



Treatment Foster Care e-News

Published by the Family-based Treatment Association (FFTA)
Issue # 3 ~ December 7, 2004

FFTA Updates

There's Still Time to Submit a Proposal for FFTA's Conference on Treatment Foster Care

You have until **December 31st** to submit a proposal to present at FFTA's 19th Annual Conference on Treatment Foster Care, which will be held in Atlanta, **July 24-27, 2005**. If your presentation is approved, the workshop's primary presenter will receive a free conference registration! Presenting at the *only* North American-based Conference for Treatment Foster Care is a unique opportunity to share your expertise with other treatment foster care professionals. [Call for Presentations](#)

FFTA Public Policy Institute Set for March 8, 2005

Mark your calendar for FFTA's Public Policy Institute, which will be held in Washington D.C. **March 8, 2005**. The Institute, "*Sea Change: Vanishing Entitlements, Performance-based Contracts and Levels of Care*" will feature a panel of experts and stakeholders that will examine performance-based contracts, levels of care systems and "chart the course" of the Child SAFE act which, if passed, will eliminate vulnerable children's entitlement to care. Foster care funding and accountability are undergoing major and important changes, so attend this Institute to prepare yourself and your agency for what's ahead. Further details will follow shortly.

Resources for TFC Professionals

Therapeutic Foster Care Shown to Reduce Violence among Chronically Delinquent Juveniles

The Task Force on Community Preventive Services' report, *entitled "Therapeutic Foster Care for the Prevention of Violence,"* found that therapeutic foster care programs are effective in reducing violent crimes among adolescent's ages 12-18 with a history of chronic delinquency. Based upon its sufficient

finding of evidence of effectiveness, the task force recommended that these programs be implemented or continued. To view the report and the summary of findings, visit:

<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/violence/default.htm> and click on "Therapeutic foster care for the prevention of violence," under the heading "behavioral interventions."

A Return to Orphanages?

Children's Rights has released a new report, "*A Return to Orphanages*," that describes the current landscape of "orphanages" in the United States. Despite the fact that names for orphanages have changed in the past 300 years, the report aims at "making sense of the 'return to orphanages' movement." The full report can be found at:

http://www.childrensrights.org/Policy/resources_CRresources_return_orphanages.htm

U.S. House Committee on Government Reform Finds Too Many Children End Up Incarcerated Rather Than in Treatment for Serious Mental Health Problems

A report, entitled "*Incarceration of Youth Who Are Waiting for Community Mental Health Services in the United States*," highlights a national survey showing that youth with emotional and behavioral problems are often detained in secure juvenile detention centers solely because there are no inpatient, outpatient, residential, or specialized foster care services available to them. To read the full report, visit:

http://www.house.gov/reform/min/pdfs_108_2/pdfs_inves/pdf_health_mental_health_youth_incarceration_july_2004_rep.pdf

Another Look at the Relinquishment of Custody

The Virginia State Executive Council Workgroup On The Relinquishment of Custody for the Purpose of Accessing Behavioral Health Treatment has released a report that examines the ongoing challenges that parents are facing to consider the relinquishment of custody of their child with severe emotional disturbances, solely to obtain behavioral health treatment. While this report studies this issue in Virginia, the findings and recommendations are applicable to children and families in all states. To view a copy of the report, visit: <http://www.vaco.org/sitefiles/pdfs/front%20page/custody%20report.pdf>

Examination of Policies on Visiting between Children in Care and their Families

The National Resource Center for Foster Care & Permanency Planning has published a report that describes a wide range of states' requirements of their visiting policies. To view the study's findings, visit: http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/visiting_report-10-29-03.pdf.

CWLA Launches Electronic Version of its *Children's Monitor* Newsletter

The Children's Welfare League of America has introduced a free online version of *Children's Monitor* to provide the latest in federal legislation and policies affecting children, youth and families. To sign up, visit <http://www.cwla.org/advocacy/monitoronline-optin.htm>

The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law Provides a Fact Sheet on Children's Mental Health

The Bazelon Center offers a fact sheet that summarizes data illustrating the prevalence, consequences of failure, effective services, barriers and recommendations involved with the current state of children's mental health. The fact sheet, which references therapeutic foster care as effective out-of-home treatment option, can be accessed at: <http://www.bazelon.org/issues/children/factsheets/children.htm>

New Guide Available for Families Involved in the Child Welfare System

A group of members of the child welfare community have collaborated to produce "A Family's Guide to the Child Welfare System." The guide answers many of the questions families have when they become involved in the child welfare system. To access the guide, visit:

http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/files/products_publications/AFamilysGuideFINAL_WEB_VERSION.pdf

Casey Family Programs Offers Life Skills Assessment Tool

The Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) tool is for young people age 8 and above, their caregivers, and child welfare professionals and educators who serve youth. ACLSA can assess a young person's strengths in life skills, identify and set realistic goals for growth and create customized learning plans. All assessments and the scored reports are free of charge and are also available in Spanish and French. To access the tool, visit: <https://www.caseylifeskills.org/acls/default.htm>

The Institute for Community Inclusion Offers Parents A Tip Sheet for Individualized Education Plans

Parents of students with disabilities can access "Moving on to High School," a tip sheet based on the experiences of public school students with disabilities between the ages of 14-17. It lists some actions parents can take to make their teenager's transition into high school as smooth as possible. Access the tip sheet at: <http://www.communityinclusion.org/publications/pub.php?page=to19>

Professional Career Opportunity

Program Director, Therapeutic Family Care

Kennedy Krieger Institute Therapeutic Family Care Program of the Social Work Department is looking for an individual interested in providing leadership to an innovative program of service to children with special needs in foster care. The successful candidate will be licensed as a certified social worker - clinical by the Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland and have 5 years of experience with children with special needs, or child welfare and program administration. EOE M/F/D/V. Please apply on-line at http://jobs-kennedykrieger.icims.com/kennedykrieger_jobs/jobs/candidate/job.jsp?jobid=2334&mode=view or, visit www.kennedykrieger.org. Click on employment and search keyword "Director." Select job id# 30010.

(Send your professional career opportunities to: ffta@ffta.org. Listings are free for FFTA members.)

FFTA Membership Benefits at a Glance

Here are just a few of FFTA's membership benefits, which can save your agency time and money:

Technical Assistance Program - FFTA membership includes submission of two research requests per year. For more information, request a form via email at: ffta@ffta.org or visit: <http://www.s93965276.onlinehome.us/ffta/techassist.pdf>

Discounts on COA Accreditation Fees - FFTA members receive a 25% discount on COA accreditation fees-a savings that can fully offset the cost of FFTA membership dues. For more information, call Joseph Seone at (212) 797-3000 or visit www.coanet.org.

Foster Parent Liability Insurance Program - FFTA has partnered with Foster Parent Professionals (FPP) to offer members 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, contact Rob Brotemarkle by phone at (800) 841-5161 or by e-mail: fpp@floodcity.net.

Technology Solutions - KaleidaCare's *KaleidaCare Solutions* is a web-based care management and reporting system, designed to support the technology needs of treatment foster care and other social service organizations. For more information visit www.kaleidacare.com or call (800) 913-9883.

Marketing Communication Services - Alpha Beta Press offers FFTA members high quality business printing and communication solutions at excellent prices. To get a quote on your next project, contact Betsy Farmer by phone at (708) 570-7955 or email betsyf@alphabetapress.com.

Let us know if we can assist you

If we can assist you, please contact us by phone at (800) 414-3382, ext. 113, 121 or 118, send an e-mail to us at ffta@ffta.org, or write to us at: FFTA, 294 Union Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601 USA.