



**KFCA March  
Dinner Meeting**  
Wednesday March 18,  
6 to 8pm  
@ Silverdale Community  
Center

Dinner is \$4 for members 8 and over. \$8 for non members. Membership SAVES!

Dinner @ 6, Speaker @ 7pm

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Carolyn Hartness  
**Topic:** FASD—Interventions for Kids

### **Kudos Korner:**

Ok, you got me—we aren't in the corner but do have a new idea for a fun feature. This idea was submitted by our new Foster Care Liaison Luanne Vail. The idea is to give foster parents, social workers; youth and others a vehicle in which to "shout out" to any individual or group who deserves to be noticed for good deeds done; going above and beyond; or just special recognition! Please feel free to send your Kudos for publication to:  
newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org —Deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication.

I would like to start the trend by shouting out to Cherrie Druffel for all her hard work, dedication, blood, sweat and tears on behalf of the Kitsap Foster Care Association!

**Cherrie, YOU ROCK—Thank You!**

### **TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!**

It may be hard to believe with all the snow and rain but SPRING is just around the corner. That means the annual Kitsap Foster Care Association trip to see the Mariners play Safeco Field is on the horizon. This year the game on May 1st is dedicated to honoring foster and relative care providers.

This event kicks off the nationally recognized **FOSTER CARE APPRECIATION MONTH** Please join us in attending this special game on this special day in honor of what we do and live. Tickets are available free of charge to KFCA members and their families. Transportation to and from the game will be provided if requested and space is available. Sign up now to reserve your spots. Call Luanne Vail @ 360.990.9995

# **KFCA NEWSLETTER**

Kitsapfostercare.org

March 2009

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **MARK YOU CALENDARS!**

It is that time of year again!

**Caregiver Night Out!** Saturday, May 9th 2009! from 5:30-9:30 PM has been confirmed with the Bremerton YMCA. Registration is recommended as we have limited space. Call Debra Converse 692-1927 to register your child between age of 4 weeks to 12 yrs old. The registration deadline is one week prior to event.

### **Quarterly Regional & State Wide Foster Parent Consultation Meetings**

House Bill 1624 is legislation requiring Children's Administration to consult with foster parents. The goal of the legislation is to ensure foster parents participate directly or through a representative selected by foster parents, and have a chance to offer input at each stage of ongoing work regarding:

- Recruitment of foster homes
- Retention of foster homes
- Effective training for foster parents
- Development of coordinated & plans that strengthen services for the protection of children

#### **Quarterly Regional Consultation Meetings**

3/16; 6/15 & 9/21 2009

Tacoma DCFS—1949 South State Street- Room 348

#### **Quarterly Statewide Consultation Meetings**

4/8; 7/8 & 10/7 2009 1:00-4:00 PM

Tacoma DCFS 1949 South State Street—room 291

You are invited to bring your issues in person, or be represented by Debra Converse, KFCA President (360) 692-1927 in Kitsap or Elizabeth Griffin Hall @ (360) 990-9955  
Donna or Shannon at Placement Desk (360) 475-3535

### **Can we talk?**

All foster parents and relative caregivers are invited to join DCFS Area administrators Barb Geiger; Tom Stokes, & Linda Thomas for coffee and conversation!

This is an opportunity to get to know the decision makers; ask questions, provide suggestions & get feedback.

Where: Bremerton DCFS 3423 6<sup>th</sup> St.

When: Wednesday, April 22, 3:00—5:00

Thursday, July 30, 11:00 – 1:00

We look forward to seeing you!

FamLink Update --

It has been a wild sixteen days here in Children's Administration since FamLink went live. My new FamLink mantra is:

"It works better than it could, but not as well as it should."

FamLink itself, as a database, works fairly well. Work is moving forward. We are screening new Intakes, assigning them and conducting investigations. Kids are being seen, we're returning phone calls, the lights are still on.

We are running into untold problems with conversion of CAMIS data into the new system. We are also running into challenges because the way we think about the work (who is a provider, for instance) is not the same in the new system and we have to retrain our brains.

At the state level, we have developed SWAT teams to trouble shoot emergent issues on a priority basis. Our planned on-site support teams are in place and helping staff problem solve. We prioritize every day what needs attention. As fixes are developed, they are being rolled out. There have been two mini-releases in the last week providing programming fixes.

Payment is much more complicated than anyone anticipated (and they told us it would be a challenge). The influx of both CAMIS and SSPS information into FamLink has caused some circular loops where work stalls.

It looks like we are on target within the region and the state for completing basic (Level 1) foster care payments for February. Licensing staff have been working to restore missing links between licensing and contracts. Social workers have been verifying child placement which triggers payment. I'm confident over 95% of foster parents will receive at least a Level 1 payment in February. We are two days from SSPS cut off and, statewide, about 53% of Level 2, 3 and 4 payments are authorized. Statewide, 66% of BRS and CHAP payments are authorized. We continue to work very hard in this area.

Payments for child care for contracted services and adoption support are lagging a bit further behind. The fiduciary specialists are working on this and additional resources have been deployed at the state office level to help. Permissions have been temporarily expanded so our regional staff can do direct authorization in certain situations, without going through the usual intermediaries.

In FamLink, payment processes for providers are much the same. You will still receive payments from SSPS and invoices will still be validated as they have been before FamLink. More information is available on the CA Internet site:

**[www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/general/index.asp](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/general/index.asp)**

We will be hitting the SSPS cut off date this Thursday (2/20) and are working hard to issue payments on time in February for all our obligations. I anticipate there will be glitches and errors. Please review very carefully all the documentation and payments you receive in February.

It would help if you could complete your reviews by categories and notify us in one communication of any errors in a particular category (for example: foster care payments, FPS payments, psychological services etc.) We want to work efficiently to resolve your concerns in a timely way. Please use the usual methods to contact your assigned SSPS payment specialist - Debi Watson, Denise Spencer, Michelle Malmoe, Richard Stephenson or Kay Jolly. Lisa DiBlasi is the regional business manager and is also available to assist. We appreciate in advance your efforts to organize the information.

We will get better at this in time. Your understanding and patience are sincerely appreciated as we learn our new system.

Nancy Sutton MSW  
Regional Administrator, Region 5  
Division of Children and Family Services  
1949 So. State St. MS: N27-30  
Tacoma WA 98405  
253-983-6258  
sutn300@dshs.wa.gov



# JOIN KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION!

Are you a foster/kinship care provider interested in receiving support from & networking with other foster parents our community OR interested in offering support to local foster parents??

Kitsap Foster Care Association Membership is open to all foster/kinship care providers, as well as others interested in youth and foster care!

Annual dues of \$20, entitle you to a monthly dinner/training meeting; Annual events, such as:

The Back to School Event & Holiday Party as well as the monthly newsletters; other fun activities supportive of foster families, ample opportunity to network with and provide/receive support while parenting local children in need!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Are You: (check all that apply)

Foster Parent

Kinship Provider

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: KFCA, PO Box 4542, Bremerton, WA 98312

## Training Opportunities Resource Family Training Institute

### Orientation for Licensing:

1st Wed of the month, 10:00a – 12, at DCFS Bremerton and offered online - free of charge!  
register @ 360-475-3598 or 475-3598

### Pride Pre-Service Training for Caregivers:

2/2 to 2/11 Tacoma 5:30 to 9:30 + 1 Saturday 9-4  
3/3 to 3/12 Tacoma 5:30 to 9:30 + 1 Saturday 9-4  
Contact: Linda Falcocchio to enroll  
253.983.6474 or  
Fali300@dshs.wa.gov

2/3 to 2/19 —Bremerton Days 10am to 3pm  
2/26 to 3/14—Bremerton Evenings 5:30 to 9:30  
Contact: Hildegard Stone to enroll  
360.475.475-3586 or  
Sthi300@dshs.wa.gov

### On Site Classes for Relative Caregivers in Kitsap:

TBA 5:30—9:30 & 9a—4p Saturday

### Parenting Physically Assaultive Children & Youth:

TBA

Ansell-Casey Life Skills—call or check website for date  
9 to 1 in Tacoma 3/ 19 4hrs. credit.

### Engaging Biological Families for Change

@ DSHS Tacoma 9a to 4p  
April 1 & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30pm - 8:30pm. 6hrs. credit.  
<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

### There is no charge for classes.

classes are at Bremerton 1st Methodist 1150 Marine Dr.  
Register w/ H. Stone, 360-475-3586; 800 423-6246, or  
[sthi300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:sthi300@dshs.wa.gov)

### FREE On-Line classes thru Pierce College for **Foster & Relative/Kinship Caregivers**

Topics include: Online Learning, Addiction Basics; Alcohol & chemical Abuse, Behavior Management, Care-giving for children w/Extreme Behavioral Issues, Cultural Identity:

Self-Esteem, Educational Advocacy for Caregivers, Introduction to Children's Administration for Kinship Caregivers, Maintaining a Connection: Importance of Birth Families, Multiple Placements-Impact on Children, Stuck in the Middle - Guide for Kinship Caregivers, Success Beyond Foster Care, Working with Developmentally Disabled Children.  
Register @ <http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe>

## Useful Links 4 Relative & foster caregivers:

### **DSHS Electronic Forms Link**

**First Aid/CPR Training 4 Foster Parents**

Wwww.keepthebeatcpr.net

Or call (253)217-1105

PLEASE JOIN OUR NEW SUPPORT GROUPS IN KITSAP COUNTY!  
 All groups meet monthly @ the First Methodist Church in Bremerton to share stories and network strategies and together, find solutions

Educational Advocacy	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur	6-8p	Barbara Holbrook	Yakiboo @msn.com 649-0414	Learn how to advocate for the educational needs of your child in the public school system
New Fosters & seasoned Foster Parents	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur	6-8p	Nora Sutman	Nora Sutman 876-6520	General information, personal stories and opportunities to know other new and continuing foster parents
Relative Care Givers	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur	6-8p	Sharon Williams	Mamalupa @gmail.com	Support for relative care givers prior to and during placements.



### Parenting Plus! - Foundations for Behavior Management

**In Bremerton May 20 - May 29th, 2009**

**Offered by the Resource Family Training Institute:**

Training for Foster Families, Adoptive Families and Kinship Care Providers

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents>

**Parenting Plus!** is a comprehensive, **30-hour** training course designed specifically for foster parents, adoptive parents and kinship providers. It is taught in a relaxed and friendly manner that answers your day to day questions, while allowing you to share the joys and frustrations of caring for the children placed in your homes.

**Parenting Plus! topics include:**

- Child Development
- Cultural Awareness
- Team Building
- Discipline
- Self-esteem
- Stress Management



### **PRIORITIES—**

(LET'S KEEP 'EM STRAIGHT!)

A hundred years from now it not matter what my bank account balance was... the sort of house I lived in ... or the kind of car I drove... BUT, the world may be a different place because I was important in the live of a child! —Anonymous.

A timely reminder in these troubled financial times.

—thank you Luanne Vail!

## A GOOD REASON TO VISIT THE MUSEUM; AQUARIUM OR THE SCIENCE CENTER!

### Significant scientific learning takes place outside the classroom

A new report from the National Research Council stresses that scientific learning undertaken in informal settings like museums or through educational television can significantly contribute to scientific understanding, according to Science Daily. "Learning is broader than schooling, and informal science environments and experiences play a crucial role," said Philip Bell, co-chair of the committee that wrote the report, and associate professor of learning sciences at the University of Washington, Seattle. "These experiences can kick-start and sustain long-term interests that involve sophisticated learning." The study notes that these types of informal experiences can have a particular impact on groups that are typically underrepresented in science, such as women and certain minorities. For those who design scientific experiences in non-academic settings such as museums, the report offers a number of guidelines for engaging visitors, and also offers recommendations for professional and volunteer staffs of institutions and programs that interact with the public about science.

Read more: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/01/090114114934.htm>

See the report: [http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12190#toc](http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12190#toc)

### Working toward successful visits—contributed by Nancy Sutton

Not wanting to end the visit is typical of children who are new to foster care. It is important to remember that the more times children visit their birth families the easier it is emotionally for children. They can expect to see their birth parents again and trust that everyone is working toward re-unification or at least to maintain connections.

Birth parents also react emotionally to visiting their child. One of their reactions can be to not show up.

Parents may miss visits because they:

- Hate to say good-bye
- Don't know how to respond to "When can I come Home?"
- Lack transportation
- Are uncomfortable with the visiting location
- Have an unpredictable work schedule
- Are afraid the relative or foster caregiver is doing a better job than they did

Preparing children for visits can be hard, especially when children have been physically hurt. But any time children and families are separated and must arrange to meet; the situations have the potential to be awkward and emotionally difficult. Arranged visits are not the way children and their parents usually spend time together, they aren't in the normal scheme of things. Planning can turn an awkward event into an experience that is more comfortable and helpful.

#### **Caregivers (Relatives and foster parents) can help by thinking about:**

- How can I prepare the child for visits? Can I help manage expectations? Can I send school work, photos or drawings with the child?
- How can I prepare other members of my family for visits?
- How might I help the child after a visit?
- What information do I need from the social worker to help plan the visit?
- How might I use the visit schedule to work in partnership with birth parents?
- What are the ways I might handle my feeling concerning visits?
- What might I do to promote birth parent/child connection between visits?

If birth parents don't come to a scheduled visit how will I explain it and what help could I provide to the child?

Supporting and managing visits between a child and her parents is part of the foster parent experience. When children are wound up after a visit, it can be tough, no doubt about it. Try this test though. If your child was in foster care, what type of contact would you want?

**Verbal De-Escalation**  
*Parenting Behaviorally*  
*Challenged Children*

**Presented by: Rick Pribbernow**

For the last fourteen years Rick Pribbernow has been working with Compass Health as the Parenting Coordinator of Parenting and Life Skills Education. Prior to that Rick served in a variety of locations around the United States working with children, youth, families, and senior adults in both education and counseling. Rick holds three degrees: Bachelor's in Education, Master's in Curriculum Development, and Master's in Counseling C.P.E. Rick's unique style of presentation is both creative and engaging. He has the ability to quickly communicate difficult concepts in simple ways and to help individuals get in touch with their feelings so they can make the necessary choices and applications that are related to the material being taught. We are sure you will enjoy the presentation Rick will be giving.

The major goals of this workshop are:

- Develop skills how to manage children with behavioral challenges in a non-violent crisis intervention manner
- Understanding all children are unique and, thereby, plans for verbal de-escalation have to be developed on a one-on-one basis
- Skill building for empathetic listening, helping the child to label the emotion under the anger or the root issue can be the springboard for developing a collaborative plan that both you and the child can put into place for success
- This presentation will focus on children's needs and creative strategies to help children manage their emotions in difficult situations

Thursday: March 19, 2009

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

DSHS 1949 S. State Street Room 195

To register contact: Linda Falcocchio, MSW

Or E-mail: [fali300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:fali300@dshs.wa.gov) Or

(253 )983-6474 or

Sheri at 253-341-0169

**DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR  
FASHION?**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS YEAR'S BIG  
FASHION SHOW FUND RAISER—WE CAN'T  
HOLD THE EVENT WITH OUT SUBSTANTIAL  
ASSISTANCE! WE NEED YOU!**

For more information contact Deb Converse  
692-1927

**WHAT A GREAT IDEA!**

**Program encourages kids to read  
aloud to dogs—woof, woof!**

A library program called Paws to Read fosters reading confidence by having kids practice reading skills in front of a friendly, nonjudgmental dog.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/28/AR2009012800019.html>

I bet a cat (or mouse) would do..... Meow : )

**Focus on 'virtues' decreases school  
violence**

**(and probably at home too!)**

A new character education initiative called the Virtues Project is altering the way teachers, administrators, and students communicate in one Baltimore County school, The Baltimore Sun reports. The program itself started nationally in 1991 to combat violence among young people and in families, and its "virtues" are 52 good character traits -- for instance, truthfulness, patience, responsibility, and self-discipline -- developed from texts throughout the world, identifying universally shared principles. The project was founded by Linda Kavelin-Popov, a psychotherapist; her husband, Dan Popov, a pediatric psychologist; and her brother, John Kavelin. The initiative has been used by businesses, organizations, and schools in more than 90 countries. In Baltimore County's Kenwood High School, teachers use the virtues to acknowledge, guide, and correct students, and students have internalized the instruction to use it in their dealings with each other -- fighting has declined at Kenwood over the past several years. "Our kids are so used to all of us telling them what they did wrong," said teacher Nancy Hanlin. "Instead of looking at the behavior, we're actually looking at the kids." Character education has impacted school climate, which in turn impacts student learning and teacher effectiveness.

Read more: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/education/k12/baltimore.md.co.virtues04feb04,0,6021472.story>

## Kitsap County Resources...

- 1) **ABRAHAM'S HOUSE (405-0488)**  
\*free furniture, household goods, etc.
- 2) **DR. CHARLES BROWN (779-7115)**  
\*children's dental care with med coupon
- 3) **FIRST** (foster intervention prevention support team) 1-800-391-2273
- 4) **KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION**  
\*free duffel bags for foster children  
WWW.KITSAPFOSTERCARE.ORG (692-1927)
- 5) **MARY BRIDGE Center for Child Safety**  
(360-662-1198)  
\*Free child safety seat checks, bicycle helmet sales & fitting, free loaner life jackets
- 6) **North Kitsap FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**  
(206-842-2362) or Sufisher@aol.com  
\*meets as needed, call for support
- 7) **NORTHWEST ENTERAL SUPPLY**  
(1-888-885-2386)  
\*free pull-ups for foster children
- 8) **OLYMPIC PHARMACY & HEALTH CARE**  
(1-253-858-9941)  
\*free delivery of diapers, medical supplies
- 9) **PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS (337-4738)**  
\*Youth Services Program
- 10) **SKILLS CENTER (478-5168)**  
\*free hair cuts for foster children
- 11) **Anointed Hands Hair Care (782-2409)**  
\*Dewanda Evans welcomes any/all questions re: African American hair care. Located on 6th Street in Bremerton.
- 12) **Christine Njoroge (475-3527)**  
\*For foster/relative care providers needing support for FASD children.
- 13) **Center for Children with Special Needs**  
\*www.cshcn.org
- 14) **www.kidsdirectory.com**
- 15) **Child Care Referral 1- (800) 300-1247**
- 16) **MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR FOSTER PARENTS**  
available through Basic Health of WA.  
**1-800-826-2444.**

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions -- who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short. For they have forgotten what this country has already done; what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage."

-Barack Hussein Obama, 44th President of the United States, January 20, 2009.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Debra Converse, *President***

president@kitsapfostercare  
360.692.1927

**Phyllis Bishop, *Vice President***

vicepres@kitsapfostercare.org

**Chuck Converse, *Treasurer & Webmaster***

treasurer@kitsapfostercare.org /

webmaster@kitsapfostercare.org

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secretary@kitsapfostercare.org

**Sharon Williams, *Historian***

historian@kitsapfostercare.org

**Lesla LeClair, *Child Care***

childcare@kitsapfostercare.org

**Debra Converse, *Education/ Training***

education@kitsapfostercare.org

**Barbara Holbrook, *Newsletter***

newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org

**Phyllis Bishop, *Special Events***

360.275.5725

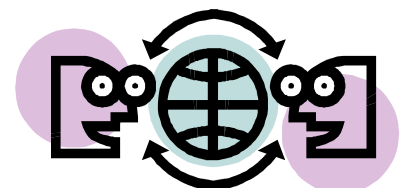
events@kitsapfostercare.org

**Laura Marshall, *Culinary Coordinator***

culinary@kitsapfostercare.org

**Luann Vail, - *Liaison***

LTVail@hotmail.com—(360) 990-9995 cell  
Bremerton DCFS 475-3516 W/TH 9-3



KFCA Newsletter  
P.O. Box 4542  
Bremerton, WA 98312

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