

Oregon Foster Parent Association Town Hall – Jantzen Beach 10.26.2015

How to Improve foster care system?

- Mediate before foster kiddo gets into home – house rules, expectations, etc
- Consistency in mental health – moving psychiatrists
- First 24 hours of care – getting supplies that you need (enough formula to last a full evening). Initial supply at least last 24 hours
- Agency inconsistency - quality and frequency different, some lack services and skills training
- Shelda - Information on medical needs for children – diagnosis, medications. Data base for primary care providers
- Parent meeting with foster parents and parents within one week of placement – mediation, partnership
- Linda - Training – 24 hours of foundation training not enough, trauma-informed
- Day care at training
- Therapeutic foster care can't place siblings together, don't have access to case notes
- Trainings are not personalized, appropriate to your individual child
- Mentor parenting from other foster families, especially for medically intensive cases for newborns
- Christine Brown – mentoring, consistency in knowing what resources are available
- Linn Travis – program director CASA mult/clack – training for relative foster parents
- Kenneth Wisare – transition services training
- Sean Suv – Director New Avenues for Youth – prevent homelessness, flexibility in funding – so we can developmentally assess where we are
- Angie – ILP, can't use stipend to assist
- Phylis – relative adoption rights
- Teen case worker - Expectations for case workers to have a plan for foster youth prior to turning 18 and 19
- Matt Rasmuson – central DHS – how many parents are consistently invited to case worker/parent meetings
- Matthew – Marion county case worker – do you have foster parent support groups, helpful?
- Kenneth – overturn of case workers
- Susan Seken – Clackamas foster parent support group helpful
- Clatsop foster parent support group – once a month, would like to see solution based discussions and mentoring – what are your issues this week, what do you need
- Cherish Ferguson – grace coordinator Deschutes – finding and paying for child care providers, average babysitters can't handle
- Embrace Oregon – customer service from agency, prompt communication, active participant and ally instead of adversary for asking questions
- Linda Carpenter from Gresham – more time with caseworker and foster parent
- Debbie Albright – receiving placement papers, notified of court hearings and family meetings, so many expectations on foster parents but not valued as part of team
- Jay Scalese – lack of respect for foster parents, lack of funding for the system, can't get in touch with anyone
- Jillian Mckinny – compensation for extremely high medical needs – affects the ability to adopt my kids, adoption assistance
- Separate CANS from compensation – makes it sound like you are trying to get more money, instead of more assistance for kids

- Prudent parenting federal law?
- Matthew – Marion county branch DHS – wellbeing team liaison researches need of children and shares with entire team
- Jennette Cook – foster parent of 3. Worry about foster parents who do it for income. Compensation can't be too high. He was a dollar sign
- Shelda – every mother should be paid
- Lisa foster youth connection – creating prudent parent training standard
- Chip – poor social work in transition, collectively negotiate with DHS
- Collectively negotiate with private agencies too
- Better communication to build better relationships between DHS and foster parent

What could the Oregon Foster Parent Association do?

- Jenelle Moser – consider the other kids in the foster parent family and consider impacts before moving
- Kristin – better match kids and parents
- Sara – WA county DHS – case load too high, funding for statewide recruitment of foster parents,
- No low-income housing in Multnomah county, get services if they become homeless
- Charlie Schimmels – bad retention rates for foster parents, less expensive to retain then replace and train. Respect, inclusiveness
- Ben Sand, foster parent Embrace Oregon – recruited 160 families in last 2 years. Figure out what a collective voice looks like. Not going to happen from DHS.
- Shelda - DHS needs to ask for input from OFPA, exit interview assessments. DHS provide OFPA with list to do exit interview
- Debbie - Foster parents own ombudsman in Gov's office to uphold foster parent bill of rights
- Laura – training for relative foster parents, how to avoid allegations
- Mckinny – Protocol or accountability when case workers don't follow procedures. Enforcement
- Notification when visits are cancelled, pressure to be perfect when bio parent and DHS don't have to be perfect
- CASA director curry county – communication to foster parents

What would make you join OFPA?

- Chip – what about a foster parent board that investigates allegations, need to be lobbying representation in Salem
- Why would you join OFPA? Need to feel like we are actually being heard in Salem
- Lisa - unite with OFYC for collective voice for change
- Moran – OYA foster parent – Chaffe not available to them, no option for adoption, 30 OYA foster parents in the entire state, OYA is a good agency but OYA foster kiddos and DHS foster kiddos can't be together, even if siblings
- Identify when foster parent can sit on advisory boards and get them on boards
- Learn about other states, not reinvent wheel, waiting list for foster kids in New Jersey
- Ferguson – what can other agencies do or contract out of DHS? contract for services to do the certification
- Working with Embrace Oregon to get day care at trainings, some smaller goals to show progress
- Jenelle, foster parent WA county – need more people saying the same thing, not sure I will be heard, tired of being told no
- Jeanette – automatically enrolled in OMSI, children theater - play therapy

- Chip - Reduced price for legal services for members
- YES
- More compensation
- Respite care needed at reduced price. Needing DHS funding for respite care
- Jim – WA county – look at other models, day care program connected to child welfare office that foster parents don't have to pay for, so they can drop them off while foster parent has respite or errands
- Vibrant community of OFPA at each branch – meet with branch every month to go over metrics and how to improve
- Citizen Review Panel from DOJ foster parent survey