



CONNECTING, SUPPORTING, AND STRENGTHENING FOSTER FAMILIES

BREMER, BUTLER, FRANKLIN, AND GRUNDY COUNTIES

Allison Area Foster Parents

Licensing Rules and Relicensing Information November 17, 2009

October sped by and we are well into the month of Thanksgiving with our November meeting approaching. At the [Tuesday, November 17 meeting, scheduled for 7-9 p.m.](#), we'll have a chance to learn more about the new DHS licensing rules that took effect October 1 as well as the relicensing process for foster parents. Michelle Sloyer and Katie Mohr our DHS and IKN Licensing Specialists will be available to lead the discussion and answer questions.

Our meeting will be held at our new meeting location, the [Vineyard Community Church, 319 West Bremer Avenue \(just across from the new Walgreens\) in Waverly.](#)

Prior to that training, we will also be spending some time with five Wartburg students who are helping to design our new Certified Respite Program to best meet the needs of our families. They are part of a class on evaluation and their project is to survey our

to gather information and then create a report that we will use to help put our certified respite plan in place. They will be asking us questions on our respite needs for foster children in our care and how we can use our Certified Respite Grant to best help meet those needs. We hope that most of you will try to attend so your opinions can be included. For those who are unable to attend, the students may attempt to contact you by phone or email.

We will have child care available in the Sunday School area for infants through 12-year-olds and Kate Haberman will be available to meet with our teens.

Please bring a snack item to share with the group. We will provide paper products and beverages.



Christmas Gifts for Foster Children

Two area churches, Union Congregational United Church of Christ of Reinbeck, and Shell Rock United Methodist Church of Shell Rock have offered to buy Christmas gifts for area foster children. If you have current foster placements that you would like included on the list to receive a gift, please contact Nancy (319-352-3600 or 877-467-4100 or magnall_ifapa@msn.com) or contact Pamela Jones (319-239-5905 or pjones@quakerdale.org) and tell them the child's first name, the gender, the age, the clothing size, and any toy, game, activity, character, etc. that is a favorite of the child. We will also have a sign-up sheet available at the November meeting. We would like to have the list completed and ready to give to the churches by November 20 so they have plenty of time to purchase the gifts so they can be delivered in time for Christmas.



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ODDS AND ENDS

Our group was recently awarded a \$5000 grant from AdoptusKids and NACAC to help in the development of a certified respite program. This will allow foster parents access to certified respite providers who will be able to come into the foster home to provide respite care overnight. If you know of someone (friend, relative, neighbor) who might be willing to be trained as a respite provider for yours or other foster families, please let us know. We are currently in the process of seeking applicants who would be willing to serve as respite providers. A copy of the application as well as further information is included with this newsletter. If you know of someone who would be interested in providing respite for your family or for other foster families, please share this application with them and ask them to apply. We are looking for applicants in all of our counties so respite providers are available to everyone who needs them.

For licensing or relicensing questions, contact Michelle Sloyer the DHS licensing worker assigned to our four counties. If you need to reach Michelle, you can call her at 319-292-2416 or email msloyer@dhs.state.ia.us.

The activities of our group are funded in large part by generous grants and donations from the Waverly-Shell Rock United Way, the Bremer, Butler, and Grundy County Community Foundations, the Waverly Community Foundation, the Waverly Exchange Club, and Sam's Club Foundation. We thank all of these organizations for their support.

If you are currently receiving our newsletter by mail and would be willing to receive a copy electronically instead, please email Nancy at magnall_ifapa@msn.com. Each copy we are able to send by email saves our group about 60 cents which we can then use for other activities and supports for our member families.

Cedar Falls foster parent, Lisa Timmerman, is willing to provide respite care for other foster families in their own home. In interested in this option, contact Lisa at timmermanl@dikenh.k12.ia.us or 319-266-8689.

Please watch your mailbox or email inbox very soon for your family's invitation to our special family Christmas event coming up on Saturday, December 5, from 4-6 p.m. St. John Lutheran Church in Clarksville. We will be serving a nice holiday meal as well as planning other activities including a special visit by a guest from the North Pole. Thanks to our group members David and Kris Nelson for making their church available for this special holiday gathering.

**"If we can't care for children and secure for them a future filled with promise, not despair, all other achievements of this society will be diminished."
—Tom Brokaw**

Important Budget News from DHS

The Department of Human Services is aware that many foster and adoptive parents have heard of the across the board 10% budget cuts directed by the Governor's Executive order. In order to implement the Department's required reduction, all budget items were reviewed and careful thought was put into making decisions that would be the least disruptive to children and families. To meet the required reduction, a 5% across the board rate reduction of foster care, adoption subsidy and subsidized guardianship payments has been approved by the Governor.

Also, reductions to the clothing allowance for foster children, suspending new requests for special services subsidies, and nonrecurring expenses for adoptive families received the Governor's approval. These reductions will be effective January 1, 2010 once final administrative rules are approved on December 9, 2009 through the rule making process. If the reductions are approved through the rule making process, foster and adoptive parents and subsidized guardians should expect to receive a Notice of Decision after December 15 concerning the child who is receiving a foster care maintenance, adoption subsidy, or subsidized guardianship payment. The reduction applies to maintenance and any difficulty of care payments the child receives.

Payments for nonrecurring expenses related to finalizing adoptions for adoptive families will be capped at a total of \$500 per child for attorney fees and other related legal expenses. Payment for new special services subsidy will be suspended until 6/30/10.

Clothing allowance will be reduced from \$250 to \$237.50 for the initial clothing allowance and for the additional clothing allowance during a calendar year reduced from \$200 to \$190 for family foster care when the child needs clothing to replace lost clothing or because of growth or weight change and the child does not have escrow funds to cover the cost.

2009-2010 Meeting Schedule

November 17, 2009: Regular Meeting in Waverly
Training on *New Licensing Rules and Relicensing* with DHS/IKN Staff

December 5, 2009: Family Christmas Party
4-6 p.m., St. John Lutheran Church in Clarksville

January 19, 2010: Regular Meeting in Waverly
Training on *Autism: A Parent's Perspective* with Dr. Suzanne Bartlett

February, 2010: Special Valentine Event
Location and Date to be Announced

March 16, 2010: Regular Meeting in Waverly
Kickoff of New Certified Respite Program

April, 2010: Foster Family Spring Fling
Location and Date to be Announced

May 18, 2010: Regular Meeting in Waverly
Plus Foster Parent Appreciation Event

Other Area Support Group Meetings

We are fortunate to have several excellent foster/adoptive support groups in this area. Families are welcome to attend whichever group best meets their needs and works best with their family schedule. Other November meetings in this area include:

Black Hawk County Foster Parent Group

Tuesday, November 10
7-9 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church, 1024 W. 8th Street in Waterloo
Training on Documentation
Call Dianna Seedorff for more information at 888-622-4521

Charles City Area Foster Parent Group

Tuesday, November 10
6:00-8:30 p.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 611 W. Court, New Hampton
Training on Discipline Strategies
Call Josh Pedretti for more information at (563) 419-7057

Mason City Area Foster Parent Group

Tuesday, November 17

Doors open at 6:30; Speaker from 7-9 p.m.
DHS Liberty Room, 22 North Georgia Street in Mason City
Call Christie McGuire for more information at 800-720-9850 Code 62

ALLISON AREA FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

CONNECTING, SUPPORTING, AND STRENGTHENING FOSTER /ADOPTIVE FAMILIES
In Bremer, Butler, Franklin, and Grundy Counties

Certified Respite Provider Initial Application

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Phone:

Email Address:

Are you currently employed? Yes No

If, yes, where are you employed?

Are you currently a college student? Yes No

If yes, where are you a student and what is your classification: 1st year Soph Junior Senior

How did you hear about the Certified Respite Program?

Are you interested in providing respite care for a specific foster family? Yes No

If yes, name of foster parent(s):

What type of children/youth you would like to care for (age, behaviors, disabilities)?

What experience do you have in providing care for or supervising children/youth?

Do you have any education or training in child development and/or the effects of trauma on children?

Do you have a Driver's License?

Do you have a vehicle available for personal use?

Return completed application to Nancy Magnall, 2004 11th Street SE, Waverly, IA 50677
Call (319-352-3600 or 877-467-4100) or email (magnall_ifapa@msn.com) with questions.

Additional Information about Certified Respite Program

1. Certified Respite Providers must be at least 19 years of age at date of application.
2. Respite care will be provided in the home of licensed foster parents in Bremer, Butler, Franklin, Grundy, and Black Hawk Counties.
3. Two days of initial training (six hours per day) will be required. The training will be held from 9:00-4:00 on two Saturdays in January, 2010, in Waverly.
4. Applicants will need to be fingerprinted and pass criminal records and child abuse registry checks prior to the training.
5. Certified Respite Providers will be required to complete CPR, First Aid, and Mandatory Reporter of Child Abuse training within one year of becoming certified.
6. The certification process will include a background study conducted by Wartburg College social work students, supervised by a social work professor, and approved by the Iowa Department of Human Services.
7. The certification process will include a minimum of three reference checks.
8. Upon completion of the initial training and background study, each Certified Respite Provider will be issued a certificate from the Department of Human Services, authorizing them to provide in-home respite care to foster or adoptive families in Bremer, Butler, Franklin, Grundy, or Black Hawk Counties.
9. Certified Respite Providers must have a current driver's license. It is preferred that they have a vehicle available for their personal use.
10. Certified Respite Providers must have the willingness and ability to maintain strict confidentiality regarding the foster children they care for.
11. Certified Respite Providers will have the right to accept or decline opportunities to provide respite care, but it is expected that they would be willing and available to provide respite a minimum of two days per month.
12. Certified Respite Providers will receive a stipend of \$20 per day per foster child cared for.
13. Certified Respite Providers will be provided relevant information on the needs and behaviors of the children they care for as well as who to contact for needed assistance when providing respite care.
14. Certified Respite Providers will be expected to commit to participating in the program for a minimum of one year.