

Between Families

Our Mission

Devoted to the Strength
of Family

Editors

Jason Cecil

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TFI Family Services, Inc. is licensed by the State of Kansas Department of Health and Environment as a Child Placing Agency. License No. 766.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY: GAVEN LUDLOW, MSW AND MBA
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE FAMILY SERVICES

Many times I get asked how we collect and use information in looking for placement of a child. I hear stories about children coming into foster homes who behave much differently than the family expected after they accepted placement. So, I'd like to take an opportunity to explain how this process works and what you should expect.

TFI uses a matching system to help us in the placement process. This matches the child's needs and behaviors to the skills and preferences of Resource Families. When children in the care of TFI Family Services need placement, a form called an APLI (Appropriate Placement Level Indicator) is completed. This form helps us determine the best level of care (satellite, specialized, treatment or intensive treatment) for a successful placement. It is also where the information that is read directly to resource parents comes from as we request placements.

There are two times that we get information for the APLI. One is with new referrals from DCF. When a child is first referred to foster care from the State of Kansas, we receive a standard referral form. The amount of information at this time can vary depending on if DCF has worked with the child/family before and

is familiar with their needs or it is a little known family and DCF has little to no notice that a child is being placed in custody. Regardless of how detailed the form is, TFI Care Management Department calls DCF at the time of referral and tries to gather any additional information to gain as much as we can about the child and his/her needs. We ask questions like "You say the child is physically aggressive – can you tell us when they were aggressive, who they were aggressive to and what exactly they did?" That information – both from the referral from and information gathered during the verbal conversation – is entered into the APLI by the Care Manager.

The second time is when a child needs placement later on in their case. Then the APLI is completed by someone from the child's case management team (Case Manager or Family Support Worker). They use file information, critical incident information and personal knowledge of the child/case to put into the APLI for placement. The form is then used the same way to match a potential family with the child for placement. Care Management staff also read this form directly to the resource parents who are contacted for placement.

So, what are some ways to ensure you have as much information as possible? We now have the ability to email this APLI form

securely to your home email address. The secure system allows TFI to encrypt the document (so confidential information is maintained safely) and send to you for review. If you don't get offered this email, please be sure to ask for it! However, also be aware that there are times when we need immediate placement for a child. So, the time for review of information may be limited. You are also welcome to talk directly to the child's case management staff if they are available. They may be able to answer additional questions or provide clarification on behaviors/issues that you've reviewed with the Care Manager. Of course we always encourage a pre-placement visit when time allows. It's helpful for the child to get to know you and your family, and for you to get to know the child.

Over the course of the next few issues of Between Families, I want to share with you some of the work TFI has been doing in conjunction with University of Kansas School of Social Welfare to improve our placement process, determine the validity of the tools we use, and ultimately improve placement stability for the children in our care.

Gaven Ludlow, MSW and MBA
Director of Resource Family Services



RECRUITMENT MOMENT

BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

The 2012 TFI Foster Family Retreats were once again a huge success. There were over 130 families and 350 kids that attended this year's retreats between Wichita and Overland Park. There were many good ideas on what we can do to help retain more families.

If you were unable to attend and participate in the first session and still want to share any ideas you may have, please email us at recruitment@tfifamily.org. TFI is committed to ensuring that all of our foster families feel like they are a vital part of our agency.

There have been several questions as to when the new TFI Foster Family Referral program will go into effect. The good news is we are up and running with that program. With every new foster family that you refer who becomes a licensed home, the referring family will now receive a \$500 incentive payment. This is just one of the ways we want to show our gratitude for your continued commitment to TFI Family Services and the children we serve.

Jason Cecil, Recruitment Manager

Welcome New Resource Families

Tom and Annelle
Claassen
Keith and Sheila Kroenke
Thomas (Ed) Horan
Jeffery and Heather
Martens
Trence and Linda
Robinson
David and Lisa Mikesell
Patrick and Margo Tooley
Aiden and Nicole Hinkley
Tracy Raymond
Deborah Gaskin
Baunetta Powell
Christopher and Jennifer
Castleman
Joseph and Glenda
Johnson
Charles and Darlene
Isabell
Casey and Cassey
Worcester
J. David and Michelle
Howell
Ricky and Martha
Littlejohn
James and Dianne
Carpenter

Reminders

For after hour
emergencies, please
call
1-877-921-4114.

Visit TFI's website and
view *Between Families*
newsletter online at
www.tffamilyservices.org

Dear Daisy



Dear Daisy:

We have been foster parents for 9 months. We take children of all ages and what "sticks out the most" is how most of our kids have had to pick up and move from town to town. It's hard enough to make friend as it is; how can we help our kids placed in our home?

Sincerely,
Arma Advocate

Dear Advocate:

Choosing one's friends is an important part of growing up. Kids will meet new people, join new groups, change friends, and develop new relationships many times before they truly find the group that they "fit" with. Foster care can make this an even greater barrier than it already is; and although you can't choose your children's friends, you can have a positive influence on the relationships they make throughout their formative years. Use some of the following strategies to help your children build positive relationships with their friends.

Encourage Diversity- Challenge your children to get to know kids from many different backgrounds and perspectives. In addition to exposing your kids to more diversity, it will also help them learn more about themselves.

Avoid Criticism- Avoid criticizing friendships, but be honest with your kids when you're concerned. **Don't:** Condemn your child's friends. This may make them defensive and less receptive to what you have to say. **Do:** Be open and willing to listen to what she has to say and talk about what makes you nervous.

Get Involved- If you feel that one of your child's friends is having a negative influence on him, invite that friend to spend time with you and your child together so that you can have a positive influence on the relationship.

Offer Advice- When talking about a friend who has a negative influence on your child, focus your comments on that friend's behaviors, not on her personality. For example, instead of calling your child's friend irresponsible for smoking, you could point out that the behavior has a negative effect on her health and share ways your child can help her quit.

Set Limits- Set limits on how much time your child spends with her friends—it's important to develop positive relationships with family members as well.

Engage in Community Service- Engage your family in volunteering or a social group through a local congregation, school, or other nonprofit organization—these are great places to meet new friends and form positive relationships.

Sincerely,
Daisy

SOUTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH JIM AND CHERYL COWLISHAW

Jim and Cheryl Cowlshaw have been nominated as the Care Providers of the Month for the Southeast Region. Jim and Cheryl have provided a structured environment for foster children. They have given their foster children support and self-esteem. They give the children guidance and hope for their future. They treat their foster children as their own and keep them involved as much as possible. They give the children the opportunity to learn life skills in their foster home.

Cheryl has made herself available for the foster children and TFI workers anytime anything is needed. She keeps in contact with all workers and brings forward any concerns or questions she may have as a newer foster home. She rarely asks for assistance. Cheryl even quit her part time job to ensure all the children's appointments and needs are met.

RPs-Jim and Cheryl took in difficult kids as first placements with no experience parenting challenging children. They have worked with all service providers to get the help they needed to meet the needs of their foster children. They work so well with kids and the kids really enjoy their home. They are eager to learn and continue providing a loving and supportive home to foster children.

Sincerely,
Stacy Bishop, RFS—Ft. Scott

*WEST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
JESSE AND KARA LARIMORE*

Jesse and Kara Larimore have been nominated for the West Region Care Provider of the Month for their devotion and commitment to children and families! Jesse and Kara are new to fostering children and have since opened their home to numerous respite placements. Recently, they went out of their way to make a respite happen for some non TFI children, to the point of assisting with transportation! They commuted to Barton County, from Cowley to transport the children even after learning the contracting agency the children were affiliated with did not approve mileage reimbursement for them to assist with transportation of the children for respite. Jesse and Kara assisted with transportation both trips, the first trip they traveled over half way to pick up the children and they transported them the full distance to Great Bend on the return to the placement home. RFS is proud to have Jesse and Kara as resource parents and part of the TFI team!

Sincerely,
Teresa, Waggoner, RFS—Winfield

*NORTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
BRIAN AND MAGGIE POPP*

Brian and Maggie Popp have been nominated as the Northeast Region Care Providers of the Month. Brian and Maggie Popp have been a resource home with TFI Family Services, Inc. since 2008. They have fostered many youth and Maggie co-leads PS-MAPP classes with TFI. A little over a year ago they accepted a 4 year old little girl, now 5, who has a form of cancer. She came to them from Children's Mercy Hospital after medical stabilization. During this time of placement, the Pops have been extra ordinarily open to co-parenting. When the little girl was first placed with them, they would call the biological parents every day for the little girl to be able to visit with her parents on the phone – this also helped to maintain family cohesion for the little girl and her parents. In addition, Maggie and Brian have transported, meeting the biological parents several times at a half-way point for visits (which is about a 3 hour drive for the Pops). Often times they will take her the entire distance. The Pops coordinate with the parents to ensure they are aware of all of the little girl's medical appointments and often will meet the parents at the hospital for her appointments. Brian and Maggie work hard to keep her parents upraised of any changes in the her health condition (progress and regression). Brian and Maggie have also welcomed the little girl's younger sibling into their home for several overnight visits and recently took her along on a week-long trip to a family camp in Colorado. Brian and Maggie are very interested in co-parenting with biological parents and in maintaining as many connections for a child as possible. Keeping this little girl's connections to her family has been very instrumental in meeting her emotional needs. On behalf of TFI Family Services – I would like to extend a special THANK YOU to Brian and Maggie – I truly appreciate working with your family!!

Sincerely,
Shelly Edwards, RFS—Overland Park

Go Green with Free Craft Supplies
Submitted by Sara Willimon, Communication Specialist



Want to do crafts with your kids without having to buy expensive supplies? Sierra Club shares tips from expert crafter Kayte Terry, author of *Paper Made! 101 Exceptional Projects to Make Out of Everyday Paper* (Workman, 2012). Many great craft supplies that end up in our recycling bins and trash can be repurposed! Kayte Terry says that almost any scrap of paper, from "cool packaging to little pieces of wallpaper, paint chips, postage stamps, even the inside of security envelopes," can be reused in crafts.

Simply find an organization system that works for you when saving scraps. You can sort them by color, size, or paper type in envelopes or craft bins. These scraps can then be turned into coasters, baskets, mobiles, shadow boxes, and more! The only limitation is your creativity. More information and pictures are on Sierra Club's website.

Source: <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/2012/07/recycled-crafts-save-your-scraps-diy.html>

Resource Family Anniversaries

"One Year"

Michelle and Sharon
LeFort/Vaughn

Jeremy and Amanda
Blackburn

**Gordon "Todd" and Lisa
Ayer**

Jody and Hillary McKinney

Gary and Deanna Hughes

Stuart and Suzanne Brooks

Joseph and Joyce Green

Melinda Douglas

Bill and Dianna Meyer

Michael and Megan Amend

Michael and Karen Inman

Cassandra Conley

Jeffery and Rebecca

Windsor

Larry and Mandy

McManaman

Douglas and Samantha Redd

James and Lisa Harbaugh

Jim and Cheryl Cowlshaw

Kevin and Brenda Harrison

"Three Years"

Jeffery and Jodi Baker

Karen Rogers

Harold and Cheryl
Brown/Heaggans

Kelly Meyer

Aaron and Diane Pruitt

Duane and Jan Oswald

Toby and Lisa Long

Donna Daniels

Brian and Alicia Odom

Daniel and Jennifer Miller

Scott and Susan Huddleston

"Five Years"

Clyde and Anita Hudnall

"Ten Years"

John and Connie Wade

I NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED ME?

Winona, who prefers to go by Katte, is a very caring young lady who likes helping out others. She is nurturing and humorous. Katte likes to tease others as a way of communication and she likes to laugh a lot. Her hobbies include reading, listening to music and completing craft projects. Katte aspires to be a doctor or a nurse when she grows up. She can struggle with her school work and will need continued assistance in school and in the home to complete her homework and get it turned in on time. Katte continues to work on maintaining appropriate boundaries, accepting "no" as an answer, and not arguing. She needs a forever family that is highly structured and has concrete boundaries in place.

Katte would do best in a home without other children, or few other children, as she likes to compete for attention. Katte needs a family who is affectionate, loving and willing to provide her with a lot of one-on-one attention.



For more information on Winona , please
contact Ellen Carpenter at
(785) 823-1245.

September 2012 Support Meetings

Anthony: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the McKinley Bldg., 514 N. Olive, Wellington, KS.
Chanute: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chanute TFI office, 1709 W. 7th St., Chanute, KS. Topic: TBA
Concordia: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Concordia TFI office, 516 and 518 Washington St., Concordia, KS. Topic: Safety Plans and Critical Incidents.
El Dorado: Thursday, September 13, 2012 at the El Dorado TFI office, 3913 SW 10th, El Dorado, KS. Topic: Disruption Prevention.
Emporia: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the TFI Emporia office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS. Topic: Program Ideas, Licensing, Training, and the Placement Process and Disruptions.
Fort Scott: Monday, September 24, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Community Christian Church, 1919 S. Horton, Ft. Scott, KS. Topic: Confidentiality and Ethics??.
Hutchinson: Thursday, September 6, 2012 at the South Hutchinson Christian Church, 111 E. 1st, South Hutchinson, KS. Topic: TBA
Independence: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Independence TFI Office, 501 N. Penn, Independence, KS. Topic: Recruitment for Independent Living.
Iola: Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 6:00pm at Iola TFI office, 1702 N. State St., Iola, KS. Topic: Running Away.
Kansas City: Thursday, September 20, 2012. Topic: Managing Behaviors.
Leavenworth/Atchison: Monday, September 24, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Atchison Library, 401 Kansas Ave., Atchison, KS. Topic: CPR/First Aid Renewals.
Lawrence: Thursday, September 13, 2012 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Lawrence TFI office, 910 W. 24th St., Lawrence, KS. Topic: Practical Parenting Solutions.
Manhattan: Monday, September 17, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Manhattan TFI Office, 116 S. 4th, Manhattan, KS. Topic: Independent Living.
Overland Park: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Overland Park TFI Office, 8300 College Blvd., Ste 301, Overland Park, KS. Topic: Social and Emotional Development of Young Children and Behaviors.
Parsons: Date: TBA from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Parsons TFI office, 1906 Main St., Parsons, KS. Topic: TBA.
Phillipsburg: Monday, September 10, 2012 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at the Olliff Boeve Community Memorial Chapel, 1115 2nd St., Phillipsburg, KS. Topic: Raising Your Safety Awareness. Also one will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00pm at the same location as the first. Topic: Substance Abuse.
Pittsburg: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Schlanger Park, 725 E. 6th, Pittsburg, KS. Topic: Bring a Friend
Salina: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Salina TFI office, 131 N. Santa Fe, Salina, KS. Topic: Bed Bugs by Hassman Pest Control.
Topeka: Thursday, September 13, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Topeka TFI office, 217 SE 4th St., Topeka, KS. Topic: Coping with Stress and Secondary Trauma.
Winfield: Monday, September 10, 2012 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Winfield TFI office, 1321 E. 7th, Winfield, KS. Topic: Managing Difficult Behavior.
Wichita: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Wichita TFI office, 1711 S. Longfellow, Wichita, KS. Topic: Program Ideas and Suggestions regarding Licensing, Training, Placement Process and Disruptions .

Questions?
Suggestions?

Remember, if you have a problem, concern, or question about TFI Family Services, Inc., your first stop should be our Concern Line at concernline@tffamily.org or Ombudsman Nadine Terry-Washington at 877-942-2239.

