 meeting.
  - b. Victoria Erwin provided a brief update on issues presented at the statewide meeting in the past. Discussion regarding identified issues for submission to the statewide meeting commenced.
5. **Issues/Questions/Other:** 7 issues identified during this discussion and 2 were selected to go forward to the statewide committee in December. (**Issues agreed to be sent to the statewide meeting are in bold.**)
- Permanency – Discussion regarding the length of time it takes for a child to reach their permanent plan. Length of stay and timeline for permanency is an issue. Victoria Erwin stated this is a re-occurring issue brought to the statewide committee.
  - Communications with CA Staff – Identified Concerns: Phone calls not returned, Need for Standards of Professionalism or Code of Conduct that includes being respectful, and Increase SW staff
  - Foster Parent Reimbursement – Availability and Consistency in decision making (e.g. long distance charges, internet and cable charges)
  - Relative Support – Understanding the Relative Guardianship Program, Licensing Relatives, Availability of Support Funds
  - Length of Time for family to become licensed or re-licensed – This issue was discussed and it was agreed this was a regional issue and DLR will present information at the December meeting on plans to increase the timeliness of the licensing process.
  - **Respite: The lack of respite availability and reimbursement pay structure**
    - a) Lack of respite care available for crisis situations, planned vacations etc. to give foster families break.
    - b) The current pay structure or reimbursement pay for respite does not encourage foster families to do respite care.
  - **Transportation/ Visitation supervisors state contractors.**
    - a) The need to hold them to a standard of professionalism that seems to be lacking.
    - b) The lack of or poor communication, disrespect of foster families lives/plans and boundaries being violated between contractors and foster parents.
    - c) The lack of consistency in staff that are transporting and doing supervision in individual cases.
    - d) Questions concerning the rights of foster parent privacy when they sign on the same transportation sheet as the birthparents? Is there a standard form for consistent documentation between each person supervising the visits and is every effort made to

keep a consistent person supervising for continuity in individual cases? Last of all what is the protocol for what is allowed or not allowed at visitations and what is the role of the contracted supervisors in regards for example: in appropriate snacks, activities or behaviors displayed by the birthparents in regards to their children?

6. **Next Statewide Meeting – Monday, October 22, 2012 1pm-4pm** Region 3 South area in Olympia at OB-2 in the Service Level 04 room, near the cafeteria. By video conferencing a the Region 1 South Yakima DCFS Office (1002 North 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, CSO Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)
7. **Next Regional Meeting – Thursday, December 6, 2012 10am-12pm**  
Locations: Richland DCFS 1661 Fowler Street, Richland WA - Columbia A&B  
Yakima DCFS 1002 North 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Yakima WA – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room