

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3 MAY AND JUNE 08

A Newsletter for the Resource Parents in the South Central Region which includes Bedford, Coffee, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry and Wayne Counties

May is Foster Care Month

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Each year, individuals and organizations across our great country reach out to their governors, state legislators, mayors, city councils, and other representatives, asking them to proclaim May as **Foster Care Month** in their jurisdictions. Each year, the majority of governors and numerous other officials join their constituents in recognizing and honoring the work of caring foster parents by signing proclamations.

We here at DCS feel every month should Foster Care Month due to the outstanding individuals that step forward in the State of Tennessee to help these families and children. It is like the old commercial stating

"This is the hardest job you'll ever love." We just want the rest of the world to know that you are

Parents as Tender Healers



PATH Trainings now being offered in Lewisburg

Trainings to start on May 3 through June 14

Time: 9:30 - 3:30 Saturdays
Where: Intake May 3 will be at the Lewisburg campus of Columbia State

**Columbia State C. College
Lewisburg Campus**

**980 S. Ellington Pkwy.
Lewisburg, TN 37091**

**To register call: Nita McDaniel or Doris Dodd
931-454-1934-x105,
Bill Bryson at 931-380-2587 x6090**



DCS Case Management Cell Phone List for On Call

East- Coffee, Lincoln, Moore, Bedford

On call Coffee Co. JJ. 931-797-5952
On Call Coffee Co SS -931-797-5951
On Call Lincoln /Moore JJ/SS- 931-797-5956
On Call Bedford Co. SS- 931-797-4616
On Call Bedford Co JJ- 931-797-5349

Middle-Giles, Marshall, Maury,

Lawrence

On Call Giles / Marshall Co. - 931-797-5972
On Call Lawrence / Maury Co.-931-797-5943

West- Wayne, Lewis, Perry, Hickman

On Call Hickman / Lewis Co. -931-797-5896
On Call Wayne / Perry Co. -931-797-5895

Tip of the day:

Any time a child is placed in your home be sure you have a signed contrac & R.P. checklist before the FSW leaves . Also, when the child exits your home placement please always notify your Support Case Mgr.

DCS budget is being cut so in effort to save \$, paper, postage, printing and labor could you please send me your e-mail address:

William.P.Bryson@state.tn.us

Middle Tennessee State University offering Core Training across the South Central Region

MTSU is offering the required core cores necessary for resource homes to be in approved status. 15 Hours of CORE courses 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 these classes once. There are other Mandatory Classes that have to be taken every two years (example CPR).

*RSPV with Carol White,
MTSU Professional Development
(615) 494-7680 or email path@mtsu.edu*



SC Upcoming Trainings in your Region May 2008



Working with Birth Parents (DCS Required Course)

This 3 hour class helps everyone involved with foster care gain an appreciation for the critical role of birth parents in the lives of children in care. Participants will have an opportunity to explore the impact that a child's history and visits with his or her parents have on behaviors.

This class gives participants an opportunity to discuss problems and solutions involved in working with birth parents, as well as strategies for successful partnerships

Saturday May 17th Motlow Community College- Tullahoma
9:30 am-12:30 pm 6015 Ledford Mill Rd
Jack Daniels' room Tullahoma, TN 37388

Fostering Positive Behavior Training for Resource Parents

(This class will be required all resource parents)

This 3 hour class is an interactive DVD series which demonstrates best practice in behavioral problem-solving methods and highlights prohibited behavioral practices.

This class reminds parents that children in state custody should not be subjected to restrictive and intrusive disciplinary measures. Participants will learn how to apply the overarching principles of Tennessee Department of Children's Services work to specific issues of behavior management; how to approach the behavioral issues of children in state custody; and how to demonstrate effective

behavioral problem-solving by thinking through the ABCs of problem management.

Monday May 19th Columbia State
College-Clifton
795 Main Street
Clifton, TN 38425

Parenting the Sexually Abused Child (DCS Required Course)

This 3 hour class empowers participants to respond appropriately to the many behaviors and situations presented by the child survivor of sexual abuse. The training addresses issues of coping with and responding to disclosures, managing sexual acting-out behaviors, developing family rules that are relevant to the sexually abused child, understanding myths and realities of sexual abuse, realizing the important role of therapy, and understanding potential outcomes for children who have been victimized.

Thursday May 22nd Hampton Inn
6:00-9:00 pm 1551 Halifax Drive
Columbia, TN 38401



Parenting with Positive Discipline (DCS Required Course)

This 3 hour class revisits the department's discipline policy and alternative ways of disciplining other than corporal punishment. Participants also gain an understanding of needs-based behaviors and learn that a behavior cannot be replaced without finding a more appropriate way for the child to get his/her needs met. Rewards, behavior modification, involving the child in behaviors replacement, and natural consequences are explored. Participants will learn to develop relationships with child based on positive rather than punitive

interactions and be empowered to see assistance in the face of challenging behaviors.

Tuesday May 13th Ambassador Inn
6:00-9:00 pm 925 Interstate Drive
Manchester, TN 37355

Parenting the Sexually Abused Child (DCS Required Course)

This 3 hour class empowers participants to respond appropriately to the many behaviors and situations presented by the child survivor of sexual abuse. The training addresses issues of coping with and responding to disclosures, managing sexual acting-out behaviors, developing family rules that are relevant to the sexually abused child, understanding myths and realities of sexual abuse, realizing the important role of therapy, and understanding potential outcomes for children who have been victimized

Monday June 2nd Ambassador Inn
6:00-9:00 pm 925 Interstate Drive
Manchester, TN

Fostering Positive Behavior Training for Resource Parents

(This class will be required all resource parents)

This 3 hour class is an interactive DVD series which demonstrates best practice in behavioral problem-solving methods and highlights prohibited behavioral practices. This class reminds parents that children in state custody should not be subjected to restrictive and intrusive disciplinary measures. Participants will learn how to apply the overarching principles of Tennessee Department of Children's Services work to specific issues of behavior management; how to approach the behavioral issues of children in state custody; and how to demonstrate effective

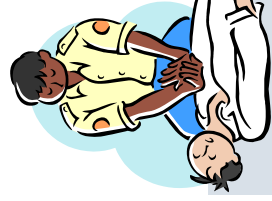
behavioral problem-solving by thinking through the ABCs of problem management

Monday June 16th Hampton Inn
9:30 am-12:30 pm 1551 Halifax Drive
Columbia, TN 38401

Cultural Awareness for Resource Parents (DCS Required Course)

This 3 hour class allows participants to examine their own cultural backgrounds and their beliefs about different cultures through self-assessment. The role that culture plays in a person's development and sense of identity will be explored. Strategies related to gaining information and knowledge about different children's cultural backgrounds will be discussed. Parent, child, and societal roles will be explored. Issues regarding communication and culturally—specifically training that will be offered in the field based on demographics and identified populations.

Tuesday June 24th Columbia State
6:00-9:00 pm Lewisburg Site
Room 134 980 Elliston Pkwy
37901 Lewisburg, TN



CPR and First Aid Training
We are offering CPR and First aid classes in your area. Class size is limited so please RVSP with:

Carol White - 615-494-7680 or email her at path@mtsu.edu

CPR Class offering:

May 6th 6:00-9:00 pm -Tuesday
Columbia State- Lawrenceburg
1620 Springer Road
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

May 10th 9:30 am-12:30 pm- Saturday
Best Western Celebration Inn
724 Madison Street
Shelbyville, TN 37160

May 24th 9:30 am-12:30 pm Saturday
Horton Haven Christian Camp
3711 Reed Harris Rd.
Lewisburg, TN 37091

June 3rd 6pm – 9:00 pm- Tuesday
Peoples Church
828 Murfreesboro Rd
Franklin TN 37064

June 9th - 6:00- 9:00 pm- Monday
Hickman Co. Agriculture Pavilion and Fairgrounds
979 Grinders Switch Rd.
Centerville, TN 37033

June 10th 6:00 pm-9:00 pm Tuesday
Martin Methodist College
433 West Madison St.
Pulaski, TN

June 12th 6 pm-9:00 pm - Thursday
Motlow Community College-Fayetteville
1802 Winchester Hwy.
Fayetteville, TN 37334

June 14th 9:30 am- 12:30 pm - Saturday

Best Western Celebration Inn
724 Madison St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160

June 21st 9:30 am -12:30 pm - Saturday
Hampton Inn
1551 Halifax Dr.
Columbia, TN 38401

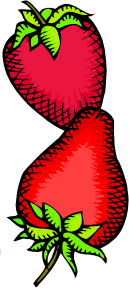
Foster Parent Advocates

South Central Region

Nancy Woodall-Holmes - 615-355-1731.

The Advocate is there for you the Resource Parents. If you are in doubt of being treated fairly or you feel your rights as a resource parent are not being met by DCS. Speak with your Support Case Manager to see if together you can't resolve the issues but if this fails then you should contact your Foster Parent Advocate. The Advocate is there as support for you as a partner with DCS.

Recipe of the Month



Strawberry Turnovers

12 slices thin, soft white bread, crusts removed
1 pint strawberries, washed and chopped
6 tablespoons strawberry jam
Zest from 1 lemon
6 tablespoons butter, melted for brushing
Sour cream and powdered sugar for garnish

In a bowl combine strawberries, jam, and zest.
Flatten bread with the palm of your hand or a rolling pin. **Mound 1** heaping tablespoon of the strawberry mixture on the center of the bread.
Fold bread over strawberries to form a triangle.
Brush both sides with melted butter. **Place the turnovers** on a sheet tray and bake in a 400

degree oven for about 5 minutes per side until golden. Dust with powdered sugar and serve with sour cream



Andrew
June 18, 1991
“I want a good family”

More About Andrew:

Andrew likes to travel and experience new things. His goal is to join the Navy. He loves music and listens to it whenever possible. He does not watch a lot of television. He would rather be outside playing with his friends. He loves to be around people. He is intelligent and very active.

What Others Say About Andrew:

Andrew has an outgoing personality and gets along with everyone. He is very active and can play with children of any age. He likes to be the center of attention. Andrew's current resource parent said, "He is the life of the party and never meets a stranger". She also said he has what it takes to be an engineer. Andrew is inquisitive and likes to know how things work.

What You Can Do For Andrew:

Andrew needs a loving, stable and supportive family. His family should be able to model family respect

and set boundaries. Andrew needs encouragement to complete school assignments and reach his full potential. His family should support his need for continued counseling and be willing to allow him continued contact with his older brother.

For more about Andrew contact Shelley Bryson, Permanency Specialist at 931-380-2587 ex.6025



Association News

If you are interested in joining a foster parent Association near you please contact one of these:

The Middle TN Foster Adoptive Association meets on 1st Thursday of the month (for now at the National Guard Armory on James Campbell and Industrial Blvd.
Silenea Ketchum 931-223-5957

Lincoln County Foster Parent Association meets at the Child Advocacy Center in Fayetteville on 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm
Lynda Cox 931-438-8831

Bedford Co. Foster Parent Association meets the 2nd Saturday from 10 am -2 pm.
Pat Weas 931-680-4402

Foster /Adoptive Care Association of Coffee and Moore County's meet the 1st Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm, in the Rutledge Co. Activity Building off Hwy 55.

Jean Martinez 931-728-4640

Wayne Co. Foster Parent Association meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at DCS office in Waynesboro.

Jeanette Sherrill 931-724-4598

Notice changes in your: Support Case Manager Teams

East Cluster Team:

Welcome Back! Doris Dodd who has recently returned as a Support CM, Lincoln Co. Marshall

Nita McDaniel, Bedford, Coffee and Moore Co. contact either at 931-454-1934x105

Middle Cluster Team:

Bill Bryson, Maury and Marshall Co.931-380-2587 ex 6091.

Carol Randolph, Giles Co. & Lawrence Co. 931-380-2587 ex.6089.

West Cluster Team:

Tami Long, until May 6- Wayne, Perry, Lewis and Hickman Co.931-796-4974 ex 113

Call in problems call Kim Wilder at 931-380-2587 ex. 6445

Brenda Peel, Team Leader at 380-2587 ext. 6099

Resource Parent Support Hotline

1-866-862-4788

CPS HOTLINE

1-877-237-0004



Mobile Crisis-1-866-791-9222

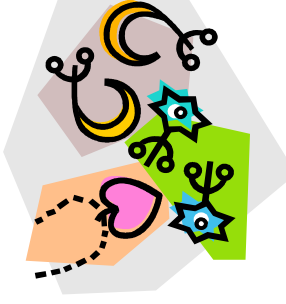
**Farewell and Best
Wishes to Resourc
Parent Support FSW**

Tami Long



We want to wish all the best to Ms. Tami Long after 18+ years of service with the State of Tennessee. Tami has worked in Prevention Services, Corrections, Recruitment of Foster Parents, and Resource Parent Support in her years with our state. Tami leaves us to pursue other interest's that utilizes her creative and

personable side in the fine state of Indiana. We all wish her well and all the best in her new job.



DCS Policy Tips

When a child is placed in your home please do not ask the children about their CPS investigation. If they volunteer or disclose information please notify the FSW and CPS investigator so they can document the disclosure. Tampering with an investigation can be damaging to the case.

All family pets must be vaccinated as required by law and documentation must be provided to verify that the vaccination is current.
Policy 16.4



In-Service Training

Each Resource Parent must complete 15 hours of in-service training each year, per approval/re-assessment date to remain in good standing.
Policy 16.8



Education Requirements

Resource Parents are responsible for making sure that the educational needs of children in care are met.
Policy 21.14

DCS Tips:

All Resource Parents are required to maintain 15 hours of in-service training per year to remain open as a DCS Resource Home. After the initial 15 core classes are attained all other training should be approved classes by DCS.

**Another training option:
The Family Center
Positive Parenting May 6 & May 12
Call 931-388-3840 to register
Important DCS Policies**

Your Responsibility

It is the responsibility of every Resource Parent to know the Policies of the Department of Children Services. Policies can be found by going to www.state.tn.us/youth or you can find policy information in the 2006 Foster Parent Handbook. If you are unsure of a policy contact your Resource Parent Support worker or contact the Resource Parent Advocate in your region for further assistance.



Pet Vaccination Reminder

Foster

fos-ter... 1. To bring up; nurture. 2. To promote the growth and development of; cultivate: detect and foster artistic talent. 3. To nurse

Life Book Maintenance
Policy 16.8

Discipline Policy
Policy 16.8

Behavioral Management
Policy 25.10

Resource Home Board Rates
Policy 16.29

Tennessee Foster Care Advocacy Program
Policy 16.18

Outings & Overnight stays
Policy 16.8 Attachment 2

Outings and overnight stays, for the purpose of this policy, will be defined as a child or resource parent initiated, in-state, outings of less than 48 hours, to a location well known to the resource parents, and that the resource parent can ensure appropriate supervision will be provided. This is not intended and must in no way be confused with visitation between a custodial child and their FSW, birth parent, or as described in other policies.

Although resource parents may authorize short outings and overnight stays for children placed in their care, the FSW should be notified of the child's location if the outing exceeds 4 or 5 hours.

Any court required authorizations must be honored. For example some children, who are adjudicated unruly or delinquent, may require court approval to

leave the direct supervision of the designated caregiver.



This Newsletter is a publication for all Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Parents in the South Central Region.

Bill Bryson William.P.Bryson@state.tn.us

1400 College Park Dr. Suite A, Columbia, TN 38401