

National Foster Parent Association 37th Annual Education Conference May 23-27, 2007

Foster Parents in Action Strengthening Our Voice

*Hosted by :
D.C. Metropolitan Foster Parent Association*



2007 Conference Registration Form

NFPA Member Membership No. _____ Non-Member

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Email _____

(Registration confirmation sent via email ONLY)

Workshop Selection:

Workshop size is limited. You must select 1st and 2nd choices for each session. If both of your choices are full, or you do not indicate a workshop choice, NFPA will choose a workshop on your behalf.

		1st Choice	2nd Choice
Thursday, May 24	Institute (Add \$25)	_____	_____
Friday, May 25	Session A	_____	_____
	Session B	_____	_____
	Session C	_____	_____
Saturday, May 26	Session D	_____	_____
	Session E	_____	_____
Sunday, May 27	Session F	_____	_____
	Session G	_____	_____
	Session H	_____	_____

Will you attend the following social events:

_____ Awards Luncheon on Friday, May 25

_____ Closing Luncheon on Sunday, May 27

Payment Information:

Name of Payee _____

Phone _____

_____ Check Attached _____ Purchase Order Attached _____ Credit Card

CC# _____ Exp. _____

Circle Type: Visa Master Card Amex Discover

Signed _____ Date _____

Check All That Apply:

- _____ First NFPA Conference
 _____ Workshop Presenter
 _____ Workshop Co-Presenter
 _____ Exhibitor
 _____ NFPA Scholarship Recipient
 _____ Vegetarian Meal

Amount Due:

Registration includes all workshops, general sessions and social events

Note: There is an additional \$25 fee for 6-hour Institutes.

NFPA Member Registration **\$185**

NFPA Non-Member Registration **\$265**

Institute Fee **\$25**

NFPA Membership
(Refer to Membership Application)

Late Registration
After May 1, 2007 \$315

TOTAL DUE

Please read the cancellation policy on page 2 of this brochure.

Please contact NFPA to purchase extra lunch/banquet tickets.

Send Registration To:

Mail: NFPA 2007 Conference
7512 Stanich Lane, #6
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Fax: 253-853-4001

I have read and agree to all conference rules and regulations as published by National Foster Parent Association.

Signed _____

Remember to complete all sections and attach payment.

Conference Information

Registration Fees

The basic conference registration fee is \$185.00 for NFPA members and \$265.00 for non-members. This rate includes participation in all workshops and activities excluding the Pre-Conference Institutes. If you register for the Pre-Conference Institutes there will be an additional \$25 fee. To receive these rates, registration must be received and paid prior to May 1, 2007. **After May 1, 2007 the basic registration fee will be \$315.00 for all individuals.**

Please complete all portions of the registration form and submit one form for each participant. You must also include payment in the form of check, money order, credit card or organizational purchase order. Checks, money orders, and purchase orders should be made payable to NFPA. If using a Purchase Order, please attach a copy of the purchase order to your registration form. A \$20.00 fee will be charged for all returned checks.

Please note: If payment is not included with your registration form, you will not be registered for this conference and will not be assigned a workshop schedule.

Attendance Policy

In order to receive class credit for the workshops that you have registered for, you must abide by the following attendance policies:

- You must attend the classes that you registered for. These classes will be indicated on the lower portion of your nametag. Switching classes during the conference will not be accepted. Note: you may make changes to your class schedule by contacting NFPA no later than May 1, 2007.
- You must attend the entire class period in order to receive class credit for the workshop. Attendance stickers will be given at the end of each workshop.
- You must arrive at your scheduled class on time. Any individuals arriving more than 15 minutes after the start of class will be denied entry into the classroom.
- Nametags must be worn at all times during workshop sessions and conference activities.

Workshop Selection

By indicating pre-conference institute and workshop preferences on the registration form, you help us to more accurately plan for appropriate classroom sizes. Workshop assignments are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Class sizes are limited, so please select 1st and 2nd choices for each session.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

Refunds requested *in writing* prior to May 1, 2007 will be accepted. Refunds will be processed and returned within 30 days after the conclusion of the conference less a \$50 administrative processing fee. No request for refund will be accepted after May 1, 2007.

Hotel Accommodations

The 2007 Conference will be held at the Omni Shoreham at 2500 Calvert Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20008. Please visit their website at www.omnihotels.com for further information about the hotel. NFPA has secured a room rate of \$139 per night (single/double occupancy) for conference participants. When making your reservation, please specify that you are with the NFPA Conference. Reservations must be made by May 1, 2007. As rooms often fill quickly, we strongly encourage you to make hotel reservations well in advance. Hotel Direct: (202) 234-0700.

Child Care

Child Care will **not** be provided by the National Foster Parent Association, the D.C. Metropolitan Foster and Adoptive Parent Association or any entity involved with this conference. Children will not be allowed in the workshops. Therefore, it will be your responsibility to provide child care for any children accompanying you to this conference.

2007 Conference Schedule

Wednesday, May 23:

Board Meeting/Activities	9:00am-5:00pm
Early Registration	7:00pm-9:00pm

Thursday, May 24:

Registration/Information	8:00am-5:00pm
Exhibits Set-Up	8:00am-10:00am
Exhibits Open	10:00am-5:00pm
First Time Attendees Meeting	8:00am-9:00am
Institutes	9:30am-4:30pm
Board of Directors Training	9:30am-4:30pm
State Affiliates Training	9:30am-4:30pm
Opening Session	7:00pm-9:00pm

Friday, May 25:

Registration/Information	8:00am-5:00pm
Exhibits Open	8:00am-5:00pm
First Time Attendees Meeting	8:00am-9:00am
Workshops Session "A"	9:30am-11:00am
Awards Luncheon	11:30am-1:00pm
Workshops Session "B"	1:30pm-3:00pm
Workshops Session "C"	3:30pm-5:00pm
State Affiliates Meeting	9:00am-5:00pm

Saturday, May 26:

Registration/Information	8:00am-5:00pm
Exhibits Open	8:00am-5:00pm
Local Affiliates Meeting	8:00am-2:00pm
Workshops Session "D"	8:30am-11:30am
Regional Meetings	12:30pm-1:30pm
Workshops Session "E"	2:00pm-3:30pm
General Membership Meeting	3:45pm-5:15pm

Sunday, May 27:

Registration/Information	8:00am-12:00pm
Exhibits	8:00am-5:00pm
Workshops Session "F"	8:00am-11:00am
Closing Luncheon Program	11:30am-1:30pm
Workshops Session "G"	2:00pm-3:30pm
Workshops Session "H"	4:00pm-5:30pm
Board Meeting	9:00am-3:00pm

GREETINGS!

I would like to invite you to the 37th Annual Education Conference in Washington, D.C. I know that the local planning committee and the NFPA Events Coordinator have been working diligently to offer new and interesting workshop topics for this special event. The 2007 theme will be "**FOSTER PARENTS IN ACTION... STRENGTHENING OUR VOICE.**" You will notice a strong theme of Advocacy throughout this great program.

There will be amazing opportunities to take part in "Hill Day," activities that will allow youth and foster parents to visit legislators in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Be sure to review the enclosed information regarding these activities along with our Youth Track event designed for foster and adoptive youth age 14-18.

I always look forward to seeing old friends and I am really excited about the opportunity to make new ones. If you will be a first time attendee, please make note that we have a very special meeting scheduled to help you navigate this great program.

Remember that if you need anything at all while you are at the conference; be sure to contact a board member or staff person. I and all board members would be more than happy to help.

See you in Washington D.C!
Marvin E. Ferneau Jr.
NFPA President

EXHIBIT

AT THE
2007
ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Market your products & services to
over 1,000 delegates from across the U.S.

For more information:
800-557-5238
events@nfpainc.org
www.NFPAINC.org

For more conference information, please visit the NFPA website....

www.NFPAINC.org

HOTEL & TRAVEL INFORMATION

HOTEL:

The NFPA 37th Annual Education Conference will be held May 24-27, 2007 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
202-234-0700

Room Rate: \$139 per night double occupancy
\$20 per person above double occupancy
Children aged 17 and under stay complimentary

RESERVATION GUARANTEE (*IMPORTANT*):

All hotel reservations must be secured with a valid credit card. You will also be required to provide a credit card or cash deposit at the time of check-in in order to provide for any incidental fees or room damage. This is hotel policy.

LOCATION/ATTRACTIONS:

The Omni Shoreham Hotel is located in the Northwest section of Washington, D.C. and just 8 miles from the Ronald Reagan National Airport. It is just one block from the Woodley Park Metro Station, one of our nation's most efficient rapid transit systems. The following attractions are either within walking distance or a short ride:

Woodley Park National Zoo: 2 Blocks
The White House: 2 Miles
Vietnam Veterans Memorial: 2 Miles

National Mall: 2 Miles
Smithsonian: 2 Miles
Kennedy Center for Performing Arts: 2 Miles

Lincoln Memorial: 2 Miles
The Capitol: 2 Miles

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:

The Omni Shoreham is located just 8 miles from Ronald Reagan National Airport, 30 miles from Dulles International Airport and 45 miles from Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

From Reagan National

Super Shuttle: \$12.00 each way
Taxi: \$20.00 (approximate each way)
Metro Rapid Transit: \$7.00 each way

From Dulles National

Super Shuttle: \$25.00 each way
Taxi: \$68 (approximate each way)

From Baltimore (BWI)

Super Shuttle: \$30.00 each way
Taxi: \$85 (approximate each way)

AIRLINES SERVING WASHINGTON, D.C.:

Northwest	1-800-225-2525	www.nwa.com
Continental	1-800-525-0280	www.continental.com
American	1-800-433-7300	www.americanairlines.com
US Air	1-800-428-4322	www.usair.com
Alaska	1-800-252-7522	www.alaskaair.com
Delta	1-800-221-1212	www.delta.com
Southwest	1-800-435-9792	www.southwest.com
United	1-800-241-6522	www.united.com
Midwest	1-800-452-2022	www.midwestairlines.com
Frontier	1-800-432-1359	www.frontierairlines.com
Jet Blue	1-800-538-2583	www.jetblue.com

Greyhound Bus Station: Within 4 miles of hotel.
1-800-231-2222 www.greyhound.com

Conference Scholarship Application

National Foster Parent Association

37th Annual Education Conference

May 23 – 27, 2007

Washington, D.C.

Criteria:

1. NFPA Membership Number, Name, Address, and Phone Number must be supplied on the application.
2. NFPA Board Members and their immediate family members are not eligible.
3. Only foster parents who are members of NFPA By 12/31/06 will qualify to receive a conference scholarship.
4. Only one family member may receive a scholarship.
5. Applicants must not live within a 100 mile radius of conference location.
6. Applicants who receive other scholarships or funds are not eligible to apply for this scholarship. Should the applicant receive another scholarship or funds to attend the National conference after being awarded an NFPA scholarship, the applicant must immediately notify the NFPA office.
7. Any person who is being paid through a grant or other resource to present a workshop does not qualify for a scholarship.
8. Scholarships not awarded before the conference may be awarded through a random drawing at the time of the conference to any applicant who meets all the above criteria.

NFPA Member No. _____

Number of Years as a Foster Parent _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

I have read the criteria as detailed above, and to my knowledge, I meet all of the scholarship guidelines.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Mail completed application to:

NFPA Conference Scholarship

7512 Stanich Avenue, Suite 6

Gig Harbor, Washington 98335

Or fax it to: **253-853-4001**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 15, 2007

NFPA 37th Annual Education Conference

May 23-27, 2007
Washington, D.C.

Advertising

The NFPA Annual Education Conference provides your organization with the opportunity to advertise your service or products to foster families, child welfare workers, agencies and organizations from across the nation. Please visit our website at www.NFPAinc.org for an Advertising Booking Form.

Sponsorship Opportunities

NFPA is currently looking for conference sponsors to partner on creating the best and most innovative educational experience for attending foster parents and foster care professionals. To receive more information about levels of sponsorship along with other exciting opportunities to support this fantastic training event, please contact the NFPA Events Coordinator at 1-800-557-5238.

Exhibit

As an exhibitor for the NFPA conference your organization has the unique opportunity to market your service or products to foster families, child welfare workers, agencies and organizations from across the nation. For more information about exhibiting at this event, please visit the NFPA website at www.NFPAinc.org.

NFPA Conference Scholarships

NFPA offers a number of conference scholarships to foster parents who are members of NFPA to attend the National Conference. See the previous page for the scholarship application.

National Awards

As part of the conference, NFPA recognizes those having a significant impact on foster care by presenting a number of awards. Please visit our website at www.NFPAinc.org for more information.

PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

9:30am-4:30pm

Note: There will be a \$25 fee for the 6-hour Institutes listed below

- I-01 Capitol Hill Legislative Day: Talk to Legislators About Foster Care Issues
Presented by: Duane St. Clair, Maryland League of Foster and Adoptive Parents
Co-Presented by: Sue Dondiego, New Jersey Foster and Adoptive Family Services
Join foster youth, foster parents, legislators and other advocates in a morning discussion of foster care issues to prepare attendees for an afternoon trip to Capitol Hill where we will meet on the Capitol steps to have the first Blue Ribbon sponsored event at the U.S. Capitol. After the Blue Ribbon event attendees will visit their legislators to present the group's legislative agenda for improving foster care. National and local media will be invited to talk with foster parents and youth to make this an event that "raises the voices" of parents youth.
- I-02 Anger De-Escalation
Presented by: Kim Combes, Foster Care Support Network, Impact Publications, Inc.
This interactive and dynamic workshop explores the various primary emotions embedded within anger and the way they manifest themselves in foster/adoptive children's lives and in our own. Issues of separation, loss and grief will be presented as the genesis of anger demonstrated in our homes. A role-play will launch participants into the defusing stage followed by great new practical and easy-to-use methods of discipline to add to parents' strategy toolbox, all helpful in alleviating and de-escalating anger in both our kids and in ourselves.
- I-03 Teaching Moments
Presented by: Patty Martin, Casey Family Services
Co-Presented by: Jennifer McAllister, Casey Family Services
Caregivers and practitioners often struggle with putting out daily fires, leaving life skills on the back burner. This workshop is designed to help guide caregivers and practitioners in identifying resources and tools in the community to help naturally teach life skills to the youth in their care. Caregivers will also have the opportunity to learn about the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment tool as well as learn how to create and facilitate a Life Skills group.
- I-04 Foster Parent Legal Rights and Responsibilities
Presented by: Regina Deihl, Legal Advocates for Permanent Parenting
The National Foster Parent Association's Legal Resource Manual has been developed in order to provide foster parents with the appropriate information regarding their legal rights and responsibilities as care providers for children and youth in the foster care system. Attorney and author, Regina Deihl, is a highly skilled trainer with many years of experience regarding the legal issues of the foster care system. This training seminar will be a 6-hour session over the contents of this manual and will include information regarding:
- Permanency, Foster Parents and the Law
 - Dependency Court and Removal of Children
 - Court Participation by Foster Parents
 - Allegations of maltreatment
- I-05 Different Brains, Different Behaviors: How Neuroscience is Changing our Work with Children in Care
Presented by: Frank J. Krose, The Children's Guild
Ever wondered "what's going on in there?" when children in your care participate in troubling patterns of thinking and behavior? Are you interested in some new, practical and enlightening ideas for shaping healthier behavior? This Institute will explore new research on the brain and how that research has dramatically improved our understanding of children with challenging behaviors. Using fun, exciting and innovative approaches to adult learning, you will be inspired and equipped for your best work yet!

WORKSHOPS SESSION "A"

Friday, May 25, 2007

9:30am-11:00am

- A-01 **Empowering Youth as Leaders: Achieving Family Permanence for Adulthood**
Presented by: Michelle Chalmers, Minnesota Adoption Resource Network
This session will highlight ways in which youth have been involved in advocating on their own behalf about their needs for enduring family relationships and the skills to navigate the adult world. A panel of young people will address strategies for supporting youth in decision-making roles at the program, practice and policy levels.
- A-02 **Bully Busters**
Presented by: Kim Combes, Foster Care Support Network, Impact Publications, Inc.
Bullying in our nation has become rampant. Within the last decade, numerous headlines highlighted stories of tragedy brought about by school shootings. This workshop will challenge participants to take a pro-active stance against an alarmingly increasing scourge of today's society.
- A-03 **Transracial Parenting Techniques**
Presented by: Joe Kroll, NFPA, NACAC
Parents who adopted transracially will share this presenter's personal and professional experiences. Participants will become aware of North American Council on Adoptable Children's "Transracial Self Assessment Tool" in order to help with their own self assessments on whether they are prepared to parent transracially. Parenting techniques and resources will also be shared.
- A-04 **Balancing Kinship Foster Care**
Presented by: Sherri Finik, National Resource Center for Youth Services
As the number of grandparent and kinship placements continues to increase, we have come to recognize that for these families, maintaining "balance" is a delicate matter. Here is an opportunity to take inventory and see where you tip the scales. Come explore some of the specific challenges and unique roles kinship families play as resource/foster parents.
- A-05 **Snappy Comebacks to Difficult Adoption Questions**
Presented by: Sylvia Franzmeier, AdoptUsKids
Co-Presented by: Foster Parent Panel
This interactive workshop, designed for foster/adoptive parents will help participants answer the sometimes intrusive/difficult or embarrassing questions which they often encounter from family, friends, professionals and strangers. Four experienced adoptive couples will share some of their personal situations and how they handled them...often with humorous response. Following their presentations, the audience will be invited to pose questions to the panel. Questions may be submitted ahead of time to the presenter at sfranzmeier@adoptuskids.org.
- A-06 **Burnout and Renewal: How to Internally Inoculate Yourself from External Pressure**
Presented by: Jeff Cotton, Jeff Cotton Trainings
Burnout's rampant in our profession. Whether it our client's disturbing behaviors, our co-workers or the agency and state's ever-shifting, never-ending demands...it seems someone always wants more than we can give. This pragmatic and inspirational workshop is about thoughtfully cultivating internal resources key to surviving the ongoing chaos inherent in the helping act.
- A-07 **Returnable Girl**
Presented by: Pamela Lowell, Author/Licensed Social Worker
Using "Book Club" format to encourage and initiate dialogue about ambivalence and permanency issues in foster/adoptive parent support groups, and between those parents and their foster and/or adoptive teens. Parents of foster teens need encouragement, support and the feeling of being connected to other parents-but they also need to understand issues specific to their foster teens. The presenter will read passages from her new, young adult novel, Returnable Girl, which was inspired by her work with foster and adopted children. This workshop will encourage discussion and supportive feedback from workshop attendees.
- A-08 **FASD: Preparing for Adult Transition**
Presented by: Jodee Kulp, Better Endings New Beginnings
Co-Presented by: Ann Yurcek, Author
Join Jodee Kulp, author of "our FAScinating Journey" and Ann Yurcek, author of "Tiny Titan" as they share parenting strategies and creative ways to prepare a young person with prenatal brain injury for adulthood. Learn to balance the paperwork, forms and realities of accessing services with the concrete needs of the child and the unsuspecting realities of the adult world.
- A-09 **Administrative Reviews: The D.C. Model for Helping Foster Children**
Presented by: Charlotte Queen, Administrative Review Specialist
Co-Presented by: Anthony Sanchez
The presenters offer what they refer to as the "D.C. Model" for conducting Administrative Reviews as an alternative means to progress a child and family's movement in the foster care system. Those working as child welfare workers, foster parents, and attorneys are especially encouraged to attend.
- A-10 **How to Make Fussy Babies Calm, Calm Babies Serene and Help All Babies Sleep Longer**
Presented by: Dr. Harvey Karp, Asst. Professor Pediatrics, UCLA School of Medicine
The two most important tasks new parents face are feeding and soothing their babies. Those who succeed at these feel competent...but those who fail feel desolate. Recently, networks of consultants and support groups have arisen to help women resolve feeding problems, but as of today, there is no support system for the parents of the 2 million babies who fuss/cry for over two hours per day. Professionals routinely tell parents nothing can be done for colicky babies yet extensive anthropological research reveals several cultures around the world where persistent crying is unknown. In a radical paradigm shift, the author demonstrates that our culture's conceptualization of the first three months of life is incorrect. In many ways newborns are not ready for the world at birth; they still need a protected environment...a fourth trimester.

WORKSHOPS SESSION "B"

Friday, May 25, 2007

1:30pm-3:00pm

B-01 When a Child Becomes the Four-Year-Old Parent

Presented by: Shane Salter, D.C. CASA

Through excerpts from his recently published book, "When a Child Becomes the Four-Year-Old Parent", the author, a former foster child, will take the participants on a journey through the child welfare system. He will share how despite all the odds against our youth, many survive and emerge more determined than ever, ready to find the dream with their name on it, succeed and give back. The audience will engage in a conversation around the recommendations found in the book of systemic reform of permanency planning and supporting youth transition into adulthood.

B-02 Celebrating Relationships

Presented by: Robert Colwell, Create a Miracle Project

As a survivor of the New York foster care system, Robert Colwell uses personal and professional experience to provide powerful insight into the foster care system. Participants can expect to gain immense knowledge and understanding of how to build family relationships that are worth celebrating, as well as an understanding of the adolescent mind, and how to remove barriers to healthy relationships.

B-03 Improving Cross-Gender Communication

Presented by: Karenthia Barber, Professional Development Associates

This workshop will examine the importance of effective communication and the barriers that must be overcome in order to effectively communicate with your children, case workers, friends, family, etc. This workshop will highlight gender differences as it relates to verbal and non-verbal communication effectiveness.

B-04 Hear it from the Experts: How to Make a Parent Support Group Succeed

Presented by: Sylvia Franzmeier, AdoptUsKids

Co-Presented by: Foster Parent Panel

This interactive workshop, presented by a panel of experienced and successful parent group leaders, will give participants tips on how to make their support groups work. They will tell the story of their own experience in starting and maintaining their group and will also take questions from the floor. Questions may be submitted ahead of time to the presenter at sfranzmeier@adoptuskids.org.

B-05 Introduction to Mental Health Diagnosis

Presented by: Deborah Harris Sims, Strayer University

During this workshop participants will be provided an overview of childhood mental health diagnosis and treatment. This workshop will review the commonly diagnosed mental disorders for children in foster care and the integral role of the foster parent in treatment planning process.

B-06 What's New in Child and Foster Care Research

Presented by: Anthony Sanchez, Administrative Review Specialist

The presenter is an experienced clinician and attorney. The workshop is for the foster parent and child welfare worker that want to understand the latest professional research involving the emotional and social development of children who may be members of the foster care system. Group questions and discussion are encouraged.

B-07 Bouncing Back

Presented by: Jennifer McAllister, Caey Family Services

Co-Presented by: Gwendolyn Whitney-Gill

Caregivers often struggle with how to manage difficult behavior and effectively communicate with the children in their care, leading to crisis situations. This workshop is designed to help give caregivers tools needed to increase communication, strengthen relationships and foster trust with the youth they care for.

B-08 Supporting Staff and Foster Parents with Ongoing Training

Presented by: Susan Larson, Northwest Media

Explore Foster Care College-an online training resource developed by nationally-recognized parenting experts that provides practical advice for parents and staff. Learn how you can take advantage of its wealth of information, convenient delivery, and cost savings and get instant access to help with difficult child behavior problems, emotional disorders, and parenting strategies. See the latest additions including training for social workers, help for the foster couple's marriage, children's medical issues, customizing the training, and more.

B-09 FASD: There is Hope

Presented by: Jodee Kulp, Author

Co-Presented by: Liz Kulp, Better Endings New Beginnings

Join Jodee Kulp, author of "our FAScinating Journey" and Liz Kulp, co-author of "Best I Can Be: Living with Fetal Alcohol" as they share parenting and educational ideas to work with children with FASD. In addition, learn more about understanding the concreteness of the fetal alcohol affected brain and how it increases our risk of allegations and what we as parents, professionals and care providers do to prevent misunderstandings and misinterpretations.

B-10 You Don't Have to be Perfect to be a Perfect Parent

Presented by: Sarah Gerstenzang, AdoptUsKids

The mandate of the Collaboration to AdoptUSKids is to aid states in the recruitment of foster and adoptive parents. This workshop will focus on the ground-breaking recruitment activities developed and implemented by AdoptUsKids. The presenter will also discuss a recent research study of 160 families and their experiences with parenting special needs foster children.

WORKSHOPS SESSION "C"

Friday, May 25, 2007

3:30pm-5:00pm

- C-01 **Permanency Options**
Presented by: Joe Kroll, NFPA, NACAC
Parents must weigh a variety of factors when they consider the options of long term foster care, guardianship, and adoption for children in their care. The presenter will review differences in legal status, support and services, relationships with birth parents, and other factors that contribute to your decision. This workshop will be especially useful to kin care providers.
- C-02 **Foster Parent Advocacy and its Impact on Systemic Reform**
Presented by: Marilyn Egerton, Foster and Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center
Co-Presented by: Margie Chalofsky, Sandra Jackson
This workshop will detail the role of foster parent advocacy and inclusion in the reform of the District of Columbia's child welfare system. This workshop will be co-led by staff of the Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center and administrators from DC's Child and Family Services Agency.
- C-03 **Self Destructive Behaviors**
Presented by: Mel Gravely, NFPA
One of the most extensive researched and documented behavior disorders of any other behavior, the increase of self-injury by our foster children is skyrocketing. The numbers indicate that more training needs to be provided to foster parents on intervention and awareness techniques. This module will provide parents with the tools and techniques to effectively identify problems and a means of addressing these issues with their child.
- C-04 **Foster Parenting with Peaceful Parenting**
Presented by: Nancy Buck, Peaceful Parenting, Inc.
Parenting is a challenging job. Foster parenting can be even more challenging. Peaceful parenting helps adults understand what motivates all children. With this new understanding, foster parents are better able to work with their children to create a home where all in the family feel safe and secure, loved and connected. Foster parents will learn the new skill of decoding the internal, innate instruction manual found in all children. This will strengthen their abilities to establish a loving, mutually cooperative bond with their children.
- C-05 **The Happiest Toddler: A New Way to Tame Tantrums and Raise More Patient, Respectful Young Children**
Presented by: Dr. Harvey Karp, Asst. Professor Pediatrics, UCLA School of Medicine
In many ways toddlers are uncivilized and primitive in their behavior and language abilities (i.e., immature language, poor impulse control). In fact, in many ways toddlers are not so much young children as little...cavemen! The presenter offers a highly novel paradigm for toddler communication that better matches a toddler's more primitive cognitive level. These techniques allow parents and health workers bring about substantial decreases in tantrums and increase in cooperative behavior in just days.
- C-06 **So, How Can I Earn Trust in Your Home**
Presented by: Jessica Hilderbrand, Nebraska Children and Families
Co-Presented by: Nate Jensen, Turning Point Family Services
The purpose of this workshop is to provide a better understanding of the needs and issues of teens in care. The presenters will provide tools and understanding of how to strengthen the relationship between foster parents and youth. Jessica Hilderbrand brings a unique insight to this workshop based on her experiences growing up in the foster care system. Some of the topics discussed will be communication skill, learning the value of empathy, how to assist with independent living skills, and most of all creating relationships that will last a lifetime.
- C-07 **The Point System: Raising Teens without Losing Your Mind**
Presented by: Corrie Lynne Player, Author
This workshop will teach parents how to understand kid logic, handle anger appropriately, and maintain consistency in setting consequences. Participants will learn how to use Ms. Player's copyrighted Point System for positive behavior modification, receive samples of inspirational material and workable chore charts, and develop their own charts in small groups.
- C-08 **Foster Parents as Healing Agents**
Presented by: Janice Goldwater, Adoptions Together
Co-Presented by: Louise Feischman, Therapist
Foster parents are the first line of safety for children who have been removed from an abusive or neglectful environment. This workshop will give strategies to manage difficult behaviors by understanding the attachment cycle, brain development, trauma, mental health diagnoses and when and not to seek help.
- C-09 **Resources and Strategies for Kinship Family Caregivers**
Presented by: Reverend Doctor Clifford Barnett, Brighton Rock AME Zion Church
This panel presentation will discuss national, state, and local promising practices for supporting kinship families, including community and faith-based aspects of kinship work.
- C-10 **NFPA Legislative Workshop**
Presented by: Irene Clements, National Foster Parent Association
Attendees will meet with the NFPA Legislative Policy Committee to learn about advocacy issues and strategies regarding state and national legislation. Participants will learn how to get a legislator's attention, how to get legislation introduced, and how to track legislation. Participants will receive useful information resources to take home and share with fellow foster parents and social workers.

WORKSHOPS SESSION "D"

Saturday, May 26, 2007

8:30am-11:30am

- D-01 **Effective Court Advocacy to Achieve Timely & Meaningful Youth Permanence**
Presented by: Shane Salter, D.C. CASA
This workshop panel presentation will discuss effective strategies for involving youth and others in advocating for family permanence options during permanency hearings and other court proceedings.
- D-02 **Mentoring Teenage Men into Adulthood**
Presented by: Kim Combes, Foster Care Support Network, Impact Publications, Inc.
This workshop will empower parents and mentors of "teenage men" to draw out the best in their young charges. Conquer adult fears about interacting with teens and unleash the potential of the young man inside your boy. Enjoy these dynamic years by learning the principles for mentoring, which can revolutionize relationships with teen males, radically impacting his life and YOURS!
- D-03 **Resource Parents and Social Workers: Building Win-Win Relationships**
Presented by: Kurt E. Miller, Lancaster County Children & Youth
Co-Presented by: Garry Krentz, Foster Parent
Consensus building between resource parents and social workers strengthens permanency for children. This training will highlight win-win relationships between resource parents and social workers with a reference to the Resource Family Care Act. There will also be information given regarding best policy and practice that can be used by any agency or association.
- D-04 **Tax Tips for Foster Parents**
Presented by: Christin Kundert, NFPA
In the past, most payments that you received from DSHS were excluded from taxable income and were not reported on your tax return. Are your payments taxable? Can you take a foster child as a dependent? Are there deductions available to foster parents? These questions will all be answered along with addressing issues such as the "Professional Foster Parents" and small business tax issues. Join us as we explore the wonderful world of taxes and foster care.
- D-05 **Advocacy 101**
Presented by: Shirley Hedges, Professional Trainer, NFPA Past President
A focus on building the capacity of foster parents and foster parent associations to effect change and influence public opinion within the child welfare system. Participants will prepare for advocacy by identification of a specific issue and perform strategic planning to address the issue.
This is a two-part workshop. Please also enroll in Advocacy 102 on Sunday, May 27 from 8:00am-11:00am.
- D-06 **Rising Above Statistics**
Presented by: Dashawn Patrick, Author, Former Foster Youth
This workshop will teach foster parents how to empower foster youth to explore their passions, set goals and apply work ethic needed to attain those goals. Understanding that passions are the soul of life, whether athletic, educational or artistic, having passions teaches us dedication, which ultimately leads to goal setting. This is a new direction for the entire foster care industry...challenging children to soar, not settle for mediocrity.
- D-07 **Developing Effective Leadership Skills**
Presented by: Betty Hastings, NFPA
Co-Presented by: Sharon Carlson
Whether you are a foster/adoptive parent, caseworker, professional presenter or just having a conversation with others, we all can benefit from becoming familiar with our communication skills. We all learn in different ways. How we learn, how the children we care for learn is very important. We need to know how to reach them as well as how we can improve in all areas of our communication. This workshop is filled with activities and self-assessment tests to show each participant how to improve in areas of communication and developing steps to effective leadership. Participants to this workshop will be able to leave understanding their leadership ability and methods to improve their leadership & communication skills.
- D-08 **Endless Dreams: Building Educational Support for Youth in Foster Care**
Presented by: Debbie Staub, Casey Family Programs
Co-Presented by: Linda Kappus
This presentation addresses the educational needs of youth in foster care. Workshop participants will receive an overview of the concerns pertaining to this issue, have the opportunity to hear directly from a panel of alumni about their educational experiences, and discuss and develop strategies for being stronger educational advocates in the home and at school.
- D-09 **Avoiding and Defending Against Allegations of Child Maltreatment**
Presented by: Harvey Schweitzer, Attorney specializing in child welfare, Schweitzer and Scherr
Foster parents are vulnerable to allegations of child maltreatment. These allegations, even if fabricated or eventually proven false can have serious and permanent consequences for foster parents. States have administrative and judicial procedures for foster parents to challenge such allegations and their possible placement on a "child protection register". This presentation provides information on avoiding and defending against allegations of child abuse and neglect.
- D-10 **Preparing Youth & Foster Parents for Court**
Presented by: Tammy Mahan, Children and Families of Iowa
Co-Presented by: Jeff Foxhoven, Middleton Children's Rights Center
Elevate is a group of young people who seek to inspire others to new levels of understanding and compassion to the life connection needs of foster care and adoptive teens by sharing their personal stories of hope. This presentation will introduce the many facets and players of court proceedings. We will also be discussing the efforts of *Elevate* and what this group has been doing to influence the court process as well as what changes have actually occurred from these efforts.

WORKSHOPS SESSION "E"

Saturday, May 26, 2007

2:00pm-3:30pm

- E-01 **A Child Welfare Conversation: Options, Choices, and Decision Making in Permanency**
Presented by: Ada White, CWLA
Co-Presented by: Millicent Williams, Charlene Ingram
This workshop will focus on helping foster parents, kinship caretakers, and caseworkers work through the often very different permanency options of adoption, kinship care, or adoption by kin. All the children in the child welfare system are foster children, whether they are returning home, going to live with relatives, or will be adopted by their foster families. This workshop will promote a conversation among the presenters and participants regarding these options.
- E-02 **Advocacy for Children of Color**
Presented by: Jorge Alberto Acosta, Nuevo Amanecer Latino Children's Services
Children of color deserve loving support and quality services while developing a healthy, happy, successful, confident and fulfilling life. This workshop promises to be a stimulating, confidence building opportunity for those participants who are interested in making a quality difference and want to advocate for children of color while helping them to become champions and productive American citizens.
- E-03 **Problem Child...or Does Your Child Have a Problem?**
CANCELLED
- E-04 **Grant Writing**
Presented by: Phyllis Stevens
Every organization needs to raise money. This is a given. This workshop will cover the step-by-step process that you will need in order to write a successful proposal. Participants will be able to identify potential funders, learn how to write a proposal, be able to identify potential "pit falls".
- E-05 **Effective Courtroom Negotiations**
Presented by: Felicia Taylor, Adoptions Together Forever
Co-Presented by: Kimberly Harrison
This workshop will prepare foster, adoptive, pre-adoptive, kinship, and guardianship parents on how to negotiate effectively in court and how to get a positive outcome for their children and family. The workshop will provide participants with documents used during court proceeding as well as information that should be received prior to hearing. This workshop will help parents to understand their right to information access and legal representation.
- E-06 **Reimbursing Foster Parents: What is an Appropriate and Adequate Rate?**
Presented by: Julie Farber, Children's Rights
Co-Presented by: Karen Jorgenson, NFPA
In this workshop, presenter will describe a collaborative effort to develop adequate and appropriate reimbursement rates for foster parents that are based on the actual costs of caring for children in foster care, and current and future advocacy efforts. Participants will be asked to share their perspectives on these efforts.
- E-07 **One Perspective on Grieving**
Presented by: Nate Jensen, Turning Point Family Services
The grieving process is something every child, biological parent, and foster parent will undergo during the relationship of fostering. This workshop will use a hands-on approach to help gain a better understanding of this vital process. Foster parents are better able to help children manage their grieving feelings and behaviors when they gain insight into the child's experience being separated from their parent.
- E-08 **Legal Rights of Foster Children, Siblings, foster Parents and Others**
Presented by: Harvey Schweitzer, Attorney specializing in child welfare, Schweitzer and Scherr
This workshop will discuss the laws regarding the legal rights of relatives, foster parents and siblings. Although most of the law is state specific, there are issues that are of concern to all. For example, when must relatives be given a preference when assessing adoptive placements or pursuing permanency planning. Does a termination of parental rights sever the rights of all relatives, such as siblings and grandparents? Do siblings have a right to be placed with and grow up with one another? When, if ever, do foster parents have an enforceable legal right to maintain a relationship with a foster child? What circumstances will enable a foster parent to challenge removal of a foster child?
- E-09 **Developing Relationships with Schools**
Presented by: Jan Kjelland, Professional Trainer
This workshop offers foster parents guidance in developing positive, mutual working relationships with the school. Foster parents will be invited to explore their needs, the teachers and the children through interactive means. Additionally, strategies to promote team building will be modeled, examples of effective communication will be discussed, and participants will be supplied with the "tools" necessary to be effective in their interactions with the school system.
- E-10 **Help Child Caregivers Claim Tax Benefits: Learn More About the Earned Income Credit and Child Tax Credit**
Presented by: Christin Kundert, NFPA
Many families raising children qualify for federal tax credits and don't even know it. The Earned Income Credit (EIC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are federal tax benefits for low- and moderate-income wage earners. These tax credits can be worth thousands of dollars and can offset income and payroll taxes and supplement wages. Some people can receive a refund even if they don't owe income tax and many can receive both credits. This workshop will discuss both the CTC and EIC...Do You Qualify?

WORKSHOPS SESSION "F"

Sunday, May 27, 2007

8:00am-11:00am

F-01 Families for Life: Teaming to Achieve Permanence with Older Children and Youth in Foster Care

Presented by: Sarah Greenblatt, Casey Center for Effective Child Welfare Practice

This workshop will share how to plan and implement collaborative, "Permanency Team" planning, as an effective child welfare practice approach. Highlighted will be the meaningful inclusion of family, extended family, resource parents, and other important adults in the child/youth's natural network. Join us for a dynamic mix of lecture, role play and video.

F-02 Five Love Languages of Children and Teens

Presented by: Kim Combes, Foster Care Support Network, Impact Publications, Inc.

This interactive workshop will teach participants how to detect and implement their child's primary love language so as to keep their emotional tanks on FULL. This course will not only help parents learn to fluently speak their children's love language, but will help any adult who works with children of any age. Simultaneously, it will provide insights as to how to help fill the emotional tanks for spouses or significant others in one's life. You too can effectively convey feelings of respect, affection, and commitment to meet your loved ones' deepest emotional needs.

F-03 The Care and Feeding of Judges

Presented by: Judge Kathleen A. Kearney, Child Welfare Institute

This 3-hour workshop prepares foster parents to advocate on behalf of children and families in court by helping them to understand how judges decide cases, the ethical code judges are bound by, and how to best present information in court to ensure successful outcomes for children.

F-04 Advocacy 102

Presented by: Shirley Hedges, Professional Trainer, NFPA Past President

Continuation of Advocacy 101. Please see description under Session D. Attendees must have attended Advocacy 101 to attend this workshop.

F-05 The Methamphetamine Epidemic: Its Impact on Families, Agencies and Communities

Presented by: Albert G. Nixon, A New Beginning

During the last decade, the use of methamphetamine has become a major concern for law enforcement, substance abuse professionals, human service personnel as well as the general public. Why has this drug gone from an anomaly to an epidemic in such a short time? Who are the people who use it? Why is it so available? What are some of the treatment considerations for methamphetamine users? What can be done to prevent its continued use? Albert Nixon will discuss these questions and offer some suggestions on how to identify, address and treat persons addicted to methamphetamine along with prevention strategies for families and communities.

F-06 Child Welfare Jeopardy

Presented by: Carolyn Lander, D.C. Child and Family Services Agency

Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), a federal law passed in 1997, provides a foundation for this workshop and provides information from which foster parents can successfully advocate for their children and families. "Child Welfare Jeopardy" uses a game show format to provide participants with effective and entertaining ways to remember basic rights and responsibilities. Topics covered during the workshop include visits, legal rights and representation, supports and services, custody.

F-07 Educational Advocacy

Presented by: Jan Kjelland, Professional Trainer

This training will focus on encouraging, preparing, supporting, and empowering foster parents in becoming "educational advocates" for the foster youth in their care. Additionally, emphasis will be placed on the necessary leadership skills that are essential to effectively advocate for the education rights of the foster youth with special needs according to federal, state, and local mandates and laws.

F-08 Advocating for Children and Youth in Care

Presented by: Mark Riley, Legacy, Inc.

This interactive session will offer you a forum to share experiences about the children you care for every day and to further explore your role in advocating for them in the political and policy-making arenas. We will discuss the barriers to effective advocacy and how to overcome them by using several techniques, including presentation, discussion, small group, role play and "stand and deliver".

F-09 I'm More than My File

Presented by: Tammy Mahan, Children and Families of Iowa

Co-Presented by: Ruthanne Jarrett, Linda Dodson

This workshop is designed to help teenagers discover their own strengths, and to help the adults in their lives to guide them. The individuality, history, culture, and identity of the youth are vital character traits important to the professionals working with and motivating them. Professionals must look past "The File".

WORKSHOPS SESSION "G"

Sunday, May 27, 2007

2:00pm-3:30pm

- G-01 Making Your Point: Communicating Clearly About Permanence**
Presented by: Lee Mullane, Casey Family Services
This hands-on, interactive training will test and sharpen your skills in saying what you mean and meaning what you say, with a particular focus on the growing attention to family permanence- lifelong family connections for children and youth in foster care. This workshop will use role-playing, exercises and case examples to help participants deepen their understanding of basic communication techniques.
- G-02 Walking a Mile in a Child's Shoes**
Presented by: Ramona Dominguez, Youth Development Group
Co-Presented by: Janiell Harper-Youngblood
The purpose of this workshop is to offer providers and foster parent insight into the feelings of young people that they refer out for services or accept into their home. Discussion will also include how to sustain and re-energize the fire that fuels us in working with youth.
- G-03 Working with Children in Foster Care: Treatment Considerations**
Presented by: Gregory Canillas, Pepperdine University
This workshop is intended to provide information about working with foster children in psychotherapy. The presentation will focus on the role of grieving in the therapeutic process, particularly for children who are involved in long term foster care and are/will be separated from their families of origin for long periods of time. Objectives include: Learn about common problems associated with children in foster care, develop an understanding and appreciation of how children in foster care are impacted by the grieving process and possible treatment considerations, identify ways to assist families of origin and foster parents in identifying and following up on mental health and other needs of children in foster care.
- G-04 Foster Parents and Kin Caretakers: Essential Members of the Mental Health Team**
Presented by: Dr. Marilyn Benoit, Georgetown University Medical Center
Co-Presented by: Millicent Williams, CWLA
This workshop will focus on helping foster parents and kin caregivers understand the mental health issues facing children/youth in care. Forty-eight percent of children and youth in foster care have serious behavioral or mental health problems. This workshop will address the brain research findings related to maltreatment and its effects on the brain and on emotional functioning. It will explain why psychiatric disorders should be considered as "brain disorders: rather than "mental illness".
- G-05 The Great Melting Pot: Blending Cultures in Foster Care**
Presented by: Melanie Sims, City of Alexandria DHS
Co-Presented by: Cynthia Hunter-Morris
This workshop will focus on the importance of foster parents maintaining cultural connectedness for the children in their care. The highlights of this workshop will include thorough discussion on sensitive topics, video testimonials of foster parents, and sharing resources. It will provide an opportunity for creative, interactive activities that will promote new ideas and solutions for overcoming cultural barriers.
- G-06 The Teenage Brain**
Presented by: Lee Daniel, CAP Learning Associates
Co-Presented by: Gloria Daniel
A new look at the "teenage brain" from a researcher's prospective. There is a new insight into the crazy teenage years. Neurologically, teenagers do go a little "crazy" between 11 and 13. This is a physical phenomenon. This time is due to huge changes in the various parts of the brain. Some areas might enlarge or decrease in size, setting up sharp behavior changes, alterations, mood swings and deviant behaviors. These changes can make the caretaker ponder if "they" are the ones who are really "crazy" or is it the child.
- G-07 Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth in Care**
Presented by: Rob Woronoff, CWLA
Between September 2003 and December 2004, staff associated with the Child Welfare League of America and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's joint initiative conducted a series of 13 forums, known as Regional Listening Forums, throughout the country. More than 500 youth and adults from more than half the states in the nation attended these forums. They shared their experiences as youth in care or adults who work in the foster care system, and they offered the ideas for ways to improve services for LGBTQ foster youth. This workshop is intended for anyone who wishes to learn more about the experiences of LGBTQ youth in care of the child welfare system. Presenters will highlight many of the findings from these forums and explore ways in which child welfare agencies, schools, medical providers, law enforcement and other youth-servicing organizations can become better equipped to meet the needs of LGBTQ foster youth.
- G-08 One Heart Can Make a Difference: Serving Our Children with a Spirit of Excellence**
Presented by: Mark Anthony Garrett, Professional Trainer
Mr. Garrett is a former foster and adopted youth with wonderful insight on how this experience impacted his life. Mark will talk about the importance of being focused on what our purpose and mission is in life as it relates to empowering children. This session is EXTREMELY motivational, fun and life changing.
- G-09 What Parents Need to Know About Subsidized Adoption and the Adoption Tax Credit**
Presented by: Joe Kroll, NFPA, NACAC
In this session parents and workers will receive basic information on benefits available for special needs children. Topics include eligibility, benefits, administrative hearings, taxes, and more. The adoption tax credit for special needs adoption will be reviewed. NACAC has the most complete database of federal and state subsidy programs and will provide workshop participants with their state profile.

WORKSHOPS SESSION "H"

Sunday, May 27, 2007

4:00pm-5:30pm

- H-01 **Strategizing to Fund, Achieve and Sustain Family Permanence**
Presented by: Sarah Greenblatt, Casey Family Services
This workshop will engage participants in a strategy session to explore options for achieving and sustaining the array of permanency services and post-permanency services needed to support families making a permanent commitment to children and youth in foster care. Options for funding permanency and post-permanency services will be discussed as will advocacy strategies with state child welfare agencies.
- H-02 **Working with Birth Parents**
Presented by: Joe Kroll, NFPA, NACAC
Foster parents are being asked to work more closely with birth parents as they attempt to reunify with their children in care. Hear the experiences of birth parents whose children were removed from care and were successfully reunited after the parents completed treatment and other goals. Foster parents will hear techniques for working with birth parents including mentoring, sharing parenting skills and managing visitations
- H-03 **Preventing Bullying and Harassment**
Presented by: James Jelinske, Creative Education Services
The focus of this presentation is on providing parents with a realistic look at bullying behavior and its effects on children. This presentation also enables parents to look for signs of bullying behavior in their own children or to help parents recognize that their children are being bullied. Parents are provided with specific interventions to stop bullying and techniques to teach their own children in order to stop being bullied.
- H-04 **Building Bridges: Improving Educational Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care and Adoption**
Presented by: Erica Zito, Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
The two components of Building Bridges curriculum address the challenges out-of-home youth face in the schools: the first teaches foster/adoptive parents to advocate for children in the schools; the second informs school personnel about issues our youth face. This workshop will help you develop a similar low-cost program.
- H-05 **Parenting with Style**
Presented by: Sunny Werner Rivendell, Oregon foster Parent Association
This workshop will be an interactive, participatory event covering the common types of parenting styles and why they don't work. Learn new techniques with which to dazzle and amaze your children, share your own most effective techniques with others and come away with some fresh ideas. Be prepared to have fun and participate!
- H-06 **Navigating the Landmines of Foster Care and Adoption**
Presented by: Sheri Rego, Resource Family Training Institute
Co-Presented by: Julie Gelo
During this workshop, participants will engage in a fun, highly interactive and experiential exercise designed to highlight both the obstacles inherent in youth achieving independence, as well as the impact or influence that other people have on the youth's behavior. This exercise will help participants identify who the people "on the sidelines" are, and how they may be either helping or hindering the youth in moving toward living independently.
- H-07 **Foster Parent Insurance: Are You Covered for That?**
Presented by: Robert Brotemarkle, Foster Parent Professionals
This session will address the current state of foster parent liability issues. These issues include, defensive foster parenting, how to utilize auto and homeowners insurance and the liability exposures specific to foster parents. We will discuss some real life scenarios and encourage questions from attendees.
- H-08 **Tame the Tiger: Explosive Children**
Presented by: Gloria Daniel, CAP Learning Associates
Co-Presented by: Lee Daniel
This workshop looks at the difference between anger and rage based on the research of Dr. Richard Greene and Dr. Daniel Amen. We will also address interventions and outlooks for parents and schools to gain control of the child, and make the whole family life better. These episodes are described as "Firestorms" in the brain, over which the child may have no physical control. We will review what safety measures caretakers must take, to help the child begin the journey to heal, feel safe and eventually re-structure the brain to decrease the "hot wired" memories that evoke this primitive response.
- H-09 **Anyone Can be an Advocate**
Presented by: David Laird, Voices for America's Children
Anyone can be an advocate. This workshop will give participants the information they need to begin to engage in individual advocacy efforts on behalf of children and families served by the foster care system. Attendees will learn how they can raise their voices for children and youth.
- H-10 **Youth Speak**
Presented by: Youth Panel, NFPA Youth Track Event
Young people participating in the NFPA youth track present their views on topics ranging from education to permanency to bio-family visitation. Hear about the challenges adolescents in foster care face through the personal stories of these young people. Listen to the recommendations they have about how foster parents and caregivers can help them prepare for successful futures.

Just for youth: [check out the](#)

Join in a historical event!

The first-time ever!

YOUTH TRACK

Speak Up on Capitol Hill

Who should attend?

Young people in foster care, age 14 and up. You must attend with a foster parent or adult who is participating in the NFPA conference

Led by 20 Emerging Youth Leaders from the National Foster Care Coalition, including young adults from:

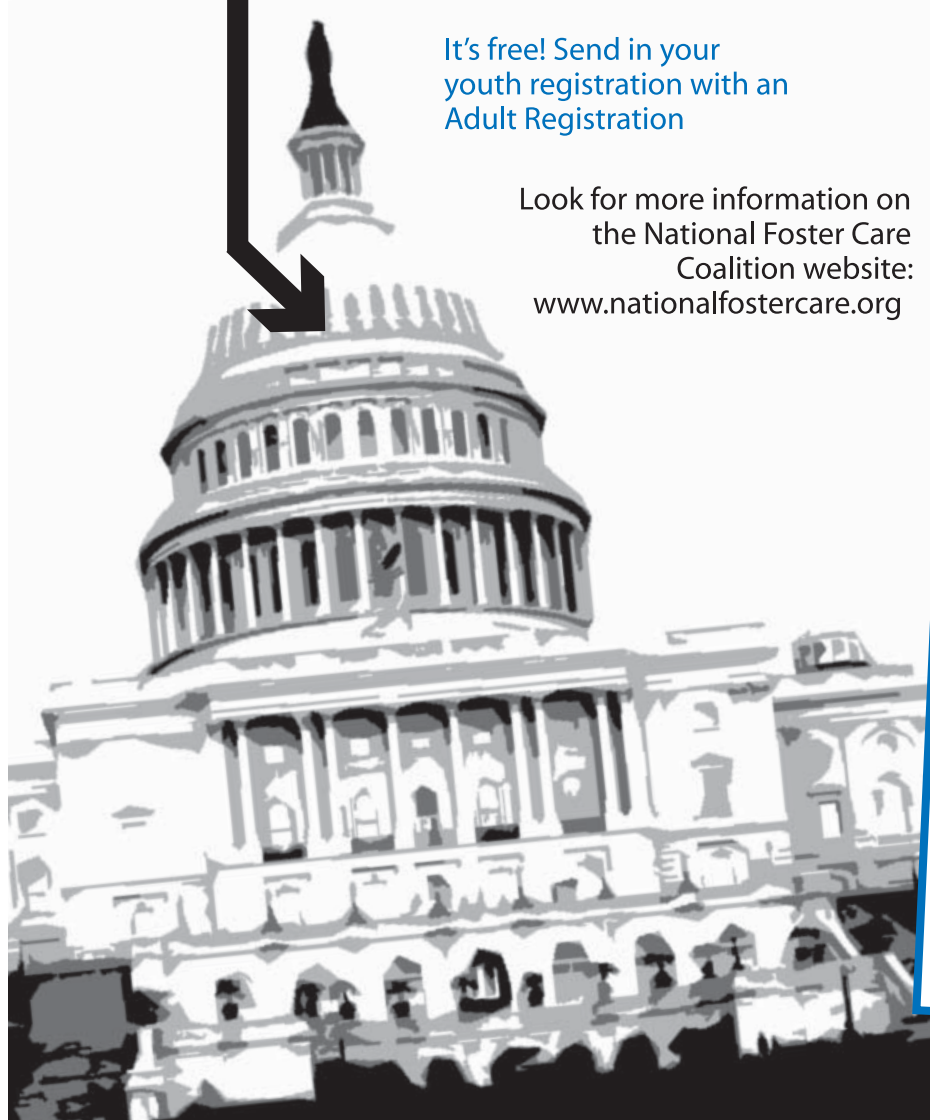
- Orphan Foundation of America Scholars
- National Foster Youth Advisory Board
- California Youth Connection
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
- Foster Care Alumni of America
- FosterClub All-Stars

It's free! Send in your youth registration with an Adult Registration

Look for more information on the National Foster Care Coalition website: www.nationalfostercare.org

An action-packed agenda (here's a sneak peek!):

Wednesday, May 23:	
Early Registration	7:00pm-9:00pm
Thursday, May 24:	
Hill Day prep	9:30am-11:30pm
Lunch	11:30am-12:30pm
Hill Day visits	12:30pm-4:30pm
Opening Session	7:00pm-9:00pm
Friday, May 25:	
Opening Session: Tribes	9:30am-11:00am
Awards Luncheon	11:30am-1:00pm
Workshops Session "A"	1:30pm-2:30pm
Workshops Session "B"	2:30pm-3:30pm
General Session	3:45pm-5:00pm
Saturday, May 26:	
Foster Care 411	8:00am-9:30am
Workshops Session "C"	9:30am-10:30am
Workshops Session "D"	10:30am-11:30am
Lunch	11:30am-12:30pm
General Session	12:30pm-2:30pm
Break	2:30pm-2:45pm
Aging Out film showing	2:45pm-3:45pm
Discussion groups/YouthSpeak	3:45pm-5:15pm
Surprise Activity	7:00pm-12:00am
Sunday, May 27:	
Foster Care 411	8:00am-9:30am
General Session	9:30am-11:30am
Closing Luncheon Program	11:30pm-1:30pm
Prep for Presentation	2:00pm-3:30pm
Break	3:30pm -4:00pm
YouthSpeak Workshop	4:00pm-5:30pm
Closing session	5:30pm-6:30pm
Monday, May 28:	
Travel or Sight Seeing Day (on your own)	



NFPA Youth Track

Rules & Expectations

Rules & Expectations: Please read and initial each item.

_____ 1. I will attend all parts of the planned program. I will inform those in charge if I am not feeling well or need medical attention and cannot attend the scheduled activity.

_____ 2. I will observe established hours and be in my area. I know that boys are not allowed in the "girls only" areas and girls are not allowed in the "boys only" areas.

_____ 3. I will dress appropriately to the occasion. I will at all times, be courteous and clean, in dress and language, and display good manners. My language will be appropriate and respectful of others. I will not swear.

_____ 4. I will not leave the assigned program area, at any time, without permission of the person in charge of my county or activity. I will stay for the entire duration of conference.

_____ 5. I will not bring or use alcohol, drugs (except those prescribed by my doctor), fireworks, firearms, pocket knives, or weapons of any kind. If I see anyone breaking this rule I will report it immediately.

_____ 6. I will be responsible for all my personal property.

_____ 7. I will respect others' personal property and personal space which means I will keep my hands to myself.

_____ 8. Shoplifting, theft or vandalism of public or personal property will not be tolerated. I will not be a part of this kind of activity and will report any such activity that I am aware of.

_____ 9. I will avoid roughness and damage of room furnishings, furniture, equipment, etc. I know that I am responsible for any damage or misconduct.

_____ 10. I know that Youth Conference is to encourage interaction among all members attending, but not exclusively with one person. I know that kissing and other sexual displays of personal affection or harassment distract from the group and are not appropriate behaviors and I will refrain from them.

_____ 11. I will not use tobacco products at any time during conference activities and understand that underage tobacco use is prohibited.

_____ 12. I understand cell phones are not allowed at the Conference.

_____ 13. Walkman, Discman and pagers are not allowed during workshop, recreation time or convention activities.

Your participation in the Youth Conference carries a responsibility. You are expected to conduct yourself in a manner that reflects well on your state, county, as well as yourself. Your contribution to the conference is as important as what you receive from the conference.

I KNOW THAT VIOLATORS MAY EXPECT:

1. To have the opportunity to explain actions to my foster parent/caregiver.

2. To be excluded from all youth track and conference activities.

I hereby agree and understand the code of conduct and consequences.

Youth Signature

Date

For information:
1-800-557-5238

Note: Application
does not guarantee
a reservation.

National Foster Parent Association Youth Track Application

For Youth Attendees Aged 14-21

Fax or Mail Completed
Forms along with
Caregiver's Conference
Registration:

Fax: 1-253-853-4001

Mail: NFPA Youth Track
7512 Stanich Lane, #6
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Name _____ Gender male female
 Address _____ English Speaker Other: _____
 City, St, Zip _____ Phone _____
 Email _____ Birth date _____
 Is this your first youth conference? yes no

Name of Foster Parent/Caregiver: _____
 Foster Parent/Caregiver Cell Phone Number: _____
 Name of Hotel Where Youth and Foster Parent/Caregiver will be Staying: _____
 Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency Medical Instruction (i.e. take to nearest hospital) _____

Medical Plan _____ Medical Card # _____
 Medication yes no Type/Name _____
 Dosage _____
 Special Medical Needs Allergy Heart Diabetes Insect bites
 Drug reaction Epilepsy Pregnant Handicap Other: _____

(Please describe special needs on a separate sheet of paper and submit with this application)

Special dietary needs _____

My transportation to and from the conference will be provided by: _____
 I have read and agree to abide by the Rules & Expectations
 I have attached a copy of my medical card

 Youth Signature Date

I grant permission for the youth listed above to attend the
 Conference and receive any medical attention that may be
 required

 Guardian Signature Date

NFPA Youth Track Consent & Release Form

Consent Form

Youth Name: _____

Please initial and sign

____ Youth has permission to attend the NFPA Youth Track May 24-27, 2007, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

____ I understand that I am responsible for the supervision and wellbeing of this youth during the youth track event, during any NFPA conference activities and at all times.

____ NFPA will not be held liable for the supervision or wellbeing of this youth at any point.

____ NFPA will not be liable for any damage or ill-activity resulting from this youth attending this event.

Legal Guardian _____ *Date* _____

Is youth on probation? Yes No

If yes, we need the signature of the probation officer showing his/her consent for this youth to attend teen conference and to leave the county.

_____ *Date* _____

Probation Officer's signature

Release Authorization

During the 2007 NFPA Youth Track Conference, a memory book and/or slide presentation may be made using photographs taken during the event. Your picture(s) may be taken and used to create a promotional tool to be used by various state and county departments to promote future youth conferences. Signing below indicates NFPA has permission to use youth's likeness, as a participant in this event in a slide presentation for future independent living participants. I understand by signing this form, that my picture(s) may be taken and used by individuals associated with NFPA to promote future youth conferences and program services.

Signature of Legal Guardian (If under 18) _____ *Date* _____

Signature of Youth _____ *Date* _____