



Hoke County DSS Resource Family Newsletter

LET'S JUST DO THIS!

We have thought about it a hundred times and talked about doing this...well, we are finally just going to do this. Do what you ask? Do a Newsletter!

Our foster parent population is growing and continues to grow; what better way to get out information, changes, training, events, etc. to everyone than a newsletter?

So, here we go...we will give this a try. BUT, we can't do this without your input. Please give us your ideas, stories, and thoughts.

We also need a NAME for this newsletter, as the one we have come up with is

pretty boring and plain! Any ideas? Pass them on to us by phone or e-mail. Our main number is (910) 875-8725.

Individual e-mails and phone numbers can be found at the Social Worker listing inside this issue.

We look forward to this exciting new adventure and we hope that it will be informative, purposeful, and fun!



Let's put our ideas together and create something great!

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH... WE CELEBRATE YOU!

There are approximately 496,000 children in foster care in the United States; 9,744 (Mar '09) children in care in North Carolina, and 42 (Mar '09) in care in Hoke County. Our County represents a small portion of the number of total children in care, but with out you, those 42 children

wouldn't have a safe and stable place to live; many would go without food, clothing, and shelter; they would go without someone looking out for them, nurturing them, praising them. Because of you, 42 children have a safe & stable place to live. Thank you for all that you do everyday for our children.

We don't thank you enough; we don't show our appreciation for what you do day in and day out. One of the many reasons we want to start the Newsletter...to let you know that we do appreciate what you do. We know we could not do our job if it weren't for you!! Thank you!

Hoke County DSS Foster Care & Adoptions

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May 2009

Special Points Of Interest

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- © WWW.NCKIDS.COM
- © WWW.NCREACH.COM
- © WWW.ncfapa.org

**MAY IS NATIONAL
FOSTER CARE MONTH**

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The Foster Care/Adoption Social Work Team

The Hoke County DSS Foster Care & Adoptions Unit has a total of 8 staff members: one Supervisor, one Office Assistant, one Facilitator, four Foster Care Social Workers and one Adoptions Social Worker.

What do we do? We are responsible for the safety, well-being, and permanence of children in the custody of DSS. We work with children and their families in partnership with foster parents, relatives, and various community agencies to reunite families.

As many of you know, reunification isn't always possible. Children that can't return home need somewhere to call home and continuing in foster

care is not the answer. As Social Workers, it is our responsibility to find permanent homes for children to grow up in because foster care is designed to be temporary.

Our Team is small, but we do great and many things for the children and families that we serve.

Aside from working with children in custody, we provide a variety of other services: private adoption pre-placement assessments; private adop-

tion court reports; home studies for other counties; training, licensing and supervision of DSS foster homes; Independent Living services (LINKS)

to youth in foster care; and supervision of children from other states placed in Hoke County...just to name a few!

Our greatest mission is protecting children; next is being a support to foster/adoptive parents & other caretakers of our children in care.



FIVE SOCIAL WORKERS, ONE SUPERVISOR, ONE FACILITATOR & ONE OFFICE ASSISTANT... ONE TEAM

Let us know what we can do to support you!

Foster Care & Adoption: Terms, policies, practices—what does it all mean?

On any particular day, a Social Worker will use a term or acronym unfamiliar to you. He/she will mention a policy at a meeting or refer to a law as the basis for a decision. You, as a Foster /Adoptive/Relative/ Resource Parent, are a very important part of the system; we need and want to make sure you understand what we mean when we use 'DSS terms' such as: TPR, PPAT, GAL, etc., and understand when we talk about

how laws and policies guide us in our decision making.

You are not alone, sometimes we make the mistake of thinking you understand all the DSS/Child Welfare jargon. We hope that this newsletter will 'un-muddy' the waters!

Each newsletter will target a specific area of child welfare. We will explore the laws and policies that direct Social Workers in their day to day jobs; we will define various child

welfare terms; we will clarify the purpose of meetings, court reviews, and permanence for children, just to name a few. If you have something you want to know more about, contact us and we will include it in the next issue. In the mean time, read below!

Have you ever said to yourself:

"The Social Worker keeps using terms that I don't understand"

COMMON DSS/CHILD WELFARE ACRONYMS

DSS: Department of Social Services

GAL:Guardian Ad Litem

TPR: Termination of Parental Rights

PPAT: Permanency Planning Action Team

F/F: face to face

T/C: telephone call

H/V: home visit SV: school visit

SW: Social Worker

SWS: Social Work Supervisor



SWI/AT: Social Worker Investigations/ Assessment & Treatment

CFT: Child & Family Team Meeting

CCPT: Community Child Protection Team

DV: Domestic Violence

CPS: Child Protective Services

WF: Work First

More to come next month.....

Foster Care/Adoptions Unit & other Important Contact Info

Supervisor:

Kristi Pigford 878-1925

Foster Care Social Workers:

April Locklear 878-1927

Wally Sirenko 878-1928

Judy Anderson 878-1932

Wanda Harley 878-4040

Adoptions Social Worker:

Ana Watson 878-1989

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Jennifer Otero 878-1987

Office Assistant:

Sheila Campbell 878-1926

E-Mail Addresses:

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DSS Main Number 875-8725

After Hours Emergencies:

875-2135 or 911

LINKS Program

The LINKS program is an Independent Living Program for youth in foster care, ages 13-20. The program also serves youth who aged out of foster care at age 18 & other youth who were in foster care as a teenager; they can access some LINKS resources until their 21st birthday.

The LINKS program is required by Federal and State Government. It is designed to provide services, goods, cash, trainings, various incentives, and many other things to help youth be-



come self-sufficient when they reach adulthood and go out on their own.

The Hoke DSS LINKS coordinator is April Locklear. LINKS meetings/group activities are held every other month. Many of our youth participated in the Zoo trip that was held on 4/4/09.

LINKS itself does not stand for anything...the idea behind the name is to

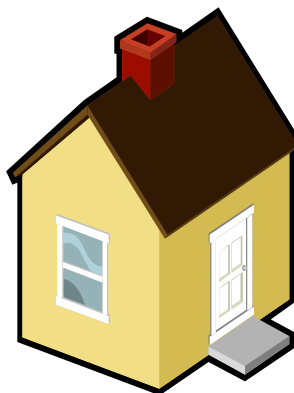
simply LINK our youth to the various services and resources available to them so they can succeed as adults. We added information to the Hoke County website regarding the LINKS program...www.hokecounty.org...please visit the site and click on the link for Social Services and then scroll down to the link for LINKS! You can view our county LINKS policy, the State LINKS manual, in addition to finding links to other resources.

We are still developing the LINKS program, if you have any ideas, just contact SW April Locklear.

Recruitment of Foster/Adoptive Families

There are currently 15 licensed DSS Foster Families in Hoke County. This is actually an increase of more than 50% compared to three years ago. But of course, 15 still isn't enough! We need more foster and adoptive families to provide care for the children that enter care. In particular, we need families who are willing to go the extra mile and parent teenagers. The best method of recruitment we

have had over the years is simply by word of mouth. Be sure to talk to your friends, families, neighbors, church members, and co-workers about the important role you play in the lives of children. Encourage those you know to take part in the life of a child;



let them know the rewards of helping children and families...let them know the downsides too! Tell them to call us to get more information. Tell them about MAPP classes; our next MAPP class has not been scheduled but will be in the fall of 2009. Recruit, Recruit, RECRUIT!

Hoke County DSS Foster Care & Adoptions

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Raeford, NC 28376

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MEMORIAL DAY-MAY 25, 2009

Did you know: "[National Moment of Remembrance](#)" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to [Taps](#)."

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our Nation's Service.

Information obtained from
www.usmemorialday.org
Visit the site for more information.

Topics for the next issue of

HOKE COUNTY RESOURCE FAMILY NEWSLETTER

1. What is Permanency Planning?
2. What are the permanent plans of care for children?
3. What is a CFT?
4. What is a case plan?
5. Foster Parent Training Requirements
6. Upcoming LINKS gathering/meeting
7. More DSS terms and their meanings
8. Foster & Adoptive Parent Association
9. Foster family stories!

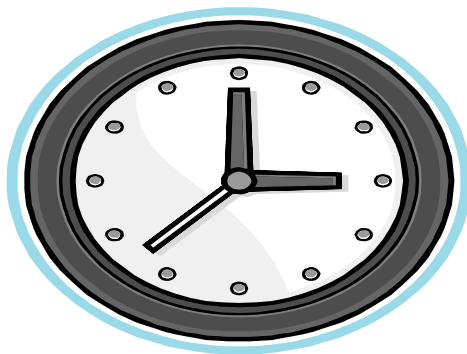
HOKE COUNTY DSS—NEW OPERATING HOURS!

Effective May 11, 2009, Hoke County DSS will operate under new business hours to better accommodate the needs of the citizens of our community.

NEW HOURS:

Monday through Friday

7:30 AM to 5:30 PM



More hours to serve more citizens to provide more services.

North Carolina Foster
and
Adoptive Parent
Association

WWW.ncfapa.org

This is a state-wide organization for foster and adoptive parents. Membership dues are required for the state association; visit the website for more information.

Foster & Adoptive Parents can get together and start a local association. This topic will be discussed in our next issue.