CAST TRAINING
Remember in Caregiver Orientation Training when they said that it wasn’t a matter of “if” you would get an allegation against you, it was “when?”

Now more people will be qualified to help Foster Parents and Kinship Caregivers through the stressful allegation process thanks to recent training held at the Alberta Foster and Kinship Association office.

Sarita Dighe-Bramwell and Paulette Kopp provided the updated Caregiver Allegation Support Team (CAST) training February 15th and 16th to caregivers who already had training (formally called FAST) and some new faces. The training was for Caregivers from different regions in Northern Alberta, including the Capital Region.

The two-day training also included a presentation from an experienced Placement Resource Assessment Team (PRAT) representative who explained the process from that perspective.

Caregivers don’t have to go through it alone!

For more information about CAST follow this link: https://www.afkaonline.ca/caregiver-allegations-support-team-cast/

Yvonne Smits

BIG CHANGES COMING FOR CORE TRAINING
The new training should be ready to go in September, said Donna Applet.

Please watch for these changes!

Linda Krauskopf

KINSHIP PROVIDER NEEDED
Are you a Kinship provider in the Capital Region? The CRCC needs you!

You can make a difference! If you can make that time once a month for a couple hours please contact Stacy Van Cingel at svancingel@yahoo.ca.

NO MORE COIN BOXES, BUT STILL NEED CAMP FUNDS
The coin boxes, which have been used for years, are going by the way side. The coin boxes are being stolen and vendors are asking for them to be removed or they just refuse to take them at all, so the Alberta Foster Kinship Association (formally the Alberta Foster Parent Association) is looking for help.

Help is needed for:
- Casino volunteers for a Calgary Casino on May 21st and 22nd
- Work Bees June 8 to 10th this year to maintain the lodge
- Any other fundraising ideas

The children’s camps are for girls 6 to 12 years old July 8 to 13 and for boys 6 to 12 years old from July 15 to 20. There will be horseback riding, swimming, crafts and games.

For more information on how to volunteer or register your children contact Linda Krauskopf @ Krauskopf@shaw.ca.

Linda Krauskopf
AFPA is now AFKA!
The Alberta Foster Parents Association has officially changed their name to the Alberta Foster and Kinship Association. Their website is www.afkaonline.ca.

FAST is now CAST!
The Foster Parent Allegation Support team is now the Caregiver Allegation Support Team.

JOIN THE CAST TEAM
There are different roles you might be able to fill to help families through challenging and stressful times. Call the AFKA office at 780-429-9923 (toll free 1-800-667-2373) and ask for Melissa Gee.

Linda Krauskopf

CANADIAN FOSTER FAMILY ASSOCIATION UPDATE
The Canadian Foster Family Association, or CFFA, are putting the finishing touches on the new By-Laws which will be ready for the June 11 to June 17th AGM in Saskatoon this year.

They are also gathering information on recruitment and retention of foster and kinship families for each province.

Meetings between the provinces is vital for finding out what each province is doing and the CFFA actively is looking for fund raising ideas to ensure that continues.


More information is on their website at: http://www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca/

Linda Krauskopf

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?
Submit your ideas for a future CRCC newsletter to Yvonne Smits at ymsmits@hotmail.com.

The Family Finding website http://www.familyfinding.org/ has more information.

Yvonne Smits

FOSTER CARE LINKAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

Respite & Relief - People who would benefit from training to be Alternative Caregivers for our families need to be referred to the Training Unit. Each case is different and will be looked at individually for approval. Please note that the alternative caregivers must have their Intervention Record Check and their Criminal Record Check. They will not be reimbursed for their mileage nor their babysitting if they do attend the Alternative Caregiver training.

Medication Approval – If the doctor prescribes a change in dosage or a need to stop taking psychotropic drugs for a child you will not need Manager approval, but you do need to ensure the child's caseworker is aware. If you are switching from one drug to another, then you do need Manager approval!

Cigarettes – E-cigarettes are to be treated as regular tobacco cigarettes.

Linda Krauskopf

FAMILY FINDING FOR CAREGIVERS
Kevin A. Campbell challenged our preconceptions about what children in care need from the adults in their lives in a presentation in the Fantasyland Hotel on January 23. The audience of foster, kinship and adoptive caregivers learned exciting information about how important connectivity is to the future success of children who statistically struggle as they transition out of care.

“We have to focus on what is happening when they leave care, not just on how they come into care,” Campbell said and explained the challenges that children face. He then gave ideas on how to work together to give children better support systems to help them be successful in their adulthoods.

The Family Finding website http://www.familyfinding.org/ has more information.

Yvonne Smits
ABORIGINAL AWARENESS WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 14 & 15
Aboriginal Awareness weekend is Sept 14 to 15.

Some of the entertainment will be Warrior Women and the Red Path Performance. Go to the AFKA website www.afkaonline.ca and register as early as possible so you don’t miss out! It’s a great place to get aboriginal training and connect with other foster or kinship homes!

Linda Krauskopf

BROWNELL CHILDREN’S RETREAT
Get away this May Long Weekend by attending the Brownell Children’s retreat, which is open for Foster and Kinship Families.

If you would like more information please visit the AFKA website where you will also need to register to attend.

www.afkaonline.ca

DO YOU HAVE A “GOOD NEWS” CAREGIVING STORY TO SHARE?
Too often some of us feel bombarded by the negative parts of fostering. Let’s face it, sometimes we deal with some pretty tough stuff. It doesn’t help when the media only focuses on the negative stories, and we’ve got to be so careful with confidentiality and protecting these kids that we don’t have the option to offer the positive stories to balance it out.

Stacy Van Cingel, the Chair of the Capital Region Caregiver Council, would like to some of your positive stories. She expressed concerns recently about the need for retention of caregivers. Maybe there is a way to share some of these positive stories so we can lift each other up, give each other hope, share our wisdom, share our insight or share a smile.

Please email her with anything you might be able to share svancingel@yahoo.ca

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