

SCR

||

POSITION PAPER

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

"Relating to conflicts between foster parents and social workers."

The Department of Health and Social Services supports Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11. The Department recognizes that at times conflicts arise between foster parents and social workers over plans made for a child in the foster parents home. While Department policy is that foster parents should be kept informed of the plans and their knowledge of a child's needs should be asked for and considered, it appears that a more formalized procedure for communication is necessary.

Staff from the Division of Family and Youth Services have recently met with officers of the Alaska Foster Parents Association and have jointly established a three-step hearing procedure designed to address conflicts arising over case plans. The first phase would be at the local level, with the foster parent and social worker being joined by the social worker's supervisor and a representative from the local foster parent association in reviewing the situation. If the matter were not satisfactorily resolved at this level, the second step would involve the regional manager and someone from the statewide foster parent association. The third step in the process would involve someone from the Central Office of the Division plus a disinterested party from another organization mutually agreed upon by the parties.

As soon as this procedure is finalized, which is anticipated to occur within the next month, foster parents and staff will be informed of the steps to be followed should such conflicts occur. In the future, this procedure will be given to all foster parents at the time they are approved for placement.

It should be stressed, however, that this procedure applies only to conflicts arising over the handling of children's cases which the court has not ruled on. In those cases in which the court has ordered a specific plan, the Department has an obligation to comply with those orders. Therefore, those cases are not subject to this review procedure.

Also, the appeal procedures does not apply to licensing issues. Foster parents who are not satisfied with a decision that pertains to their being licensed to provide care have an appeal procedure as authorized by AS 44.62.360 and 44.62.370 in the Administrative Procedures Act.

RECOMMENDED BY: John R. Pugh  
John R. Pugh, Director  
Division of Family and  
Youth Services

DATE: 3/10/81

APPROVED BY: Helen D. Beirne  
Helen D. Beirne  
Commissioner

DATE: 3-19-81

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11  
 Title "Relating to conflicts between foster parents and social workers."  
 Requested by Parr Date 2/17/81

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health and Social Services  
 Program Category Affected Social Services  
 BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)  
EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS

FULL TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11 has no fiscal impact on the Department of Health and Social Services.

IV. DATE 3/10/81 PREPARED BY John R. Pugh John R. Pugh, Director  
 AGENCY Division of Family and Youth Services  
 PHONE 465-3170  
 Original: Legislative Finance  
 cc: Budget and Management  
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named) M&B Approval [Signature] Date 3/8/81



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate

### Committee on

### Health, Education & Social Services

Charlie Parr, Chairman  
Terry Stimson, Vice-Chairman  
Vic Fischer  
Tim Kelly  
Mike Colletta

Pouch V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

465-4907  
465-4908

#### MEMORANDUM

TO: Alaska Foster Parents Association  
FROM: Rocky Plotnick Weller, Committee Aide  
DATE: April 2, 1981  
RE: SCR 11

Senator Parr has asked me to send you a copy of the Department of Health & Social Services position paper on SCR 11. He wants to know if you still feel the resolution is necessary. Please let us know soon, as your reply will help us with our weekly scheduling of bills.

*Thank-you,  
Rocky*



## ALASKA FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Box 8651

Anchorage, Alaska 99508



### APPEAL PROCEDURE FOR DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOSTER PARENTS

If a conflict arises between a foster parent and social worker that cannot be resolved, either party has a right to call for an appeal procedure. This is carried out in two steps:

1. Formalized Conference between the concerned social worker, foster parent, a Division of Social Services supervisor, and a representative of the Alaska Foster Parents Association may be called within 72 hours and heard within five days. When a hearing is called all decisions and actions will be postponed until a final hearing decision is made (unless the child is in immediate physical danger or the action is ordered by the court).
2. If an agreement cannot be reached within the Formalized Conference a hearing should be set up within 10 days before the Hearing Board. This hearing board should consist of a Division of Social Services representative not involved in the questioned action, a representative of Alaska Foster Parents Association, and one disinterested community citizen (i.e. lawyer, doctor, minister, other child care professional, etc.) The recommendations of the Hearing Board will be final and should be carried out immediately.

At each of the above steps each party has the right and responsibility to present evidence and testimony to back up claims made as well as a chance to answer any questions or comments as needed.

The court should be provided with a copy of the decision and transcript of any appeal hearing when the final decision regarding the child is made.



## ALASKA FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Box 8651

Anchorage, Alaska 99508



*It is the position of the Alaska Foster Parents Association that an appeal procedure is needed for foster parents. This procedure should provide a voice for the foster parent in the casework plan when a decision is being made which is in the view of the foster parent not in the "best interest" of the child.*

*The reasons we feel this is necessary are:*

- 1. The Foster parents view may not be solicited by social services in making a decision for a child even though the child has been in 24 hour care with these people for an extended period of time.*
- 2. The foster parents views may be ignored by social services even though they may have uncovered information vital to the decision being made and the well being of the child.*
- 3. Foster parents may not be given enough information or correct information to enable them to deal with a child's problems.*

POSITION PAPER

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

"Relating to conflicts between foster parents and social workers."

In March, 1981 the Department submitted a position paper to this Legislature, indicating that an appeal procedure was in the process of being developed. This procedure, a copy of which is attached, was completed and implemented effective September 1, 1981. The procedure provides a mechanism for resolution of conflicts between foster parents and agency staff, exclusive of licensing issues which have a separate appeals procedure. The final step of this procedure provides for a disinterested party (non-agency) to be part of the review committee.

In addition to the appeals procedure, the State Foster Parent Association has worked with the Division of Family and Youth Services to provide resources for prevention of conflict: 1) the Foster Parent Association provide space in their bi-monthly newsletter for a question and answer article written by the family services field administrator; 2) in Anchorage, ongoing training for foster parents was developed and implemented by the Foster Parent Association, the Division's Staff Development Training Center, and the Anchorage District office; 3) foster parent/staff support groups, began in Anchorage in 1981, will now be developed in other areas of the State; 4) the Foster Parent Handbook, which is in the process of being revised, will be reviewed by representatives of the Foster Parent Association prior to finalization; and 5) the Division's family service field administrator meets bi-monthly with the State Foster Parent Association's representatives to share information and explore areas of potential conflict.

There remain areas where improvement is necessary, but the above efforts have proven successful in contributing to a more cooperative relationship and to providing better services for the children and families we serve.

The Department of Health and Social Services continues to support the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11, and feels the procedure which has been developed, complies with that intent.

RECOMMENDED BY: John R. Pugh  
John R. Pugh, Director  
Division of Family and  
Youth Services

DATE: 1/25/82

APPROVED BY: Helen D. Beirne  
Helen D. Beirne  
Commissioner

DATE: 1-25-82

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11  
Title "Relating to conflicts between foster parents & social workers."  
Requested by Parr Date \_\_\_\_\_

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health and Social Services  
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EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
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TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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OTHER (Specify Source)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS

FULL TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instruction, Section III)

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11 has no fiscal impact on the Department of Health and Social Services.

IV. DATE 1/26/82 PREPARED BY John R. Pugh John R. Pugh, Director  
AGENCY Division of Family & Youth Services  
Original: Legislative Finance PHONE 465-3170  
cc: Budget and Management  
Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)  
33-001 (Rev. 12/81)

1cc  
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METHOD FOR RESOLVING DIFFERENCES ARISING BETWEEN  
FOSTER PARENTS AND THE DIVISION OF FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES

As a matter of normal procedure, issues arising in case situations which warrant serious discussion. In these instances, an informal conference should be scheduled and may include the foster parent(s), social worker, social work supervisor, and a representative from the local foster parent support group. This conference should be timely to the situation and may be requested by either party.

If a conflict arises between a foster parent and social worker that cannot be resolved, either party has the right to initiate the review procedures outline below. These procedures do not constitute a "legal appeal" and will not be utilized in cases of licensing disagreements, disagreements with a decision made by the court, or disagreements involving payments of any type.

Within steps outlined below, either party has the right to present evidence to substantiate their position. Once this procedure is initiated, all decisions and actions will be postponed until a final decision is made (unless the child is in immediate danger or the action is ordered by the court).

Step #1 Conference:

Time Frame: To be held within 5 working days of the request

- Persons Involved:
1. Those persons involved in the informal conference.
  2. DFYS Regional Manager/Administrator and Staff Manager (if applicable).
  3. A representative of the local chapter of the State Foster Parents Association.

The foster care licensing specialist should be available to provide information to the group, but is not considered a formal part of the convening group. This distinction is made to assure that the licensing specialist does not become involved in conflicting roles. This conference will be taped and a transcript made available in the event that no resolution to the situation is found and a Step #2 conference is necessary.

Step #2 Conference:

- Persons Involved:
1. Persons involved in Step #1 Conference
  2. The Field Services Director, Youth Services Administrator, or another representative from the Division of Family and Youth Services' Central Office designated by the Director.

3. One "neutral" person from the community who is mutually acceptable to the Foster Parents Association and the Division of Family and Youth Services.
4. A representative from the State Foster Parents Association.

Details of the situation will be presented to this committee and a final decision will be made. A report of the findings will be sent to the persons involved in the Step #1 conference.

Steps #1 and #2 of the review procedure must be conducted without the use of identifying information (AS 47.10.090 which prohibits "disclosure directly or indirectly of social record pertaining to a minor subject to a child in need of aid or delinquency proceeding").

A summary report of the decision made at any of the steps in the review procedure will be filed in the child's record and in the foster parent(s)' record. The transcripts of the conference will be maintained in the regional office with a copy of the report.

NOTE REGARDING THE FOLLOWING FRAME ON MICROFILM:

COMPLETE DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN ORIGINAL FILES  
IN ALASKA STATE ARCHIVES. TITLE PAGE ONLY HAS  
BEEN FILMED.

Rocky

**Foster Care**

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Wednesday  
December 31, 1980

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Part VI

**Department of  
Health and Human  
Services**

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Office of Human Development Services  
and  
Health Care Financing Administration

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Foster Care



ALASKA FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Box 8651

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dec. 11, 1981



Our association is calling on you for assistance. You have been willing in the past and we hope you will try now.

Three times in the past two years the Division of Family and Youth Services, for whom many of us care for children, has attempted to move our foster care licensing workers from the social services District office. There have been logical, if minor reasons for this change. There are major reasons for this not happening.

With those workers in the same office children are placed in better homes the first time around, thus avoiding multiple placements. This "foster home bounce" is extremely damaging to children as I'm sure you can imagine. The licensing workers also provide support and trouble shooting for foster parents as they go about the "business" of foster care. The social workers have neither the time or the sensitivity to do this. Without it foster parents quit. The state loses experienced homes and must recruit continuously. And the children must be moved and moved..

On the two prior occasions we have conveyed our feelings and reasons to D.F.Y.S., ourselves and with the help of childrens advocates such as yourself. And always they have found a way to return the licensing workers to the social service office-- to better serve foster children. We seem to continue to battle this issue however.

We feel very strongly about this issue. Foster Parents are volunteers who work 24 hours a day to provide care for those children in the custody of the State of Alaska. We have nothing personally to gain here, except to see children better served.

We will appreciate your looking into this matter and hope that we can work together to make sure that our state system is always looking out for the "best interests" of our children.

Respectfully,

Ann M. Spahnholz  
President, A.F.P.A.

345-2248



ALASKA FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Box 8651

Anchorage, Alaska 99508



The Pipeline

EDITOR: MIRIAM SUMNER



RONDY 81



JANUARY-MARCH 1981  
Vol. 4 No. 5

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++HOTLINE FROM THE PRESIDENT++  
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HAPPY NEW YEAR! I can't help feeling good about our Association as we start this new year. I believe that the agencies we work with are beginning to realize the tremendous importance of foster parents and the job they do; and also of the Foster Parent Associations & the support and training they provide for foster parents. This is good news!

But let us not rest. There is much we have yet to do. This year we are working on an appeal procedure for all foster parents, so that our voice can always be heard when a major decision is being made for our children.

This year too we will have the largest and best statewide conference on Foster Care ever. I'm hoping you will all become involved, by giving us your ideas and your help or by simply participating. Join us as we gather to discuss the joys and frustrations of foster care, as we learn more about our children and ourselves and by our gathering, commit Alaska to the best quality foster care for our kids. Ann

ANN SPOHNHOLZ

Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se  
TREASURE'S CHEST.....\$64. \$  
Contract money due any day..\$5000. \$  
Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se Se



LEGISLATION  
OF INTEREST

For several years AFPA has been working on an appeal procedure for foster parents. Prior to 1981 legislative session several AFPA members talked to legislators about this issue, and we hope to have a representative go to Juneau about February. We are publishing the position paper and appeal procedure we are submitting to the legislators for your information. If you have questions and/or comments, please contact me at 349-1740 or Ann at 345-2248.

Marcia  
MARCIA BUKOWSKI

POSITION PAPER-----

It is the position of the Alaska Foster Parents Association that an appeal procedure is needed for foster parents. This procedure should provide a voice for the foster parent in the casework plan when a decision is being made which is, in the view of the foster parent, not in the "best interest" of the child.

The reasons we feel this is necessary are:

- 1. The Foster Parents view may not be solicited by social services in making a decision for a child even though the child has been in 24 hour care with those people for an extended period of time.
- 2. The foster parents view may be ignored by social services even though foster parents may have

legislation continued...

uncovered information vital to the decision being made & the well being of the child.

3. Foster parents may not be given enough information or correct information to enable them to deal with a child's problems.

APPEAL PROCEDURE FOR DIVISION OF FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES FOSTER PARENTS

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2. If an agreement cannot be reached within the Formalized Conference, a hearing should be set up within 10 days, before the Hearing Board. This hearing board should consist of a Div. of Family & Youth Services representative not involved in the questioned action, a representative of Alaska Foster Parents Association, and one disinterested community citizen (i.e. lawyer, doctor, minister, other child care professional, etc.). The recommendations of the Hearing Board will be final and should be carried out immediately.

At each of the above steps each party has the right & responsibility to present evidence and testimony to back up claims made as well as a chance to answer any questions or comments as needed.

A copy of the decision and transcript of any appeal hearing is to be placed in the child's permanent file and presented at the next court hearing.

SECRETARY'S REPORT



AFPA quarterly board meeting was held Jan. 5, 1981. The board discussed the possibility of Alaska sponsoring the 1982 Region X conference, the Child Welfare League Conference of 1981, proceeding with the appeal procedure, developing guidelines for helping local associations, and moving the clothing closet to the Anchorage DFYS office and turning the responsibility over to the local support group. Also discussed was workshops to be put on by AFPA in each region, as well as the AFPA statewide conference to be held April 23-25. Ways and Means and possible fund raising was aired, plus the request received from the adoptive parents group to do joint fund raising. The food coop, the newsletter, Fur Rondy activities, & Bylaw changes were discussed. See other areas of the newsletter for in detailed reports. Minutes of AFPA board meetings go to board members with an agenda for the next board meeting. If you have not been receiving one and wish to please send your name & address to me at SR Box 31, Anchor Point, Ak.

*Charlye*  
Charlye Jones

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1980-81 AFPA Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Coupon membership \$10. \_\_\_\_\_

Associate membership \$5. \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO  
ALASKA FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Dues to AFPA are income tax deductible as AFPA is a non-profit group.

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Cut out and mail to AFPA  
P. O. Box 8651  
Anchorage, Ak. 99508

REGIONAL

NEWS



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KETCHIKAN--

Laurie Vaughn (Community Care Specialist) is conducting a Parenting Plus training session for foster parents at the Div. of Social Services. Dates are Nov. 24, Dec. 10, Jan. 7 & 22, and Feb. 2 & 17. If you are interested contact Laurie Vaughn at your local office. The foster parents have put out their first newsletter. Some of the local foster parents are trying to put together a local foster parent support group. If you are interested or can help please contact Rene Lawson at 225-5096. Also in November the Ketchikan Daily News interviewed Rene Lawson & Toby (Delia) Duncan, foster mothers and Laurie Vaughn from DSS for a lengthy news article.

FAIRBANKS--

has a local foster parent group going. The president is Joe Carlson, PO Box 1185, Fairbanks, 99701. They have a lot of neat things going and would welcome your support. They are having training session on a fairly regular basis--December was a Cross Cultural workshop, January is Adolescent Treatment issues. In September they had the foster parent training session that has been traveling across the state with numerous outside specialists. Their next foster parent meeting is January 16 at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Since this newsletter is late, please contact Mr. Carlson or your local DSS office for the current meeting time.

JUNEAU--

doesn't have a local group as such, but the interest is there in a few foster parents and the foster care worker. The worker there is Alinio Lobo who can be reached at 586-1862. The local foster parent contact is Nancy Lange at 789-7129. February 5-6 there will be Staff Development training that can include foster parents entitled "Identifying Abnormalities in Children". Contact Alinio Lobo for more details.

NOME--

foster parents have not met since last

year, but there is a training session January 27-31. Please contact Jan Sabo at 443-5247 for more details. This is the foster parent training that has been throughout the state and is excellent for everyone. This should inspire foster parents to begin a local group.

BETHEL--

foster parents do not meet as a group, but many know each other and therefore do get support. There are problems in organizing due to extreme differences in culture, language and life styles; but we do hold hope of getting at least a very informal network organized. No education for foster parents is currently scheduled. For more information contact Joyce Freeman at 543-3141.

ANCHORAGE--

Mat-Su Field Office---had a foster care training program during November for 5 days. This was the traveling group including Joan Poliak, Myra Munson, Jack Hanson, Gary Lichtenstein, Bruce Garberding, Gary Wenet, and Shirley Anderson covering a wide variety of topics. On Wednesday evenings they also held meetings with Jack Hansen, Div. of Corrections and Elvia Torres Cater with Div. of Social Services. January 27 is the date of a foster parent orientation for all persons in the Mat-Su area interested in foster parenting. Contact Elvia at 376-2486.

Anchorage--had the foster parent training session for 5 days in Nov. DSS has also been hosting regular foster parent and social worker support group meetings the 2nd Monday of each month. This group has decided to start the new year with the Parenting Plus series designed specifically for foster parents by the Child Welfare League of America. This nine part series was started Jan. 12th; the next regular meeting is February 9, at DSS office, 400 Gambell, 2nd floor, 7:30 p.m. There was so much interest in the Parenting Plus that it has

REGIONAL NEWS CONTINUED...

been requested we conduct them weekly instead of monthly. No decision has been made at this time, but if you are interested contact Bettye Davis at 274-1615 or Barbara Nutt at 337-7824. Anchorage support group also has a monthly newsletter. A christmas party was held December 15th and was well attended. March 23-27 marks training on the 3rd floor entitled "Adolescent Treatment Issues". Call the above numbers for more details.

EDITORS NOTE---

Thanks to all of those that sent in the regional reports. I had to call a few areas, but as this gets to be more regular I feel it will become a habit and each area will automatically send in their news. I would like items of interest that have happened in the past quarter as well as what will be happening in the next quarter before the next scheduled newsletter. I will need all information for inclusion to be received by me by Feb. 26th. If I do not receive your news by then expect a call shortly. Thanks for your cooperation.

Miriam Sumner

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DON'T LET IT REST UNTIL "GOOD" BECOMES "BEST"! is the theme of the 11th National Training Conference sponsored by the National Foster Parent Association. It will be held April 1-4, 1981 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn, Michigan. This year you can learn a little about a lot of topics by attending Forums, spend more time on selected topics by attending Workshops, or choose a single Institute for more intensive coverage. Some topics are sexual abuse, emotional development of foster children, nutrition & behavior, autistic children and other handicaps, child management, keeping the bed dry, citizen's review of foster care, foster parents rights, and let's hear it from foster kids.

AFPA, at this time, plans to help send several representatives. If you are interested in attending, please write to AFPA, PO Box 8651, Anchorage, 99508 for an application and program by Feb. 15th. Write TODAY!!!



CHANGE THIS.....TO.....THIS with foster parent education.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE:

Catholic Social Services workshop COPING WITH EVERYDAY STRESS Monday evenings, 6-9 p.m. beginning Feb. 9 for 5 weeks. Maximum number--10. WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK; lasting 8 weeks beginning March 16, Monday evenings 6-9 p.m. Also a maximum of 10. Fee for above workshops are \$15. per week. For information and sign-up call Cindy Book at 277-2554. Pre-registration is a must.

Division of Social Services staff development conducts workshops that foster parents may be included in by calling their local DSS office. Below are listed city and dates of known trainings'

- Jan. 27-31, Nome, Foster parent training
- Jan. 27-31, Ketchikan & Juneau, Foster Parent Training
- Feb. 5-6, Juneau, Identifying Abnormalities in children
- March 23-24, Nome, Identifying Abnormalities in children
- March 23-27, Anchorage, Adolescent Treatment Issues

#####

AFPA has a standing visit with Norma Goodman the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Watch Norma on Channel 11 at 10:30 a.m. for foster parent information. Dates in the future are February 2, March 10, and April 14. Mark your calendars now.

I've had a request to start a problem solving column where a problem is presented and readers send in solutions. This will be started next newsletter--who will write and start us out with a problem????????

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION:

A proposal to change the AFPA By-laws has been passed by the Board of Directors and must go to the membership for approval. Please read and consider the following proposal. Ballots will be mailed by Feb. 1 to all paid members. If you have any questions contact Ann at 345-2248.

AFPA by-laws Article IX, Section 3. An annual meeting of the Assoc. shall be held in May of each year for the purpose of electing officers & selecting the Board of Directors, & those elected will take office on June 1 of each year.

Purpose to delete the words "in May" and substitute "in conjunction with the state conference".

Please mark your ballots and mail back as soon as possible. This change would save money and allow others to attend the business meeting and vote in person.

++++++

FUR RONDY is February 13-22, 1981. AFPA will again be selling Fur Rondy buttons again for fund raising. Will you help? If you can sell a few buttons, please call Lutricia Baxter at 338-3221.

AFPA will also have a float in the parade February 21. Chairman of the float committee is Miriam Sumner at 688-3028. Friday night, Feb. 20th there will be a work session; if you can spare a couple of hours of work and fun, please call Miriam. Our float will be a foot making "Footprints in the Snow".



AFPA CONTACT PERSONS

- PRESIDENT...ANN SPOHNHOLZ...344-4905
- V. PRESIDENT...MARCIA BUKOWSKI...349-1740
- SECRETARY...CHARLYE JONES.....
- TREASURER...DONNA MILLER...332-2478
- JAYSMEANS...RON SPOHNHOLZ...344-4905
- EDITOR...MIRIAM SUMNER...688-3028
- CLOTHING CLOSET.....344-4905

CLIP & SAVE

CHANGES...CHANGES...CHANGES.....

The Division of Social Services (DSS) has gone a "regrouping". Because many children's services overlap (alcoholism, abuse, emotionally disturbed) coordination with other division is mandatory. Therefore, DSS has been charged to the Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS), and the Division of Adult & Aging Services. In addition, juvenile corrections has been removed from the Division of Corrections and placed under the new youth division. All changes were completed December 1, 1980.

According to figures given by DFYS, during the fiscal year ending June, 1980, 1,042 children were served in foster homes, 429 were cared for in group homes, and 807 children received emergency shelter care. Over 3,533 were aided in their own homes to resolve problems of neglect, abuse, or conflict. Through re-organization better coordination of private resources and more efficiency is expected.

In this newsletter, you will see both Div. of Social Services and Division of Family & Youth Services intermixed. Hopefully, by next PIPELINE time, we will all be used to the new terms and will use DFYS exclusively.

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- EVENT: Child Welfare League Conference, NW region
- DATE: May 26-29, 1981
- THEME: "On the Edge: Frontiers in Child Welfare"
- PLACE: Sheraton Anchorage Hotel Anchorage, Ak.
- COST: \$95. \*\*\$50. for foster parents\*\* including 3 breakfasts, one lunch & one dinner
- CHILD CARE: Provided by AFPA, free to members of AFPA, \$30. non-members.

There will be at least 40 workshops, mini-courses, & institutes, with 5 workshops especially for foster parents. For more information call John Garvin, Ak. Childrens Services at 276-4515; Yvonne Walker, DFYS at 465-3173; or Ann Spohnholz, AFPA at 345-2248.

I have been requested to start again including stories of foster care in the PIPELINE. Below is one written by a foster mother about her experience. If you wish this story section to continue, please submit your story by sending it to PIPELINE EDITOR, PO Box 8651, Anchorage, 99508.

HELLO & GOOD-BYE

About a year ago I got a placement of a 3 yr. old hyperactive girl with numerous behavior problems--temper tantrums, head banging, running away in stores, and sleeping only 1-2 hours at a time. Sally couldn't play--only constantly into everything and throwing fits. It took all my patience & knowledge to deal with these behavior problems and keep my sanity. Sally's mother was expecting and planned to place the baby in foster care.

The first few weeks I spent documenting what Sally's behavior was and how she responded to my teaching & discipline. I also checked her development against her age and found her to be severely delayed. After consulting the social worker I contacted the Infant Stimulation program through the Public Health nurse. In first testing Sally was at a low 18 month level in all areas--cognitive, physical, language, etc. For instance Sally couldn't jump or stand on one foot, dress or undress, identify common object by name, or play with toys. We wrote up a program that the Infant Stimulation teacher would work on during her weekly visits and I would continue throughout the week. We first started with potty training and taking off shoes & socks, reading nursery rhymes and pointing out pictures of animals & toys to give names. Temper was to be ignored when possible--when they had to be stopped we used "time out"--5 minutes by herself.

At first Sally couldn't sit still for even 1 nursery rhyme. She cried & fought & closed her eyes. Temper tantrums got longer and "time out" for her became "time in" for me as I had to hold her in the chair. After every day for 2 weeks Sally would sit on my lap for reading like a wooden figure; gradually she wanted to turn the page and finally, identified a cow (in Key, Diddle Diddle)--after 2 months. That seemed to be the breakthrough for each day more pictures were identified. Temper tantrums still were frequent but less severe and she would sit during "time out". She began to ask for a drink instead of crying; potty training began to show some results, and walking improved. She could now jump & go up and down stairs with help. The kid who couldn't even take off shoes you now couldn't keep dressed!! She could now play by herself for 15-20 minutes with toys! Things were much improved!!!!

I had also requested an evaluation by the Child Study Team; by the time this evaluation was done Sally was up to a 2½ year old level in most areas. They found many problems areas still and recommended continued treatment and therapy.

During all this I also had her 1 month old brother Scooter placed in my home. My saddest thoughts were that this infant would shortly be placed back into the home in the situation that had molded Sally into what she was. It was bad enough for one child to be in that condition but why start another? The education I had sought during my foster care years paid off in helping me understand and just do the best I could for these kids while they were in my care. Because I was confident in myself I could also discuss the problems and my ideas with their social worker.

Against all of our wishes Sally & Scooter's mother regained custody when we had had Scooter 1 month, Sally 5 months. Because of our discussions and the documented proof of Sally's behavior & emotional condition we were able to get them placed home one at a time, one month apart. It was very difficult to let these kids return home--Sally, because I felt she would slide back to where she was without continued work and encouragement; Scooter because of what I felt he was going to become in that situation.

My only consolation was that I had done all I could to help Sally & Scooter during their time with us and to pray for their continued security. AND to open my heart and home to some other child who needs my caring.

7  
The Foster Family Care Association of Region X (of which Alaska is a part) presented "Today's Children & Youth in Foster Care" Training Seminar in Portland, Oregon July 31-August 3, 1980. AFPA had 7 representatives. Several reports are included below--others will be printed as space allows. For more information on any of these workshops contact the person writing the report at AFPA, PO Box 8651, Anchorage, 99508.

1) FOSTER PARENTS HAVE RIGHTS TOO presented by Karen Brugger, foster parent and Loren Hoffman, social services supervisor from Portland. Mr. Hoffman felt that much of the problem in foster care today is that many people are still dealing with what foster care started out as--volunteer families taking in orphans and abandoned children. Now foster parents deal with physical, emotionally, and mentally handicapped children who are in need of a foster family for various reasons. Foster parents have the right to be treated as part of the caring team working for the child both daily and long term... lack of this right causes confusion and a lack of effectiveness of foster parents. ---Charlye Jones

2) WORKING WITH THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED CHILD given by Gayle Harris, educational specialist for Learning Impaired Individuals from Portland and Chuck Church, Hope Cottage, Anchorage, Alaska. Ms. Harris talked about a relatively new theory called Interaction Structuring, having to do with creating the ability to learn and using process learning (classify, categorize, store).

Mr. Church believes there are two types of developmentally disabled; the severely profound and the mild-moderate. For severely-profound individuals foster parents should be "professional", receiving \$1200-\$1500/month to draw in people such as behavioral psychologists and social workers as foster parents. They should have intensive training and be a trainer first and parent second. ----Charlye Jones

3) POSITIVE PARENTHOOD by Vince Pfaff, United Learning Institute, Tacoma, Washington. The basic point of this workshop was improving self image, self esteem, and goal direction. He uses "self" talk to build self esteem by eliminating the negative, devaluative,

and destructive phrases that inflict guilt and lower performance. When things don't go just right, tell yourself, "That's not like me, next time I will ....". When things do go right, silently affirm, "That's like me!" To help build children's self esteem use "It's like you to ....." for their good points and behavior. ---Charlye Jones

4) The highlight of my time at the Region X conference was a workshop with Dr. Katherine Day entitled "Foster Care of Emotionally Disturbed Children". Dr. Day is a foster parent and she is a clinical psychologist who works with pre-schoolers. She really understands the realities of the foster care situation & was able to give a lot of useful practical advice on the handling of these children. All that I learned from her you could not put into this newsletter, but I can tell you that Katherine Day will be in Anchorage May 27-29 for the CWLA Conference (see page 5) and she will be repeating the same workshop. This is one that foster parents should not miss! ---Ann Spohnholz

5) FOSTER PARENTS HAVE RIGHTS TOO was a workshop I also attended. It was presented by a foster parent (Karen Brugger) and social services supervisor (Loren Hoffman). Although we discussed some specific rights of foster parents, I was most interested in the history of foster care. History points out that until 20 years ago a foster kid came into your home "forever". This explains why we have conflicts with the system today--foster parents wanting and expecting to keep the kids and social workers often seeing the kids as "that sweet young thing with no problems". Today we are dealing with kids and families that are troubled with abuse, neglect, alcohol & drugs, etc. So as foster parents and social workers alike must work together to solve or help the parents solve their problems. Foster parents must be "treatment homes" not just a place to get room & board.--Miriam Sumner



ALASKA FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION is proud to announce its newest service to all paid members--a food cooperative! Every few months (or each \$2000. total orders), AFPA will order groceries, sort them, and set a time for pick up.

This is a service to paid members only. If you have not paid your 1980-81 dues you may pay them any time before ordering. Friends & relatives may also join by paying membership, as AFPA membership is open. BUT, each order will be checked against the membership list to ensure that only members are ordering. Just bring your dues (\$10 per family per year) with you or send it in with your order, if you are not already a paid member. FOOD ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID!

Below is a sample list of groceries so that you may compare prices. Various name brands have been used to show brands that are available. Anything available in groceries can be ordered. Please send a list of the things you want--name of item, brand (if there is a preference, size, and how many cases. Ordering must be in case lots. This is only a sample list--many things are cheaper in various sizes (50 lbs. flour, etc.) or different brands. Prices are

available by calling Miriam at 688-3028. Total order prices may vary and refunds or collections will be made at time of picking up orders.

The first order will go in by the end of February. You may mail orders to AFPA COOP, PO Box 8651, Anchorage, Ak. 99508 or call Miriam at 688-3028. You may view the catalog at the Anchorage local meeting Feb. 9 (see page 3) or making arrangements by calling the above number. If you live outside Anchorage you will have to arrange for pickup or delivery of your order.

FOOD ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID. Each person ordering who is able must take a turn on the Coop committee compiling orders and sorting. Call Miriam if you would like to be first!



ITEM	CARRS PRICE*	PRICE	+ 5%	#in case/case price
Sauve Protein Shampoo 16 oz.	2.19	1.22	1.28	6/7.30
Excedrin 100 count	2.99	2.44	2.56	6/14.64
Pampers Overnite 12	2.25	2.09	2.19	18/37.64
Pampers Newborn 90	9.49	8.31	8.73	4/33.23
Kodacolor Film 110-24	2.79	2.19	2.30	20/43.87
Sylvania 75w soft light bulb	1.19	.95	1.00	12/11.36
Wintuk Yarn	1.49	1.13	1.19	6/6.77
School filler paper	1.39	.76	.80	24/18.32
Flavorpak Frozen Mix Veg. 20oz	1.99	1.53	1.61	12/18.40
Flavorpak Broccoli 20 oz.	1.90	1.70	1.79	12/20.36
MinuteMaid Frozen oranges, juice	2.69	2.03	2.13	12/24.35
Blue Bonnet Margarine 1 lb.	1.15	.87	.91	24/29.04
Cigaretts (regulars)	5.55	3.96	4.16	each } add 80¢
Cigaretts (100's)	5.65	4.07	4.27	each } tax per carton
Baby strained Banana	.29	.26	.27	24/6.20
Baby strained Ham	.63	.55	.58	24/13.20
Junior Vegetable & Ham	.42	.36	.38	24/8.64
Baby Rice Cereal 8 Oz.	.65	.52	.55	12/6.21
Skippy Peanut Butter 40 oz.	4.09	2.95	3.11	6/17.78
Welchs Grape Jelly 32 oz.	2.09	1.44	1.51	12/17.22

Miracle Whip Dressing	32 oz	1.99	1.70	1.79	12/20.70
Kraft Mayonnaise	32 oz.	2.29	1.70	1.79	12/20.43
Delmonte Catsup	Jug size	1.69	1.17	1.23	12/14.08
Jello	6 oz.	.73	.59	.62	24/14.21
Purina Cat chow	4 lb.	3.39	2.66	2.79	12/31.89
Purina Dog Chow	50 lb.	18.99	16.50	17.33	each
HyTop Tomato Paste	12 Oz.	.74	.56	.59	24/13.55
Mission Long Spaghetti	3 lb.	2.49	2.09	2.19	8/16.68
Minute Rice	28 oz.	2.79	2.16	2.27	18/38.88
StarKist Chunk Lt. Tuna	6½oz	1.25	1.19	1.25	18/57.03
DelMonte Whole corn	17 oz.	.65	.46	.48	24/10.98
HyTop Sweet Peas	16 oz.	.59	.47	.49	24/11.31
Libby Fruit Cocktail	17oz.	.89	.63	.66	24/15.02
HyTop Applesauce	16 oz.	.75	.48	.50	24/11.47
Pepsi	6/12oz.	2.35	2.19	2.30	8/17.54
Campbells Vegetable soup	10½	.42	.32	.34	48/15.18
Folgers Coffee	3 lb.	9.84	9.00	9.45	8/72.05
Similac Formula w/iron	13 oz	1.69	1.52	1.60	6/9.13
	ready to feed				
Duncan Hines Cake mix		1.25	.91	.96	12/10.93
Gold Medal Flour	10 lb.	2.99	2.55	2.70	5/12.75
C & H Sugar	10 lb.	6.49	5.78	6.07	6/34.69
Crisco Shortening	3 lb.	2.99	2.75	2.89	12/33.02
Frosted Flakes Cereal	20 Oz	2.09	1.63	1.71	28/45.60
Kelloggs Raisin Bran	20 oz.	1.95	1.53	1.61	12/21.78
Dynamo laundry detergent	64oz	4.19	2.49	3.66	6/20.93
Viva Paper Towels		1.45	.94	.99	30/28.28
M & M candy (bag)		.30	.20	.21	160/32.26

TOTALS FOR THIS SAMPLE 133.70 minus 114.82 = 18.88 you save

\* prices as of December 1980 Anchorage Carrs

Alaska Foster Parent Association annual Statewide Conference will be held April 23-25, 1981 at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Workshops will run Thursday and Friday nights and all day Saturday. There will also be a board meeting and AFPA organizational meeting on Friday making a full conference.

Plans are still in the making, but it is shaping up to be the biggest and best ever. Plan now to attend. Programs will be mailed with registration information when available.

Elections will be coming up soon in AFPA for Vice-President and Treasurer. These position run for a 2 year term, taking office June 1, 1981. Vice-President is legislative chairman and assumes the presidential duties if necessary. Treasurer collects dues, keeps membership list, deposits monies, and signs all checks with the president, plus keeping a record of all monies spent. Miriam Sumner is head of the nominating committee. If you are interested or can recommend someone, call 688-3028.



NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION, INC.  
 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN - DON HAGHENBECK  
 POST OFFICE BOX 12111 • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94112

Name & address

The next regular Board of Directors meeting for Alaska Foster Parents Association is March 16, 1981, 7:30 p.m. at the Trinity Christian Reformed Church, 16th & Sunrise. This is open to the public, and we urge all interested person to attend.

AFPA is working toward establishing an advisory board to increase the effectiveness of AFPA. A special board meeting has been set for February 26th at 11:45 a.m. at the home of Louises Rodoni, 2730 Brittainy, 333-2323. The purpose of the meeting is to draw up procedures for this advisory board, list possible candidates, and draw up an application. If you have concerns, ideas, or names to submit, please attend or let your view be heard by calling Ann at 345-2248 or writing AFPA, PO Box 8651, Anchorage, Ak. 99508

MEMBERSHIP YEAR - 1980-81

Regular Individual Membership .....	\$10.00
Couples (Spouses) Membership .....	\$15.00
Supportive Membership .....	\$25.00
Local Association .....	\$30.00
State Association .....	\$50.00

Make checks payable to NFFA

DON'T FORGET--NFFA Conference, April 1-4 in Dearborn, Michigan. AFPA will be sending several Alaskan representatives, we hope you will be one of those. Please let us hear from you if you are interested in going and having part of your way paid. Write AFPA at PO Box 8651, Anchorage, 99508 or call Ann at 345-2248 today!

Remember-- Statewide foster parent conference set for April 23-25 at UAA, Anchorage. Mark your calendar now and be watching for your program in the mail soon.

ALASKA FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION  
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