



Building Bridges

A Resource Parent Newsletter

March/April of 2008

Training and Reassessments

Volume 2 Issue 3

In the past couple of months, the newsletter, due to suggestion and time requirements, has been scaled down to include only essential information. For the March/April issue the primary focus for this editorial will be utilized to reiterate the necessity of training. In the past years, training for our resources homes has been a situation where the statement of training hours needed each year has been one of variances. It used to be a situation where resource home would not complete training hours and the comment was made, "make you get those done". Little or no follow-up was done until the next year's reassessment and invariably the same process was done then as well.

The Department of Children's Services for the State of Tennessee is now in an ongoing process to successfully complete a certification process. It goes without saying that this process is labor intensive, detailed and must be on going at the same time as day-to-day activities. Certification processes like this can take a matter of years to complete and require an extensive investment of a wide variety of resources. Within the last couple of years the University of Tennessee has taken over the PATH training, as well as, CORE training for our foster parents. This in part has been done for certification processes. Organizations across the state have vigorously and diligently worked towards the completion of profession certification. Part of that certification process is to ensure that all of our resource homes are provided training. Your role as trained resource parents is an essential component of completing certification. Therefore, previous practices can not and will not be continued in terms of training completion.

Please understand it is to everyone's benefit that we all meet certification requirements. We as case managers for the state are required to complete 40 hours a year of continuous training. And yes, we also complain about all the things we have to get done that training is keeping us from doing, and that we just don't have time for training right now. They don't take our reasons either. The training has to be completed.

CPR/First-Aid and Medication Administration were to be completed for all resource families by March of 2008. Additionally all families are required to take Core Classes to complete training during their first year of being a resource parents. On-going training requirements constitute 15 hours per year. Documentation for all training must be rec'd by your Resource Parent Support case managers to be counted. All training hours must meet requirements and be able to be applied to your roles as resources parents. Homes that have not completed the required training could potentially be faced with correctional actions or closures. We have no desire to lose good families and good homes, but pursuant to state certification requirements ALL families must meet all training requirements. Each newsletter sent provides a training schedule of offered classes as well as association meetings in order to help families get their training hours completed. Training can be done in person in some cases, but opportunities also are available in book/movie reviews, and online training.

Please help us to make sure your home remains open by completing the training requirements. We appreciate the scheduling problems that you face in your day to day lives in helping to care for our children, but we cannot alter the requirements of training.

Reassessments are done on a yearly basis. The reassessments are also an integral part of the requirements to maintain an open and active home. We have had some situations where resources homes provide incomplete reassessment because, for example, they don't want to provide proof of income. Incomplete reassessments may result in call in funding being stopped by the computer until completed information is provided. These requirements are placed on us by federal requirements; they are not a locally made choice. We cannot pick and choose what we get back on reassessments for them to be considered completed and valid.

A new policy addition requires that we get copies of you vehicle registration. Please send a copy of it to your Resource Parent Support Case Manager as soon as possible. All requirements of resources parents is detailed in Policy 16.4 Resource

Home Approval and 16.8 Responsibilities of Approved Resource Parents. You can access these on the web at <http://www.state.tn.us/youth/policies/index.htm> If you are unable to access the web and wish to have a copy, please notify your RPS case manager. Failure to comply with federally mandate requirement can result corrective action up to closure of the home.

If you have any questions please call us. If there is training you need to complete, please do so. We are here to help you in this process. We appreciate all that you do and have done for our children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ★ Remaining March **phone in dates** are 19th and 20th.
- ★ April **phone in dates** are 4th, 7th, 21st, and 22nd.
- ★ The DCS **will be closed** on March 21st in observation of Good Friday.

Training Opportunities March/April



CORE COURSES FOR RESOURCE PARENTS

These classes are required for all resource parents in the **first year** following their PATH approval. All resource parents must receive this training and are only required to attend each class once. *****Please do not bring children to training sessions*****

Parenting the Sexually Abused Child

Tuesday, March 18, 2008 – 6pm-9pm
Knox County DCS office
2700 Middlebrook Pike
Suite 200
Knoxville, TN 37921

Cultural Awareness

Monday, March 24, 2008 – 6pm-9pm
Scott County Higher Education Center
Room 101
410 W.H. Swain Boulevard
Huntsville, TN 37756

Working with Birth Parents

Thursday, March 27, 2008 – 6pm-9pm
Knox County DCS office
2700 Middlebrook Pike, Suite 200
Knoxville, TN 37921

Working with Birth Parents

Wednesday, April 9, 2008 – 6pm-9pm
Loudon County DCS office
485 Pinetop Street
Lenoir City, TN 37771

Fostering Positive Behavior

Saturday, April 12, 2008 – 9am-12pm
University of Tennessee Conference Center,
600 Henley Street
Room 239
Knoxville, TN 37996
Free Parking located at Locust Street Garage

Cultural Awareness

Saturday, April 12, 2008 – 1pm-4pm
University of Tennessee Conference Center,
600 Henley Street
Room 239
Knoxville, TN 37996
Free Parking located at Locust Street Garage

Parenting the Sexually Abused Child

Thursday, April 24, 2008 – 6pm-9pm
Cocke County DCS office
355 East Broadway,
Newport, TN 37821

**To register or for more information contact:
Kathy Williams at 974-8645**

PATH TRAINING

Cocke County
Department of Children's Services
355 East Broadway
Newport, TN 37821

All Classes on Tuesday 6PM-9PM

March 18th	Intake
March 25th	Session One
April 1st	Session Two
April 8th	Session Three
April 15th	Session Four
April 22nd	Session Five
April 29th	Session Six
May 6th	Session Seven
May 13th	Session Eight
May 20th	Session Nine

Anderson County
Department of Children's Services
182 Frank L. Diggs Drive
Suite 100
Clinton, TN 37716

All Classes are on Thursday 6PM-9PM

March 27th	Intake
April 3rd	Session One
April 10th	Session Two
April 17th	Session Three
April 24th	Session Four
May 1st	Session Five
May 8th	Session Six
May 15th	Session Seven
May 22nd	Session Eight
May 29th	Session Nine

Kodak United Methodist Church
2923 Bryan Road
Kodak, TN 37764

All Classes are on Thursday 6PM-9PM

March 27th	Intake
April 3rd	Session One
April 10th	Session Two
April 17th	Session Three
April 24th	Session Four
May 1st	Session Five
May 8th	Session Six
May 15th	Session Seven
May 22nd	Session Eight

May 29th Session Nine

Cumberland Hope Community Church
942 Towe String Road
Lafollette, TN 37766

All Classes are on Tuesday 6PM-9PM

April 15th	Intake
April 22nd	Session One
April 29th	Session Two
May 6th	Session Three
May 13th	Session Four
May 20th	Session Five
May 27th	Session Six
June 3rd	Session Seven
June 10th	Session Eight
June 17th	Session Nine

Montvue Baptist Church
305 Inman Street
Morristown, TN 37814

All Classes held on Thursday 6PM-9PM

April 17th	Intake
April 24th	Session One
May 1st	Session Two
May 8th	Session Three
May 15th	Session Four
May 22nd	Session Five
May 29th	Session Six
June 5th	Session Seven
June 12th	Session Eight
June 19th	Session Nine

Knox County
Department of Children's Services
Suite 200

2700 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, TN 37921

All Classes held Monday 6PM-9PM

April 28th	Intake
May 5th	Session One
May 12th	Session Two
May 19th	Session Three
June 2nd	Session Four
June 9th	Session Five
June 16th	Session Six
June 23rd	Session Seven
June 30th	Session Eight
July 7th	Session Nine

**Hiwassee College
225 Hiwassee College Drive
Barker Learning Center
Madisonville, TN 37354**

All Classes are held on Saturday

April 26 th	9:00am to 4:00pm Intake/Session One
May 3rd	9:00am to 4:00pm Session Two/Session Three
May 17th	9:00am to 4:00pm Session Four/Session Five
May 31st	9:00am to 4:00pm Session Six/Session Seven
June 7th	9:00am to 12pm Session Eight
June 14th	9:00am to 12pm Session Nine

First Aid and CPR



First Aid and CPR classes are offered throughout the communities of our region at various times. The DCS does not schedule these training opportunities. For further information contact your local community organization that provide this training.

Currently approved parents **MUST** complete this training by March of 2008. Current and future parents going through the approval process **MUST** complete this before they can be approved). If you are having difficulty in locating a training organization please let us know.



For Your Information

You can review any of our policies on line at
<http://www.state.tn.us/youth/policies/index.htm>

MOVIES TO SEE



The skeptical, melancholy eyes of John Cusack anchor *Martian Child*, a sweet but not cloying story of a widowed man who adopts a misfit kid who believes he's from another planet. David Gordon (Cusack) is a successful science-fiction author--which is perhaps what leads a children's counselor (Sophie Okonedo, *Dirty Pretty Things*) to pair him with a would-be extra-terrestrial named Dennis (Bobby Coleman). Reluctantly at first, David tries to communicate with Dennis by fostering his belief--but as they grow attached to each other, the administrators of the organization that put them together sees this playing along as a failure to be a proper parent and threatens to take Dennis away. The first two-thirds or so of *Martian Child* are marvelous; though the scenario could be saccharine, the script and performances are full of details and complexities that make it feel genuine and affecting. The last third, unfortunately, seems to be the result of studio meddling, for the themes and emotions become awkwardly overstated. But what will stay with you are the moments of refreshing honesty and tender trust from the earlier part of the movie; the ending, clumsy and tone-deaf though it is, doesn't wipe away the delicate earlier interplay of David and Dennis. Also featuring Oliver Platt (*Funny Bones*), Amanda Peet (*Igby Goes Down*), and Anjelica Huston (*Prizzi's Honor*). --Bret Fetzer

“Arriving at one point is the starting point to another.”
~ John Dewey

Make no mistake, 2008 is here! And with a new year brings new, exciting news from ASAP programming ~ the launch of ASAP’s Adoption Preparation Training!

When Tennessee’s Department of Children’s Services began funding post adoption services in 2004, it marked a pivotal point in time for adoptive families in Tennessee. Arriving at this point was a decisive milestone and shift in thinking about the adoption journey for children and families.

Essentially, Tennessee got straight to the point in assisting adoptive families by funding the Adoption Support And Preservation program (ASAP)!

“Arriving at one point is the starting point to another,” John Dewey wrote. True to his thinking, arriving at the point of post adopt services has become our starting point to another – adoption **preparation** services! Families deserve not only the best in post adopt treatment and support but also the best in adoption preparation services.

The ASAP program is getting straight to the point by piloting their Adoption Preparation Training in Shelby, Davidson, Knox, and East Regions. The pilot effort will help us deepen and strengthen the delivery of our pre-adopt training prior to ASAP expanding the service statewide in July 2008.

Families will find the curriculum helpful and informative as they begin to explore their lifelong commitment to adoption. A unique feature of the curriculum is that it includes video contributions from Tennessee’s children, Tennessee’s adoptive parents, and the adoption professionals dedicated to supporting them. The training curriculum is intended to help deepen a family’s understanding about themselves and their child. It is also intended to help build a lasting bond and commitment for families experiencing adoption through the Department of Children’s Services.

ASAP’s belief in the dedication and commitment of our families is the passion behind our continued program development. Simply, excellence in post adopt services is our starting point to excellence in pre-adopt services.

Join us, won’t you, as we begin a new year making our way to another point in the adoption journey!



PILOT ELIGIBILITY

What: ASAP Adoption Preparation

Training

Where: Shelby, Davidson, East, and Knox Region

When: January 28, 2008 – June 30, 2008
(pilot period)

Who: Pre-finalized DCS Families

Why: Prepare adoptive parents and child for adoption

How:

- 8 -10 week commitment from family, 4 weeks Parent Specific / 4 weeks Child Specific
- In-home with master’s level clinician
- Evening group training opportunities available in select locations

For additional information, please contact ASAP through 1-888-848-2727 or log onto www.tnasap.org.

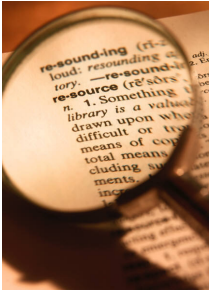
LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

Life skills training class will be offered in the

Claiborne County DCS office on March 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th, from 12PM-2PM.

And

Hamblen County DCS office on April 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, from 12PM-2PM.



Resources

Warmline is sponsored by Youth OPEN and offers support, encouragement, advice, and guidance. All calls are answered by former foster care youth! Give us a call at 865-981-5391. For youth in foster care, ages 12 and up.

- **RAD:** Visit the following website to view a

presentation on Reactive Attachment Disorder:
<http://members.tripod.com/~radclass/>

- **FosterClub** is a Foster care support network for children and youth in foster care www.fosterclub.com
- **Easter Seals Camp** provides quality recreational services to children and adults with disabilities and/or other special needs. Visit the website for more information at www.eastersealstn.com or 615-444-2829
- **Dollywood Tickets** are available for children in custody. Contact the child's home county case manager for more information. Foster children will be allowed 4 trips to Dollywood Park, one trip per season.
- The Child Welfare Organizing Project has a newsletter on line called **For Parents By Parents**. It can be viewed at <http://www.cwop.org>
- Do you know someone that is thinking about becoming a resource parent? **Ask them to call 1-877-DCS KIDS to register for the next PATH class.** Make sure they tell us who sent them. These calls are put onto a log to keep track of your referrals. You can earn money for referring people to become resource parents for the Department if the home becomes approved!
- **Adoptive Families**, the award-winning national adoption magazine, is the leading adoption information source for families before, during, and after adoption. They have a website that you can visit and a link to subscribe if you wish to do so. The annual Adoption Guide has just been released. This resource has everything you need to get started in adoption. Visit their website at: www.adoptivefamilies.com
- Need Foster Parent **training hours**? Get them here for free! The library is a collection of research papers, reports, articles, and book excerpts collected from leading child welfare resources. <http://www.fosterclub.com/training/>*
- **Social Learning** has a website for training resources to help children, teens, and parents succeed. They have several books and videos on different topics like managing behavior, foster and adoptive care, and sex education. This site also offers Foster Parent College with 11

trainings currently available to take on line and they are working on 6 more!
www.SocialLearning.com*

- **Foster Care and Adoptive Community** site purpose: Training; share information between foster, adoptive families, and all other professions working with abused and neglected children. Check our chat schedule for guest speakers. Please feel free to participate in our chats and email discussions. Share information and get questions answered by other care providers on our discussion boards. We hope you find this visit to be very informative and supportive. FCAC Online Training offers 90 courses (3 interactive) with new topics added continuously. <http://fosterparents.com/>*
- **Tennessee Foster Adoptive Care Association, Inc.** has a website where you can get information about your rights, by laws and local associations. You can also read their newsletter and check for upcoming events. www.tfaca.org
- **Heart of the Matter Seminars** help empower adoptive families of older children. For more information, visit their website: www.heartofthematterseminars.com
- **Healthy Marriage, Healthy Family Project** benefits Resource Families who are either an approved pre-adopt family or who have adopted children from the Tennessee Department of Children Services (DCS). The HMHF Project will provide marriage enrichment services to strengthen relationships between parents and enhance the stability of families that have adopted or are planning to adopt. As with ASAP, this service will be delivered at no cost to the recipients!
- **Governor's Mentoring Initiative Mentors** will commit to supporting a young person through an on-going, one-on-one relationship. They will serve as a positive role model and friend by planning and participating in activities together. Mentors will also help build self-esteem and motivation by helping the young person set goals and work toward accomplishing them. In addition to attending a mandatory training session prior to becoming a mentor, adults will spend four to six hours per month with the young person. Each volunteer mentor will be screened prior to being paired with a young person. This screening includes a mandatory background check, fingerprint check, and verification of references and work history. For more information call toll-free, 1-866-519-LIFT, or send an e-mail to tn.lift@state.tn.us An application packet and instructions will be mailed to you.
- *Keep in mind that you can only use five hours of on-line training per year.*

Resource Parent Associations

These meetings offer opportunities for Resource Parents to receive training hours, build a support system with other Resource Parents and DCS Personnel, and be involved in Resource Parent activities in your county. Feel free to attend another RPA meeting if you are unable to attend your own. Please call ahead to confirm time and dates.

Anderson & Union

Association Meeting for Anderson and Union County is April 8 at 6:30p at Clinton DCS. The association is planning on having a CPR class in late May and early June. It will consist of two 4 hour classes. It is open to Anderson and Union County families only. Availability is on a first come first serve basis. Only 30 spaces are available. Please contact Jim Whyte at 865-425-4435 or Amy Henderson at 865-425-4438 for more information.

Blount & Loudon

The next RPA meetings will be held on April 10 at 8pm at the Blount Christian Church. On February 14th, Grief Counseling Training. May 8th Early Intervention, and June 12th Trauma Training. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Spalding at 865-681-7232.

Campbell

The Campbell County FPA meeting will be Tuesday April 29th at 6pm at the Campbell County DCS office. 3 hours worth of independent living training will be provided. Campbell County DCS and REACHS will be sponsoring a Child Abuse Prevention/Awareness Luncheon for Child Abuse Prevention month. Wednesday April 9th at Midway Baptist Church in LaFollette beginning at 11:30am. For more information contact Deborah Dial 423-566-9714 ext. 179

Claiborne "Friends of Children"

The meetings for the association are the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7pm at Cave Springs Church. For more information contact Kim Long 423-626-1329.

Cocke

The next meeting is **April 7th** at 6:00pm at the Cocke County DCS office. The Cocke County Foster Care Association meets the first Monday of each month at 6:00pm unless there is a Holiday. If

there is a Holiday the association meets the following Monday. Training is provided at every meeting. Please call Claudia Norwood at 423-623-1553 for more information.

Hamblen, Grainger & Jefferson "Family Connections"

The next meetings for Hamblen County RPA will be April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd, and July 7th. 2 hours of training will be provided at each meeting. Contact Xander Carey more information 423-318-6058.

Monroe

The Monroe County Foster Parent Association will be meeting the 1st Tuesday of each month. The location will be at Farm Bureau of Monroe County, 510 Main Street, Madisonville TN at 6:00 pm. For any other inquiries regarding the Monroe County FPA, please contact Malinda Cooley at 423-807-0882 (president), Kim Potter at 423-404-3576 or Jeannie Barger RPS CM at 423-442-3641 ext. 153.

Roane

The Roane Co. RPA has changed their Association meetings to the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at DCS, 795 Larry Byrd Road, Kingston. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Anita Dulaney, DCS RP Support CM, at 865-425-4494.

Sevier "Smoky Mountain"

The March meeting for Sevier County FPA will be March 20, 2008 at the Sevier DCS office at 6:30. Training will be provided by Terry Ryan of the DCS Special Investigations Unit. Please make arrangements for your children beforehand or bring something to entertain them in another room, as the material covered will not be appropriate for children. The April 17th meeting will be Adoptions Training.

For more information please contact President Shonda Worthington (865-660-0569) Vice President Jamie Holland (865-429-8336) for more details. Need clothing items for new foster children in your home? Contact Donna Stern at (865) 773-0162 to access the clothing closet or for information on how you can help.

Scott, "Love for Children"

The next meetings for the Scott County FPS March 27th and April 24th, 2008 at 11AM. Scott County DCS Office. For more information regarding the next RPA meeting, please contact President, Rachel Lawson at 423-663-2484.

CONTACTS

HAVE AN AFTER HOURS or weekend EMERGENCY?
Dial the on-call worker:

Resource Parent Support pager: 1-800-841-7243, access code: 34280



IMPORTANT HOTLINES:

Child Abuse Hotline	24 Hours a Day	877-237-0004
Mobile Crisis	24 Hours a Day	866-791-9224
East Region Foster Parent Advocate	Kristi Dodson	865-850-2964
All Families Matter Hotline		866-327-9101
Resource Parent Inquiry Line (to apply for foster parenting).....		1-877-DCS-KIDS

RPS SUPERVISORY NUMBERS:

RPS Team Coordinator	Marcy Martin.....	865-988-0398
RPS Team Leader	Melissa Huskey	865-429-7012 ext 244
RPS Blount Cluster Supervisor	Melissa Huskey	865-429-7012 ext. 244
RPS Hamblen Cluster Supervisor	Vicky Hodge	423-318-6064

SPECIALISTS:

Educational Specialist.....	Steve Dugger	423-318-6026
Educational Specialist.....	Rex Kitts	865-425-4516
Independent Living Specialist.....	Stephanie Bosson	865-425-4494
Independent Living Specialist.....	Sharilyn Sage.....	865-594-6633 ext.1240
Health Unit Nurse	Betsy Pursiful	865-425-4474
TNCare Representative.....	Sonya Bates	865-425-4524
Regional Psychologist	Bill Daniel	865-425-4546

MAIN OFFICES:

East Regional Office	Clinton	865-425-4400
Anderson Cluster (Anderson, Morgan, Union, Campbell, Scott, Roane)	Clinton	865-425-4400
Hamblen Cluster (Hamblen, Grainger, Jefferson, Cocke, Claiborne).....	Morristown	423-318-6800
Blount Cluster (Blount, Loudon, Monroe, Sevier).....	Maryville	865-981-2366

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Please let us know if you have any information or suggestions for next month's newsletter!

please call:

April Wallis @ 865-981-2366 ext 120

~or~

Xander Carey @ 423-318- 6039