

"Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much."
— Helen Keller



Montgomery County Foster Parent Association

P.O. Box 10006 • Gaithersburg, MD 20898-0006 • www.mcfpa.com

Fostering Communications

October 2002

A newsletter for foster and adoptive parents in Montgomery County. Published by DHHS.

Please Join!

The Montgomery County Foster Parent Association (MCFPA) is a non-profit organization and is independent from DHHS. All foster and adoptive parents and other interested persons are welcome at our meetings which are held the second Thursday of every month except July, August, and December. Dues are \$10 per year and can be mailed in or paid at the meetings.

The purpose of our organization is to address the needs of the children in care. This purpose is met by supporting foster and adoptive parents, answering questions, finding solutions, presenting helpful speakers at the meetings, and providing camps, tutoring, reduced cost day care, and sports activities.

Another benefit to joining is that you receive 1.5 hours of continuing education credit for each meeting you attend. You are required to complete six (6) hours of credit each year to maintain your license.

OCTOBER MEETING...

Understanding ADD/ADHD

When: October 10, 2002
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Topic: "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About ADD/ADHD, But Were Afraid To Ask."

Speaker: Karen Studley, RN
(Ms. Studley leads parent groups about ADD for MCPS.)

Where: Epworth United Methodist Church
9008 Rosemont Dr., Gaithersburg, MD

Directions: The church is across from Walnut Hill Shopping Center on Route 355, near Shady Grove Road. There are three churches in a row. *Epworth United Methodist Church is the middle church with the stained glass steeple.* Parking is in the rear lot. Enter through the back doors, turn left, and follow the hallway around to the right to the social hall.



24-HOUR HOT-LINE

1-240-777-4417

Montgomery County Department of Social Services
CHILD WELFARE DIVISION



Meeting Child Care

is available free of charge.



Many of our topics are unsuitable for young ears, so we ask that no children old enough to comprehend the content be brought in to the meetings.

IMPORTANT: We will be regularly checking in on the children to be sure everything is well and there are no behavior problems. Any child not following the rules or the direction of our provider will be removed from the child care room and returned to the responsible parent(s). Since some of the meeting topics are not appropriate for young ears this may require that you leave the meeting as well. If you are bringing older children to the child care room please have a discussion with them about proper behavior, respect for others and property, and following the rules.

If you need child care during our meetings, call Bobbie Augustine a week before any meeting at (301) 977-0792. Children will not be accepted without a reservation.

Montgomery County Foster Parent Association 301-916-6001

OFFICERS

President:
Carolyn Smith301-208-6582

Vice President:
Gerrie Wright301-916-6001

Secretary:
Dave Brown.....301-916-6001

Treasurer:
Beverly Wright301-948-1197

DHHS Liaison:
Linda Gore(240) 777-3943

Newsletter Editor
Michelle Haggart.....(301) 972-0984
e-mail: michelle.haggart@verizon.net

The MCFPA Executive Board meets the first Monday of each month. Please leave a message at (301) 916-6001 if you have an item that should be discussed.

MARY ALLMAN, with Montgomery County Public Schools Special Education division, will help with any concerns you may have with special education issues. (301) 279-4967.

CAROL FRANCONI, who is an advocate for children, wants feedback on any concerns with **medical assistance or hmos** you may have for your foster children. 410-547-9200 x3006.

Need help with Medical Care?

BRENDA PETERSEN who is a nurse and social worker can help access medical, dental, and mental health services for any child in state-supervised care. Please call her at 240-777-4439 if you need any assistance in obtaining health care or resolving billing issues for the children in your care.

This is **YOUR** newsletter!

All foster and adoptive parents are encouraged to provide articles. These might include finalized adoptions, articles written by the foster child themselves, and scholastic or extra-curricular awards. *The deadline for all contributions to the newsletter is seven days after the monthly meeting.* Please submit your contribution using one of the following methods:

E-mail: michelle.haggart@verizon.net
Mail: Fostering Communications
P.O. Box 10006
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-006
Telephone: (301) 916-6001

CANCELLATION POLICY Meetings will be cancelled if the schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather. The meeting will also be cancelled if Montgomery County Schools cancel evening programs. If you are in doubt call (301) 916-6001 and the recording will tell you if the meeting is on or not. If you prefer to speak to a person, you may call one of the officers. Regardless, do not venture out if driving looks too dangerous.

September 12, 2002

Meeting Minutes

by Dave Brown, Secretary

Attendance: 20

Carolyn Smith, president, brought the meeting to order at about 7:40 PM. She began with short introductions of the officers and of everyone in attendance. Carolyn reminded everyone of the upcoming Holiday Party, we are still looking for a facility to hold it. Borher Park in Gaithersburg, is booked for this year so we will need to find somewhere soon. One foster parent suggested the facilities in Montgomery Village. It was agreed to investigate this as an option. Linda Gore also offered to check out some other venues. All were encouraged to consider ideas for fund raising. We are in need of funds to support our activities and ideas. We also need some more involvement from some of our new members. The holiday party committee will be meeting soon and anyone interested in helping out should contact Carolyn Smith.

Linda Gore, our DHHS liaison, introduced herself and spoke shortly about arranging speakers for our meetings. Linda organizes and arranges all of our speakers and has scheduled the next two meetings. October will be on ADD/ADHD, and November will cover, Special Ed and Options/Services within the Montgomery County Public School System. Many thanks to Linda for taking her time and supporting our group so faithfully. She

really does a great job and we appreciate it. If anyone has any ideas for any upcoming meetings please let one of the officers or Linda know. We are always looking for fresh and interesting topics.

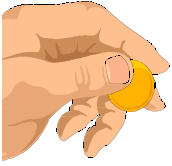
After a short break, Linda Gore introduced the speaker for the evening, Ms. Saroj Ghoting from the Montgomery County Libraries. Ms. Ghoting is an Early Childhood Coordinator for the Libraries. She began with short introduction of the group and a short synopsis of our needs and concerns related to our children regarding reading and the library. The presentation was extremely informative and an insightful discussion followed. She suggested several great ideas for sparking our childrens interest in reading and reviewed many very useful services offered by the Libraries.

The meeting was adjourned by Carolyn at about 9:00. We hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Check out our website
www.mcfpa.com

MCFPA Membership Form

for July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003



Please fill out, fold in thirds, place in an envelope, and mail with payment to:
Fostering Communications, P.O. Box 10006, Gaithersburg, MD 20898-006

Amount Due: \$10 per foster family

Date: _____ Check # _____ *(Do not send cash)*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

Best time to call _____

E-mail address _____

Topics and/or speakers you would like to see at our meetings: _____

Comments or suggestions: _____



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Understanding
ADD / ADHD