

AIFACS Newsletter

February-April 2017

Office Closings

The AIFACS office will be closed on February 20th for President's Day.

Emergencies



EMERGENCY

Always remember to write up an incident report! If you have an emergency or need to report an incident regarding any children placed in your home or for respite, please call the St. Paul office at 651-223-8526 or the Northern office at 218-768-2892. You can also file an incident report on our website at www.aifacs.org

Checks

Receipts are being issued with your checks. Please be sure to look them over to ensure they are correct before cashing them. In the case of an underpayment, an adjustment check can be issued as soon as Erin is notified. If you are overpaid for any reason, a correct check can be re-issued. If you cash a check that contains an over-payment, you will be expected to pay the difference back to us. It is important that you update your licensing worker of any changes in placements or MAPCY/DOC scores in order to ensure accurate billing.

Open Positions on the Board

AIFACS posted for new board members in December 2016. Applications have been turned in and the new members will be appointed in February.

Get Your Training Hours In

Your mandatory training hours for 2016 need to be turned into your licensing worker. If hours are not turned in, we will have to issue a correction order. Please contact your licensing worker regarding your hours as soon as possible.

Recruiting New Homes

AIFACS foster parents make the best recruiters! If you know of families who would make great foster parents, spread the word about AIFACS!

Governing Council
board@aifacs.org

Lucy Favorite
lfavorite@aifacs.org

Angela DeWitt
adewitt@aifacs.org

Kelly Peet
kpeet@aifacs.org

Erin Hauck
ehauck@aifacs.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Community Members:

Donna Jorgensen

David Loud

Marissa Lussier

Foster Parents:

Fabian (J.R.) Strong

Tina O'Brien

Powwows

As a reminder, powwows can be used as training hours. Foster parents are allowed to earn 2 hours per powwow for up to 3 powwows. That's 6 hours of training! The following are upcoming powwows:

- February 10th – Traditional Powwow at St. Paul American Indian Magnet School – St. Paul, MN
- February 17th-19th – Bois Forte Midwinter Powwow – Nett Lake, MN
- March 10th – Traditional Powwow at St. Paul American Indian Magnet School – St. Paul, MN
- April 8th and 9th – Ain Dah Yung Center's 19th Annual Traditional Cherish the Children Powwow – Central High School – St. Paul, MN



Reminders

- If we have found a respite home for you to use and you decide to cancel, you **MUST** notify your licensing worker **AND** the respite provider to let them know that you no longer wish to use respite with them. You must also report use of respite to your licensing worker by the following Tuesday after the respite occurred so we can send a check to the respite provider by Friday of that week.
- Communicate with your licensing worker! If your licensing worker emails, texts, or calls you, please respond to them.
- As a friendly reminder, when you are signing paperwork, please make sure you sign **AND** date all paperwork.
- Please get a court order or written permission from the parent before you cut your foster child's hair.

Training



Your training hours must be turned in for the 2016 year at the end of the year. All Foster Parents licensed through AIFACS need to have 12 hours of annual training. One hour of your annual training has to be a mental health topic. This training is required whether or not you have placements in your home during the year.

Training Opportunities

- **April 23rd-25th Child & Adolescent Mental Health Conference – Duluth, MN.** You can register by visiting this website <http://www.macmh.org/confreg/>. Registration costs vary depending on which day(s) you choose to attend. You can call 651-644-7333 with any questions.
- **March 6th from 6pm-7:30pm PACER Center's Social Media and Bullying: Using Technology to Keep Kids Safe – Minneapolis, MN.** Register here <http://www.pacer.org/forms/workshops.asp?wksp=2836FE85-C306-4AAA-909A-B85E0B3EDE1F> (This is a free workshop and live web streaming is available).

****If you would like to use your \$200 annual training allowance for any of these conferences, please let your licensing worker know and they can register you.****

AIFACS In-Service Training Opportunities

AIFACS will be providing in-service training on various topics every 3rd Wednesday of the month, with a few exceptions due to holidays. Letters and emails will go out to remind you of upcoming trainings and **we will need you to register to attend the training by calling 651-223-8526. If we have less than 6 people register, that training will be canceled and those who registered will be notified.** This is a great opportunity to catch up on your training hours for the year. Some of the topics we plan to have trainings on are: mandated reporting, FASD, sex trafficking, CPR, etc.

- In October, we had Bonnie Jean Smith from PACER (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights) give a presentation on special education and your rights as a foster parent. She talked about the IEP process, what services are available for children, and resources for parents.
- In November, we had Paula Watts from Augsburg College give a presentation on mandated reporting.
- On February 15th from 6pm-8pm we will have Kelley Leaf and Tamara Pacheco, who are from the GAL Program, here to discuss issues with the court systems. If you have any specific questions for Kelley and Tamara, please let your licensing worker know.
- On March 15th from 6pm-8pm we will have Betty Greencrow and Shauna Feine here from MOFAS (Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome).
- On April 19th from 6pm-8pm we will have Heidi Kopischke from The Link give a presentation on sex trafficking.

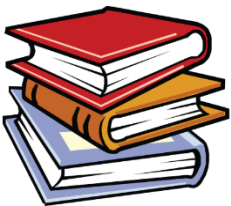
Foster Parent Support Group

We have noticed that when we hold events and our foster parents get together, great discussions are had. If you are interested in AIFACS holding a Foster Parent Support Group, please let your licensing worker know. We feel it would be a good opportunity to allow you all to bounce questions and ideas off each other.



AIFACS DVDs and Books

AIFACS has several books and DVDs we are able to “loan” out to our foster homes for training hours or if you are just interested in a certain topics and would like to learn more. We also have some workbooks for teens who are in foster care/struggling with anger issues/stress management. We can make copies of these and send them to you or drop them off on our home visit. We ask that if you borrow a book or DVD that it gets returned within 15 days or by the next home visit so other homes can use them.



Some of the topics of books and DVDs we have are: ADHD, meltdowns, self-regulation, two-spirit, autism, children’s books on better understanding foster care, child development, fetal Alcohol, and Native cultural documentaries. Please call us at 651-223-8526 with any questions.

Visit our website at www.aifacs.org

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