



KFAPA News

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2008

News from KDHE—August 15, 2008

This article was submitted by Joyce DeBolt, Regional Administrator, Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Bureau of Child Care & Health Facilities.

Family Foster Home Regulations:

The new family foster home regulations were adopted March 28, 2008. KDHE implemented a transition time line of six months to allow foster families and child placing agencies to work at making the necessary adjustments in order for compliance to be met by October 1, 2008. Training was offered throughout the state for foster families and agency staff in April 2008 and good attendance was noted at all sites. Two new ideas have evolved from the rewriting of the new family foster home regulations: Compliance Guidance Material Handbook and Frequently Asked Questions. The Compliance Guidance Material handbook is in draft form and will be distributed by your sponsoring child

placing agency as KDHE is seeking feedback from foster parents and child placing agency staff. Feedback will be accepted through September 2008 with the target goal of the handbook coming out in print late fall 2008 for distribution. How KDHE envisions foster parents would utilize this handbook is that once the family has gone over the regulation, the Compliance Guidance Material is not a substitute for the FFH Regulation but is rather an amplification to provide guidance. FAQs are posted on the KDHE website at kdhe.state.ks.us/kidsnet. They are updated as new questions come in and as families send them. It is a learning process for staff, foster families, and KDHE. Please send feedback for Compliance Guidance Handbook and FAQs to

tferguson@kdhe.state.ks.us

Fingerprint Based Background Checks: KDHE had 690 individuals that needed fingerprints, and they are now 86% complete. Two of the individuals processed were determined to be prohibited persons. What is the typical turnaround time? On average about 2 weeks. The timelines for the receipt back of the results for CPAs has been quicker than they were informed it would be when the process began back in March.

To Assist with Smoking Cessation: KDHE's "It's Up To Me" program for assisting individuals interested in stopping smoking is being offered as a resource to assist families in meeting the compliance with the "no smoking" regulation. Information is available from your sponsoring CPA and you should be receiving information in the mail. KDHE staff is willing to present this program at meetings for foster parents if desired.

Name the Newsletter:

Our newsletter needs a permanent name. Please submit your entries under the contact us tab at our website, www.kfapa.com, or to any board member.

Meet the Board

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Vacant

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Region 3 Vice President:

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Region 4 Vice President:

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Region 5 Vice President:

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Kansas Foster And Adoptive Parent Association – 501 c 3 pending no more. We are very pleased to announce that the IRS has approved our application for tax exempt status, which was retroactively effective as of March 3, 2007.

Quarterly KFAPA board meetings will be held on the first month of each quarter, third Saturday of that month:

October 18, 2008--Region 4-Canton, Ks

Blue Ribbon Event

January 17, 2009 - Region 5

April 18, 2009 - Region 1

July 18, 2009 - Region 2

Meeting notices will be posted on our website, www.kfapa.com and on the Children's Alliance Recruitment Calendar at childally.org.

Want to help build KFAPA?

We have numerous committees that are in need of a chairperson or members. Chairpersons are members of the Board of Directors.

Nominations/Elections-vacant

Budget\Finance-vacant

Advocacy/Public Policy-Dennis Finch, dfinch@nckcn.com

Membership-vacant

Resource Development-Nancy Duling, gduling@cox.net

By-Laws-vacant

Training and Education\Annual Conference-Bill Weigant, Richard Basham, Joyce De Bolt

If you would be interested in chairing one of these committees, please contact your regional vice president or any board member.

Changes to immunization requirements: For young children they are required to have HEP A, HEP B, Chicken Pox, HIB B, and Pneumococcal. These were effective July 11, 2008

KDHE would like to thank our foster parents for their time and commitment in providing quality care to the children/youth in the state of Kansas.

Blue Ribbon Event Planned

The Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parent Association will be holding a blue ribbon tree event on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at 1:00 pm at 1005 27th Avenue, Canton, Kansas. We want to tie onto one tree a light blue ribbon for every child in foster care in Region 4, which is the western half of Kansas. On a separate tree, we plan to tie a red ribbon for each foster home in the same region. This public awareness event is to demonstrate to the public how many of our Kansas children need our help, and how many families are available to provide that temporary or long-term home.

We have invited the child placement agencies to have the children they represent write their first names on a 12 inch piece of blue ribbon. We have invited the families to do the same with a red ribbon. We will need approximately 825 blue ribbons to represent the children. We will need much fewer red ribbons to represent the families.

This will be the beginning of an afternoon and evening of family fun. We plan to have a stick rodeo for the children. Then there will be apple bobbing, piñata popping, a pot-luck hot dog roast, lighting of pre-carved pumpkins at dusk, and hay-rack ride.

The public is invited to attend. We especially would like to invite all adoptive and kinship families to attend. For more information, contact any KFAPA board member, whose contact information is available at our website, www.kfapa.com. If you are unable to attend yet would like to participate, ask your placement agency if they are participating and be sure that you sign a ribbon. If your agency is not participating, you may mail in your blue and red ribbons to P. O. Box 273, Canton, Kansas 67428.

Links to Check Out

www.fostercarecentral.org

This is the largest online social network for foster parents. You can connect with other foster parents and share experiences. Members include foster parents, social workers and volunteers.

www.LDonline.org

The world's leading website on learning disabilities and ADHD.

www.nfpainc.org

National Foster Parent Association website

www.KFAPA.com

Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association website

www.kfapatalk.blogspot.com

Our newly developed blog site. It will provide educational and informative postings . Take a look.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Foster Care Affair

Sept. 25-26

Held in Wichita at the Westlink Christian Church. If you have questions or would like more information, you may contact your Region VP or contact the secretary via the website. This is a free conference.

Blue Ribbon Tree Event

Oct. 18

Join us in decorating the blue (and red) ribbon tree. See related article.

Governor's Conference For Prevention of Child

Abuse & Neglect

Oct. 29-31

Held at the Airport Hilton in Wichita, Kansas-If you have questions or would like more information, you may contact your Region VP. You may also visit www.kcsl.org and view the brochure.

Annual Conference

Spring/Summer 2009

KFAPA is working with the Kansas Family Advisory Network to plan a joint annual conference. It is in the early planning stages at this point. Check our website for conference updates.