

# Central Connections



2001 Vol. 4

For Heart of Illinois Foster Parents

Central Region's Administration invited Melinda Woods-Lis to train foster parents on the new Levels of Care evaluations and help families stay current on new DCFS procedures.

The new procedures require caseworkers to interview foster parents to get their input for the new caregiver report portion of the evaluation form. Foster parents can offer unique insight into the behaviors and the needs of a child. Those who attended the training had an opportunity to review the documentation required to conduct a level of care assessment.

The following forms are included in the Level of Care referral packet:

- Application for Levels of Care Review
- Caregiver Report of Special Needs for Children who are age five and younger
- Caregiver Report of Special Needs for Children who are age six and older
- Certification of Mental Health/Behavioral Special Needs
- Certification of Medical/Physical Special Needs
- The Preliminary Assessment
- Supplemental Documentation (specific to the special need category or categories identified by the caseworker).

With the new review processes, trained DCFS nurses review and score the medical sections on the form for any child that appears to have moderate to severe medical/physical conditions. Additionally, DCFS age 0-5 Specialists review and score the form for any child that is five years old or younger and has been identified as having mental health/behavioral or developmental special needs.



Carol Loy, Melinda Woods-Lis and Kim Dunn.

There are four categories of special needs. Each category has different required documents:

## Levels of Care Training for Central Region

1. Mental health/behavioral and/or developmental special needs for children 5 years old and younger.
2. Mental health/behavioral special needs for children 6 years and older.
3. Developmental special needs for children 6 years and older.
4. Medical/physical special needs.

Once a complete Levels of Care referral packet has been submitted to the DCFS Level of Care Reviewer, the Reviewer will have 15 business days to complete the review. When the Level of Care review has been completed, the form and a cover letter will be sent to the caseworker and foster parent (if applicable).

Central region foster parents found this training very informative and recommended that other foster parents attend future trainings in their area to learn more information. This training can also count for education credits toward re-licensure.

*Approved Melinda Woods-Lis*

## Meet Nurse Chris Herbert from Rock Island Field Office



I believe it is vitally important that health professionals look at the whole child to determine the best way to care for him or her. So often we look at children "in pieces." For instance a child could see one doctor for check-ups, a therapist for mental health concerns and a psychiatrist for medication maintenance. These professionals all want to help the child, but often don't work in a coordinated fashion.

Recently, I had an idea to make a difference. I met with the Outpatient staff at Robert Young Mental Health Center to discuss some concerns the staff had about DCFS wards. I introduced them to the Health Passport. The suggestion was made to have foster parents / or workers bring a copy of the updated Health Passport with them so Robert Young Medical Health Center could have it for their files. This way the medical staff could have a total picture of the child's health care needs.

A doctor who reviewed the Health Passport felt having a holistic view of the child could improve how she orders medications. We made a plan that the Health Passport copy would be placed in the ward's file so the mental health provider could address the whole child, not just the mental health concerns.

### Central Connections



#### Sponsor

Deborah Kennedy, DCFS  
Central Regional Administrator

#### Editor



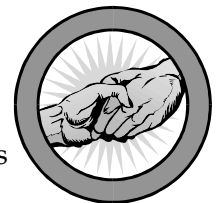
Joyce Loy, Foster Parent  
801 S. High St.  
Port Byron, IL 61275  
Phone: 309-523-3189

Fax: 309-523-3360  
E-mail: [jloy1@gateway.net](mailto:jloy1@gateway.net)

Call with foster parent association news and schedules of local training, features on foster families and community members working for children, photos and news articles and supports all foster families can use.

Foster parents and staff should all work together to make sure that medical information is being placed in the Health Passports so the information is current. The DCFS medical staff will continue to make this a priority and share this information with our foster parents and workers of both DCFS and private agencies. Only then can we be certain the children in our care are getting the best medical care. As Martha Stewart says, "This is a good thing."

## Teamwork Recognition



Because of Central Region's commitment to teamwork, a new feature has been added to Central Region's pages of Fostering Illinois. We want to hear your stories of great teamwork between families and caseworkers. Send your stories of successful teamwork to the Central Region Teamwork Committee:

Attn: Joyce Loy  
Central Region Editor  
801 South High  
Port Byron, IL 61275

Include caseworkers' names, foster parents' names or anyone else who made the success come together. The committee will choose one story of teamwork to be featured in the Fostering Illinois Central Region insert each issue.

Deb Kennedy, Regional Administrator, would like to see more foster parents getting involved in different committees making plans and shaping policy in the Central Region. Some committees may need one or two representatives where as others may have many openings.

To make it as easy as possible to get involved in any committee, just complete the form below and mail it to:

**DCFS  
Pat Koehler  
5415 N. University  
Peoria, Illinois 61614**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Which committees are you interested in?

\_\_\_\_\_ Central Region Advisory Council      \_\_\_\_\_ Local Foster Parent Bill of Rights

\_\_\_\_\_ DCFS Regional Quality Assurance      \_\_\_\_\_ DCFS Quality Improvement

\_\_\_\_\_ Respite      \_\_\_\_\_ Training

\_\_\_\_\_ Assisting foster homes in preparing for kids coming out of residential care      \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Feedback

\_\_\_\_\_ Private Agencies may have their own internal committees.  
Are you interested in attending these?

Why would you like to get involved? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Private Agency or DCFS foster home? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a private agency home, what agency are you with? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CLIP AND MAIL!

CLIP AND MAIL!

# Central Region Training Calendar

## FosterPRIDE In-Service Training

All licensed foster parents and adoptive parents are welcome to attend any or all of the PRIDE In-Service Trainings to enhance their skills and meet yearly training requirements.

**Module 1 - The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children**  
(Four 3-hour sessions = 12 training hours)

**Module 2 - Using Discipline to Protect and Nurture**  
(Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 3 - Addressing Developmental Issues Related to Sexuality** (One 3-hour session = 3 training hours)

**Module 4 - Responding to the Signs and Symptoms of Sexual Abuse** (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 5 - Supporting Relationships Between Children and Their Families** (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 6 - Working as a Professional Team Member**  
(Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 7 - Promoting Children's Personal and Cultural Identity** (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 8 - Promoting Permanency Outcomes**  
(Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 9 - Managing the Impact of Placement on Your Family** (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 10 - Understanding the Effects of Chemical Dependency on Children & Families**  
(Five 3-hour sessions = 15 training hours)

## Educational Advocacy

Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours

It is mandatory for one foster parent in each family to attend Educational Advocacy Training in order to be licensed or re-licensed. Educational Advocacy Training is offered following each Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE training and many additional times. This six hour course covers information foster parents need to know so that they can advocate for their foster children's educational rights and needs.

### Champaign Area 888-467-6065

	Module
<b>CHAMPAIGN - Workforce Prep Center</b> August 2, 9, 16 & 23 (Thurs) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	1
<b>DANVILLE - Victory Temple COGIC</b> August 11, 18 & 25 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	5
<b>DECATUR - TBA</b> August 7, 14 & 21 (Tues) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	6
<b>MATTOON - Broadway Christ. Church</b> August 7, 14 & 21 (Tues) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	5
<b>NORMAL - The Baby Fold</b> August 2, 9 & 16 (Thurs) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	5

### Other In-Service Trainings

**OUCH! Practical Care for Black Hair & Skin (6 hrs.)**  
**BLOOMINGTON - Northside Church of Christ**  
August 13 & 20 (Mon) 6:30-9:30 p.m.

**Reactive Attachment Disorder (6 hrs.)**

**CHAMPAIGN - Workforce Prep Center**  
August 18 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
**PONTIAC - Salem Comm. Based Services**  
August 4 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

### Peoria Area 888-507-7433

	Module
<b>GALESBURG - Salvation Army</b> August 7, 14, 21 & 28 (Tues) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	1

### Springfield Area 888-817-1825

	Module
<b>PITTSFIELD - Pittsfield High School</b> August 6, 13 & 20 (Mon) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	8
<b>SPRINGFIELD - Lincoln Land Comm. College</b> August 6, 13, 20 & 27 (Mon) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	1

### Peoria Area 888-507-7433

PEORIA	Professional Park Plaza
August 7 & 14 (Tues)	6:00-9:00 p.m.

### Champaign Area 888-467-6065

DECATUR	Decatur Civic Center
August 11 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

### Springfield Area 888-817-1825

LITCHFIELD	Lincoln Land Community College
August 4 & 11 (Sat)	1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Pre-registration is required for all classes!**  
**Call the number listed for your area.**

