



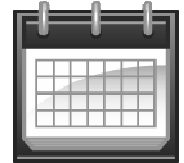
Foster Providers Forum

Winter 2008
Resources and Information for the Developmental Disabilities
Foster Provider Community in Lane County

Lane County DD Services
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Eugene, OR. 97401
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Foster Provider Training Schedule

January, February & March 2008
(additional trainings will be scheduled throughout the year)



Save These Dates

Watch your mail (and email) for Flyers with Training Topics.

January 17 ~ February 21 ~ March 20

We're trying out a new facility at:
**Willamalane Community Recreation Center - Heron Rm
250 S. 32nd St in Springfield.**

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These trainings are for all Adult and Child Foster Providers and Caregivers. None of these trainings are required. Please decide for yourself which sessions you would like to attend.

Introducing Our New Training Format

9:30 am – 11:00 am ~ Training

We will start each session with the Training. A variety of speakers will present information & education pertinent to your job.

11:00 am – 11:15 am ~ Break - Networking – Visiting

11:15 am – 12.00 pm ~ Discussion - Q & A - DD Updates

The content of this section is up to you! We could discuss application of the training material from the day; give each other tips for running a foster home; help each other problem solve issues in your home; or update you on the latest changes at the DD office and the Foster Programs. **Attendance for this is Optional.**

Topics this year will include: Aids & HIV, Mental Illness, Adult Foster Home Changes and Documentation, Alzheimer's, Promoting Healthy Relationships, You will receive a flyer in the mail and via email several weeks before the training date alerting you to the upcoming training topic. **Watch these flyers for possible changes to time or place.**

Contact Information

Adult Foster Coordinator
Joanne Fletcher (541) 682-6551
Joanne.Fletcher@co.lane.or.us

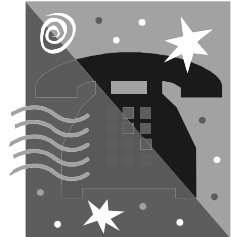
Children's Foster Coordinator
John Woodie (541) 682-4492
John.Woodie@co.lane.or.us

Mastering the 9-1-1 Call -- What to Tell and how to Tell it

Calling 9-1-1 about a person with a developmental disability can be stressful. It should be done only in a true emergency and in a way that leads to the best outcome for all concerned. Despite being stressed, it's important to provide accurate and necessary information to 9-1-1 personnel so police or paramedics respond effectively and safely. Speak clearly and calmly.

Tell this information:

- Name/address and relationship to the person you're calling about.
- Name of the person you're calling about, that the person has a disability, and what that disability is, in general terms (autism, mental retardation, mental illness, etc.).
- What behaviors are of enough concern that you're calling for help: for example, violence, property destruction, threats toward self or others, symptoms such as fearfulness, hearing voices, believing things that clearly aren't true (delusions).
- Medications: what they are, what they're for, how long since taken, etc.
- If there are weapons in the house (if so and if possible, try to contain or remove them before calling).
- What the person is doing ***now***, as you're on the phone, and where in the house they are.
- Any other information the operator seeks.



Kids Corner

As rain mixed with snow falls outside I am writing this edition. The weather has taken on a colder, wetter windier attitude of late that signals winter in the Willamette Valley. This is the time of year to sit by a warm fire and enjoy the pleasures of the Holiday season with your families.

I am reminded at this time of year that the kids that we serve have a variety of needs for special attention and support around the holiday season. For

many this will include visits with loved ones and family. Others will be more dependent on their foster families for a sense of belonging and inclusion during this time. For some the holiday season can trigger sad memories or a sense of loss. It's a special bonding time when memories are made for both parents and children. Sharing times talking; reminiscing and doing shared activities can serve as an important emotional outlet for children in foster care. Keeping an open ear can help you connect with the kids and what kind of experience it is for them.

There are many activities around the community that are

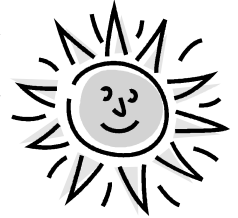
free or low cost that families can do together in this season. These can range from the excitement of Holiday concerts by a variety of chorale groups, to visiting a tree farm to find that perfect tree. Making cookies or gifts for others can enhance the sense of family and belonging for the child in your care.

Most of all, this is a time for all of us to sit back and relish the completion of another year and to appreciate those around us. We appreciate all the love and dedication that you provide to those that you serve. Enjoy the season !

John Woodie

Foster Provider Focus: Anne Dollar

Anne is an adult foster care provider who has been operating 2 homes in the last year. She had a home of five men in the W. 11th Ave. neighborhood, and then took over the AFH serving five women in Eugene, when Morgan Welles retired as a care provider. Anne has been able to develop personal relationships with her residents, staff, and client families, as well as successful professional relationships with the many teams with whom she works. Lane County DD Services commends Anne for her hard work and success. She is a delight to know and a willing mentor for other foster care providers. Anne says of herself, in her own words:



"I have lived in Oregon for 32 years and have worked with developmental disabilities for more than 20 yrs. I became a children's foster provider in Lane County over seven years ago and transitioned to the adult system when the clients I serve became of age.

Most recently, I took over an existing home when the provider retired. I feel fortunate to be a part of the Lane County team and am warmed every day by the ten smiles that greet me and tell me thanks. When free time is possible, I enjoy the coast, nature, fishing and reading."



PS: Anne recently adopted a puppy whom she calls "Max" (Maxamillion Dollar) and travels with her. Congratulations Anne!

Ask Joanne!

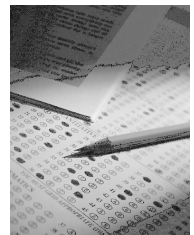


We welcome your questions, and requests to clarify any information that you find confusing, unclear or suspect is a rumor...let us know!

- Q. I heard that there is a new Adult Foster Home Test. Do I have to take it? Has the test taking process changed? Have the study materials changed?
- A. Hooray! The new Adult Foster Test & Study Materials have arrived! They have been given a much needed revision by the AFH-DD licensing staff at the State office. Only new caregivers and new providers must take the test. If you passed the old test, you do not have to take the new one.

Here's what to do:

1. Each foster provider will be issued one copy of the new study notebook & DVDs.
2. If you do not have your copy yet, please pick one up at the DD office. The process will take about 15 minutes.
3. When you want to hire a new caregiver, you lend them your study book & DVDs.
4. When this potential caregiver completes the self-study, they fill out the required Completion form in the study book.
5. They must bring this form to the office to take the test.
6. If they fail any of the 7 test sections, they may retake them.



Community Focus - Training Hours: Popcorn & A Movie

Don't you love it when entertainment is also educational and inspiring ? Here is a list of movies that you can enjoy, learn from, be inspired by, **and get in some of your training hours for.** Some of these movies may be easier to locate than others. Most are available through Netflix, Blockbuster, public libraries, etc. Perhaps your Foster Provider friends already have copies of them that they will lend out. You can count **one (1)** of these per year for training hours. You can also find a listing of movies related to disability issues & stories at: www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/bookstore/videos.html. You can check out movies for free through the Minnesota DD Coalition's website at <http://www.mncdd.org/> Happy Viewing !

This list includes insights and story lines about a variety of abilities and disabilities.

- A Beautiful Mind (2001)
- Awakenings (1990)
- Forrest Gump (1994)
- Profoundly Normal (2003)
- Radio (2003)
- Waiting for Ronald (2003)
- Where's Molly (2007)
- Normal People Scare Me (2006)
- Mozart & the Whale (2005)
- My Left Foot (1989)
- Door-to-Door (2002)
- I am Sam (2001)
- Riding the Bus with my Sister (2005)
- The Other Sister (1999)
- Shine (1996)