

Whatcom County Foster Parent News

This is the first of many news letters that I hope to send out to everyone the first part of every month. If you have something you would like to let everyone know, just email me your story, event, or something you would like to see in our little news letter.

My plan is to send these out once a month to inform about up and coming events, trainings and stories that you would like to share.



Licenser Corner

Carolyn Wyandt (360-647-6131)
Tory Allen-Potter (360-647-6122)

Please tell your friends and neighbors about the next upcoming orientation.

Bellingham's next Foster/Adopt
Orientation
September 6th at 9am to 1pm
Conference Room A –Bellingham
Division of Children and Family
Services Office
1720 Ellis Street, Bellingham

This 4 hour orientation is required of all prospective foster/adopt parents. Please call Tory Allen-Potter to register (360) 647-6122.

Training News!

Lori Harris and Lynn Davis, Family to Family Program Managers will be providing training on the Family to Family initiative on August 25, 2006 at the Brigit Collins Center from 11am to 1 pm. This training will count towards your required ongoing training hours for licensing. Lori is the Regional Family to Family Coordinator and Supervisor of the Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) Facilitators. Lynn will be partnering with licensing, foster families and community partners to improve the Recruitment, Development and Support for foster parents and relative caregivers.

The Bellingham office is one of three offices in Region 3 (along with Everett and Lynnwood) beginning Family to Family. Foster parents are key partners in planning for children in their care and we need your active participation to create great outcomes for children and families. Linda Conroy has been hired to facilitate FTDMs in Bellingham which must occur at every placement change so you may be hearing from her about coming to a meeting about a child in your care. Please call us if you have any questions. (425-339-3802).

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**FETAL ALCOHOL
SYNDROME AND RELATED
CONDITIONS**

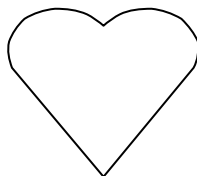
PART ONE	PART TWO
<p>Bellingham DCFS Office: 1720 Ellis Street</p> <p>September 11 9:00 am to 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Bellingham DCFS Office: 1720 Ellis Street</p> <p>September 14 9:00 am to 4:00 pm</p>

This class will be taught by Julie Gelo, the legal mother of 13 children, eight of whom have been diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Related Conditions. This training will give a brief review of the physical features of FAS; look at possible explanations for behaviors such as Sensory Integration Dysfunction and Social Communication deficits; help participants understand and manage the behaviors seen with children with FASD; stress the importance of self care and effective advocacy.

Register by contacting Sheri Rego at regs300@dshs.wa.gov or 360-647-6109.

**FIRST AID/CPR/BBP
TRAINING FOR FOSTER
PARENTS**

The Resource Family Training Institute sponsors First Aid, CPR and BBP training free of charge to all currently licensed Foster Parents. The certification is valid for two years.



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For a complete schedule of classes and registration information, please visit:

www.keepthebeatcpr.net

Or Call
(253) 217-1105
1-888-704-6074

Or e-mail:
keepthebeatwa@aol.com

Foster Parent Website On-line Training Opportunities

Workshops Available On-Line at
<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>

- **Behavioral Challenges in Foster Care** with Gary Benton (59 min)
- **Behavior Management, Ages 11-18** with Wendy Warman (2 hrs)
- **Brain Development & Nurturing Children's Growing Minds** with Victoria Tennant (5 hrs 20 min)
- **Bright Futures Preventative Mental Health** with Micky Kander
- **Clinical Issues for the Relative Caregiver** with Dr. Joseph Crumbley (2 hrs 4 min)
- **De-escalation Techniques in Foster Care** with Gary Benton (59 min)
- **Extreme Behavior & Associated Mental Health Issues** with Sharon Young
- **The Dependency Court Process and the Role that Foster Parents Can Play** (1 hr 26 min)
- **Effects of Domestic Violence in Children** with Dr. John Sterling (1 hr 34 min)
- **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Related Conditions** with Carolyn Hartness and Julie Gelo (4 hrs 30 min)
- **Foster Care Improvement Plan** with Bob Partlow (15 min)
- **Giving Our Youth Wings to Fly** with Mr. Robert Danzig (55 min)
- **Important Issues in Indian Child Welfare** (1 hr)
- **Love and Logic** with Jonathan English (4 hrs 30 min)

- **Multiple Placements & It's Effects** with Dinah Martin
- **Physically Assaultive Youth** - In order to take children with these behaviors you must watch a video, attend a 6 hour classroom course, and then take a test and submit the test to your licenser. (2 hrs)
- **Relative Placement Through DCFS** (44 min)
- **Respite Care Certification** with Celeste Carey and Linda Falcocchio (11 min)
- **Sexually Aggressive Youth** - In order to take children with these behaviors you must watch a video, attend a 6 hour classroom course, and then take a test and submit the test to your licenser. (2 hrs)
- **Trauma and Children** with Ross Dawson, Dr. Harry Kramer, and Julie Gelo (1 hr 25 min)
- **“Success Stories of Youth in Care”** Learn about the many opportunities for adults to help youth succeed. (30 min)
- **“Working with ADHD and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders”** with Randi Hankins (5 hrs)

I know some of you have heard about CHET so Pat Brady was kind enough to give a copy of an article she had done:

CHET FAQ's!

Pat Brady, Region 3 CHET Supervisor

Q. What is CHET?

The “Child Health & Education Tracking” (CHET) is an ongoing process of identifying, assessing and monitoring the child’s Well Being needs. CHET begins at placement and ends when the child exits care.

Q. What can a caregiver expect from CHET?

- CHET begins with an initial “**Child Information Form**” completed by the assigned SW, and provided to the caregiver in the first 24 – 72 hours of placement. This gives caregivers the

basic need-to-know info on a child coming into care.

- CHET Screening Specialists will be contacting caregivers very soon after placement to ask them to schedule **Well Child Exams & Dental Exams** (for every child who has teeth)!
- CHET Screeners will contact caregivers to schedule **face-to-face interviews** with every child...in caregiver’s home or in CA office.
- CHET Screeners will interview children about their “**Connections**”; i.e., who loves them, who do they love, are they connected to a relative, a friend, a tribe, to a culture, a team, Boy or Girl Scouts, to a religion, to a neighborhood, a teacher/school, counselor, etc. This is brand new, and so very valuable to our kids!
- CHET Screeners screen children in **5 domains**: Physical health, Development, Education, Emotional/Behavioral, & Connections.
- At 30 days, a “**Screening Report**” is completed and within 5 days of being completed, a copy of this report goes to the social worker and to the caregiver.
- CHET Screeners **refer** children to Early Intervention Program, to Educational Advocates, & to Foster Care Public Health Nurse.
- Caregivers are invited to participate in a **shared staffing**, during which the Screening information about child is presented.

Q. What does a CHET Screener need from a caregiver?

- Schedule a Well Child Exam & a dental exam right away;
- Enroll a child in school right away;

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- Have child available for face-to face interview with screener;
- Assist with developmental screenings, as needed.
- Your expertise in identifying concerns or strengths about child!
- Let us know if a child moves out!

The NEW CHET program starts 9/1/06.



❖ **Foster Parent Family**

Appreciation Picnic

August 26th from 3-7 pm at Beachwood Resort – Hope everyone has let us know you are coming so we can plan for food.

❖ **Mother of all Garage Sales**

20,000sqf filled to the brim Benefiting Lydia Place Transitional housing for homeless women and children
 August 18-19 8am – 7pm
 Sportsplex
 1225 Civic Field Way, Bellingham
 Donations Accepted
 In Blaine Call 371-0552 until August 12th
 In Bellingham call 671-7663 until August 12th
 August 12-15 Donations at Sportsplex in Bellingham call 671-7663 for times

❖ **La Bella Strada Arts Festival and Chalk Art Fest**

August 12 to 13th

The festival will feature more than 75 accomplished regional artist vendors selling original are. Meanwhile, artists of all ages will paint more than 200 original chalk works on downtown sidewalks. There will also be live music. The event is free.

❖ **Bellingham Flea Market**

10 am to 3 pm
 1111Cornwall
 Support the Opportunity Council while shopping for fun crafts, used goods, antiques and knick-knacks. This will take place the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the months of August and September in front of the Opportunity Council.

❖ **2006 Firefighters Competition**

August 13th
 9 am to 4 pm
 Ferndale Haggen Parking lot.
 Throughout the year the firefighters of Whatcom Seven raise money for their community service fund. This fund distributes donations to worthy causes in our community. This year's event will host over 40 topnotch firefighters from Whatcom, Skagit Counties as well as Canada competing for the best score through an obstacle course of extreme challenges. There will be games and food for every one of all ages.

Well that's it for this first News Letter. Until next month...

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