DIVISION OF
FAMILY &
YOUTH
SERVICES

MEMORANDUM State of Alaska

TO: Robert London Smith, Ph.D., Commissioner
Department of Health & Social Services

DATE: March 19, 1984

THRU: John R. Pugh 3/19/84
Deputy Commissioner

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 3170

FROM: Michael L. Price, Director
Division of Family & Youth Services

SUBJECT: Foster Care Activity Report

The February Activity report for the special subject foster care is in three sections: Statewide Progress, Social Services Regional Activity and Youth Services Regional Activity.

STATEWIDE PROGRESS

Governor Sheffield signed an Executive Proclamation in February proclaiming March 19-24, 1984 as Alaska Foster Care Week. (See Attachment I.)

February marked another month for significant progress in foster care. The officers of the Alaska Foster Parents Association traveled to Juneau to meet with legislators, the Central Office Task Force on Foster Care, Regional Managers and Administrators, and myself. The officers are: Louiese Rodoni, President; Barbara Nutt, Vice President; Dee Cromer, Secretary; Miriam Sumner, Treasurer; and Jeannie Cortez, Anchor Foster Parent Association President. In my view their trip was highly successful. They stated that a major goal was to initiate a new beginning with the Division: one of cooperation and increased quality communication. They were organized and professional, so that substantial progress was made. In turn, they were pleased with the progress of the Division in identifying 43 foster care issues to be resolved and with the Division's comprehensive long range approach to resolving these issues. There was agreement that fragmented corrective policies issued with short time lines have been a problem in the past. The Association representatives committed themselves to assisting on policy projects with draft work. They recognized that many foster care issues need to be coordinated through regulatory projects and asked to be kept informed of progress and to assist where appropriate. I was personally impressed with the professionalism they demonstrated.

On the morning of February 27, 1984 I met with the AFPA representatives with the following agenda:

Travel monies for foster parents attending Regional and Statewide Training Conferences.
Question - Contract Support Services (RFPs) for Nome and Bethel.
Meetings established for AFPA and the Regional Managers.
Quarterly meetings for AFPA and Mike Price.
Question-Intentions for AFPA Contract for FY 84/85.
Request for Direct Support Services for Foster Homes.

Discussion of Utah proposal.
Mandated Training.
Leveled Foster Care.
List of issues for resolution to be discussed with the Central Office Task Force.

Time limits prevented discussion of all items, but many items were covered at meetings in the next two days.

On the afternoon of February 27, 1984 the AFPA representatives met in House HESS with House and Senate finance sub-committee representatives to hear a budget proposal from the AFPA. The proposal was professionally presented and initially well received. I offered to have Division staff analyze the proposal and report back to the committee. See Attachment 2 for the proposal and a copy of your letter to Representative Mae Tischer transmitting the Divisions's findings upon reviewing the proposal.

On February 27, 1984 the AFPA representatives met with Nina Keeler and Pat O'Brien for four hours with the following agenda:

Confidentiality Draft
Placement Agreement Form
Evaluations
Reimbursement Problems
1. stipend
2. special needs procedure
3. funds for damages procedure
Emergency Placement Stipend
Clothing Allowances
Medical Authorization Cards
Criminal Records Clearance
Biennial Licensing
Provisional Licensing
Mandated Training - Regulation Changes
Question-Foster Care Rate Hearings
Question-DFYS Indian Child Welfare Act Interpretation
1983/84 Contract Payments
New Contract
Final Implementation of Foster Home Investigations
Final Implementation of Appeals Procedure
Detail Regional Managers' Meetings
Regular Meetings scheduled with Nina
Medicaid

All agenda items were addressed with information sharing and cooperative planning. The foster care issue outline was presented to the AFPA representatives at this meeting.

On February 29, 1984 the AFPA representatives attended the Regional Administrators'/Regional Managers' Meeting. The AFPA representatives presented an overview of the National, Regional, State, and Local organization of the Foster Parent Associations. Plans were made to secure travel funds for foster parents to attend upcoming conferences throughout the State. The AFPA representatives also presented their perception of regionally based differences in the following areas: emergency placement/payment, clothing allowances, special needs, and provisional and expired licenses.

Significant issue progress was achieved in February as a result of the above meetings and Division effort. Following are some examples:

Travel funds were identified and a mechanism was established to fund foster parents' travel for training at the statewide and local conferences.

The special Augmented Foster Care pilot project in Anchorage, which is being administered by the Youth Services Section, is proving successful. A plan was made to expedite payment. Approval of an augmentation must receive the approval of the Regional Administrator and the Youth Services Field Administrator. Upon receipt in Central Office, the augmentation is set up on the computer payment system to ensure timely payment upon receipt of the invoice from the foster parents. A change in the program was made the first of March which will allow the foster parents to continue receiving the initial augmentation rate after the first six months, even when the youth may have improved to the next level. It was felt that reducing the rate when the level of needed care improved was a disincentive in the program.

Research was completed by Pat O'Brien on criminal records searches. Research findings were forwarded to Regional Managers and Administrators along with a questionnaire to elicit regional response. A consistent statewide policy will be formulated based on the review of the responses. The AFPA was also asked to respond to the questionnaire. The licensing record clearance request was revised with the Departments of Law and Public Safety approval. The revised form allows arrest record reviews and is clearly marked "Confidential". The handwritten "Hit" will no longer be placed on any clearance request forms.

A computer work request was submitted asking that provisional licenses and biennial licenses be added to the computer summary report of expired licenses, currently being prepared by Jeannette Sanders and Margaret Levitt of Central Office.

Regional Managers and Administrators agreed on an emergency placement/payment policy to be placed in the staff manual and the Foster Parent Handbook.

AFPA representatives agreed to draft a form to be used for foster care special needs requests.

AFPA and Division representatives agreed that a placement agreement was properly a subject for regulations. The AFPA developed form will be a primary resource.

The Division assumed responsibility for conducting the annual foster care rate hearings required by AS 47.05. Hearings were set up for the week of March 19-23, 1984. In addition to notices being placed in major newspapers, individual letters of notice were sent to all foster parents, since one of the AFPA concerns about previous rate hearings was that inadequate notice had been given.

Issue identification and planning drafting is continuing. Draft issue papers will be circulated to managers, administrators, and the AFPA prior to finalization. New issues were identified in the recent meetings.

SOCIAL SERVICE REGIONAL ACTIVITY

Special foster care activities were reported from the following social service regions.

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

The Anchorage foster care staff was actively involved in recruitment efforts during the Fur Rendezvous this month. The Anchor Foster Care Association and the Alaska Foster Parent Association jointly sponsored a booth at the Trade Fair between February 10th and 19th. The booth was staffed continuously during this time by a total of 36 foster parents, 18 DFYS workers and four Parent Training Center Foster Care component staff. In addition to raising $995 for the two associations by selling made-to-order buttons, the Trade Fair generated 30 prospective foster families for the Division. These applicants are scheduled to attend the March 13th Foster Parent Orientation meeting. Hundreds of other Southcentral residents visiting the Trade Fair took the brochures and talked informally with the people staffing the booth about the foster home program.

A foster parenting float was entered in the Fur Rendezvous parade February 18th. Four foster families and one Division staff person's family rode on the float, which won a fourth place prize in the noncommercial category. The float had the DFYS telephone number on it and many of the recent inquiries about foster care have mentioned our participation in the parade.

February was a full month for the Parent Training Center Foster Care Component. The two foster parent support groups met four times each during thi month. Workshops offered during February were: "Preparing a Child to Leave for Adoption", "Foster Parents as Advocates", "Teaching Independent Living Skills for Teens", "Don't Condemn Me Until You Know Me-Natural Parents", "Learning Disabilities in Children", "Ages & Stages-Child Development", "Burning Out in Foster Care" and "C.P.R. for Foster Parents".

The Division published two newspaper advertisements this month in the "Help Wanted" section to recruit homes for several difficult-to-place adolescents. Of the three serious responses to this, one family has chosen not to participate in the program and one family is currently receiving an emergency provisional license for one of the teens targeted for this special recruitment. Half-page ads were also placed once in the TV Guides in the two Anchorage newspapers to recruit for foster homes.

A day-time preservice preparation and evaluation group ended February 14th, graduating three families. This class was designed to accommodate applicants with evening work hours and North slope work schedules.

Another preservice began February 22nd with eleven new foster families participating in this series of classes.

Field staff conducted individual orientations with two staff members making special presentations as a part of their participation in other community programs. On February 1st, Flora Tutiakoff, Unalaska social worker, spoke regarding the need for foster homes during the Chemical People Task Force meeting. Barbara Smith, Social Service Associate of McGrath, participated in a Domestic Violence workshop on February 7th and 8th in Nikolai and on February 15th, she made a presentation before a meeting of Health Aides from McGrath and nearby villages. In both programs, she provided information about licensing and the need for additional foster homes in the area. Barbara also shared information about one of our foster children who has been in care approximately four years and now is a senior. This young man was inducted into the National Honor Society on February 14th and also won first place in the local ski meet. His successes reflect to a large degree quality of care and support he received from his foster parents.

One of the main goals for the Mat-Su area this winter was to offer and complete the foster parenting NOVA University Program as it was originally presented and suggested by the NOVA University Trainer. The program has been implemented, but they are still in the process of "fine tuning" it to meet the needs of that particular community.

Mat-Su foster parents and staff are in the planning stages and getting ready to start action on the Foster Care Booth at the State Fair in Palmer which begins in mid-August. They anticipate involvement from the Alaska Foster Parents Association and from other local groups.

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

A lot of energy was spent during February working with the new Foster Parent Association board members. Committees were formed and objectives solidified. The two most active were the conference and membership committees. The conference committee met weekly and the dates, location, theme and program design were decided and registration materials were developed. The membership committee started its membership drive March 1, 1984. There are plans for a mass mailing, radio and newspaper releases, posters, television and community appearances. Tied into the Association's membership drive will be an effort to recruit new foster homes with special emphasis on teenage and Native foster homes.

Both Social Services and Youth Services began to organize a delegation to attend the State conference in Anchorage. So far thirty foster parents from the Northern region have indicated an interest in attending.

The support contractor had two people complete its February training and had about twelve foster parents signed up to take the eight week intensive training starting in March. The contractor is beginning to provide more individualized in-home services centering around initial placements and specific placement problems.

February's Foster Parent Association meeting was attended by about thirty foster parents and foster teens. Steve Emmerson from the Fairbanks Native Association's Alcohol Program led a very lively discussion on just about everything you wanted to know about drugs and alcohol.

The Association is working with the Division and the Foster Grandparent Program to set up a pilot Foster Grandparent Program involving the grandparent with foster families as the new team member. The local Foster Grandparent Program will be doing a presentation at the March Foster Parent meeting.

Meetings with the respite care worker and the long term care worker from Fairbanks Rehabilitation Association were held this month. Training in regulations, forms and procedures was given in an effort to keep licenses current for homes caring for handicapped children and adults.

Fairbanks foster parents, Richmond and Shirley Lewis, were awarded "Roses in the Snow" by a local radio station for their work with handicapped foster children. The couple was nominated by a teacher to receive this honor for their "...willingness to help others in such a loving manner after raising their own children."

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

The first regional foster care conference in Alaska was held in February in Ketchikan. Regional Manager, Kathy Tibbles, stated that it was highly successful. Some foster parents from Wrangell and Petersburg were able to attend. Credit for the success should go to Grace Kinney, President of the Ketchikan Foster Parents Association; Close Encounters, the foster parents support contractor; Jackie O'Sullivan, Ketchikan foster parent; and other active foster parents in the Ketchikan area.

YOUTH SERVICES REGIONAL ACTIVITY

Special foster care activities were reported from the following youth service regions.

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

Jack Hansen traveled to Kenai, Soldotna, Homer, and Seward to license and to provide training utilizing video tapes of Dr. Jane Krauss. Betsy Gerace went to Kodiak for an orientation for new foster parents. Three applications were given to Native couples. She also traveled to the Mat-Su Valley for licensing and support services.

Preparations are being made for upcoming Basic Foster Parent Training to be held in April and Augmented Rates' training to be held in May. The curriculum has been set for monthly foster care meetings and other training to be given by Sandy Jackson of Community Mental Health.

A newspaper article was published in the Kodiak Daily Mirror (see Attachment 3) regarding the need for foster homes. An award was given for "Big Shot" by the Advertising Federation of Alaska. (See Attachment 4.) Attachment 5 is the revised policy for the Augmented Foster Care Special Program.

In February there were eleven pending foster care applications, eight licensing studies in process, and 33 licensed homes available for Southcentral Youth Services. Eight homes were on hold. Thirty-two youth services children were in foster care placement.

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

During the month of February, 1984, the Northern Youth Services Office served twenty-nine children in foster homes.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

The month of February included licensing trips to Sitka and Haines, as well as conducting numerous home studies in the Juneau area. One initial study was successfully completed in Haines and resulted in another resource for their community. The majority of the homes visited were satisfied with their relationship to the Division and comfortable in their role as foster parents. Overall things are moving well for this region as the licensing focus continues on renewing expired licenses.

In February there were thirty-seven foster homes available, one pending foster home application, and five children in foster care placement.

Attachments

cc: RSSMs

RAs

Dave Arnold, Youth Services Administrator
Anchorage

Freda Borchick, Administrative Officer
Central Office

Pat O'Brien, CC Licensing Coordinator
Central Office

Nina Keeler, SS Program Coordinator
Central Office

STATE OF ALASKA

Executive Proclamation

by

Bill Sheffield, Governor

In the State of Alaska, there are currently 1,038 children under foster care, and both public and private social agencies and dedicated foster families provide these children with a temporary or permanent home environment that will help them become responsible citizens.

The goal of the foster care program is to improve home conditions so that the child may be returned to his family or, if this is not possible, to make suitable permanent plans for the child.

The Alaska Foster Parent Association has undertaken the need to create greater public awareness of the needs of children in foster care and the role and responsibility of the foster families that serve them. The Alaska Foster Parent Association also is sponsoring an educational conference open to the public, agency personnel, and foster parents on March 22 - 24, 1984.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Sheffield, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim March 19 - 24, 1984, as

ALASKA FOSTER CARE WEEK

in Alaska, and urge all citizens of Alaska to give special attention to the needs of children in foster care and to recognize the important role of foster families in the delivery of service to our children in care.

Dated: February 6, 1984

Done by—

Bill Sheffield

Bill Sheffield, Governor who has also authorized the seal of the State of Alaska to be affixed to this proclamation.

ATTACHMENT 2

March 9, 1984

DOCUMENT NO. 84-79

The Honorable Mae Tischer
Representative
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Tischer:

This is in follow up to the hearing on March 2, 1984, regarding foster care. Michael Price, Director of the Division of Family and Youth Services and his staff felt that the foster parents made an excellent presentation. We are pleased that we have improved our working relationship with them, and appreciate the efforts they have made to present their views. The Association members have also recognized that the Division of Family and Youth Services is committed to improving services to foster parents to ensure that children receive better care. Mr. Price had an opportunity to review the proposal submitted to you by the Alaska Foster Parents Association and is very supportive of the proposal.

The Alaska Foster Parent Association (AFPA) proposed support service contracts in the amount of $295,000. During FY 84 the Division awarded foster care support contracts totalling $294,989. We believe these contracts could be reduced to $95,000 and still provide adequate support services.

The AFPA recommended $100,000 for statewide foster parent orientation. We believe the continuation of Statewide Foster Parent Orientation is a very important part of the service needs in the Foster Program. In FY 84, $12,500 was awarded for this orientation from the 700 line in Foster Care as well as $8,000 utilized for the Southcentral area training and $13,400 from Staff Development monies. If the same level of funding could be earmarked for this training only $15,000 additional funds would be required to meet the $40,000 viewed as needed by the Alaska Foster Parent Association.

There is an additional $50,000 in the FY 84 budget which is being utilized for specialized training for the augmented foster care program. This money will continue to be available for training. Therefore, $98,000 will be available for foster parent orientation.

The Association requested $50,000 for reimbursement for loss or damages to property of foster parents. There is an existing program which allows for reimbursement to foster parents for certain loss and damage to property by children/youth in placement. Because of procedures and qualifications for such claims, expenditures during the first half of FY 84 have totaled only $4,235. The Department is willing to cooperate with the Alaska Foster Parents Association in order to clarify and simplify procedures for reimbursement. Pending this clarification, it is believed that these costs can be absorbed by the present budget.

The Association proposed $369,000 for foster care units. In discussion with them, the Association stated that support from Division staff is more critically needed than from outside contractors. The Association's proposal for foster care support staff is a need recognized by the Department but was not included in the budget submittal due to funding constraints. The staff needed would be 9 additional Social Worker III positions: 4 in Anchorage, 3 in Fairbanks, and 1 each in Juneau and Ketchikan, and clerical support in Anchorage for an estimated cost of $462,100. Of this figure $200,000 could be absorbed from the Governor's budget (i.e., from the foster parent support contracts) leaving a need of $262,100 additional funds.

The Alaska Foster Parents Association is an agency which represents an extension of the foster care services of the State. It is this Department's aim to continue to work in concert with this agency to improve services and public understanding of the Foster Care Program. However, while we are pleased to provide the above information, nothing herein should be interpreted as anything less than the Department's full support for the Governor's budget as submitted.

Sincerely,

Robert London Smith, Ph. D.
Commissioner

Attachment

RLS:MLP:FMB:pvk

bcc: DFYS

4/Price2/Tischer Ltr/D#737

February 28, 1984

The Alaska Foster Parent Association is requesting the following be put in the Department of Health and Social Services budget for FY 85.

1. A grant to named recipient of $48.0 to the Alaska Foster Parent Association to provide information, education, statewide networking, direct, and indeirect support services to foster families as outlined in the contract proposal.

2. We are further requesting an intent statement that directs the Division of Family and Youth Services to use $295.0 from the line item in their budget under "Other" for specific Foster Family Support Service Contracts for training, recruitment, respite, or on-going support.

3. We request another intent statement that directs Family and Youth Services to do the following:
a. Use 52.0 for statewide training and mandatory training programs to be administered by the Dept. of Health and Social Services. Funds for transportation of foster parents to training programs held locally and statewide and to provide the cost of babysitters, and other incidental expenses which are incurred to attend these meetings, will be provided by the Department.
b. Establish a fund for reimbursement for loss or damages to the property of foster families as the result of having destructive foster children in the home. $50.0
c. $250.0 to provide 2 social worker aide positions in Ketchikan, Anchorage, and Fairbanks regions, and one clerical support position in each one of those regions. The purpose is to establish Foster Care Units that provide agency support to recruit families, keeping foster families in the program, and other on-going foster family support services.

INTENT: $ 814,000.00

Direct support services to foster families for the purposes of recruitment and retention.

1.	$ 295,000.00	Specific foster family Support Service Contracts, i.e. training, recruitment, respite, or on going suport services.
2.	100,000.00	Implimentation of Statewide programs for Foster Parent Orientation to foster care. Mandatory training programs and Grants. Transportation for foster parents to training programs - National, State, Local.
3.	50,000.00	Funds for reimbursement for loss or damages to the property of foster families.
4.	369,000.00	Foster Care Units, in appropriate areas, providing in agency support, recruitment and retention program development, and on going foster family support services. Staff and clerical staff.

Direct Support Services to Foster Care Families for the purposes of recruitment and retention of foster homes

$ 814,000.00.

Included is a Grant for Alaska Foster Parent Association to provide information, education, statwide networking and direct and indirect support services to foster families.

$ 48,000.00

COST BREAKDOWN

Institutional Care:

Average cost per child per day $122.00
Cost of care for one year (365 days) per child $44,530.00

Cost for 25 children in institutions for one year at current average $1,113,250.00

Foster Care:

Average cost per child per day $ 15.00
Cost of care for one year (365 days) per child $ 5,475.00

Cost for 25 children in ~~institutions~~ Foster care for one year at current average $ 136,875.00

Total savings of foster care over institutions:
(there is currently not enough licensed, trained, and willing foster homes to care for these 25 children) $ 976,875.00

Proposal Cost:
(this would recruit, train and support the needed new foster homes) $ 814,000.00

Total savings 1st year after implementation of proposal: $ 162,375.00

SECOND YEAR:

Institutional care: 50 children x 45,643.00
(44,530 x 2.5% cost of care increase) $2,282,150.00

Foster care: 50 children x 5,662.00
(5,475 x 2.5% cost of care increase) $ 280,594.00

Total savings 2nd year of implementation $2,562,744.00

Cost of proposal: 814,000 x 2.5% cost increase $ 834,350.00

Total savings 2nd year of implementation $1,728,394.00

Total savings in a two year period $1,890,769.00
It will be possible to double the number of children in foster care because there will be support and recruitment to meet that need.

Alaska Foster Parents Association

P. O. BOX 8651 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Alaska Foster Parents Association is a non-profit organization whose objectives are to:

1) promote the health and welfare of foster children
2) provide educational opportunities in the field of foster care
3) be of assistance, as needed, to all foster parents
4) cooperate with public and private welfare agencies in their foster care programs

To meet these objective Alaska Foster Parent Association (AFPA) has developed several goals, such as:

1) Recruitment and and retension of foster homes
2) Regional and Statewide conferences
3) Development of local, chartered organization to meet locally identified needs of foster children and foster parents
4) Quarterly educational and informational newsletter
5) education of the community and agencies as to the realities of foster care and foster parenting
6) Development of programs to enhance foster care as a positive, therapeutic treatment for children unable to live in their biological parents home
7) Recognition for foster families contribution to society, agencies, families, and individual children.

All officers and board members of AFPA serve totally volunteer, with no salary, benefits, reimbursements for personal expenses (such as transportation, childcare, personal equipment usage). No portion of the budget of AFPA goes toward staff salary, employee benefits, or administration. All expenditures apply to direct services to foster children, foster families, agencies, and the community.

Direct service volunteers of AFPA donate a minimum of 160 hours weekly. plus an additional 40 hours donated weekly by committee and board members.

AFPA is the only statewide organization working to enhance foster care and assist foster parents in their difficult role of parenting a child not their own on a temporary basis.

Budget projection for 1984-85	$57,910.
Income from other sources	$ 9,910.
GRANT REQUEST FOR 1984-85	$48,000.

Lorraine Rodoni, President A.F.P.A.

Alaska Foster Parents Association

P. O. BOX 8651 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

REQUEST FOR 1984-85 CONTRACT

NEWSLETTER (4 times yearly to 1500 people) $ 4340.

Includes Bulk Mailing
Printing
Layout
Artwork
Typing

AREAWIDE CONFERENCES $10000.

Includes $2500. grant each x 4 areas
AFPA representatives transportation
and per diem

SUPPORT TO CHARTERED OR DEVELOPING ORGANIZATIONS $10000.

Includes 2 transportation and per diem
$400 set up grant for 2 new organizations

(It is AFPA's intent to charter at least 2 local associations each year. These developing groups need exposure to the experiences of similar organization and experienced organizational leadership information, set up expenses, and on-site support. Already chartered organizations need leadership training, on-site support, and on-going foster parent and leadership training.)

STATEWIDE CONFERENCE $15000.

Includes Brochure and flyers
Rooms & location costs
postage
lunch
childcare
Reception
Speakers transportation
per diem
honorariums
Awards and miscellaneous

AFPA BOARD MEMBERS TRANSPORTATION $ 4400.

quarterly board meetings

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS $ 2000.

Development and distribution to foster parents

OPERATING EXPENSES $ 6570.

Stationery and supplies
Equipment maintenance
Long Distance phone calls
postage
Xerox copies

NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSN. TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

5 Alaska representatives transportation $ 4000.
per diem

REGION X FOSTER FAMILY CARE ASSN. PARTICIPATION 1 representative transportation x 4 per year	$ 1600.
TOTAL BUDGET	$57910.
INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES	$ 9910.
Total Requested contract amount	$48000.

INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES

Conference Registrations	$ 1500.
Other membership dues	$ 500.
Fund Raising	$ 2500.
Donations	$ 500.
In kind service donations	$ 4910.
Total other income	$ 9910.

Alaska Foster Parents Association

P. O. BOX 8651 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

Budget needs not covered under contract request:

AFPA would like to begin in 1984-85 a SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2 scholarships @ $2500. for foster children going on to higher education	$5000. yearl

ONE TIME INVESTMENTS:

Xerox machine with collater	$7500.	
2 typewriters @ $800. each	1600.	
3 file cabinets @ $150. each	450.	
Video equipment	3500.	
Computer with printer	5000.	
TOTAL TANGIBLE GOODS	$18050.	$18050. one t

ONGOING AND GROWING NEED FOR:

Office space and expenses (could be no cost if given space in the former DFYS Staff Development Center and/or DFYS Regional Office)	$12000. yearly
Office Manager/executive director-secretary	$30000. yearly
total needs for the future	$42000. yearly

ALASKA FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION officers and board members serve totally volunteer. There are no salaries, benefits, or reimbursements for personal expenses such as transportation, childcare, or use of personal equipment.

Direct service volunteers donate a minimum of 160 hours weekly plus an additional 40 hours donated by committee and board members.

No portion of the Alaska Foster Parent Association budget goes toward staff salary or employee benefits; all expenditures apply to direct services to foster children, foster families, agencies, and the community.

ATTACHMENT 3

Meeting tonight

Area teens need foster homes

By MARLIN STUM
Staff Writer

Do you like teenagers? Do you remember some of the trouble you got into as a teen? Do you have the time and interest to help raise a young person who does not have caring parents or whose parents are living off the island?

Would you welcome a teenager in your home for a couple of weeks, a month, or even a year? Are you able to set limitations? Can you work with the criminal justice system? Are you afraid of the word "delinquent?"

These are some of the questions one might be asked when applying to become a foster parent.

"We need more foster parents in Kodiak," said Dwight Becker, district juvenile probation supervisor. "Right now we have four foster parents here and I'm supervising about 30 kids." Becker said he hears of an additional 15 juveniles in an average month who may be helped by foster parents.

Becker and Betsy Gerace, regional foster care coordinator from Anchorage, will be meeting with Kodiak foster parents tonight at 7 p.m. in the Kodiak Baptist Mission. The meeting will be held in the lounge area upstairs and anyone interested in the program is invited to attend.

Showing up at this meeting does not in any way obligate a person, said Becker, but it provides a chance to meet foster parents and program coordinators and find out more about the program.

Briefly summarized, a foster parent provides a teenager with temporary care ranging from a couple weeks to several months. These teens have broken some law and need a firm but understanding guardian. Single parents are considered along with couples. Even fishermen traveling to Bristol Bay can be foster parents, said Becker.

The average age of a Kodiak area teen in need of a foster

(Continued on Page 12)

DWIG

Kodiak Daily Mirror 2/23/84

ATTACHMENT 4

BEST OF THE NORTH MERIT AWARD

1983

PRESENTED BY
THE ADVERTISING FEDERATION
OF ALASKA

PUBLIC SERVICE, 2 OR MORE MEDIA

"BIG SHOT"

STATE OF ALASKA, JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICE

HOLDEN-HACKNEY PRODUCTIONS

Linda L Bockever

PRESIDENT

46.0 PURPOSE:

Traditional foster care programs, qualifications, and care payment rates have a tendency to create catch-all foster care services provided by general duty foster parents. Some delinquent youths who are placed in group residential facilities could be cared for, supervised and treated in foster homes if their needs and problems are adequately assessed and they are placed with foster parents who possess the necessary skills, training and support to work successfully with more difficult youths or youths requiring special services.

This program establishes a method of performing individual Level of Difficulty assessments for delinquent youths having mental, emotional and behavioral problems who are in need of nonrelative out-of-home placement.

Those youths placed in foster care will be placed in licensed homes where an evaluation of the foster parents has shown their ability to provide care, supervision and treatment commensurate with the assessed needs of the youths. While providing foster care services for youths with special problems, foster parents will be compensated for the expenses of care by augmenting the standard foster care payment as provided by 7AAC50.730(4)(5) Augmented Rates. These sections provide for payment of augmented foster care rates as compensation for reoccurring damages to the household or the belongings of a foster parent caused by an extraordinary destructive child, and for any other related costs which may be incurred in caring for foster children who have special problems. The Level of Difficulty Assessment is used to identify those youths with special problems and to determine the severity of those problems.

PROCEDURE:

Level of Difficulty Assessment - The Level of Difficulty Assessment tool is designed to identify those youths who, because of delinquent offense records, behavioral problems in combination with medical, emotional, or learning problems require the foster home to provide special services, devote large amounts of time and energy, and deal with special risks to persons or property. The assessment tool measures a group of current and past behaviors, as well as emotional, medical, educational and supervision requirement issues. The assessment factors directly relate to the nature, quality, and quantity of placement services required for a youth and the degree to which care of the youth will result in additional costs incurred by the care provider.

Level I and II placements normally placed in residential care facilities are the primary target group of this program.

When a Probation Officer determines that an out-of-home placement is necessary for a delinquent youth, the referring officer completes a Placement Referral (Attachment A). In a staffing with the officer's Supervisor and a Foster Care Coordinator, the youth's behavior and needs are assessed using the Level of Difficulty Assessment form (Attachment B). Instructions for completing the assessment are contained in Attachment C. A Foster Care Coordinator then scores the form in accordance with a scoring key (Attachment D).

Those youths with a level of difficulty assessment score of 0 to 179 are defined as Level I and are not eligible for this program. Those with a score of 180-259 are Level II and those with a score of 260 and above are Level III. Based on field testing, it is anticipated that approximately 75% of youths in placement will fall into Level I, 20% into Level II and 5% into Level III.

If a youth assessed at Level of Difficulty II or III has been referred and accepted for foster care placement in the Augmented Foster Care Program the Probation Officer will prepare a Request for Augmented Rates and complete an Augmented Foster Care Placement Agreement and Plan at the time of placement.

Level of Difficulty Reassessment - All youths in augmented foster care assessed at Level II and III difficulty will be reassessed at six month intervals and Levels of Difficulty adjusted accordingly. Changes to a higher level must be reviewed by the Probation Supervisor and approved by the Regional Manager. All such reviews will take place in a joint staffing between the foster parent and the Probation Officer. The Foster Care Coordinator may be included.

At 90 day intervals, the Probation Officer will conduct a placement progress staffing and assessment review with the foster parents. The Foster Care Coordinator and biological parents may participate in this staffing. The purposes of the progress staffing and assessment review are to assure that the plan of foster care is addressing the services and behavior problems outlined in the Level of Difficulty Assessment, to review the youth's progress in care and to modify the placement plan if required.

Foster Parent Qualifications, Assessment, and Matching - Foster parents caring for youths in the Augmented Foster Care Program will be selected on the basis of their warmth; sensitivity; child care skills; prior training or experience; tolerance of troubled youth; ability to cooperate with the Division; and willingness to learn and participate in mandatory training, consultation and case staffings. All foster parents must have a current and valid child foster care license with a study and/or assessment completed by the SCRO Foster Care Unit.

In order to be compensated at an augmented rate for youths assessed at Level of Difficulty II, the foster parent(s) must:

1. Have completed basic Foster Parent Training and Orientation provided by the Division or the equivalent; and

2. Be willing and participate in frequent case staffings and attend monthly foster parent meetings for regular on-going training; and

3. Have at least six months experience fostering adolescents with behavior problems, or completed Advanced Foster Parent Training provided by the Division or the equivalent or elsewhere; and

4. Have an average skills assessment rating of 7 or higher.

Foster parents providing care and receiving an augmented rate for a youth assessed Level of Difficulty III, in addition to requirements 1 through 4, must:

5. Be a two-parent foster home with one parent not employed outside the home; and

6. Have provided at least one year of prior foster care for adolescents with behavior problems; and

7. Have completed Advanced Foster Parent Training provided by the Division or the equivalent elsewhere; and

8. Have an average skills assessment rating of 8 or higher.

Foster parent's qualifications and abilities to provide augmented foster care for Level of Difficulty II and III youths will be documented and assessed on a Foster Home Evaluation and Assessment form (Attachment E). The foster home will be assessed jointly by the Regional Foster Home Coordinator(s) and each Probation Officer who has supervised placements in the home. If there are significant differences between the ratings of the Foster Care Coordinator and Probation Officers, a second assessment will be made in a joint staffing between the coordinator and the Probation Officer convened by the Regional Manager.

Foster parents wishing to provide augmented foster care under this program, may complete a self assessment prior to the assessment completed by Division staff. Foster home self assessment will not used for the actual rating. Those assessments will help determine areas of additional training and experience needed by the foster parents.

A home capable of providing augmented foster care for Level of Difficulty II youth may also be used for youths assessed as Level I. A home capable of providing augmented care for Level III may also provide care for Levels II and I.

Expectations of Foster Parents - Foster parents providing care for Level of Difficulty II and III youth will serve as paraprofessional treatment team members. They will work in harmony with the placing Probation Officer and Foster Care Coordinator as well as the natural parents and school personnel.

The foster parents emphasis is on thoroughly understanding the youth, forming a meaningful relationship, working thorough trust problems, building self esteem, providing close supervision and effective discipline, and implementing the treatment plan. The foster parents will be expected to keep clear records of the youth's behavior in the foster home and aid natural parents in developing a supportive home environment so that the youth can eventually return home.

Foster parents providing care for a youth and receiving augmented rate payments under this program will not be eligible to request Special Needs reimbursement for damages or losses under $250 or for hobby or recreational supplies and equipment for the youth. Other special needs categories are not affected. The augmented rate is partially intended to cover the excluded special needs.

Foster Parent Training - All foster parents receiving augmented care rates under this program must have completed "basic foster parent training and orientation." That training shall consist of instruction and review of materials contained in the Foster Home Licensing Regulations and the Division Foster Parent Handbook.

Ongoing training and individual monthly support sessions will be provided by the Foster Care Unit. Group training and support sessions will be held at least quarterly with training topics applicable to foster parenting difficult youths presented at each session. Guest speakers will present information regarding adolescent behavior or foster parenting whenever possible.

The "basic training" requirement can be fulfilled by evidence of completing one of the Division's Foster Home Training and Orientation courses or similar foster parent training provided by another foster care placement agency.

Advanced foster parent training will be provided through the Regional Foster Care Unit. The training will consist of not less than 30 hours and cover topics such as: Treatment team approach, understanding the delinquent personality, crisis intervention, aggressive and assaultive behaviors, sexuality, education planning, runaway, discipline, use of professional resources, working with natural parents, behavior observation, record keeping, legal procedures and separation and loss. Yearly follow-up training workshops and self study materials will also be provided.

Attachment F is an example of an advanced foster parent training curriculum.

The requirement for advanced foster parent training can be waived by the Regional Manager for foster parents who have completed other comparable substitute training. Substitutions could include portions of training received from the Alask Foster Parent Association Annual Conference, Child Welfare League of Ameri . Conferences, National Foster Parent Association Conferences, Division of Mental Health Specialized Foster Parent Training, training by other social service and child placement agencies, and college level courses.

Placement Procedures - Foster home selection shall be based on the needs of the youth, including the Level of Difficulty Assessment and the abilities of the foster parent to meet the identified treatment and supervision needs of the youth.

Following completion of the Level of Difficulty Assessment on a youth referred for augmented foster care placement and selection of an appropriate foster home, a preplacement staffing will be conducted. This staffing will include the youth, the youth's Probation Officer, Foster Care Coordinator, and the prospective foster parents as a minimum. The Probation Supervisor may also participate as well as the youth's parents or guardian if feasible and desirable.

The purpose of this staffing is to formalize the referral to the particular foster home, share pertinent background information, develop the initial treatment plan, and complete the placement agreement. The Placement Agreement and Plan (Attachment G) is modeled after that required by 7AAC50.049 for Residential Care Placements. Preplacement visits may be initiated either before or after this staffing. Other placement procedures required by Youth Services or Regional policies will also be followed.

Limitation on Placements - Care of a Level of Difficulty II or III youth requires expenditure of considerable time and energy by the foster parent(s) and limits the foster parents capability to adequately care for other foster children.

Single foster parents and foster parent couples with both parents working outside the home may provide care and receive augmented payment rates under this program

for youths assessed at Level of Difficulty I and II only. Only foster parent couples with one non-working parent can care for a youth assessed at Level III.

Foster parents providing augmented foster care for Level II or III youths must agree to provide foster care for other youths only when such other placements have been approved by the Division's Regional Manager or designee responsible for placement of the Level II or III youth. The Regional Manager or designee will use the following guidelines to determine if consent for care of other youths should be granted:

- No more than one (1) Level II youth should be placed in a single foster parent home where the foster parent is employed outside the home.
- No more than two (3) Level II youth should be placed with a single foster parent not employed outside the home.
- When a single foster parent is caring for a Level II youth, they should care for no more than two total placements.
- No more than one (1) Level II youth and a total of three (3) youths should be placed in a couple's foster home with both parents working outside the home.
- No more than two (2) Level II or Level III youths and a total of three (3) youths should be placed in a couple's foster home where one parent works outside the home.
- No more than three (3) Level III youths and four (4) youths total should be placed in a home where both parents are available for full time supervision.
- A foster home providing care for Level II or III youths should not accept placements from other agencies or private parties, nor should they care for adult boarder or provide day care.

Rates of Care Payment and Method of Augmentation - Foster parents will be reimbursed for care expenses in accordance with 7AAC50.710 through 840. Augmented rate payments will be made only to qualifying foster parents caring for youth assessed Level of Difficulty II and III. A home providing care for more than one youth, therefore, might receive varying payment rates depending upon the Level of Difficulty for each youth in placement.

For a youth assessed at Level of Difficulty of II, and placed in a qualifying foster home, an augmented foster care payment rate will be made which will equal 200% of the standard foster care rate*($34.32/day-SCRO).

The foster care payment rate for a Level of Difficulty III youth placed in a qualifying foster home may be augmented to equal 300 percent of the standard foster care payment rate*($51.48/day-SCRO).

The foster care payment rate will be implemented through an Augmented Foster Care Rate Request initiated by the placing Probation Officer and approved by the Probation Supervisor, Regional Manager and Division Director or designee. The

Augmented Foster Care Rate Request (Attachment H) shall indicate that the youth has been assessed for Level of Difficulty in accordance with this program and shall have attached a copy of the Level of Difficulty Assessment and the Augmented Foster Care Placement Agreement and Plan. The narrative shall note that the foster home has been evaluated and that the foster parent(s) possess the requisite skills, training, and experience to care for the youth. The Augmented Rate Request with attached documents will be routed through supervisory channels for approval and issuance an Augmented Rate Authorization and Invoice (A&I).

An augmented rate authorization under this program will be approved for a period of six months. The Augmented Rate Request may be renewed at six month intervals upon approval of another Augmented Rate Request. Level of Difficulty reassessments and a review of the placement plan will be made before augmented rates are renewed.

Evaluation - The purpose of this augmented rate program is to provide placement and care for youths having special problems in foster home which are equipped to provide the special care they need and to decrease the utilization of more expensive residential care placements.

A data base of placement utilization by region has been established over the last two fiscal years. Rates of foster care utilization and residential care placement utilization will continue to be documented. Successful implementation of this program will be demonstrated by an increase in foster care placement and decrease in residential care placement during the time of implementation as compared to similar time periods in prior years.

Each week the Regional Administrator will provide a report to the Youth Services Administrator documenting the number of youths in foster care and the number of youths in residential care. At six month intervals the Regional Administrator shall compare those placement rates to prior years and submit a report to the Youth Services Administrator.

Richard Illias, Regional Manager - SCRO

February 1984
Date

* FY84 Rate Table

Attachments: Placement Referral (A)
Level of Difficulty Assessment Form (B)
Instructions for Completing the Assessment (C)
Foster Home Evaluation & Assessment (E)
Placement Agreement and Plan (G)
Request for Augmented Foster Care Rates (H)

DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE PLACEMENT LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY ASSESSMENT FORM

The Placement Level of Difficulty Assessment Form is designed to give us information concerning the special problems, treatment needs, and behavioral problems of a youth being placed in foster care. The supervision requirements, treatment needs, and behaviors provide a quantitative measure of how difficult the youth will be to care for in placement. It will serve as assessment documentation for any Augmented Rate Request submitted for the Augmented Foster Care Program. The initial assessment is to be completed by the youth's Probation Officer and the officer's supervisor at the time a referral for placement is made.

There are two pages to this assessment. Page 1 documents special problems, case plan services which the foster parent is expected to provide and the degree of supervision needed by the youth. All the information contained on Page 1 should be based on your evaluation of the youth at the time of assessment. Page 2, Manifest Rating Scale, is used to document significant behavioral history.

In the area on page 1 marked SPECIAL PROBLEMS, note any listed problems which apply at the time of assessment. For each item marked "yes", a comment must be made in the verified block noting the document and date. The case file must contain an adequate verifying document for each special problem. For example, EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE must be documented by a recent psychological or psychiatric report, RETARDATION by psychological report or school records, LEARNING DISABILITY by an IEP, DELINQUENCY by an adjudication order, PREGNANCY by a medical report and MEDICAL DISABILITY by a medical report or history. Medical Disability means a chronic, life threatening condition such as epilepsy, diabetes, leukemia.

In the CASE PLAN SERVICES area, note in the appropriate column the frequency of effort by the care provider required for each listed item at the time of assessment.

The SUPERVISION LEVEL area has definitions on the assessment form. Circle the most appropriate.

The MANIFEST BEHAVIOR RATING SCALE on Page 2 is divided into two sections - Behavior Problems (A) and (B).

The behavior items in Section A are those which require special skills by the care giver and have been evident in the six months immediately proceeding the assessment.

The behaviors in Section B are those which subject the foster parent, other members of the family and the youth to serious risks of persons or property and are a part of the youth's total behavioral history. Caring for youths with those problems requires exceptional judgement, skill, and supervision by the care giver.

For each behavior type listed, place an X in the column which best describes the frequency of that behavior during the last six months for Section A and total history for Section B.

None (0) indicates that the youth has not exhibited or given any indication of exhibiting the behavior. Mild (1-3) indicates that the youth has not exhibited the behavior, but has given some indication, verbal or physical of exhibiting the behavior. Moderate (4- 6) indicates that the youth has exhibited the behavior at least once. Serious (7-9) is marked for a youth who has exhibited the behavior more than twice. Very Serious (10) indicates that the youth continuously exhibited the behavior.

The adjective "serious" next to several items in Section B refers to value of loss to the frequency of incidents.

PLACEMENT LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY ASSESSMENT Date Assessed:_____

NAME_____ Worker Initials_____ Supvs. Initials_____

CASE NO._____ Raw Score_____ Adjusted Score_____ Level_____

SPECIAL PROBLEMS

DELINQUENCY YES___ NO_____ VERIFIED_____

MEDICAL DISABILITY YES___ NO_____ VERIFIED_____

EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE YES___ NO_____ VERIFIED_____

RETARDATION YES___ NO_____ VERIFIED_____

LEARNING DISABILITY YES___ NO_____ VERIFIED_____

PREGNANCY YES___ NO_____ VERIFIED_____

CASE PLAN SERVICES Provided by Care Giver	Once a Month MINIMAL		2 X a Month AVERAGE			Weekly ABOVE AVERAGE				Daily EXTENSIVE	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NATURAL PARENT INVOLVEMENT											
SCHOOL COORDINATION											
TRANSPORTATION											
TUTORING OF SOC. AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS											
COUNSELING OF ACTING OUT BEHAVIOR											
PERSONAL HYGIENE COUNSELING											

SUPERVISION LEVEL	MINIMAL			AVERAGE			ABOVE AVERAGE			EXTENSIVE	
(Circle one)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- -

Supervision level definitions:

MINIMAL - Knows general whereabouts of child (emancipation process).

AVERAGE - Occasional monitoring (knows whereabouts of child and activities generally.

ABOVE AVERAGE - Needs consistent monitoring (checking of whereabouts/activities).

EXTENSIVE - Needs consistent and constant direct sight supervision.

- -

Page 1 Score_____

REVIEWED AND APPROVED: Reg. Manager's Initials _____ Date_____

PLACEMENT LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY ASSESSMENT
Manifest Behavior Rating Scale

BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS(A)	None 0	1	Mild 2	3	Moderate 4	5	6	Serious 7	8	9	Very Serious 10	Raw Score	Adj. Score
OPPOSITION TO HOME RULES													
TRUANCY													
RUNAWAY													
LYING													
SEXUALLY ACTIVE													
DRUG ABUSE													
ALCOHOL ABUSE													
MANIPULATION													
PETTY THEFT IN HOME													
VERBAL ABUSE													
HOMOSEXUALITY													
PROSTITUTION													
SELF MUTILATION													
CARELESSNESS W/PROPERTY													
BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS (B)													
ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR													
CHILD MOLESTATION													
PROPERTY DAMAGE (Serious)													
FIRE SETTING													
THEFT IN THE HOME (Serious)													
CRUELTY TO PETS													
SUICIDAL													
											Total page 2		
											Total page 1		
											TOTAL BOTH PAGES		

RATING SCALE DEFINITIONS

None - Has not exhibited or given any indication of exhibiting behavior.
Mild - Has never exhibited behavior but has given some verbal/physical indication of doing so.
Moderate - Has exhibited behavior at least once.
Serious - Has exhibited behavior more than twice.
Very serious - Continuously exhibits behavior.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES
AUGMENTED FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT AGREEMENT AND PLAN

Date:_____

Foster Home:_____ License No._____

Youth's Name:_____ Case No._____

We, the undersigned, agree that _____ will be placed in

the _____ foster home on _____198__. We understand that the youth has been initially assessed as requiring special care. We promise to do everything possible to help the youth and the youth's family to make this a successful experience. The foster parent(s) have read the findings of the youth's Level of Difficulty Assessment and agree to provide supervision and foster care services in conformance with Alaska Administrative Code Child Foster Home regulations 7AAC 50.310-.620 to meet the youth's identified needs and problems. The foster parents agree to participate in regular case review staffings with the placing worker, Foster Care Coordinator, youth and youth's parents to evaluate progress and review or modify the case plan. The foster parents also agree to attend regularly scheduled foster parent training meetings provided by the Division. This agreement and plan will be reviewed every three months to revise and/or evaluate progress on the plan.

The placing worker has provided the foster parents with all available and appropriate information on the background and needs of the youth necessary for effective care. The foster parents agree to respect that information about the youth, his/her family and keep it confidential except when disclosure is authorized by the Division. The foster parents agree to safeguard and maintain the youth's medical and school records and keep legible and accurate chronological log notes or journal entries concerning the youths behavior and progress while in foster care which will be shared with the placing worker.

The placing worker will immediately prepare and submit a Request for Augmented Care Rates. We understand that approval of an augmented rate of payment expires after six months but may be renewed. When an augmented rate is paid for a youth under the Augmented Foster Care Program for Youth With Special Behavior and Emotional Problems, the foster parents understand that they will not be eligible to claim Special Needs reimbursement for damages or loss under $250, or for hobby/recreational supplies and equipment for the foster child.

The foster parents agree not to provide foster care for other youth without specific consent of the Division of Family & Youth Services office which has made this placement.

The foster parents and the placing worker mutually agree to give each other at least five days notice if they believe that it is in the best interests of the youth or the foster parents for the youth to be discharged prior to the agreed-upon date.

The following are the agreed-upon initial placement plans:

ISSUE	PLAN	DUE DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
SCHOOL:			
Enrollment- Attendance- Problems-			

06-3469; GEN. # 70 Rev. 2/84

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES
PLACEMENT REFERRAL

NAME_____ DOB_____ RACE____ REFERRAL DATE_____

DATE NEEDED_____ CT. DATE_____ PRESENTLY AT_____

REASON FOR PLACEMENT_____

EST. LENGTH OF
PLACEMENT_____ SCHOOL_____ GRADE_____

SCHOOL STATUS_____ SPECIAL ED ( ) YES ( ) NO

DELINQUENT BACKGROUND: (LIST ALL OFFENSES)_____

_____

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS: ( ) YES ( ) NO EXPLAIN:_____

PLACEMENT PREFERENCE: ( ) RES. CARE (NAME) _____

( ) FOSH STANDARD ( ) FOSH EMERGENCY

COMMENTS:_____

WORKER NAME:_____ SUPV. APPROVAL _____ OUT OF DISTRICT APPROVAL_____

- -

OUTCOME OF REFERRAL FOR FOSTER CARE

LEVEL OF CARE ASSESSMENT: RAW SCORE_____ ADJUSTED SCORE_____

ASSESSMENT LEVEL _____ RM APPROVAL _____

PLACEMENT VISITS STARTED AT:_____ HOME: ON:_____

PLACED AT_____ HOME: ON_____

RIGHT TYPE OF HOME ( ) SEX ( ) AGE ( ) RACE ( ) RELIGION ( ) EMERGENCY
NOT AVAILABLE

( ) NO FOSTER HOME AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY
( ) SPECIAL FOSTER HOME BEING RECRUITED
( ) REFERRAL WITHDRAWN
( ) REFERRAL REJECTED - CASE TRANSFER PROCEDURES NOT FOLLOWED
( ) YOUTH NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ANY FOSTER HOME

NOTES

_____

_____

_____

Foster Home Coordinator_____ Date_____

06-3464; Gen. #67 (7/83)

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Family and Youth Services

Request for Augmented
Foster Care Rates

Region Code _____

_____ Name of Child

_____ Case No. (Form 1 Green)

_____ Foster Home

_____ Facility No. (Form 1 Blue)

Approval is requested for an augmented foster care rate for the above name child.
Condition Justifying Augmentation (Describe briefly):

Categories of Need:
(Specify type, i.e. transportation, diet, clothing, equipment, other; List details, frequency and cost):

___ Approved

___ Not Approved
Reason:

_____ DFYS Worker _____ Date

_____ DFYS Supervisor _____ Date

_____ RSSM/RA _____ Date _____ Director _____ Date

06-3667; CWS. #142 Rev. 7/83

AUGMENTED FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT AGREEMENT AND PLAN

Youth's Name:_____ Date:_____

ISSUE	PLAN	DUE DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
EMPLOYMENT: Obtaining- Problems- Soc. Sec. #-			
CLOTHING: Inventory- Initial- Upkeep- Payment Resp.-			
MEDICAL: Phys. Exam- Dental Exam- On-going Care- Payment Resp.-			
OUT-PATIENT: Testing- Counseling- T.A.S.C- Payment Resp.-			
FINANCIAL: Restitution- Savings- Allowance-			
TRANSPORTATION: Daily (school/job)- Appointments- Drivers Lic/Insur.-			

MEMORANDUM State of Alaska

TO: Robert London Smith, Commissioner
Department of Health & Social Services

DATE: February 17, 1984

FILE NO.

THRU: John R. Pugh
Deputy Commissioner

TELEPHONE NO.

FROM: Michael M. Price, Director
Division of Family & Youth Services

SUBJECT: Foster Care Activity Report

The January Activity report for the special subject foster care is in three sections: Statewide Progress, Social Services Regional Activity and Youth Services Regional Activity.

STATEWIDE PROGRESS

Significant progress was made during January by the central office task force on foster care issues. In preparation for addressing foster care issues with the legislature and in carrying out the goals of improving foster care under the Commissioner's designation of foster care as a special subject, two sets of two volume notebooks were prepared. All key data currently available on foster care issues in Alaska was assembled. These notebooks will contain short and long range planning and progress. (See Table of Contents Attachment #1). During the preparation of the notebooks, the central office task force was requested to prepare an analysis of the most recent Alaska Foster Parent Association publication titled, "Problems and Recommendations". In reviewing the document, task force members recognized that there was repetition from other Alaska Foster Parent Association publications and the Legislative Audit on Foster Care. It was decided a total approach to resolving foster care issues was needed. As an interim measure, in order to respond to legislative questions, a one page fact sheet on foster care was prepared (Attachment #2). Forty-three foster care issues were then identified as being addressed or needing to be addressed by the Division. (Refer to the Issue Section of the Table of Contents, Attachment #1.) A format for clarifying issues and planning was designed (Attachment #3). Work on the 43 issue resolution plans was begun and will continue through the month of February. Issue resolution planning will involve designating specific staff to work on resolving each issue and to develop time lines. Regional Managers and Administrators will be asked to revise regional foster care plans to address identified foster care issues. A format for the monthly foster care activity report will be implemented which will require reporting progress on identified issues. It is anticipated that up to two years may be required to fully resolve all foster care issues. Given the magnitude of the foster care system and the time lines needed to effect long range change, a comprehensive approach is required and will be implemented.

SOCIAL SERVICE REGIONAL ACTIVITY

Special foster care activities were reported from the following social service regions.

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

Anchorage Service Unit:

The January Foster Parent Orientation had nine family units (14 people) present. One evening preservice training was begun by Janell Fernadez with eleven family (16 people) units starting the training. Two family units, both single parents, have withdrawn to date. The begin date was 1/11/84.

Pam Montogmery began a day-time preservice training (a first) to accommodate shift and slope workers. This training group is meeting each Tuesday and Thursday for five sessions from 2-4 p.m. and five family units are enrolled. The begin date was 1/31/84.

Both foster care licensing workers have also been involved in committee meeting with foster parents on Fur Rendezvous and State conference planning. Brochures are being printed for the Fur Rondy Booth as recruitment effort, and social workers are volunteering off duty time to help staff the booth with foster parents and Parent Training Center (PTC) personnel.

Janell Fernandez and Ann Sponholz, PTC, appeared on the "Good Morning Alaska" TV program in January to address recruitment for teen homes and support systems for foster parents.

Bettye Davis, Foster Care Coordinator, negotiated 26 placements during the month. Foster homes are being sought for 26 other adolescents who are presently residing in emergency shelter or residential care facilities. Bettye, Anchorage supervisors, and Frank Dalley, met weekly to discuss teenage placement needs. Advertisements were placed in the Anchorage Times and Anchorage Daily News for "Teen Foster Homes" on 1/22 and 1/28-30.

An issue that has taken much time in problem-solving is the ASU after hours on call system. Meetings with the Foster Parent Association and other concerned community leaders have been held to address the on call issue. Currently two workers have been assigned to cover the on call system with back-up by supervisors Anita Stevens and Dolly Coke. The system appears to be working at present and continuing efforts to improve the system are in effect. The foster parents concern for late afternoon parental visits has been addressed by the supervisor of the alternative care unit, Jan Ottenfeld. Foster parents have been assured that workers can and will flex their working hours to accommodate such visits, when arranged in advance and clearly appropriate to the case plan.

Dolly Coke, Anita Stevens and Frank Dalley met regularly with members of the Foster Parent Association to discuss mutual issues and solutions. Open communication with the Foster Parent Association has generated improvement in the relationship with ASU and foster parents; and there is a spirit of unity in the goals of service to children expressed by both groups. Gaps in agreement on certain issues such as foster parents sharing an equal role in the treatment of children and in the development of case plans will exist, but foster parents are being utilized in better roles than in the past and are routinely being asked to add their observations of children's behavior when case plans are being developed.

Mat-Su Activities:

NOVA training for new foster parents began January 12th and will end February 16th. The sessions which meet 7-9 on Thursday evenings have had three to seven people in attendance. Monday afternoons are used as planning sessions for NOVA parents with Helena Whitstine and Pat Carrier, Anchorage foster parents, participating.

Foster parents are pursuing ideas about the coming Alaska State Fair during late August. They are raising money for the deposit deadline in February.

Field Offices:

The field offices had a higher than normal level of licensing activity during this month with a total of 35 actions involving foster homes.

Craig Fitzgerald of Kenai, conducted a community School sponsored meeting on foster care which was attended by five individuals. Barbara Smith, Social Services Associate in McGrath, wrote a small article on the need for foster homes, which will run in the Kusko-Courier for three weeks. Field Supervisor Betty Davis distributed data on three adolescents, one from St. Paul Island, one from Cordova and one from Valdez, to the Anchorage and Mat-Su offices, as well as to other Field Offices, requesting consideration for foster home placements. The three require more structured settings than are available in the local communities, and all require treatment not available locally, as two are sexual abuse victims and the third requires access to ANMC medical/dental care. No responses were received.

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

January has been an active month for staff. The register to fill the recently approved (1/19/84) licensing position in Fairbanks has been called for and it is hoped that it will be filled in February. That will certainly ease the licensing load in the region - which currently is about enough for four staff and there are only two.

One issue which is impacting operations is the rising tide of interest in tribal sovereignity. The area of direct impact is ICWA. A suit was filed in federal court this month in behalf of the village of Stevens. The council, acting as a tribal government, removed a child from the care of the parents and placed the child in a foster home. The Division was asked to pick up the payments and refused. There are a substantial number of unresolved legal issues involved in this. Is Stevens a government? If so, what is it's relation to the State (especially to DFYS)? If not, what recourse do the affected parties have? Can they obligate state agencies for expenditures...and so on? The hearing has not been calendared. The A.G.'s office in Fairbanks will probably handle the case. The basics of State/tribal relations will need to be addressed by the administration, legislature and the Congress. The Fairbanks office is continuing to suggest that the non-profits, which usually act as the service arm to councils apply for funding from various sources. This was one of the regional priorities in the RFP for preventive service grants.

They had a foster child molested by a foster parent. It was an exceptional occurrence in that it is not common, but the response to the report went "by the book" and was handled very well.

The Brower application for a foster home license in Barrow was denied and no hearing was requested. Subsequent to the denial, Mr. Brower was indicted on several counts for sexually molesting youth in Barrow.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

The community care specialist in the Ketchikan office is particulary overloaded. To allow more time for foster care, residential and day care center licensing, day care home licensing has been transferred to another worker.

Regarding the foster parent support contracts, the regional manager would like to see these services provided by Division workers rather than a contractor. At the time the Division entered into these contracts, it did not have adequate staff to supply necessary support to foster parents. It still does not, and the contractor in Ketchikan has done a good job. However, with an additional position in Juneau and one in Ketchikan, DFYS could provide those services without the conflicts/confusion that occasionally arise.

When the former director of Ketchikan Children's Home closed their intensive treatment unit (licensed to serve five emotionally disturbed children ages 8-13 at $156/day) the Ketchikan office worked with their former staff and a local church to open a foster home for such children at augmented foster care rates, to provide the same service at less cost to the state. The program seems to be working very well.

The Division is short on institutional and foster care funds and is only placing children where it is absolutely necessary.

Much January activity centered around getting ready for the Foster Parent conference on February 24th and 25th with Robert VanCleave as the keynote speaker.

YOUTH SERVICES REGIONAL ACTIVITY

Special foster care activities were reported from the following youth service regions.

SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

The foster care budget will have a balance, but not nearly as much as central office staff initially believed.

The Augmented Foster Care program is getting off the ground. At the end of the month, six youths were participating in the Augmented Foster Care program. Two youths terminated the project in January. Based in experience so far, the region has made a number of changes in the written procedures. These mostly involve changes in the level of difficulty, assessment and classification.

Jack Hansen and Betsy Gerace have agreed to co-lead a two hour training session at the Alaska Foster Parent Association conference in March. The training topic will be delinquency and discipline.

At the request of the Southeast region, Betsy Gerace spent three days in Juneau training the new youth services foster care coordinator and the social services foster home licenser in licensing procedures.

Foster parent recruitment has not been as productive as we had hoped so far this year. In addition to the public relations problems caused by negative press articles, the regional foster care unit has not been as aggressive at recruiting activities as hoped. Jack Hansen is currently on a one month annual leave and Betsy is overloaded work. We still have several foster parent training activities to plan and conduct, including a one week augmented foster care training session and a three day basic foster care training program.

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

During the month of January, 1984, they served thirty-three children in foster homes. Youth Services currently has twenty-six foster homes licensed and has licensed ten Family Focus homes. Nine foster homes licensed by Family Services were utilized during the month.

Youth Services handled eight payment complaints from Alternative Care providers. One new foster home license was issued with four foster home applications currently being processed.

A public service announcement was placed in the local newspapers addressing our need for teenage foster homes. This was through coordination with Family Services.

Youth Services was represented at the monthly Foster Parents Association meeting and was also involved in the planning of the upcoming Foster Parents Conference.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

Foster Care continues to be a problem with only four foster homes in use for the region. A new foster home coordinator has been appointed, Greg Roth, and they will be addressing the recruitment and placement problems.

January was a full month for the new Regional Alternative Care Coordinator. Training included a full day with Pat O'Brien from Central Office, reviewing licensing regulations and forms. An additional three days field work, home study and organizational training was provided by Foster Care Coordinator, Betsy Gerace, from Anchorage. The remainder of the month focused on visiting foster homes and attempting to bring current as many licenses in the region as possible. Considerable work remains to be done in this area.

It should be noted that the training during the month considerably enhanced the speed and accuracy with which licenses could be issued or renewed. Licensing travel to Haines and Sitka is planned for the up-coming month of February.

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Department of Health and Social Services
FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Division should improve relations with foster parents.
- The Division should review policy and monitor field operations.
- Executive and Legislative support should be given to the Division in developing new levels of foster care.
- The Division should revise its management information system and improve case documentation by social workers.
- The Division should establish standards for determining parental support payments.

DEPARTMENT ACTION

- Commissioner Smith designated the foster care program as a "Special Subject" requiring monthly reports until significant problems are resolved.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Emergency procedures for early and rapid payment to foster parents.
- Anchorage twenty-four hour social workers on duty for emergencies.
- Foster Parent Handbook distributed.
- Support contracts which enhance relationships with foster parents, reduce turnover and prevent multiple child placements.
- Contract let to license Native foster homes in 7 communities.
- Training of all Division licensing staff in complaint investigations.
- Production of an improved automated payment system.
- Designation of central office staff to work with the Alaska Foster Parent Association in identifying needed policy improvements.
- Reorganization to give regional managers more authority and accountability for ensuring policy is followed.
- Initiation of a specialized foster care "pilot project" in Southcentral Alaska.
- Task force formulation of recommendations to improve regulations and complaint investigations.
- Orientation and training of foster parents.

ONGOING PLANS

- Regional Councils are being established in the Southcentral and Northern Regions of the Division to channel community and foster parent concerns.
- A central office monitoring team will be hired by January 30, 1984.
- A central office task force has designated forty foster care issues to be addressed in a systematic manner.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

- Department response to the audit was assessed by audit supervisor, Keith Busch, before LB&A in September as one of the best responses of his experience.
- Later, before House HESS, he informed committee members that reports of Division activity demonstrate considerable progress toward meeting the concerns of the audit, but it is too soon to fully evaluate progress.
- The Division will assess progress monthly on the forty identified issues.

FC ISSUE RESOLUTION PLAN

1) Issue Clarification

* Who i.d. it as an issue? Document?
* Perspective(s)
    - FP Assoc.
    - Audit
    - F & YS
* Statewide or Local
* Significant, Moderate Importance, Minor

2) Committments

* Response to Legis. Audit
* Briefing Paper
* To Commissioner
* To FP Assoc.
* Still appropriate? Time lines realistic.
* Is there a better response

3) Progress Made

* What has been done? Reference, Briefing and no. of spec. project reports.
* Policy Improvement Done?
* Implementation Done?
* Inpletation known?
* Resolved adequately?

4) Planning

* What yet remains to be done?
* Plan, if any, or state plan needs to be developed.
* Who is assigned
* Time frames if feasible