

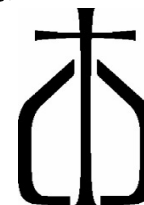


# The Communication Link

Catholic Charities

Serving Allen, Cass, Fulton,  
Kosciusko, Miami & Wabash County

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Volume 15, Issue 9

July 2010

Hello Foster Parents!

I asked the Foster Parent Training Coordinators to make space in the newsletters for DCS updates. I'm hoping we can use this space to keep you informed of our initiatives and other information that will help you continue to provide the best care to the children of Indiana. As we make our way through 2010, we have teams working on several exciting projects. Recently, we included a letter from Director Payne outlining the Foster Care Reorganization project. Through this initiative, DCS continues to improve Indiana's system of less restrictive, family-based out of home placement options. This month, I wanted to let you know about a few of the other important projects DCS is undertaking.

### **CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) Implementation**

DCS is working to ensure that children coming into care are properly assessed so that they may be appropriately served by DCS and its providers. DCS has rolled out statewide use of the CANS assessment. This tool will be used in conjunction with input from the Child and Family Team and other information to assess the level of care and services needed by the child.

### **Older CHINS Cases**

DCS is evaluating its strategies and developing new strategies to further permanency and reduce the length of time in out-of-home care. These strategies will focus particularly on children in care for longer than 365 days.

### **Practice Model Implementation**

DCS continues work to emphasize and embrace its practice model. Evidence will show this through improvements in Quality Service Review and practice indicator outcomes. DCS will identify and develop strategies to address any challenges that exist in the use of the practice model.

### **Child and Family Team Meetings**

DCS will conduct Child and Family Team Meetings at various trigger points during the life of a case. Staff will ensure that we are involving appropriate parties in quality CFTMs. Staff will improve team formation and the use of informal supports in the team meeting process. DCS will develop a mechanism to appropriately evaluate our use of CFTMs during the assessment phase of a case.

### **Fatherhood Initiatives**

DCS will improve policies, implement strategies and provide tools to locate, engage and involve fathers in their children's lives. This initiative should reduce the need for foster care and adoptive placements for some children by using the father and his extended family as a placement resource.

### **Call Center Roll Out**

DCS has developed a centralized intake unit with specially trained and centrally located staff providing services to those filing reports of child abuse and/or neglect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. DCS will improve information gathering at the initial intake stage of a case, which should aid case management staff in making appropriate decisions with regard to the urgency of a particular situation and the options available for providing protection to the child and assistance to the family. The centralized intake unit will develop consistency and uniformity in the way that calls are received, evaluated and referred.

We are excited about these initiatives and believe every day we are taking steps to better improve the services we provide to the families of Indiana. Thank you for your part in this and your continued dedication to the children and families we serve.

*Lisa Rich*

Deputy Director of Programs and Services  
Indiana Department of Child Services

## **EXPANDED ACCESS TO COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH**

A new federal law removes a financial disincentive to adopting teens in foster care. This is a newer law and so adoptive parents need to be aware of it and to be sure to complete the FASFA so that eligible adopted children may be approved for it.

### **How Will the New Law Help Youth?**

The new law will make it possible for teens in foster care to be adopted without losing access to college financial aid. Under this new law, youth who are adopted from foster care at any point after their 13th birthday will not have to include their parents' income in the calculations for determining their need for financial aid. The Fostering Adoption to Further Student Achievement Act became law as an amendment to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84). This law includes a revised definition of an "independent student." Currently, youth who were still in foster care as of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday are considered to be independent students, meaning that they do not need to count parental income for determining their eligibility for college financial aid. The revised definition of "independent student" will extend to youth who were in foster care on or after their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, even if they have subsequently been adopted.

### **When Will This Change Take Effect?**

This expanded definition of "independent student" went into effect in July 2009, to apply for the 2009-2010 school year. The provision will apply to youth even for adoptions that were finalized before the law was passed in 2007. Youth who meet the new definition will need to indicate their status as an independent student when they fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA Question #53) Form for college financial aid.

## ***PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CLASSES!!***

**TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES VIA E-MAIL SEND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO ROBIN at [robins@mchsi.com](mailto:robins@mchsi.com):**

**YOUR NAME      ADDRESS      PHONE NUMBER      TRAINING TITLE & DATE**

**REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED WITHOUT THIS INFO WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!**

### **Medical Classes**

#### **Adult & Pediatric CPR (Valid for 2 Years/No In-service Hours)**

These classes will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Villa of the Woods (5610 Noll Ave. Fort Wayne) on the following dates and may be taken 60 days prior to the expiration date of your current CPR certification:      Sat., July 17<sup>th</sup>      Sat., Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>

#### **First Aid & Universal Precautions (A Licensing Requirement: No In-service Hours)**

These classes will be held as noted below on Sat., Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> at the Allen Co. DCS. They may be taken up to 90 days prior to the expiration date of your current certification:

UP: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

First Aid: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## **Weekday Evening Classes**

### **Summer Fun & Safety (2 Hours)**

On Thurs., July 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., this session will be held at the First Assembly of God Christian Center, 1400 W. Washington Center Road Fort Wayne (Door 15, Room 37 B).

### **Sexual Abuse/Neglect/Shaken Baby (3 SN Hours) - Only 5 Spots Left!**

This informative session will be presented by SCAN but held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tues. July 13<sup>th</sup> at Villa of the Woods (5610 Noll Ave. Fort Wayne).

### **Working with Schools to Meet Special Education Needs (2 SN Hours)**

This informative session which will be presented by a variety of guest speakers will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on Tues. Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> at Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church (1200 Kings Highway, Winona Lake - In Kosciusko County).

### **Dating Violence (2 SN Hours)**

Dating violence is a form of bullying that can lead to serious consequences. This session will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Tues. Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> at Villa of the Woods (5610 Noll Ave. Fort Wayne).

### **Neurological Brain Disease (2 SN Hours Per Session = 12 SN Hours)**

Beginning on Thurs. Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, NAMI will be holding six 2-hour Thursday evening classes from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. that will focus on mental illness. Topics will include what is mental illness; what happens in the brain when a mental illness exists; what brings relief; and the effect of the illness on the individual and their caregivers. These six sessions will be held at Villa of the Woods (5610 Noll Ave. Fort Wayne). Attendance is expected at all six sessions (Aug. 26, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2010).

## **Weekday Classes: Two Special One-time Opportunities To Register For These Classes, Instructions on the Attached Flyers Must Be Followed!!**

### **Trauma, Domestic Violence & The Healing Process (6 SN Hours)**

On Thurs., July 22<sup>nd</sup>, this free workshop will be offered at the Ridge Church to those working with children who have suffered trauma and who may engage in destructive behaviors as a result. The importance of seeing through the lens of a child who has experienced victimization from severe abuse and neglect will be stressed. Guest speaker Susan Harrell will share her personal story of her and her child overcoming the affects of domestic violence. **To register for this seminar, follow the instructions in the attached brochure.**

### **Inside the Mind of a Juvenile Fire Setter (6 SN Hours)**

The 2010 Juvenile Fire Setters seminar, "Inside the Mind of Juvenile Fire Setters" will be held on Thurs. Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> at the Public Safety Academy in Fort Wayne. A conference fee of \$25.00 will be charged but it will include the conference cost, materials, morning refreshments and lunch. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available for those who require them. **To register for this seminar, follow the instructions in the attached brochure.**

## ***Saturday Classes***

### **Sexuality (6 SN Hours)**

What does the term sexuality mean? Is the definition of sexuality the same as the definition of sex? What affects a person's sexual development? Why do adolescents have sex? Is sexual expression normal? If you'd like to learn more about promoting a positive sexual identity then this class is for you! If you're cringing from reading these questions then this class is also for you! If you find talking about sex and sexuality to be uncomfortable, then this class is for you! Youth placed in care need an appropriate and knowledgeable source of information related to this topic and often times it's you they'll come to so you best be prepared! This class will be offered at the Allen County DCS from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sat. July 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM**

**These must be received at least one week prior to the first class date.**

**Registration may occur via e-mail, telephone or postal mail. To register via postal mail, complete the following form and then return it to the address at the bottom of the page.**

### **1st Person**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency that maintains your license: \_\_\_\_\_

Training Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Training Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to:**

**Robin Springstead, FAKT Program Coordinator  
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Web Site: [www.ccfwsb.org](http://www.ccfwsb.org)

### **Free Memberships at Children's Museum of Indianapolis**

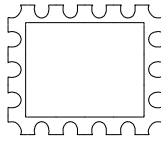
From Chuck Berry to the Beatles, rock 'n' roll has shaped American pop culture and rock performers have dazzled us with their sounds & styles.

In *Rock Stars, Cars, & Guitars*, guests can immerse themselves in the music! Go into the studio, experience the concert stage, enjoy stargazing, check out some of rock 'n' roll's coolest costumes, "six-strings," and rides, including memorabilia from Elvis Presley, the Beatles, KISS, Van Halen, U2, and more! While at the museum, memberships can be renewed or applied for if a copy of your state issued foster home license is brought. For more details:

Call 1-800-820-6214

or visit [www.childrensmuseum.org/communityinitiatives](http://www.childrensmuseum.org/communityinitiatives)

## Allen County Juvenile Firesetters Task Force



The Allen County Juvenile Firesetters Task Force was formed to identify and help those juveniles who have begun to experiment with firesetting. The task force is made up of professionals from a variety of local agencies, such as fire departments, probation departments, department of corrections, hospitals, schools, mental health facilities, and social service agencies.

Referrals for an assessment can be made by anyone, including parents or caregivers, schools, counselors, doctors, or anyone else who interacts with the child. You can set up a time for an assessment by calling (260) 427-1483. At the assessment, the parent and the child will meet with the Safety Educator of the Fort Wayne Fire Department and a counselor. Once the assessment has been completed, it will be determined what level of intervention is needed for the child.



(260) 427-1483

<http://www.neinbc.org/jftfofallencounty.html>

Fort Wayne Fire Department  
1270 South Phoenix Parkway  
Fort Wayne, IN 46816  
Attention: Juvenile Firesetters Task Force



AND



Giving Kids What They Need To Succeed

PRESENT

## Inside the Mind of a Juvenile Firesetter

**AUGUST 26, 2010  
8:00AM-4:00PM  
NORTHEAST INDIANA  
PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY**

**7602 PATRIOT CROSSING  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46816**

**LUNCH SPONSORED BY:  
WALDEN UNIVERSITY**

## Inside the Mind of a Juvenile Firesetter



Juvenile firesetting is a devastating, costly and sometimes deadly problem that affects every community in the United States. Yet often,

juvenile firesetters go unnoticed, causes of fires remain undetermined, and young people never receive needed treatment and/or consequences.

This training will feature a rare opportunity to hear from someone who has experienced, first-hand, the mindset of a juvenile firesetter. Tim Peterson was convicted of arson in 1989 and currently works with the rehabilitation and re-entry of offenders in Ohio, will share his story of his involvement with fire, the mindset of a serial arsonist, factors that influenced his decisions to set fires, and how he ultimately healed from his experience and was held accountable for his actions. Mr. Peterson, and his partner, John Yust, I.A.A.I. Certified Fire Investigator and N.A.F.I. Certified Fire/Explosion Investigator, and a Certified Fire Investigator Instructor will spend the morning exploring the mindset of juvenile firesetting, including Mr. Peterson's personal experience.

The afternoon session will feature Michelle Fogle, BSN, St. Joseph Hospital Burn Center Manager and Michael Bergeron, LMHC, therapist with St. Joseph Hospital Burn Center, who will discuss burn injuries, and working with burn victims who set the fires by which they were injured. \*Note: This session will include medically graphic photographs, which may not be suitable for all audiences.

## Schedule

8:00am-8:30am Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30am-8:45am Welcome and Introduction

8:45am-9:45am Inside the Mind of a Juvenile Firesetter

9:45am-10:00am Break

10:00am-11:30am Inside the Mind of a Juvenile Firesetter

11:30am-12:45pm Lunch and Networking

12:45pm-1:45pm Burn Injuries

1:45pm-2:00pm Break

2:00pm-3:00pm Working with Burn Victims

3:00pm-3:15pm Break

3:15-4:00pm Case Studies

This training offers six CEU's as approved by Category One of the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency for those holding a LSW, LCSW, LMHC or LMFT license. CEU's must be requested with registration. Participants must attend the entire conference—no partial credit can be given.

This training is open to anyone interested in understanding more about juvenile firesetters and is specifically geared toward professionals working with children who set fires and/or may be burned by the fires they set, including: therapists, social workers, juvenile probation officers, paid and volunteer fire/rescue personnel, foster parents, case managers, arson investigators, and police/sheriff department officers.

## Ring of Fire: The Cycle of Juvenile Firesetting

### Registration Information

Thursday, August 26, 2010

Registration begins at 8:00am

Conference: 8:30am-4:00pm

Registration deadline: August 13, 2010

Registration fee: \$25

Name

Agency

Title:

Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone

Fax:

Email

CEU's Requested

Mail with your payment, payable to:

Allen County Juvenile Firesetters Task Force

Return to:

Fort Wayne Fire Department

1270 South Phoenix Parkway

Fort Wayne, IN 46816

Attn: Captain Dave Meadows

FAX: (260) 427-5082

Additional registration forms can be  
printed from:

[www.greatkidsallencounty.org](http://www.greatkidsallencounty.org)

\* Registration includes conference admission, continental breakfast, lunch and all conference materials. Those cancelling without sufficient notice will not be eligible for a refund of their registration fee.