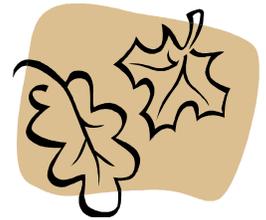


# Child Foster Care 2014 Fall Newsletter



It is sad to see the summer end, especially with the lovely weather we have had lately. Everyone is trying to pack in those last summer activities like the State Fair and getting ready for the start of the school year. I hope you had a great summer!

I decided to send this newsletter to everyone through the mail because there is some important and new information to be shared. I do not want anyone to miss it.

## **New Legislative Action Impacts Some Foster Parents**

The state legislature has passed a new rule regarding smoking in family child foster care for the purpose of eliminating secondhand smoke exposure by foster children. Basically, the new rule says that while children are in your care, there is to be no smoking within the foster home structure. The new home study format will address the foster family's plan to prevent a child's exposure to any smoking particulates.

The American Lung Association has been asked by the State of Minnesota to provide foster families with information about secondhand smoke. You can expect to get something from them in the mail.

## **Notes From the DHS Licensor's Newsletter**

### *Data Privacy Issues—Facebook—Myspace—Blogs—All*

The following information was in our licensor newsletter from the Department of Human Services, in St. Paul. I thought this might be a good time to remind ourselves about these issues. The family systems unit frequently receives questions concerning posting client information on social networking and program websites. While the general use of these sites is not prohibited, disclosing records or pictures of children and adults served in licensed programs without permission is prohibited. Please remind all licensed providers of the following items which prohibit them from posting information about a child, adult, or the individual family on a personal blog, website, Facebook page, or Myspace page.

### Child Foster Care

1. MN Rule 2960.3080, Subp. 5, requires basic services. Pursuant to MN Rule 2960.3010, Subp. 5, basic services includes services provided at the foster home to the foster child that meet the foster child's basic needs for privacy.
2. In item 14 of your foster care agreement it says that the agency may expect the foster parent to keep information about a child and their family confidential, and discuss only with appropriate agency staff members or other professionals designated by the agency. The only acceptable way for a licensed provider to post any information and/or pictures regarding persons served by their program, is to obtain written permission from a parent or guardian of the child even if the provider creates names in an attempt to avoid others from recognizing the individual.

Take great care on all social media and in your contacts with friends and family when relating information about children who are in your care. Certainly, you can use their names and talk about their daily activities in your home; but further information regarding reasons for their being in care, status of their legal case, and other personal information is not yours to share unless the other person needs to have it to provide care, treatment, or to participate in your foster care support system which is also bound by the same confidentiality agreement that you are.



## Upcoming Training

Please keep good records of your training. I am sending a records sheet with his newsletter which asks you to keep track of the title of the training, who the presenter was, what the date was, and how long the training is; get certificates, when available, or some other form of documentation, i.e. a brochure, an appointment card, IEP report, notice of a court hearing. Some online training is available without cost and offers no certificates. I still need you to keep accurate records in those situations.

### Live Online Classes

*Understanding the Oppositional Child (See flyer)*

Wednesday, 8-20-2014, noon to 1:30 p.m.

I think they put these on at noon in hopes that people will have time over their lunch hour to train.

*Cenpatico University:* Cenpatico University is doing more live free training from October through January 2014. These live online trainings are all in the evenings which are great for working families. They all qualify as your required one-hour children's mental health training. To find the link to this excellent resource, go to Blue Earth County Human Services website, click on Children and Family Services Division, click on Child Foster Care Licensing, and then click on training. The link is the last one on the page. Here are the titles of some of the upcoming training:

*Trauma Informed Care for Caregivers, Part 1 through 5*

This is a series through the months of October and November.

*Hope for Healing, Part 1 through 5*—This is also a series.

*The Effects on Child Who Witness Domestic Violence, Part 1 through 4.*

You can take one or all of the classes in these series.

Checkout the other links on this training page for more online options. Most of these you complete at your own convenience. Some of them have a small fee for taking the class, others do not have any cost.

### Books and Publications as Training

I have a library of books on a variety of topics that can be read as training. You may also find books on topics that are of particular interest to you that could help you in your caring for foster children. These can also potentially be used as training. Just prior authorize with me.

*Impact Publications/Foster Care Support Network:* Many of you have used these written training articles before. They consist of an article on a relevant topic, plus a post test that you can submit to me for training credit. If you have an interest in these resources, please call me. I plan on ordering some of these articles for distribution, but will only send them to people who will commit to completing them. In the past, I have distributed them to all foster parents and found that the majority were not used. I want to make good use of our resources.

### In-Person Training in the Local Area

*No Such Thing as a Bad Kid*—The power of a positive, strength-based approach in reshaping the lives of at risk children and youth. (See flyer)

August 28, 2014, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., Leo Hoffman Center, 1715 Shepard Drive, St. Peter, MN.

*Reactive Attachment Disorder: How to Thrive and Survive on the Diagnosis* (See flyer)

October 24 and 25, 2014, Bethany Lutheran College, 700 College Dr., Mankato, MN.

Note: Scholarship availability from Minn Adopt. Blue Earth County can possibly help defray some costs too. Talk to Joanna.

### Car Seat Training

You need to renew your training every five years if you care for a child under 9 years old. The next scheduled class is October 20, 2014, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Location is Blue Earth County Government Center. Call 304-4273 to register. Space is limited.

### Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Abusive Head Trauma (formally SIDS/Shaken Baby)

You need to renew your SUID and AHT training every five years if you are going to care for children ages 5 and under. In-person training is available with Holly Holland, on 10-18-2014, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; 11-17-2014, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This training is free and it is located at the Blue Earth County Government Center, 410 South Fifth Street. To register call 304-4273.

You can also take your SUID and AHT class online for free at the following website:  
[http://extensiononline.tamu.cdu/courses/child\\_care.php](http://extensiononline.tamu.cdu/courses/child_care.php)

You have to open a free account and create a password to start the training. You can print a certificate at the end.

### Trio of Support Groups

Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren, NEW: Grandparents Raising the Next Generation is a support group for grandparents and other relative caregivers raising children under age 18. You are invited to come to this group and receive encouragement from others who are in the same situation.

Second Thursday of every Month, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

(Light meal and free childcare provided.)

Location: New Creation World Church, North Mankato

Contact: Kelly Jo, (507) 380-7210; or Lil, (507) 382-3722

(Please RSVP for food preparation and child care supervisors.)

Adoption Support Group: Sponsored by North American Counsel on Adoptable Children. Contact Carrie Fletcher for more information at (507) 380-4916.

### Blue Earth County Foster Care Support Group:

Third Thursday of every Month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: WOW Zone Meeting Room, Mankato

For licensed providers only. There is a lot of value to connecting with other Blue Earth County foster parents.

