

Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
Quarterly Board Meeting-Minutes
September 25, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Via Teleconference

Present: Richard Basham, Joyce DeBolt, Dana Decker, Nancy Duling, Carol and Dennis Finch, Denise Gibson, Sandra Hiller, Valerie Leon, Jeff Piepho, Bill Reynolds, Julie Schoemehl, and Stacey Ulrich

Welcome-

Julie Schoemehl, KFAPA President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed the members.

Approval of Minutes-

Sandra Hiller made a motion to accept the June 19, 2010 minutes as published. Julie Schoemehl seconded the motion and upon voting, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report-

Sandra Hiller, Treasurer, had forwarded the Fiscal Year 2009 expenses to the executive committee. She reported that the September 30, 2010, balance was \$7,822.41. She reminded the attendees that everyone should forward their National Foster Parent Association dues of \$35. Dana Decker made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Julie Schoemehl seconded the motion and upon voting, passed unanimously.

SRS Report-

No report-Patricia Long was scheduled on the agenda. She did not join the conference call.

Adoption issues-Sandra and Nancy brought up challenges that families are experiencing with working with the different contractor and foster care placement agencies. Sandra has heard that families who are interested in adopting are facing some challenges in working between agencies. If a family is sponsored by one agency and finds a child who is with another agency, there are communication issues. If the adoptive family does not have a home study, the sponsoring agency does not pursue a home study unless the child is through their agency. There is a significant cost for the home studies, I am hearing from \$700 to \$1000, possibly more or less. I am not sure if any agencies pay for the home studies. I believe that SFCS covers that cost if the family is sponsored with them and if the child is with them. This is a detriment to timely permanency for children. Families who complete PS-MAPP because they want to adopt go through all that assessment, then they find a child through Adopt USKids or similar websites, to find out that they have to then pay for a home study. Many of the families do not have the financial resources to complete a home study, so they withdraw interest in the child. Sandra would like some consideration by SRS, KDHE, and the CPAs about the home study issue that seems to be a large snag in the adoption process for our families.

Nancy has experienced with families that are trained or licensed by another agency is having delays in receiving their paperwork to be considered as an adoptive resource. There are several agencies in the past that have trained a number of adoptive parents and there is not a contact to communicate within the agency to receive the paperwork.

Vice President Reports-

Region 1, Richard Basham, no report

Region 2, Julie Schoemehl

Julie reported that she had been working with Marva Williams about the child welfare system. She had invited Marva to write an article about Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) and their importance within the foster care community. Julie asked that the article be written for the upcoming Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parent Association's newsletter.

Region 3, Dennis and Carol Finch

Dennis reported that Gear Up has college scholarships available for children in foster care. The Concordia community had received a \$1 million dollar grant.

Region 4, Dianne Briscoe, no report

Region 5, Dana Decker

Dana reported that she attended the stakeholder's meeting hosted at Youthville. Dana had been invited by the staff to come back to Youthville's office to do a tour and meet staff.

Old Business-

Walk-Nancy Duling reported that she was in contact with National Orphan Train Executive Director, Muriel Anderson, to close out the checking account for the event. The Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parent Association should receive \$750 for the walk after expenses and the contribution to the National Foster Parent Association.

Parent Summit-Sandra communicated the positive feedback that has been received about the Parent Summit that was hosted on July 10, 2010, in Salina. Stacey Ulrich stated that she had received many encouraging statements about the summit.

New Business-

KFAPA Membership Brochure-Please send your suggestions or comments to Sandra by October 2 to revise the membership brochure.

Governor's Conference-Sandra announced that she had nominated the National Orphan Train Museum for the Distinguished Service Award. The museum was accepted to receive this award. It will be presented during the luncheon at the Governor's Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Thursday, November 4, luncheon at noon, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita, Kansas. Muriel Anderson, Executive Director, plans to attend the luncheon to accept the award.

Children's Alliance-

Denise Gibson, Children's Alliance, has several opportunities for Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parent Association's representatives to be involved in workgroups.

Self Directed Online Classes – The Children’s Alliance Training Team has requested that we develop a workgroup to identify and develop online self-directed courses that foster parents can take online. We currently have “Medication Administration”, “Universal Precautions” and “PS-MAPP Update”. The committee would like to see more classes developed and offered. We would like members of KFAPA to be on this committee. Some of the work may be done through conference calls and electronically.

Court Training – The Office of Judicial Administration has funding for Children’s Alliance to develop court process training for foster parents. The objective of the training is to help new foster parents learn about how the court system works and how they can advocate for the children in their care. We need KFAPA representatives to help us design and develop the curriculum. We will need to meet face to face as we put the material together. There will be some meetings that may be conference calls. We will also be able to do some things electronically.

Please ask interested members to email Denise at dgibson@childally.org.

Adjournment-

Our next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2010, 10:00 a.m. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.