

Recruiter's Meeting

Date: 07/21/2020

Time: 11am – 12:30pm

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Name, Pronouns, Agency, and Title
 - b. What's your "third place"? (Kymber will explain!)

2. Highlights from last meeting's discussion:
 - a. Successes': Zoom meet-n-greets with applicants have been really positive – Providing a lot of online/virtual support to families and opportunities for connection – Using social media for recruitment
 - b. Jill (WACF) is advocating to DCYF that 30 days to complete in-person items once COVID restrictions are lifted is unreasonable
 - c. Taskforces/Subgroups have been formed within DCYF – Licensing, Recruitment, Adoption, Home Study, Kinship, Group Care, FaceTime
 - d. Jill clarified the SAFE home study model is not going to happen
 - e. FCFC ends in August – WA Fosters/Hubspot will continue – possibly adding more data reporting around outcomes – stay tuned from Jill
 - f. Discussed how we have seen an increase in messaging around adopting from foster care – we have been doing a lot of re-educating around that with our families - DCYF licensors will do these adoption home studies but they are not prioritizing this – Can refer folks to Holt International

3. Discuss any new Challenges and Solutions
 - a. Fostering Together Contract Ended – How is this impacting your program?

4. FCFC/WACF Updates (*Shawn, Friends of Youth*)
 - a. <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/practice-improvement/cfsr>

5. RDS Updates (*all*)

6. Agency Updates (*all*)

7. Ideas:
 - a. [Review CPA Google Doc](#)
 - b. Other Ideas?

8. Closing & Last Thoughts
 - a. Next Meeting: 8/18/20 11am-12:30pm
 - b. Anything else?

Notes:

- Discussed challenges and solutions:
 - CPR - challenge in identifying free classes – Keep the Beat also affected by contract changes with DCYF and can no longer provide free classes to foster parents

- Alliance offering an online class for first-licensed families: [Foster Parent Initial Licensing: CPR/First Aid/Bloodborne Pathogens Certification](#) is intended for Washington State caregivers who need CPR and Blood Borne Pathogens certification to finalize their initial foster care license only. If you have been certified previously and need to be recertified in CPR, that course will be available when we are able to provide classroom trainings again.
 - CCT documents/link to curriculum for those that are providing CCT is no longer available
 - Leah downloaded all the curriculum and can provide that to those in the group who need it
 - With Fostering Together (FT) ending, this really limits the resources we can refer our families to outside of our programs
 - Families want to connect with other families who are serving the same age group as them, but this is challenging for programs who serve the full age range – FoY shares that their support group is really teen focused, and without FT we’ve lost groups we can refer our families to for that additional support and connection
 - FT Facebook groups also ended
 - 1624 Reps created regionally Facebook groups to try to fill this gap
 - Region 6: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/coffeewith1624/>
 - Region 5: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/coffeewith1624Region5/>
 - Region 4: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/523889954924034/>
 - A Coalition in Thurston County created a Facebook Group to support families in the licensing process: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WeFosterWa/>
 - Discussed how much effort was put into building relationships and rapport with the FT Liaisons and how this definitely feels like a loss for all of us
 - Discussed how much the Liaisons really did for the whole foster care community and concern around what this means for foster parent recruitment and retention and relationship building (FT Liaisons really connected to schools as well)
 - Agency Updates:
 - YMCA:
 - We changed our name: Nexus Youth and Families joined the Accelerator YMCA and we are now the Y Social Impact Center
 - 1 new licensed home – currently at 57 families
 - 6 home studies in process
 - Virtual support group is going super well – also reinstating a monthly foster parent meeting to discuss program updates and issues of equity within the foster care system
 - Hosting monthly trainings in partnership with Coordinated Care that are open to the whole foster care community
 - Just hired two new on-call/part-time home study writers
 - YouthNet:
 - 2 new families licensed
 - 5 families in the process
 - TFNS (Therapeutic Foster Network South) – providing more in-home support
 - Doing virtual support get-togethers with families, as well as a “best teacher of the year” as an acknowledgment to foster parents who are acting as teachers in the home right now as well
 - Friends of Youth:
 - Doing virtual support groups and virtual trainings – this has been going well and families appreciate being able to connect

- 4 families in the process
- Catholic Community Services:
 - Slower on international foster care applications right now – there is a need for more Spanish-speaking homes in Pierce County
 - A few applications in process right now
 - Continuing to do mindfulness trainings
 - Moving all support groups to virtual for the Fall
 - Respite has been a challenge
- Holt International:
 - Continuing to support their families
 - Trying to be creative around recruitment since we cannot meet in person - having one-on-one info sessions instead of group sessions to see how that goes
- Reviewed CPA Google Doc:
 - Folks agreed this was useful in referring families to each other, especially since FT is done
 - Idea: Maybe there could be a page on WACF similar to what was on the FT website with private agency information?
- Ended by sharing how much we appreciate Izzie and all she has done for this group and the fostering community and that we will MISS HER so so so much!