

L.U.C.K.Y.

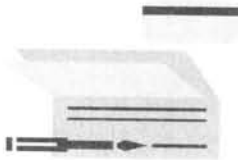
(Lives Under Construction Kids & You) March 2010

Department of Children's Services
2555 Plymouth Road
Johnson City, TN 37601
(423)854-5311



February Adoptions

Jeremy & Marian = adoption of a teenage girl



Direct Deposit



Paper board payment checks will soon be a thing of the past. A new computer program called "TFACTS" (Tennessee Family and Child Tracking System) will be in place very soon, and when it rolls out later this year it is going to be changing the way several things are currently done. Therefore, if you do not have direct deposit for the board payments, please contact your Resource Parent Case Manager (RPSCM) this month to get the automated clearing house (ACH) form filled out!

TRAINING REMINDER!

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

&

CPR/First Aid

Classes are due EVERY TWO (2) Years! No exceptions!

BOARD PAYMENT CALL-IN DATES

1-800-470-7444

March 4th & 5th for the dates of February 16th to 28th

March 22nd & 23rd for the dates of March 1st to 15th

For call-in calendars see: www.state.tn.us/youth/fostercare/fpcalendars.htm

All Families Matter Hotline

1-866-327-9101

(You should receive a response to your call within 24 to 48 hours.)

Remember, please follow the chain of command and try to resolve any issues or concerns in the region first.

Have you tried?

The child's Family Service Worker (FSW)?

Your Resource Parent Support Case Manager (RPSCM)?

The FSW's Team Leader?

Requested a child and family team meeting (CFTM)?

The FSW's Team Coordinator?

Lucretia Sanders, Deputy Regional Administrator?

Sherri Hale, Regional Administrator?



Please visit <http://tennessee.gov/youth/dcsguide.htm>
for any DCS policy.



EMERGENCY
After Hours/On-call #
1-877-54ABUSE



****For emergencies after normal business hours, please use this number.****



CORE Class Schedule

These classes are required for all resource parents in the first and second year following their PATH approval. All resource parents must receive this training.

			Date and Times	Location
Fostering Positive Behavior	SAT	3/27/10	9am to 12pm	Hawkins County DCS Office • 4017 Highway 66 South, Suite 1 • Rogersville
Positive Discipline	THUR	3/11/10	6pm to 9pm	Carter County DCS • 206 Cherokee Park Dr. Suite 2 • Elizabethton
	TUE	3/16/10	6pm to 9pm	Greene County DCS • 130 Serral Drive • Greeneville
Working with the Education System	SAT	3.6.10	9:30am to 11:30am	Kingsport DCS Office • 707 North Eastman Rd • Kingsport
Working With Birth Parents	SAT	3/6/10	9am to 12pm	DCS • 2555 Plymouth Road • Johnson City 37601
	TUE	3/23/10	6pm to 9pm	DCS • 2193 Feathers Chapel Rd • Blountville 37617

Elective Class Schedule*

(*Now required per new training policy.)

Engaging & Parenting Teens	SAT	3/6/10	1pm to 3pm	Washington County DCS • 2555 Plymouth Road • Johnson City
Professionalism & Ethics	SAT	3/27/10	1pm to 2:30pm	Hawkins County DCS • 4017 Highway 66 South, Suite 1 • Rogersville

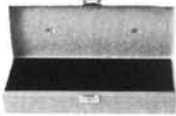
To register yourself please visit our new online training website
www.tnrpt.org or
call (423) 299-KIDS (5437) and leave a message.



CPR/First Aid Class Schedule

This 4 hour awareness class will teach resource parents basic CPR and first aid skills that can sustain or save a life while professional emergency help is on the way. Resource parents will not be certified in CPR or first aid, but will meet the minimum requirements for DCS and will receive a certificate of participation. This class is required for all resource parents. Resource parents must receive this training every two years.

TUE	4.06.10	6 pm to 10 pm	Blountville DCS Office • 2193 Feathers Chapel Rd • Blountville
THURS	5.13.10	6 pm to 10 pm	Blountville DCS Office • 2193 Feathers Chapel Rd • Blountville
WED	5.19.10	6 pm to 10 pm	Johnson City DCS Office • 2557 Plymouth Rd • Johnson City



Medication Administration Class Schedule

This 4-hour workshop will provide resource parents the knowledge base to safely and effectively administer medications to children in care. Resource parents will learn of the types of medications the children will likely receive and how to safely administer them. Major topics covered in this workshop range from safe storage, and disposal of medication to common errors in medication administration. This class is required for all resource parents. Resource parents must receive this training every two years.

THURS	5.6.10	6 pm to 10 pm	Blountville DCS Office • 2193 Feathers Chapel Rd • Blountville
WED	5.12.10	6 pm to 10 pm	Johnson City DCS Office • 2557 Plymouth Rd • Johnson City

To register yourself please visit our new online training website www.tnrpt.org or call (423) 299-KIDS (5437) and leave a message.

When calling, please be sure to give the names of the people in your household who will be attending, an email address (if you have one), phone numbers and the name, date and location of the class you wish to attend. You will receive a confirmation by phone or email within 2 business days. If you do not, please call again.



Resource Parent Advocate

Jill Thompson

#423-290-8110 or jthompson@tnadvocate.org

“Delinquents Don’t Have to Be Scary”

In 2006, a resource family opened their hearts and home to a 16 year old delinquent female foster child. This young lady had been brought into DCS custody for a serious felony offense against another child. As a result, she spent 16 months in a Youth Development Center (YDC) receiving treatment and therapy for both her offense, and her own victimization issues from childhood (similar to those of Dependent / Neglect children). Despite what might have been construed from her charge, she was actually a warm and friendly person.

At the end of 16 months, her biological mother had not followed through with her requirements on the permanency plan. This young lady was unfortunate in that she did not have any appropriate relatives with which she could reunify, leaving her with no known permanency options. However, the resource family she was placed with provided opportunities to this child that she had never known!

The teen arrived at the resource home two days before Christmas and was immediately considered part of the family. The family had purchased Christmas gifts for her that any 16 year old girl would love! She was also able to join the family on a trip to the beach over the Christmas holidays to visit with some of the resource family’s friends. This was the first time that she had ever seen the ocean or had ever left Tennessee.

I worked with this child for approximately two years and came to know her very well. Despite a lack of nurturing, structure, and guidance while growing up, she was a very sweet and good hearted young lady. With this new stability in her life, she continued to make progress by doing better academically, becoming an active member in the church youth group, becoming involved in community theater, etc.

Over time, it became evident that the birth mother was not going to regain custody of her daughter. In order to provide a stable life for this young lady, the resource family took subsidized permanent guardianship (SPG) and welcomed her into their lives forever! The teen had opportunities to learn about life, faith, trusting in others, being committed to someone, and what love really is. I believe this is something she may have never found if not for this family.

In the end, this young lady decided to move out of her guardians’ home once she turned 18. She eventually married and became a mother.

Based upon the facts of a situation and a child’s legal charges, it may sound very scary to take a delinquent teen into your home. I would encourage you to be open-minded when approached about the potential placement of a delinquent teen into your home. Take time to ask questions about these children, learn about their history, and how they ended up where they are now. Remember, these teens are simply older versions of the younger children that we place into resource homes. They need to be loved and to feel a commitment from an adult who cares about them. Teens simply bring along a few more years of life and a bit more baggage!

Erin Culbertson,
DCS Placement Specialist

Phone Numbers & Locations

Carter County Main Office #423-547-5814

Judy Hatley, Placement Specialist Carter, Unicoi, & Johnson County #423-547-3984 Judy.Hatley@tn.gov

Sheila Woods, RPSCM - Carter & Johnson #423-547-3981 Sheila.Woods@tn.gov

Sullivan County - Blountville Main office #423-279-1460

Karen Keck, Permanency Specialist #423-279-1956 Karen.Keck@tn.gov

Sara Britt, Placement Specialist #423-279-1946 Sara.Britt@tn.gov

Shannon Wood, Permanency Specialist #423-279-1947 Shannon.Wood@tn.gov

Hawkins County Office Main office #423-272-6479

Sandra Voiles, RPSCM - Hawkins & Hancock **ON LEAVE**

Tammy Enlow-Lawson, Placement Specialist #423-272-6479, ext#105 Tammy.Enlow-Lawson@tn.gov

Sullivan County - Kingsport Office Main office #423-857-1220

Erin Culbertson, Placement Specialist #423-857-1224 Erin.Culbertson@tn.gov

Marsha Musick, Permanency Specialist #423-857-1229 Marsha.L.Musick@tn.gov

Vanessa Addington, RPSCM #423-857-1228 Vanessa.Addington@tn.gov

Washington County - Regional Office

Annex Main Office

#423-854-5220

Lora Anderson

Adoption Team Leader

#423-979-5231

Lora.Anderson@tn.gov

Tammy Arrowood, Permanency

Specialist, #423-979-5247

Tammy.Arrowood@tn.gov

Lisa Larimer, Permanency

Specialist #423-979-5246

Lisa.Larimer@tn.gov

Jamie Steele, Kinship Coordinator

#423-979-5273

Jamie.X.Steele@tn.gov

Washington County Office - Johnson City

Main office #423-854-5311

Erin Beese, Resource Parent Support Team Leader

#423-854-5029 Erin.Beese@tn.gov

Patty Buckner, RPSCM - Sullivan

#423-854-5022 Patty.Buckner@tn.gov

Christi Gerlach, RPSCM - Washington & Unicoi

#423-854-5058 Christi.Gerlach@tn.gov

Chris Johnson, Team Coordinator

#423-854-5125 Chris.Johnson@tn.gov

Kristin McKee-Ayers, RPSCM - Washington & Unicoi

#423-854-5023 Kristen.McKee-Ayers@tn.gov

Jennifer New, Placement Specialist

#423-854-5056 Jennifer.New@tn.gov

Scott Overbey, Placement Services Division Team Leader

#423-854-5054 Scott.Overbey@tn.gov

Greene County Office Main office # 423-787-2550

Josh Price, Placement Specialist #423-787-2570 Joshua.Price@tn.gov

Rebecca Fletcher, RPSCM - Greene #423-787-2550 Rebecca.Fletcher@tn.gov

Or Hawkins County Office #423-272-6479, ext#112

Scholarship Opportunity for Youth Adopted from Care

Children's Action Network and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption have partnered to create a national scholarship program, Fostering a Future, sponsored by Capital One, to benefit youth adopted from foster care.

The fund was designed to provide children who were adopted from foster care with the opportunity to pursue their educational goals. In addition, the fund will provide parents considering the adoption of an older child an opportunity for education assistance by adding this special scholarship to existing post-adoption resources. The fund is also intended to help alleviate some concerns about new financial obligations facing adoptive parents.

They are currently accepting applications. Applicants must: have been adopted from the United States foster care system after the age of 13, be graduating high school seniors, maintain or improve qualifying grade point average throughout applicant's senior year, and demonstrate financial need. Applications will be accepted between now and April 20, 2010. To download an application, please visit Children's Action Network (www.childrensactionnetwork.org). If you have any questions or would like more information contact the Children's Action Network at 800.525.6789.

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Resource Parent Handbook Upcoming Revisions

We have great news! The Resource Parent Handbook is being revised and updated this year! The Northeast Region has been assigned Chapter 7. Listed below is some of the content that will be addressed in this chapter. **We are asking our resource families (parents or birth/adopted/foster children) to submit artwork or poetry relating to foster care.** We can take entries several different ways, via email, paper copies, or scanned to us.

Newly labeled Chapter SEVEN (former chapter nine): Special and/or Unusual Situations

1. Number of children (birth, adoptive, foster) in the home. Describe policy requirements.
2. Describe who the decision is made to limit the number of children allowed to be placed in a home. In other words: for how many children is the home approved.
3. Address resource parents working outside the home.
4. Foster children in day care.
5. Providing care to other children or adults in the resource home.
6. Religious practice
7. A child's social life. Dating, alcohol and tobacco, sex, visiting friends. Describe guidelines.
8. Driving with foster children. Include stipulations for child restraint, seat belt laws, and texting laws.
9. Permission slips and other paperwork.
10. What to do when a child runs away.
11. When birth parents cause difficulty. Stress importance of children maintaining connections, but encourage violations be reported to the FSW.
12. Other situations for which notification to or permission from the FSW is required.

Also, if you have a suggestion for the content in this chapter, please feel free to forward that information to Erin Beese or to your RPSCM. It will be taken into consideration during the revision process! Entries should be submitted no later than 3/22/10! Please send entries to:

**DCS, Attn: Erin Beese
2555 Plymouth Road
Johnson City, TN 37601**



Department of Children's Services
2555 Plymouth Road
Johnson City, TN 37601
(423)854-5311

SAVE THE DATE: FOSTER PARENT SPRING CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2010
BOONES CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

