

Building Connections

A Newsletter for Resource Families

Volume 9 | Issue 1

July 2015

Inside this issue:

Catching the Wave	1
Outstanding DHS Worker— Janelle Naone	2
5 Tips to Prepare for Back to School for Foster Children	3
Learning from a Mom of 22 Children	4
A Fostering Thought—Leaving Our Legacy	6
What Are Families Saying About Support Groups Throughout the State?	6
201 National Reunification Month Event	7
Ask the Warm Line	8
National Foster Care Month Events	9
Who Ya Gonna Call	11
Resource Spotlight	12
'Ohana Rewards	12
Resource Family Basics	12
Calendar of Events	13
Employment Opportunities	13

Catching the Wave

By Wilma Friesema, OES
EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.

Something new has hit the shores of child welfare practices in Hawai'i. For approximately the next four years, the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services (CWS) will be spearheading a Title IV-E Waiver Project whose aim is to further reduce the number of children in foster care, increase positive outcomes for the children who are in care, ensure their safety within their homes, prevent child abuse and neglect, and reduce the numbers of children who re-enter the foster care system.



While these goals aren't original – over the past decade the number of children in foster care has decreased by over 50% – the objective of the IV-E Waiver Project for CWS, and its affiliated State agencies and non-profits, is to provide services and supports that are more targeted and effective. Four new initiatives and an assessment tool will help service providers and family supporters to be more attuned and responsive to the unique needs of each child and family.

The first two initiatives, a Crisis Response Team (CRT) and Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS) are intertwined and address the needs of the children and their families at the very beginning of CWS involvement. When a report of child abuse or neglect is received from law enforcement due to protective custody of a child or hospital referral, the CWS intake worker will determine if the CRT should be alerted. If yes, a crisis team member responds within two hours and meets the family to assess the level of danger and need. The objective is to address immediate safety concerns to prevent the removal of the children. If removal is necessary, the CRT worker will place the children with family, if possible, so there is minimum disruption for the keiki. When CRT assesses that the family needs intensive in-home supports to prevent out-of-home placement, IHBS will be provided. Through IHBS, the family will receive ten hours of in-home coaching and support per week from a therapist. This concentrated training lasts for four weeks.

The remaining initiatives are tailored to meet the needs of children who have been in the foster care system for nine months or longer. All are designed to bring about a greater understanding of the children and their families, and to help identify their particular strengths and challenges. As part of the IV-E Waiver Project, CWS social workers will use an assessment tool called CANS. CANS stands for Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths, and it paints an individualized picture of who the child is and what are his or her strengths and needs. The CANS helps chart a course of direction for the two remaining initiatives.

Family Wrap Hawai'i (Wrap), the third initiative, is a planning process that promotes "family voice and choice," collaboration, and creative thinking to address complex problems. Wrap brings together a family, service providers, and the family's natural supporters to create a team which will identify the various family members' strengths and underlying needs. With that information, the team strives to address the unmet needs which are creating barriers to reunification. The hope is that families will feel empowered to participate in creating their own plan for success. Wrap meetings are held monthly -- or more if needed -- and everyone who attends is encouraged to share responsibility, engage in out-of-the-box thinking, and be accountable for their committed actions. Wrap staff reinforces that accountability by following up on the action plan and by tracking overall outcomes.

Continued on pg. 2

HUI HO'OMALU STATEWIDE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Hui Ho'omalua Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) provides support to the resource family community through identifying ongoing needs, facilitating communication and by sharing resources.

The Building Connections Newsletter is published four times a year to provide information regarding foster and adoptive care to resource families, service providers, and to the public.

This newsletter may be viewed on the following websites:

www.hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/social_services/child_welfare/foster

www.pidfoundation.org

Partners in Development
Foundation

2040 Bachelot St.

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-2433

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please call:

441-1125 (O'ahu),

888-879-8970 (Toll Free) or

E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

GO GREEN!

Want to help our environment? Contact us today and request an electronic copy!



OUTSTANDING DHS WORKER!

Janelle Naone O'ahu CWS Social Worker

It Takes An 'Ohana's Advisory Committee (IAC) would like to acknowledge Janelle Naone as an Outstanding DHS Worker! Janelle has been in the licensing department for 11 years conducting home studies, encouraging general licensees to stretch and offer emergency shelters and Project First Care homes, closely coordinating with matchers for positive family fits even when the criteria appears daunting, and loyally supporting families, both those that are new to the system and long time foster care veterans.



Janelle Naone

Janelle is always available and consistently returns calls within 24 hours. She is willing to talk through the details of troubling issues and continually makes resource caregivers feel supported by her efforts. Her no-nonsense delivery expedites many processes. She sees solutions and possibilities beyond the obvious and listens to and respects resource caregivers' perspectives. She is known to go directly to a home in times of greatest need. Knowledgeable and dedicated, she is with O'ahu's Resource Home Licensing Unit.

When Janelle was acknowledged as an outstanding DHS worker she said, "I'm thankful to be able to help our resource families - they have the hard job. They take care of the kids 24-7! Our system couldn't work without them!"

Do you know a DHS-CWS worker(s) that you would like to acknowledge for his/her exceptional work? Share their name(s) with us and what makes them so special so we can let others know how wonderful they are!

441-1125 (O'ahu) ★ 1-888-879-8970 (Toll Free) ★ RAC@pidfoundation.org

Catching the Wave (cont.)

The SPAW (Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being) planning process is the fourth and final initiative. SPAW is designed to address the permanency needs of children who are not on track to be reunified with their parents. Like Wrap, SPAW works to break through systemic barriers that could be impeding a child's path to permanency. A SPAW meeting draws together the professionals – agency administrators and service providers – and encourages them to bring a new perspective and fresh eyes on a case. While recognizing what has worked to date, tough questions are asked regarding what might be the barriers to permanency. Team members are encouraged to think outside of their normal service array and bureaucratic limitations. Commitments to specific actions are made and follow-up tracking of responses and outcomes help to prevent suggested interventions from falling by the wayside.

All four of the above IV-E Waiver initiatives will be evaluated for their effectiveness. As part of a federally funded project, the outcomes will be used to shape and influence child welfare practices throughout the country. While the new IV-E Waiver initiatives possess no magic wands, they are a collective effort to better serve the children and families who enter Hawai'i's child welfare system. If the initiatives *do* successfully reduce CWS involvement, they will continue to be the wave of a brighter future for us all.

*EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing is funded through the Department of Human Services
For more information about 'Ohana Connections work
contact Wilma Friesema at EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing, Inc. at 748-7921*

5 Tips to Prepare for Back to School for Foster Children

By Salendria Mabrey, Communication and Development Associate, Foster and Adoptive Family Services

Please note that although this article mentions "foster parent", in Hawai'i they are referred to as "resource family" and "resource caregiver."



The times of sleeping late on weekdays, summer camp and family trips to amusement and water parks are over for your child in care – at least for now. It's the season to get him back in the routine of going to bed and rising early to his world of lockers, gym and lunch periods. He may drag his feet when it's time to get up early and get prepared for school. It is also possible he will grumble about not being able to watch a certain show that comes on later in the evening because of his new bedtime. Like any kind of change, it is uncomfortable and may take a while to adjust. Here are a few tips that should help you as a foster parent to prepare your child in care for a new school year.

Back to School for Foster Children – Build Excitement

In addition to attending class and doing homework, the school year will bring chances for fun and exciting moments. Talk to your child in care about the many opportunities that will be available to him. It would help to do research on the school and learn the activities that interest him. If he loves music, try to get him excited about and involved in band, chorus or glee club. If he loves sports, encourage him to try out for basketball, football, tennis or any other athletic team available at the school. Explain the reward gained when he is a part of a team – not to mention how great it can look when he applies for college in the future.

Back to School for Foster Children – Let Them Be Involved

If he brings his own lunch, let him be a part of choosing what wants to eat for the day – and let him help you pack it. Also, allow him to pick out his own clothing. He knows the latest styles and trends in his school. Didn't you know that his finger is on the pulse of the latest fashions? When he exercises his independence, it drives him towards growth and maturity. Packing his own lunch and picking out his own clothing gives him a voice and lets him know that his opinions matter. Now, if he only wants to eat candy bars and wear his clothes inside out all of the time, you MAY need to take the upper hand.

Back to School for Foster Children – Revive Sleep Routine

For your child in care, there will be no more sleeping without alarms during weekdays for a good while. It may take some time, but sending him to bed early is your best bet for a productive day. It is generally known that getting the right amount of rest each night can give the body what it needs to function properly. Determine the best time your child in care should go to bed for a guaranteed good night's rest, and stick to it – and, if there is a monster in the closet or under the bed, you'll have to get rid of it immediately so there will be peaceful sleeping for all throughout the night.

Back to School for Foster Children – Create a Dialogue with Teachers

When you have the contact information of your child in care's teacher, letting him or her know you have a foster child would be a great way to prepare the teacher for possible challenges. Give the teacher an overview and as much information concerning your child in care as you can without breaking confidentiality. Let the teacher know your involvement in your child in care's life and any challenges you know of that he is facing. Chances are, the teacher will understand and be willing to work with him to ensure he has a successful school year.

Back to School for Foster Children – Get Involved

In addition to receiving progress reports, reach out to your child in care's teacher to stay on top of how he is doing. He has been through some traumatic experiences; there could be many distractions he may be dealing with, so it's in his best interest when you are aware of any hurdles he may need help overcoming. Arrange monthly meetings with teachers and get as involved as you can. A good way to get involved and stay up-to-date with what's going on in his school is to join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

This article, taken from the Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) blog at <http://foster-adoptive-kinship-family-services-nj.org/>, was reprinted with permission.



Learning from a Mom of 22 Children

by Chiyomi Chow and Judith Wilhoite

Who in the world would adopt 20 children in addition to their two biological children?! Sue and Hector Badeau did and lived to tell their story. Sue shares in her book, "Some say that makes us crazy, while others say it makes us saints." Either way you look at it, the Badeaus have much knowledge and experience that we can learn from. Those who attended the Hawai'i Adoption and Permanency Alliance Conference or Family Program Hawai'i's (FPH) Annual Conference for Resource Families had the pleasure of learning from Sue about their adventure as a resource and adoptive family.



Sue Badeau

Sue shared that many times children in our care show behaviors or responses that just don't make sense to us. We might get upset when they lie to our face or when they act out in public. It can be difficult when an older child pees in their pants or when they scream back when asked to do something. We might find ourselves asking, "What's wrong with this child?!" Sue suggests that what we really should be wondering is, "What's the back-story?" Many times the explanation of the child's puzzling behavior can be found in learning about what happened previously to the child. The child may not be acting out as much as they are reacting to past experiences. Even when the exact details of a child's past experiences are not fully known, just accepting the possibility that the child has experienced trauma, which may be triggering current challenging behaviors, is a critical step for resource caregivers and caseworkers alike.

Sue explained that children in foster care who have experienced trauma or neglect often need more time, expertise, and resources from us to be understood and helped. One clue that your child may be dealing with past trauma is if you find yourself thinking, "Everything was going fine then out of the blue..." Some detective work may help you to determine what triggered the child's reaction. By taking notes of what preceded the behavior, a pattern may emerge. Pay attention to the events, sights, sounds, smells, activities, people, and places that are present preceding a child's eruption into challenging behaviors. Using this knowledge, you may be able to better help the child begin the healing process.

Sue shared that the pillars of trauma-informed care are Safety (physical & psychological), Connections (consistent & lasting) and Emotional Management. The following tips, known as *CAPPD*¹ and *S.O.S.*², can help us strengthen these pillars.

Calm: It is very important for you to be able to stay calm so that you can provide a safe, healing environment for the child *and* to teach the child how to calm herself. Sue shared that blowing bubbles with children can help them calm down. This can be fun, appeals to all ages, is inexpensive and you can keep a bottle in your purse so it is always at hand. You may want to simply use the old "10 deep breaths" for yourself.

Attuned: When we are attuned to others, it is easier to recognize trauma triggers, for we are reading the signals from those around us. It's like listening to a radio; you tune in to receive what the other person is sending.

Children who have experienced trauma don't know how to interpret most facial expressions except happy and angry. You can help them learn to be attuned to the feelings of others by teaching them to play "Feelings Charades" or watching and discussing the "Inside Out" movie with them.

Present: It is very important to "be there" for foster children. You can show them you are there by stopping whatever it is that you are doing and focusing on them. If you are doing the dishes, put down the dishrag and get down to the child's level to show them you are really listening to them. If you are texting, put down the phone and focus on what they are telling you. Conversely, with teens it is often valuable to listen while you are both engaged in an activity such as tossing a ball, taking a ride or even doing the dishes together.

Predictable: In an abusive home, children have to be on high alert for they never know if the nice or the abusive parent will show up. Being consistent as well as providing predictability, such as schedules, can go a long way in helping our children relax and heal.

Do Not Escalate: To accomplish this, it truly helps to practice mindfulness – to focus on one thing at a time. This requires us to remember that discipline means to teach, not to punish. Sue gave us a tool to help the reactive child that, in turn, helps us: Slow Down, Orient, Safety

¹Co-developed by Sue as part of Philadelphia's "Multiplying Connections" team. For more information visit www.multiplyingconnections.org

²Adapted from Sue's work as part of the Advisory Board of the National Child Trauma Stress Network, with particular thanks to Richard Kagan and his pioneering book, "Real Life Heroes" see www.nctsn.org for more information.

Learning from a Mom of 22 Children (cont.)

Plan, or *S.O.S.* Here's how it works:

Slow Down: When someone has a trauma triggered, they are not "remembering" the experience; they are actually "re-living" the experience. To help a child slow down his brain, use a controlled breathing method such as deep breathing or bubble blowing. Slow, controlled breathing is contagious and helps the child kick his brain back to the thinking mode.

Orient: A trauma trigger makes one re-live the experience where the trauma occurred. After the child has calmed down, help them re-orient themselves. Teach them to stamp their feet, pinch themselves or something, to help them realize they are here, they are safe, and they are *not* back where the trauma occurred.

Safety Plan: Step 3 involves finding things that a child can use to calm/soothe themselves. Everyone has to discover/develop their own safety plan. For some, it may be the voice of someone that calms the child. If so, record that person and have the recording available for the child. Give a copy to the child's teacher. For others, it may be a scent such as lavender, home cooked food, or cinnamon. You can purchase small bottles of essential oils, and soak small squares of cloth with the preferred scent or create a homemade "sachet" making it easily available for the child. Whatever the calming tool turns out to be, making it available can help the child learn to self-regulate.

Sue emphasized that when we foster, we build a better world by nurturing and caring for the children we welcome into our home. She also acknowledged that what we do is hard stuff and that we need more than passion to provide the consistent, predictable, enriching, and nurturing care these children need – we need support, information and the ability to prioritize self-care activities in our daily lives. The more we can learn about trauma informed care, as well as the resources available to children in foster care and to us as caregivers, the more HOPE we have of helping our children, as well as ourselves, achieve happy, successful lives.

Please let us help! FPH provides a Warm Line, support groups, ongoing trainings and a statewide video lending library which has many books and DVDs, including a DVD of Sue's presentation. Call the Warm Line at 545-1130 (O'ahu) or 1-866-545-0882 (toll-free), if you'd like a DVD mailed to you. Also, It Takes an 'Ohana has a book club reading the Badeau's book, "Are We There Yet? The Ultimate Road Trip: Adopting & Raising 22 Kids!" If you want more information or would like a copy of the book, you can call Judith at (808) 540-2543.



Hector Badeau, Judith Wilhoite, Chiyomi Chow, Brigitte Tokuda, Sue Badeau, April Lum

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

How long have you been a resource caregiver? We would like to honor you by printing your name and current years of service in our newsletter. We know you are out there but we need your help. Please send your name and years of service to:

RAC@pidfoundation.org ★ (O'ahu) 441-1125 ★ (Toll Free) 1-888-879-8970

Mahalo for your dedication and heart for Hawai'i's keiki and families!

Help! Looking For Stories!

Would you like to share some helpful tips? Got an inspirational story to tell? Know of some useful resources in your community?

These are just some of the many possibilities that you can contribute to this newsletter. Please send them over so we can all benefit from each other's wisdom!

We would also appreciate any feedback, comments and suggestions on ways that we can improve this newsletter so that it is useful to you. What would you like to see in it? Topics of interest? We look forward to hearing from you!



**A. F. T.
A Fostering Thought**

LEAVING OUR LEGACY

By Dr. Paul Brennan

With the graduation of our first grandchild from high school, I at the age of 76 have good reason to reflect on the changing role of my involvement in this rite of passage. No longer the parent, I now have a reduced responsibility in this important transition. My son, the father of Brianna, has occupied my former position: he (with his wife) protected her, cared for her, nurtured her, been everything that a responsible, loving parent could have been. So now at the age of 18, Brianna is ready to step forward, to go off to college, to find her place in this exciting, challenging world. There is confidence all around—with much optimism—as she soon will board a plane to fly to the far coastline of our nation. I, as one of her grandparents, am filled with a deep sense of accomplishment. Although my participation was limited (as it should have been!), I reflect on how well this all has worked . . . in spite of changing addresses, vocations, and additional responsibilities on the entire family.



What gifts could I provide Brianna as symbols of my gratitude, my joy, my honoring of her many accomplishments? How might she remember that I was there to celebrate with her? I gave no small amount of time to those important questions. Accordingly, more than two months before her party, I began selecting the wood, planning my design, and eventually engraving the bottom of that koa jewelry box which would be my special gift. Inside, on the black velvet base, my wife and I placed our monetary gift. Though a small amount compared to her forthcoming college bills, it symbolized our caring. Likewise, at her home celebration, we brought our flowers, and foods, and lots of good wishes. My homemade card was carefully designed and written as well to try to capture our true feelings.

Whether I will be present to do the same with our dozen other grandchildren, remains to be seen. Whether I might likewise be able to be present, to construct a few more koa boxes, to place our offerings inside, tightly wrapped with love in our homemade cards, for those other children in our previous care, is a dream we can only pray for, yearn for, work for. After all of these children have graduated from your home—that tight womb of your loving care—what more can you do? What is a grandparent's legacy?

Thirty years ago, many were the ways that we could show them that we cared. Many were the ways that we could challenge their growth, encourage them to replace bad habits with constructive ones. Multiple were the opportunities for providing for their support . . . at school, in their rooms, in counseling sessions, in court hearings. As often as we could, we invited them to share power by giving them a voice and encouraging their choices. Always we looked for ways to expand new possibilities . . . by visits to the zoo, the museums, and the libraries, by participation in clubs and on teams, and by inviting friends into our homes.

The faith that we practiced before our children may have been the greatest part of our legacy. Unconditional love was the primary doctrine and it never wavered. Forgiveness and mercy followed close by, and oh, was it practical! Generosity then was the most natural outcome, first, in our home, our neighborhood, and then our larger community.

I'm looking at all of that now through the rear-view mirror. And, as each graduation will roll by, I will keep pondering that legacy. So, pardon me now as I get back to my workshop. There are more jewelry boxes to be made, more handmade cards to be constructed. A grandparent's work is never done!

What Are Families Saying About Support Groups Throughout the State?

Support groups help "immeasurably and I honestly don't know if I'd still be fostering if it weren't for the support of this group." – Windward O'ahu Family

"Support groups are very helpful" – Kaua'i Family

"Everyone is open to each other which helps us to relax and enjoy each other's friendship." – Leeward O'ahu Family

"It helped us raise our grandchild because of the different programs." "I love meeting with everyone." – Maui Families

"When one of us is down we hold each other up." "The groups are very helpful. Continued support groups will allow me to keep a sane home." – West Hawai'i Families

"We have a real connection with many of the other families." "Over the years, the bond created between families provides the comfort to share without judgment." "The children feel 'special' here and have a great time." – Central O'ahu Families

As you can see, families really enjoy the time that they have together at support groups. Thanks to the support of the Department of Human Services and Hui Ho'omalū, Family Programs Hawai'i provides support groups throughout the State with **free food** and **free childcare** for children 3-12 years old. Resource, adoptive, and guardianship families are welcomed to join. See the calendar of events on pg. 13 for more information or visit www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org.



2015 National Reunification Month Event

On June 26, 2015, the State of Hawai'i held its third annual National Reunification Month Event at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo, Hawai'i. National Reunification Month, recognized by the American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law, and other national organizations, celebrates both the importance of and successful reunification of families involved with child welfare services. Though the national movement recognizes that reunification is achievable through collaboration among the family and the community, Hawai'i's event emphasized a "team effort" approach. The Joyce-Lynn Ganon family, who was involved with the Hawai'i State Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Welfare Services but has since successfully reunified, was honored along with all the many hard-working community partners such as social workers, resource caregivers, therapists, judiciary representatives, and other service providers who strive to keep children safe and families together.

"Reconnecting Hearts" was once again the theme for this year's event as it perfectly describes DHS' primary mission of successful reunification and strengthening families through a collaborative approach. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch courtesy of Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center (QLCC) and the Glue Committee. A video of the Ganon family, DHS-CWS, and QLCC was shown and a proclamation, signed by Governor David Ige, was read. The proclamation recognized June as National Reunification Month, underscored the importance of reunification as the preferred outcome for families involved in child welfare services, and emphasized the "team" approach to effectuate successful reunification. The Ganon family, QLCC, and CWS were each presented with a framed copy of the proclamation.

The coordination of the event itself was a collaboration of efforts and funding of various agencies and community organizations, including the DHS, EPIC 'Ohana, Inc., William S. Richardson School of Law, Family Programs Hawai'i, Partners in Development Foundation-Hui Ho'omalua (PIDF), and QLCC. A Big Mahalo also goes out to the following for their donations: Café 100, Carol Sullivan, First Circuit Family Court, Glue Committee, EPIC 'Ohana, Inc., 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, Kilauea Drama & Entertainment Network, Malu Productions, Norman Arancon-Photographer, and Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center.

By 2012, Joyce's son and daughter returned to the home of her and her fiancé, Vanagan Sanborn, and CWS closed the case. Joyce and Vanagan are committed to their growth; by their choice, the entire family continues to receive supportive services through the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center. Joyce and Vanagan are also engaged to be married in October of this year.



Through their participation in National Reunification Month, Joyce and Vanagan hope their journey and happy family will be an inspiration to others who may be at a low point in their lives. Their wish is for others to see that even though low points happen, they don't have to capture a person or define them. Joyce would be the first to say that reaching out and embracing the support that's offered can make a real difference. Balance can be restored it turns out, by reaching out and holding onto a helping hand.

The State of Hawai'i DHS plans to continue the collaborations and hold annual National Reunification Month celebrations to honor families who were successfully reunified and their support team members.

Advertise in the Newsletter—Promote Your Business

100% of the proceeds will be used towards supporting our resource families

Display advertisements with borders: business card size = \$30; 1/4 page = \$50; 1/2 page = \$75; full page = \$115.

Send information to: Hui Ho'omalua—RAC, 680 Iwilei Rd., Ste. 500, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone: 441-1125 (O'ahu) ★ 888-879-8970 (Toll Free) ★ Fax: 441-1122 ★ E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

RAC reserves the right to accept, reject or edit advertisements, articles and notices of events based on publication schedule, space limitations, and appropriateness.





Welcome to FPH's Resource Family Support Services Corner

By April Lum, RFSS Family Resource Specialist

Resource Family Support Services (RFSS) is funded by the Department of Human Services



Ask the Warm Line

The first time I attended a court hearing as a resource caregiver it was a little intimidating, as I wasn't sure what to expect, or what would be expected of me. During my time on the Warm Line, I've found that this is also a common feeling amongst caregivers as they attempt to navigate the Family Court system. Questions I often hear are, "Why should I go to a hearing?" and "How do I participate in a hearing?" To answer those questions, let's take a look at the Caregivers and the Court guidebook, developed by It Takes An 'Ohana.

Why should I go to a hearing?

Caregivers and the Court suggest the following (p. 5):

April Lum

Resource caregivers have important information for the court. Your day-to-day care of the child and your regular contact with therapists, teachers, and other service providers gives a unique perspective on the child's needs. By giving the Family Court current and detailed information about the child, you can assist the Court in making the best possible decisions about the child in your home. We strongly recommend that resource caregivers attend all court hearings for their foster child. It is not enough to depend on others to share the information you have about the child's progress and needs. Even if your information and perspective on the child is conveyed accurately in court, direct testimony has more weight and influence with judges than second-hand reports. Your being present to answer questions can also be crucial to a judge's decision making.

How do I participate in a hearing?

Attend a Court Hearing (p. 8, 9)

Here are some steps that should be taken when attending a court hearing:

- ◆ Check in with the bailiff as soon as you arrive at the courthouse.
- ◆ When you check in, tell the bailiff what case you are there for. Cases are usually identified by the child's last name. Tell the bailiff your name and that you are a resource caregiver.
- ◆ Introduce yourself to the Deputy Attorney General (DAG). If you do not know who the DAG is, ask the bailiff if they can point out the DAG for you.
- ◆ Before you go into the court, let the DAG or GAL/CASA know if you want to say something while in court. If you have concerns about the case, it is best to let everyone know about these concerns ahead of time. To have a meaningful hearing, everyone needs to be upfront about concerns and issues.
- ◆ When in the courtroom, the DAG will introduce you to the court. If you would like to have your name kept confidential, tell the DAG prior to entrance to courtroom.

Write a report to the court (p.9, 10)

Judges have a limited amount of time to listen to all the people involved in the case and to consider all the information about the child and the family. So:

- ◆ Written reports should be short and well organized.
- ◆ Focus on presenting firsthand information about the child in your care.
- ◆ Describe behaviors you have observed in the child.
- ◆ Present information about the child's needs.
- ◆ Do not offer opinions about other people involved in the court process such as the social worker, parents, or lawyers.
- ◆ Include the FC-S number, if you have it, and the child's full name on all reports. Find the FC-S number by calling your social worker, GAL/CASA, court officer or by looking on old court reports.
- ◆ Usually a written report is ended with your signature and the date you signed it. If you would like to have your name kept confidential, you may sign the report as "Resource caregiver for Johnny Smith."
- ◆ Type all reports using a standard font – do not use fancy fonts, script fonts, etc. Double space your report.
- ◆ Try to send the written report to the court, social worker, and GAL/CASA at least two weeks before the hearing. If you do not know when the hearing is scheduled, call the social worker, GAL/CASA, or court officer to ask for the time and date. The date is usually set at the previous court hearing.
- ◆ Bring extra copies of the report to the court hearing in case someone needs it.

To view a full version of the Caregivers and the Court guidebook, or to see a sample of a court report visit www.ittakesanohana.org.



2015 NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH EVENTS

May was National Foster Care Month. Wonderful events took place statewide, all with the same goal, to honor and thank the compassionate people who make a difference in the lives of Hawai'i's children and families.



★ O'AHU ★

PACT Keiki Day

Every year, Parents and Children Together (PACT) looks for volunteers to help them sell a special edition of The Honolulu Star Advertiser's *Parents and Children Together Keiki Day* newspaper to raise funds for their programs. On May 6, 2015, the Foster Care Training Committee (FCTC) assisted in this community endeavor. This committee, made up of representatives from the Department of Human Services, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, EPIC Foundation, Family Programs Hawai'i, Catholic Charities Hawai'i and Partners in Development Foundation, gathered in the early morning and enthusiastically sold papers, with some community supporters, for PACT. There was much support from patrons who bought papers, provided additional donations, tooted their horns and gave thanks for the services provided to children and families. It didn't take long before we were out of newspapers! It was a fun day for a worthy cause.



Resource Families Celebrated on Secret Island

In Celebration of National Foster Care Month (NFCM), Resource families on O'ahu were invited to the beautiful Secret Island at Kualoa Ranch. Families were able to relax, sail on a 40 foot Catamaran, ride a glass bottom boat, paddle board, kayak, swim, snorkel, paddle a 16 man outrigger canoe and play all day! With almost 50% of children in foster care being Native Hawaiian, these activities helped families connect the Native Hawaiian children in care with their cultural roots.

One lucky family won a two-night, ocean front stay at the beautiful Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. Here are some quotes from family members who joined us on Kualoa Ranch's Secret Island:

The Family Appreciation Day at Secret Island on May 23rd was a beautiful event. We spent most of the day there and were wishing it would never end. Being together with so many people with big hearts, people who give kids love and a family, is truly inspirational. We were all able to play together on the beach and in the water with paddle boards, a catamaran, a glass-bottom boat and other beach "toys." The volunteers were so warm and friendly. Thank you to everyone who created such a special day for all of us! - Jill

We wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to visit "Secret Island" as part of the 2015 Resource Family Appreciation Day. We had so much fun as we got to participate in the various activities while meeting family and friends at the same time. We are blessed to have these events as a way to help strengthen our family bond. We again thank you for the opportunity to grow as a family!! - A.L. 'Ohana

It's nice to be amongst other foster resource families enjoying a day out and letting the kids enjoy a day out - they are having so much fun doing things that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to do. - Paula

We are so lucky to have so many resources provided by you. My daughter can act herself- she won't get in trouble for being noisy - everyone here has experienced a different child so they won't judge our children's behavior. - Sonya



I was actually able to relax- as a single mom of three Tween boys to be able to have activities for them in a safe environment enables me to relax. They had fun and I was able to relax - this never happens! I am always on alert. Another great part of the day is that we have liked minded people here- they don't question why our brothers don't look alike or even like their mom. - Mary

It's nice to see people like my adopted brothers having fun and that there is a community of kids like him. - Quote from a 16 year old girl who is the biological daughter in an adoptive household

Continued on pg. 10

National Foster Care Month (cont.)

★ O'AHU ★

Resource Families Celebrated on Secret Island (cont.)

It's great to see all the children from different homes across the island playing together doing different activities - and everyone is positive - nobody is crying or whining; it's all positive - it's a pleasure for us parents. - James

It's very peaceful, it's wonderful - the kids are all very busy having fun. They are all finding something to do and it doesn't have to be the same thing. - Joanne

The Foster Care Training Committee, who planned this event, would like to thank our community partners, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage of Hawai'i, Sheraton Waikiki and Associates, Glue Committee, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, Hawaiian TelCom, Aloha Care, Hawai'i Logistics and the Department of Human Services for helping make this great event possible!



★ EAST HAWAI'I ★

Resource Caregiver Appreciation Dinner

On May 15, 2015, East Hawai'i Resource Caregivers enjoyed an evening of delicious food and great music as well as receiving awesome door prizes, as East Hawai'i Friends of Foster Families helped them celebrate National Foster Care Month. The event was held at Nani Mau Gardens and Restaurant and the families were recognized for their services. A proclamation from the Mayor's and Senator Kahele's office was read at the dinner.

The East Hawai'i Friends of Foster Families is a coalition of agencies consisting of DHS, Catholic Charities-SRF, Catholic Charities-NOP, Hawaii Behavioral Health, Hale Kipa, Partners in Development Foundation-Hui Ho'omalua, Child and Family Services, Family Programs Hawai'i, and the East Hawai'i Foster Parent Association.

Mahalo to the following donors who helped to make this event possible: Ace Hardware, Atlantis Submarine, Balancing Monkey Yoga Studio, Basically Books, Big Island Delights, Big Island Federal Credit Union, Body Works Center, Café 100, Family Programs Hawai'i, Hawai'i Hybrids, LLC, Hilo Burger Joint, Hilo Rotary Club, Home Depot, Ihop, Kuhio Grille, Kui and I, Most Irresistible Shop, The Pet Hospital, Safeway, State Farm Insurance, United Health Care, and Walgreens.

★ WEST HAWAI'I ★

Healthy from Head to Toe Event

Healthy from Head to Toe is an annual Children's Mental Health Awareness and National Foster Care Month event produced by the Kona Community Children's Council (KCCC). This year, on May 7, 21 and 28, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Kealahou Elementary School, the three-part event featured a different presentation each evening aimed at raising awareness and providing information and support to families in our community. Each presentation was qualified to provide one hour of DHS approved training for resource caregivers. A description of each workshop follows this summary of the event.

Dinner was provided with the support of the Kona CCC. Participants in the Arc of Kona Adult Day Program prepared and served chili and rice, fruit, cookies and cold drinks for each event. Activities and supervision for children, while adults attended the presentations, was made possible by generous community volunteers: Reina Davis, Kamalu DeLeon, Lisa Tekurio, and Tuko Tekurio.

Each evening, bags filled with information on community resources were given to families and there were drawings for door prizes. These events were generously supported by The Arc of Kona, Child and Family Services, Family Hui, Hawai'i Department of Health, Hawai'i Families As Allies, Partners in Development Foundation-Hui Ho'omalua, Kealahou Elementary School and Neighborhood Place of Kona, as well as a number of Kona businesses and individuals who donated door prizes.

May 7: How to Be the Best Advocate You Can Be for Your Child

Alice Bratton, Parent Partner with Hawai'i Families As Allies, presented the reasons why we need to be advocates for our keiki and discussed how to be efficient and effective when navigating the system to find help and support. Twelve adults and two youth attended this workshop. Participants reported that they found it valuable to hear other families' stories of the challenges and successes of advocating for their child; that this made them feel less alone knowing that other families have those same feelings of frustration, insecurity and isolation.

Continued on pg. 11

National Foster Care Month (cont.)

★ WEST HAWAI'I ★

Healthy from Head to Toe Event (cont.)

They also reported being happy to hear about resources that support families to develop and improve their advocacy skills.

May 21: Caring for Yourself, Caring for Others

Teri Callaghan, co-founder of Light ON Foundation and licensed marriage & family therapist, taught self-care methods for parents and ways of teaching and modeling self-care to our keiki. Several participants reported having an increased awareness of the importance of taking care of one's self and felt validated for making self-care a priority. Ms. Callaghan shared several self-care tools and techniques, to which the audience responded to enthusiastically.

May 28: Understanding What Kids Need to Succeed

Kei-Lin Cerf, Director of Strategic Community Development, West Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i at Hilo/RCUH & Life Plan Institute Hawai'i Island Trainer, presented an introduction to the building blocks of healthy development, known as Developmental Assets, that help children grow up healthy, caring, and responsible. Three teens from the community shared their experiences of personal growth and achievement in relation to Developmental Assets. Attendees had the opportunity to share their own experiences with Developmental Assets. Participants reported finding the information validating and helpful, and with this knowledge, they believe they can increase the supports that will contribute to our youth's success.

★ MAUI ★

Sign Waving

It was a beautiful day for the 8th Annual Sign-waving event on Ka'ahumanu Avenue! As with every year, those driving by were greeted with big smiles and enthusiastic cheers, shakas and waves! The sound of honking horns filled the air! What a great way to kick off National Foster Care Month and to show support and appreciation for Maui's resource families and foster care community!



★ KAUA'I ★

Proclamation for NFCM

On May 4, 2015, resource and adoptive caregivers, social workers, and community supporters gathered at the County Building in Lihue to receive Mayor Bernard Carvalho's proclamation for National Foster Care Month. As stated on the proclamation, Mayor Carvalho, "do hereby proclaim May 2015, as National Foster Care Month throughout the County of Kaua'i and encourage all citizens and employers to join me in acknowledging the selfless dedication and commitment of resource families and organizations in providing a stable and loving environment for children until they and their families are reunified safely."



There may be times when you, as a resource caregiver, have a question or concern and are not sure where to go for help. We will be presenting scenarios in each newsletter as a way to highlight different situations and suggestions on "Who Ya Gonna Call?"

Who Ya Gonna Call?

Great grandma shows up at your door with a big smile on her face and enough luggage to last for months. "Surprise!" she says as she makes her way in the door. She proceeds to tell you how she decided to take you up on your offer to visit and figured she'd make the most of it by "visiting" for 6 months. Pull out your handy dandy "Who Ya Gonna Call?" list that was in the January 2015 Building Connections Newsletter and look under *People moving in or out of your home, including long term visitors*. After showing great grandma to her room, it's time to call your Licensing Social Worker to let him/her know of your new house guest.



RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT



Have you heard about Child Care Connection Hawai'i?

CCCH is a statewide program providing families with subsidies to help with child care expenses, guidance in selecting a child care provider, information about quality child care programs, and referrals to community resources for help with other concerns.

To be eligible:

- ♦ Children must be between the ages of 0-13. Teens ages 13-18, who cannot do self-care, may also be eligible; and,
- ♦ Parents or caretakers must be employed, attending school, or in a job training program. DHS resource families can apply without their income being considered.



566-2600 (Honolulu)
356-5575 (Waipahu)
334-6101 (Kona)
967-6807 (Hilo),
249-2461 (Maui County)



'OHANA REWARDS

Want to know how you could receive a \$200.00 gift card?

Would you like your name to appear in a future RAC newsletter?

All you need to do is help us find more homes for Hawai'i's keiki in foster care!

If you can refer, help, cheer, and see your referral to the finish line to become licensed, you could earn a **\$200 gift card** of your choice and be listed here as an 'Ohana Rewards recipient!

Abby Sylvester
Robert "Perry" Johnson
Yvonne Caitano

Call Hui Ho'omalua today at 441-1117 or
1-888-879-8970 (toll free) for more information!

Did you know that 70% of children in foster care are affected by some type of prenatal alcohol exposure?*

To learn more, please join us for the statewide training for resource families

The Uphill Battle of the Missed Diagnosed

Presented by Gigi Davidson

Resource families will earn 2 DHS approved training hours.

Dates & Locations TBA.

For more information, call the Warm Line:

545-1130 or 1-866-545-0882

*National statistic from Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

RESOURCE FAMILY BASICS

Did you know, as a resource caregiver...

If you transport the child for therapy appointments, interactions with birth family, school meetings, IEP meetings, etc. or you attend child-related trainings, you may be reimbursed at the current state mileage allowance rate. Call the child's SSA or SW (for child-related situations).

You can find this information under the *Mileage Reimbursement* section on the Resource Family Basics document. This is just one example of the wealth of information you can find on the Resource Family Basics to help resource families! Learn about different financial assistance, services, and resources, that are available and so much more! Go to the website below to see all that it has to offer!



<http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/ssd/files/2014/02/RESOURCE-FAMILY-BASICS-02-10.pdf>

Calendar of Events

O'AHU

Aug 14 (Fri) **Windward Resource Families Support Group.** 6pm-8:30pm. Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, Ko'olau Poko Unit. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531, ext. 245 by 8/7.

Aug. 25 (Tue) **Training: Bridging the Gap.** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Catholic Charities Hawai'i. Nationally renowned speaker Denise Goodman will speak on how building and maintaining relationships with birth families benefit children in foster care. Come ready to learn, have your questions answered and earn 2 DHS approved training hours. RSVP to the Warm Line at 545-1130 by 8/18.

Aug 27 (Thur) **Central O'ahu Resource Families Support Group.** 5:30-8pm. O'ahu Veteran's Center. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531, ext. 245 by 8/20.

MAUI

Aug 20 (Thur) **Maui Resource Families Support Group.** 5:30pm-8pm at Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 (toll free) by 8/13.

MOLOKA'I

Aug. 15 (Sat) **Trainings: The Connection Between Relationships and Behavior & The Uphill Battle of the Missed Diagnosed.** 9:00am-1:30pm. Earn 4 DHS approved training hours if you attend both or 2 DHS approved training hours if you attend one training. Lunch will be served. Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center. For more information & to RSVP call the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 8/7.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Part-time Co-trainers Needed. *Resource Caregivers/Formers Foster Youth in Maui, Kaua'i and O'ahu* are needed to co-train new Resource Caregivers in the HANAI curriculum. Your experience is invaluable to a new family just learning about providing foster care. Come and share what you've learned/experienced over the years with others!!! Trainings are generally held intermittently on some weekday evenings and some Saturdays. Training and compensation provided.

Part-time Child Care Providers needed in East Hawai'i, West Hawai'i, and O'ahu to provide child care (i.e., during trainings), in the evenings and weekends on an occasional basis. Training and compensation provided.

Part-time Recruitment Assistants needed in West Hawai'i and O'ahu to staff various recruitment booths and share information with potential applicants about the need for additional Resource Caregivers. Training and compensation provided.

HUI HO'OMALU

A Program of Partners in Development Foundation

See www.pidfoundation.org/about/careers

Email resume & application w/cover letter to: HR@pidfoundation.org or fax to 440-6619

PIDF is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



PATCH publishes a quarterly newsletter -- Training Tracks, to inform the community of our upcoming trainings around town, and provide the latest child care news and information to professionals and the public. PATCH offers over 100 FREE child care workshops open to all caregivers such as family child care, preschool and infant and toddler staff, before and after school care programs, parents, resource caregivers, medical professionals, babysitters and informal child care. Please visit our website for the latest news and training schedule:

www.PatchHawaii.org or contact your local PATCH office

O'ahu: 808-839-1988

Maui: 808-242-9232

Lāna'i & Moloka'i: 1-800-498-4145

Kaua'i: 808-246-0622

Hilo: 808-961-3169

Kona: 808-322-3500



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

2040 Bachelot St.

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-2433

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 1554

Statewide Resource Advisory Committee

2040 Bachelot St.
Honolulu, HI 96817-2433

441-1125 (O'ahu)
888-879-8970 (Toll Free)

Fax: 441-1122

E-mail:
RAC@pidfoundation.org

The concept for the Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) was created by the Department of Human Services (DHS) as a means to support the resource family community. Hui Ho'omalua facilitates this committee comprised of adoptive parents, resource caregivers and various community agencies, all dedicated to providing services and support to Hawai'i's keiki and the resource families who care for them. The purpose of the RAC is to identify ongoing needs, facilitate communication, share resources, provide information through a statewide calendar of events and a quarterly newsletter and report on local projects and other topics of interest to benefit Hawai'i's resource families.

This committee, the newsletter and many of the represented agencies are supported and funded by Department of Human Services contracts.

RAC Committee Members:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalua

Department of Human Services

EPIC, Inc. 'Ohana Conferencing

Family Court

Family Programs Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalua & It Takes An 'Ohana

Resource Caregivers

Adoptive Parents

Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition

Partners in Development Foundation—Hui Ho'omalua