



# *Treatment Foster Care e-News*

*Published by the Family-based Treatment Association (FFTA)*

**Issue # 1 ~ April 8, 2004**

---

## ***Welcome to FFTA's New e-Newsletter***

Welcome to FFTA's 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of *Treatment Foster Care e-News*. e-News, a members-only newsletter, will provide you with timely information and access to resources that are relevant to our field. As you read the next few issues, please feel free to give us your feedback. Also, if you come across information that you think would be of interest to other treatment foster care professionals, send it along to us at [ffta@ffta.org](mailto:ffta@ffta.org). This publication will replace the FFTA *Agency Memorandum*. FFTA will continue to publish *FOCUS*, which will be e-mailed to all member agencies on a quarterly basis.

## **FFTA Updates**

### ***Mark Your Calendar for FFTA's 18th Annual Conference on Treatment Foster Care - July 18-21, 2004***

Mark your calendar for FFTA's 18th Annual Conference on Treatment Foster Care. The conference will be held in Nashville, TN, **July 18-21, 2004**. Join over 700 treatment foster care professionals and foster parents at the only North American-based conference on treatment foster care. The conference will feature over 60 workshops featuring the best practices that are being applied in the field. Early registration rates are \$325 for member agency staff and \$260 for foster parents. Foster parent couple registration is \$390. Full-day Pre-conference Institutes, to be held on Sunday July 18th, are \$150. Don't miss out on the treatment foster care professional event of the year! Program brochures will arrive at your office at the end of April.

Click here for a list of workshops: [http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/\\_conference.pdf](http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/_conference.pdf)

Click here for Pre-Conference Institutes: <http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/Institutes.pdf>

Click here for conference hotel information:

<http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/hotel.pdf><http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/hotel.pdf>

Click here for conference travel information: [http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/\\_traveldiscounts.pdf](http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/_traveldiscounts.pdf)

## ***Featured Pre-Conference Institute: TFC Benchmarking Roundtable***

On Sunday July 18th, from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, the FFTA Conference will offer a Pre-Conference Institute on benchmarking TFC data. Benchmarking outcomes data in treatment foster care has long been a goal in child welfare but it has been difficult to realize for many reasons. This Institute will be a working session in which participating agencies will share treatment foster care outcome data and evaluation experiences. A similar session was held recently with a cross-section of family foster care agencies at the Child Welfare League of America National Conference.

Participants will need to provide treatment foster care data during the session that will be used to aggregate benchmark information. All participants will leave the meeting with copies of each agency's presentation.

The Institute is co-sponsored by Girls and Boys Town and Casey Family Programs. The cost for the Pre-Conference Institute is \$150. Look for details and registration information in the conference program brochure, available in early May.

## ***FFTA Workgroup Formed to Assess Level of Care Systems in TFC***

At the FFTA Public Policy Institute, held in Washington DC in February, there was spirited discussion about "Level of Care" systems currently employed or under consideration in many states. There was strong consensus among those in attendance to have FFTA provide leadership with regard to policy, advocacy and clinical quality of a good Levels of Care system. As a result, a Levels of Care Workgroup was formed to help develop FFTA's position on Levels of Care. The Workgroup will examine various level of care systems that are being implemented around the country and consider recommending a level of care system that would best serve our kids in care. The Workgroup is utilizing a list serve to communicate and formulate a plan for this project. If you are interested in participating on this workgroup, send your name, agency name, and e-mail address to: [ffta@ffta.org](mailto:ffta@ffta.org).

## ***FFTA To Develop a TFC Toolkit***

We all know that treatment foster care is making a difference for thousand of children and families throughout North America, yet for many of us it can be difficult to develop fresh approaches that appeal to the media. This is why the FFTA TFC Public Awareness Committee is developing a TFC Toolkit that will help FFTA members educate the public about TFC, promote their programs and demonstrate how TFC families impact the lives of our kids in care. The committee is seeking submission from member agencies for the toolkit. Click here to see how you can help:

[http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/\\_toolkrequest.pdf](http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/_toolkrequest.pdf)[http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/\\_toolkrequest.pdf](http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/_toolkrequest.pdf)

## ***Foster Parent Liability Insurance Program Available to FFTA Members***

When your agency is re-evaluating its foster parent liability insurance program, remember that FFTA has partnered with Foster Parent Professionals (FPP) to offer foster parent liability insurance to FFTA members.

Child welfare agencies and foster parents have been especially hard hit by rising premiums and the lack of available insurance coverage. FPP can assist you and your agency with getting foster parent liability insurance at competitive rates. FPP currently provides liability coverage to over 25,000 homes across the country and already serves a number of FFTA member agencies. For more information about how FPP can assist your agency with obtaining insurance coverage, contact Rob Brotemarkle by phone at (800) 841-5161 or by e-mail: [fpp@floodcity.net](mailto:fpp@floodcity.net).

## ***COA to Offer Peer Review Training at the FFTA Conference***

COA will conduct Peer Review Training in conjunction with FFTA's July Conference in Nashville. The two-day Peer Review Training will be held on **Saturday July 17th and Sunday July 18th**. For more information about attending the Peer Training at the FFTA conference, contact Ryan McGuire, COA Training Manager, at (212) 797-3000 ext. 258 or e-mail: [Rmcguire@coanet.org](mailto:Rmcguire@coanet.org). To learn more about the benefits of becoming a Peer Reviewer, visit the COA website at: [www.coanet.org](http://www.coanet.org) and click on "Peer Reviewers."

# **Resources for TFC Professionals**

## ***Assessing the Effects of Foster Care***

After five years of teamwork among researchers from a number of organizations, Casey staff, foster care alumni and foster parents, Casey Family Programs has published ***Assessing the Effects of Foster Care: Early Results from the Casey National Alumni Study***. This report describes the early life experiences, educational achievements, and success as adults of 1,609 alumni of Casey foster care between 1966 and 1998. To view a copy of the report, click here:

<http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/NationalAlumniStudy.htm>

## ***Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth***

A report, entitled "Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Conditions of Youth Preparing to Leave State Care," and authored by Mark E. Courtney, Sherry Terao, Noel Bost, presents preliminary findings from the first wave of the Midwest Evaluation of Adult Outcomes of Former Foster Youth study. This longitudinal study examines the transition to adulthood for 749 youth in three states (Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin) who are "aging out" of the child welfare system. For additional information and to download the full report, visit:

[http://www.chapinhall.org/ab\\_g.asp?ar=1355](http://www.chapinhall.org/ab_g.asp?ar=1355)

## ***May is National Foster Care Month***

National Foster Care Month has updated its toolkit, which is available at [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org). The toolkit features resources for reaching out to reporters, materials for working with businesses and elected officials, fact sheets, graphics and more. The official National Foster Care Month messages for 2004 are included in "Reaching Out to the Media" section.

## ***Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care Releases First Report***

A report, *Voices from the Inside*, recently released by the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care highlights the daily costs exacted from foster children and foster and adoptive parents by a child welfare system, which goes beyond dollars. In six thematic sections, this report outlines the human costs imposed by a child welfare system that relies so heavily on foster care, such as the costs of insecurity, poor communication, inflexibility, not securing timely help, professional burn-out and stigma. View the report at <http://pewfostercare.org/research/voices/>

## ***The Future of Children Examines Many Facets of Foster Care***

The Winter 2004 issue of *The Future of Children* focuses on the foster care system. "Children, Families, and Foster Care" summarizes the research on the effects of the foster care experience on child development. It also reviews policies and practices and describes innovative initiatives aimed at improving the accountability and responsiveness of the foster care system. The journal can be viewed at: [http://www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info.htm?doc\\_id=209538](http://www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info.htm?doc_id=209538)

## ***Does Your Agency Have Professional Career Opportunities?***

FFTA would like to include job listings in future issues of *Treatment Foster Care e-News*. To have your agency's job listings included in e-News, email them to: [ffta@ffta.org](mailto:ffta@ffta.org). Please let us know what the deadline date is for candidate responses.

---

## ***Let us know if we can assist you***

If we can assist you, please contact us by phone at (800) 414-3382, ext. 113 or 121, send an e-mail to us at [ffta@ffta.org](mailto:ffta@ffta.org), or write to us at: FFTA, 294 Union Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601 USA.