

Clark County Department of Social Services

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RE: Foster Parent Training Committee

On March 31, 2005, the Wisconsin Child Welfare Training Council approved the formation of a statewide Foster Parent Training Committee. The Committee was developed because the Training Council identified foster parent training as a key element of its mission. The Committee's first priorities were in response to Action Step K of the Program Enhancement Plan (PEP), which is Wisconsin's response to the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). Because of the relationship to training, the PEP Executive Committee and Out-of-Home Care Committee assigned the benchmark tasks related to foster parent training to the Wisconsin Child Welfare Training Council.

The three short-term goals of the Foster Parent Training Committee, as defined by the Training Council, were to determine (1) What is the status of foster parent training in Wisconsin? (2) What training should all foster parents in Wisconsin receive? and (3) What resources would be needed to provide the training?

In March, 2006, the Foster Parent Training Committee developed a lengthy report that details the information gathered and the survey results from two surveys that were conducted about foster parent training in Wisconsin. In addition, the Committee's recommendations for pre-placement, foundation and ongoing foster parent training are contained within the report. The report was shared with the Training Council for action at its March, 2006 meeting. The report can be found at www.uwgb.edu/newpart/fptcinfo.htm. The action taken by the Training Council in response to the Committee's recommendations is also available at www.uwgb.edu/newpart/fptcinfo.htm. An accompanying Fact Sheet summarizes of the work of the Committee related to these goals and is also available electronically at www.uwgb.edu/newpart/fptcinfo.htm.

With the achievements of the short-term goals, the Committee worked with the Training Council to determine the Committee's long-term goals. The primary long-term goals are (1) to develop a recommended foster parent training curriculum for pre-placement and foundation training that will adhere to the six fundamental goals of foster parent training as well as identify specific objectives for each level of training; (2) to advise on the delivery, maintenance, support and updating of pre-placement and foundation training for foster, treatment foster, and pre-adoptive parents, as described in the accompanying Fact Sheet; (3) to research and develop a plan for supporting the provision of ongoing training for foster and treatment foster parents; and (4) to study the relevancy and need of foundation and ongoing training for adoptive parents. The Committee will also advise DCFS staff on revisions to Numbered Memos and Administrative Rules specific to foster, treatment foster, and adoptive parent training.

In order to adequately accomplish the new goals, Committee membership was expanded to include additional private licensing agency representation and adoption staff representation. Additionally, the Committee will continue its regular communication and information seeking

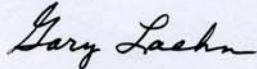
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efforts to foster care coordinators via statewide and regional meetings. The committee membership represents county licensing agents, county foster parents, an adoptive parent, a tribal representative, a Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center representative, a Division of Children and Families representative, two private licensing agency representatives, two training system representatives, state adoption staff, a Youth Work Learning Center representative, and a Bureau of Regulation and Licensing representative.

Over the next year, licensing staff in your agency may be invited to participate in work groups to provide content specific feedback on the pre-placement and foundation training that is being developed. The Foster Parent Training Committee's goal is to develop pre-placement and foundation training materials in multiple modalities to meet the needs of all sizes of licensing agencies and foster and adoptive parents throughout Wisconsin.

In addition to the enclosed Fact Sheet, you will find a complete list of Foster Parent Training Committee members attached to this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact one of the Committee members, the Committee co-chairs (Stephanie Reilly at UW-Green Bay or Sally Biddick at UW-Madison), or me.

Sincerely,



Gary Laehn, Chair
Wisconsin Child Welfare Training Council