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4/16/87 Received after
bill R/o of
committee

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: CS SB 169

Publish Date: _____

Revision Date: _____

Title: An Act relating to the
training of foster parents.

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services

BRU: Child and Youth Custody

Sponsor: Fischer

Components: Foster Care

Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

n/a

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director

Phone: 465-3170

Division: Division of Family and Youth Services

Date: 4/9/87

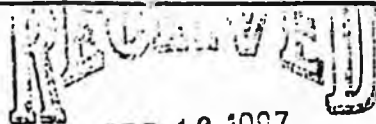
Approved by Commissioner: Myra M. Munson, Commissioner

Date: 4/15/87

Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary



APR 16 1987

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE

POSITION PAPER

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 169

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

The Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS), within the Department of Health and Social Services, has primary responsibility for foster placements. On June 30, 1986, there were 738 children in foster care and 948 state licensed foster homes.

The Division is very supportive of foster parent training. Placement in out-of-home care is, unfortunately, a reality for many of Alaska's children, and if they are to receive not only the food, shelter and nurturance that they need, but an environment which will assist them in meeting their own special needs, training for foster parents is not only important, but essential.

The goal of foster parent training is to increase knowledge, and enhance skills of foster parents to work with children who usually enter foster care with a number of emotional and behavioral disturbances. These children often require specialized skills and foster parents, as significant participants in the child welfare service delivery system, are better equipped to participate as an active member of the service team when appropriately trained. In addition, national studies in other states have shown that foster parent retention is significantly lengthened when foster parents receive appropriate training.

There is no simple formula for determining who has the greatest need and the Department is supportive of a requirement of a minimal level of training which will be required of all foster parents. The Division of Family and Youth Services is presently developing foster care regulations which will be ready for public hearing by July 1, 1987. All foster parents statewide will receive a copy of the proposed regulations and will have the opportunity to comment on the appropriateness and feasibility of training requirements, especially in rural locations. Through regulations, levels of training for different types of care and different geographical areas of the State can be established.

RECOMMENDED:

Yvonne M. Chase
Yvonne M. Chase, Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

DATE:

April 10, 1987

APPROVED:

Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

DATE:

April 15, 1987

RD Sje 4/16/87

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: CSSB No. 169 (HESS)
Publish Date: _____

REQUEST: _____

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Title: An Act relating to the
training of foster parents.

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
BRU: Child and Youth Custody

Sponsor: _____

Components: Foster Care

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TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

n/a

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director
Division: Division of Family and Youth Services

Phone: 465-3170
Date: 03/23/87

Approved by Commissioner: Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Date: 3/24/87

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

RECEIVED

MAR 24 1987

Page 1 of 1

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER:

3/24/87

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 4/16/87

Mr. President:

FINANCE

Committee considered SB 169

training of foster parents.

and recommended:

^{ADOPT} replace with CS FOR SB 169 (HESS) same title
 or adopt _____ CS FOR _____ new title

attached amendment(s) and

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

letter of intent adopted _____

Committee attached or adopted fiscal note(s)

new updated or previous
 zero fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Paul Fisher
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

[Signature] DO PASS
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup Attached

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

Bill Version: CSSB No. 169 (HESS)
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TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

n/a

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director *YMC* Phone: 465-3170
Division: Division of Family and Youth Services Date: 03/23/87

Approved by Commissioner: Mvra M. Munson *Mvra M. Munson* Date: 3/24/87
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

RECEIVED
MAR 24 1987

page 1 of 1

Original sponsor: Fischer

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 169 (HESS)

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 47.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 Sec. 47.35.035. FOSTER PARENT TRAINING. (a) A person may not
10 be licensed under this chapter to maintain or conduct a foster home
11 unless the person has completed an orientation for foster parents
12 approved by the department. An orientation required under this sub-
13 section must provide information about foster care regulations, poli-
14 cies, and procedures, practical instruction about the realities of
15 caring for a child who is placed in a foster home, and other appro-
16 priate information.

17 (b) To maintain a license issued under this chapter for the
18 maintenance or conduct of a foster home, a licensee shall complete
19 annual foster parent training approved by the department. Training
20 under this subsection need not be conducted in a classroom setting,
21 but must include methods of instruction that meet the varying needs of
22 foster parents and the department.

23 (c) The requirements for training under this section may not be
24 waived.

25 * Sec. 2. AS 47.35.040(c) is amended to read:

26 (c) Except as provided in AS 47.35.035, the [THE] department may
27 waive compliance with a standard set out in regulations adopted under
28 AS 47.35.010 - 47.35.080 if an acceptable alternative is established
29 that meets the purpose of the provision and reasonably assures the

1 well-being of persons in care.

2 * Sec. 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of AS 47.35.035, as enacted by
3 sec. 1 of this Act, and AS 47.35.040(c), as amended by sec. 2 of this Act,
4 a licensee shall be considered to have completed annual training if the
5 licensee completes the training during either fiscal year 1988 or fiscal
6 year 1989. The Department of Health and Social Services may schedule
7 training so that approximately one-half of licensees receive training
8 during each of the fiscal years 1988 and 1989.

POSITION PAPER

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 169

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

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The Division is very supportive of foster parent training. Placement in out-of-home care is, unfortunately, a reality for many of Alaska's children, and if they are to receive not only the food, shelter and nurturance that they need, but an environment which will assist them in meeting their own special needs, training for foster parents is not only important, but essential.

The goal of foster parent training is to increase knowledge, and enhance skills of foster parents to work with children who usually enter foster care with a number of emotional and behavioral disturbances. These children often require specialized skills and foster parents, as significant participants in the child welfare service delivery system, are better equipped to participate as an active member of the service team when appropriately trained. In addition, national studies in other states have shown that foster parent retention is significantly lengthened when foster parents receive appropriate training.

There is no simple formula for determining who has the greatest need and the Department is supportive of a requirement of a minimal level of training which will be required of all foster parents. The Division of Family and Youth Services is presently developing foster care regulations which will be ready for public hearing by July 1, 1987. All foster parents statewide will receive a copy of the proposed regulations and will have the opportunity to comment on the appropriateness and feasibility of training requirements, especially in rural locations. Through regulations, levels of training for different types of care and different geographical areas of the State can be established.

RECOMMENDED:

Yvonne M. Chase
Yvonne M. Chase, Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

DATE:

April 10, 1987

APPROVED:

Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

DATE:

April 15, 1987

1 IN THE SENATE

BY FISCHER

2

SENATE BILL NO. 169

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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9 Sec. 47.35.035. FOSTER PARENT TRAINING. (a) A person may not
10 be licensed under this chapter to maintain or conduct a foster home
11 unless the person has completed an orientation for foster parents
12 approved by the department. An orientation required under this sub-
13 section must provide information about foster care regulations, poli-
14 cies, and procedures, practical instruction about the realities of
15 caring for a child who is placed in a foster home, and other appro-
16 priate information.

17 (b) To maintain a license issued under this chapter for the
18 maintenance or conduct of a foster home, a licensee shall complete
19 annual foster parent training approved by the department. Each adult
20 in a foster home shall complete at least 5 hours of annual training
21 under this subsection, and each foster care family shall complete a
22 total of at least 15 hours of annual training. Training under this
23 subsection need not be conducted in a classroom setting, but must
24 include methods of instruction that meet the varying needs of foster
25 parents and the department.

26 (c) The requirements for training under this section may not be
27 waived.

28 * Sec. 2. AS 47.35.040(c) is amended to read:

29 (c) Except as provided in AS 47.35.035, the [THE] department may

1 waive compliance with a standard set out in regulations adopted under
2 AS 47.35.010 - 47.35.080 if an acceptable alternative is established
3 that meets the purpose of the provision and reasonably assures the
4 well-being of persons in care.

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

Date of 3/11/87 5-DAY NOTICE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIFORM RULE 23

FURTHER: FINANCE

**FISCAL NOTE(S) ATTACHED 1 **
IN ACCORDANCE WITH AS 24.08.035
(see below)

3/9/87 DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 3/23/87
Mr. President:

HESS Committee considered SB 169

training of foster parents.

and recommended:

replace with CS SB 169 (HESS) same title
 attached amendment(s) and new title

majority
 do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

letter of intent adopted and attached

** Committee attached or adopted fiscal note(s)
 zero fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

[Signature]
[Signature]

Paul Frick Do Pass
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup Attached

Alaska State Legislature



Senator Paul A. Fischer
Senate District D
Box 784
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 262-9420 W
262-9269 H

While in Juneau
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3791

State Senate

To: Senators John Binkley & Don Bennett, Co-Chairmen
Senate Finance Committee

From: Senator Paul Fischer *PF*

Subject: SB 169, Foster Parent Training

Date: April 13, 1987

SB 169 would require potential foster parents to undergo training approved by the department before they are issued a license to run a foster home.

Many foster parents apply for licensing with the department hoping to contribute and help children in need of a stable home environment. Many of them are unaware of the time, commitment and potential problems both the foster child and the Division of Family & Youth Services might impose upon them.

It has been well established that foster parents who know what they are getting into are much more likely to go the distance without "burning out" due to the unanticipated trials and tribulations of foster care. Unanticipated burn-outs are very disruptive for both the child and the foster parents.

The subjects of such training might include:

- legalities and liabilities of foster care,
- often present problems of foster children, and
- services and role of DFYS.

Foster care is the most cost effective and practical care available for displaced children. The only other alternative is some type of institutional care which does not provide same nurturing of a home environment not to mention the prohibitive expense.

Attached please find a more detailed description of the courses content.



Alaska Foster Parents Association

P. O. BOX 8651 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

January 1985

MANDATORY TRAINING FOR FOSTER PARENTS



PROBLEM: Prospective foster parents are being licensed and receiving children/youth without understanding the unique problems and care needed by children/youth in foster care; understanding the foster care system with its regulations and policies that affect the every day life of the foster parent and children; or a real commitment to the realities of foster care.

Children/youth who are in foster care have unique problems not usually encountered by the raising of your own children because of the life situations resulting in their placement in foster care. Their attitudes, ideas, development level (including emotional and educational, as well as physical), concepts of the world are impaired. They are from neglective, abusive, alcoholic, manipulative situations--disfunctional families. Foster parents need the knowledge to be able to deal with situations, feelings, and concepts the average parent will never encounter.

Since children/youth in foster care are in the custody of the Division of Family & Youth Services, or private agencies, foster parents must operate their families according to the laws, regulations, policies and procedures of the state plus coordinate their dealings with the youth with the social worker.

Foster parents "burn-out" quickly in the realities of dealing with disfunctional families and their children if they are not very prepared in what to expect and how to deal with those situations. If a foster family quit a child/youth must be moved, or the family finds they cannot deal with certain situations that are common to foster children/youth. If agency policies are not known or understood foster families "give up" or are eased out of the system--again to the detriment of children/youth.

RECOMMENDATION: The Division of Family & Youth Services is contemplating adding foster care training to regulations, but we feel it must have the force of a law change to insure inclusion.

The law (bill) should include 3 factors:

1. Initial training before licensing including all pertinent information on agency policies, what to expect from children, and well rounded information on "What is Foster Parenting".
2. Ongoing training with a minimum of 15 hours per family--5 minimum per adult.
3. Inability to be waived for certain families or locations.

ATTACHMENTS: Similar recommendation to the Division of Family & Youth Service from the 1977-78 Foster Family Care Task Force.
Expanded recommendation with specific topics of training

Add to Foster Care regulations:

- (1) Prospective foster parents shall attend pre-licensing training. This training should contain the following information:
 - a. What is Foster Parenting
Emergency, short and long term care
Why and how children arrive in Foster care
How Foster children differ from natural children
 - b. How children react to placement
Separation issues
 - c. Agency expectations
Roles, rights and responsibilities of:
Social workers
Placement agency
Foster parents
 - d. Natural parents
Visitations
Feelings and attitudes
Parental rights
 - e. Legal issues
Legal status of child/youth
Juvenile judges and Guardian ad Litem
Foster parent legal issues:
Placement and Licensing appeals
Foster parent Bill of Rights
 - f. Placement issues
Information needed at placement:
Medical release
Medicaid coupons
Clothing vouchers
Billing authorizations
Emergency placements
Foster parent stipend:
Philosophy and use
 - g. Discipline
 - h. Licensing procedure
Application
Standard by standard
Home visit
Foster parent handbook
- (2) To remain licensed, foster care givers must acquire a minimum of 15 hours of on-going training relating to foster care; to be shared between the adult care givers with a minimum of 5 hours for each adult. This training may be acquired through:
 - a. local foster parent educational meetings
 - b. Agency sponsored training sessions
 - c. Alaska Foster Parent Association conferences and/or workshops
 - d. Areawide foster parent conferences co-sponsored by Alaska Foster Parent Association and local associations
 - e. National Foster Parent Association conferences and/or workshops
 - f. Community offered child/youth related training
 - g. Institutes of higher learning
 - h. Books, films, video tapes related to foster care and/or child/youth management
- (3) This regulation is unable to be waived. Each area agency is responsible to maintain materials and offer information and training free of charge to prospective and currently licensed foster parents.

POSITION PAPER

SENATE BILL NO. 169

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

The Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS), within the Department of Health and Social Services, has primary responsibility for foster placements. The Division is very supportive of foster parent training as is evidenced by contracts for the last two years from DFYS with the Alaska Foster Parent Association to provide training for foster parents. The Division also recognizes the concern of the foster parent association regarding the amount of time it has taken to implement regulations regarding foster parent training. The Division has prioritized finalizing regulatory drafts and they will be ready for public hearings before the end of the fiscal year. The regulations may be found as an appropriate means to address training. All foster parents statewide will receive a copy of the proposed regulations and will have an opportunity to comment on the appropriateness and feasibility of training requirements, especially in rural locations.

The Department would suggest that mandated training for foster parents would most appropriately be addressed in administrative policies. Through policy, levels of training for different types of care and geographical areas of the State can be established. As the primary purchaser of foster care services, the Division is also concerned about requirements for training which could not be waived.

RECOMMENDED:

Yvonne M. Chase
Yvonne M. Chase, ACSW, Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

DATE:

3/17/87

APPROVED:

Myra W. Munson
Myra W. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

DATE:

3/18/87

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version : SB No. 169
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Sponsor: Fischer

Components: Foster Care

Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

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TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	100,000	250,000				
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EQUIPMENT						
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GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	100,000	250,000				

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	100,000	250,000				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	100,000	250,000				

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary) The current contract with the Alaska Foster Parent Association provides training for one-half of foster parents statewide. If mandated for all foster parents, training costs would more than double. Costs would be incurred in modifying curriculum for different levels of care and in achieving a minimum standard for different areas of the State.

Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director YMC Phone: 465-3170

Division: Division of Family and Youth Services Date: 03/16/87

Approved by Commissioner: M. M. Munson, Commissioner Date: 3/18/87

Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary

A/B

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FISCAL NOTE

PSSA 169 HESS
Revision Date : 3-24-87

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. : SB 169
Title : "An Act relating to the training of foster parents"

Sponsor : _____
Requestor : _____
Date of Request : _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected : _____
BRU : _____

Components : _____

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TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS :

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

ANALYSIS : Attach a separate page if necessary

Prepared by : Senate HESS Phone : 465-3791
Division : _____ Date : _____

Approved by Commissioner : Senator Paul Frank Date : _____
Agency : _____

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
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- Office of Management and Budget
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Prepared by: Yvonne M. Chase, Director UMC Phone: 465-3170
Division: Division of Family and Youth Services Date: 03/16/87

Approved by Commissioner: M. K. Munson Date: 3/18/87
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Distribution (by preparer):
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Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)
Senate Secretary

MAR 18 1987

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For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the training of foster parents."

The Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS), within the Department of Health and Social Services, has primary responsibility for foster placements. The Division is very supportive of foster parent training as is evidenced by contracts for the last two years from DFYS with the Alaska Foster Parent Association to provide training for foster parents. The Division also recognizes the concern of the foster parent association regarding the amount of time it has taken to implement regulations regarding foster parent training. The Division has prioritized finalizing regulatory drafts and they will be ready for public hearings before the end of the fiscal year. The regulations may be found as an appropriate means to address training. All foster parents statewide will receive a copy of the proposed regulations and will have an opportunity to comment on the appropriateness and feasibility of training requirements, especially in rural locations.

The Department would suggest that mandated training for foster parents would most appropriately be addressed in administrative policies. Through policy, levels of training for different types of care and geographical areas of the State can be established. As the primary purchaser of foster care services, the Division is also concerned about requirements for training which could not be waived.

RECOMMENDED:

Yvonne M. Chase
Yvonne M. Chase, ACSW, Director
Division of Family
and Youth Services

DATE:

3/17/87

APPROVED:

Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner
Department of Health
and Social Services

DATE:

3/18/87