



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

July 10, 2018

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH: During this reporting period, I once again attend the Central New Hampshire Foster and Adoptive Parent Support group at Spaulding Youth Center. The attendees shared frustration with their experience fostering, and several attendees expressed concern with their ISO agencies. Historically, ISO agencies have provided higher levels of service to foster families, often meeting with families on at least a weekly basis and providing supports and services such as arranging and transporting children and youth to therapy, attending IEP meetings, etc. Foster parents from at least two different agencies reported being disappointed and frustrated with the lack of communication, follow-through, and overall quality of services. Of particular concern was one foster parent, who learned a foster child made an allegation against her and her husband, were never told about the FIRST line nor were they contacted by their ISO agency. As NHFAPA is the provider of the FIRST hotline, it should be concerning that a foster parent was not made aware of the resource. This demonstrates a need for NHFAPA to collaborate with DCYF, CASA's and agencies to assure all individuals are aware of the FIRST hotline and to be sure the phone number is distributed. Having additional people trained in how to respond on the FIRST hotline would be helpful.

CLIF GRANT: We received word this week that our grant proposal for a literacy event has been funded. Here are some of the highlights of the award:

"Congratulations on being chosen to receive a Children's Literacy Foundation At-Risk grant for the Fall of 2018! We are excited to connect with the children and families you serve and help inspire a love of reading and writing.

As a reminder, the At-Risk Children grant award entitles you to the following:

- \$2,000 worth of new children's books for your on-site library
- A professional storytelling event
- Book giveaway for all children present at storytelling event (each child chooses two books to keep)
- A 20-minute parent/foster parent/caregiver literacy discussion. This happens on the same date as the storytelling event".

When I wrote the proposal, I targeted the North Country for this event as an underserved area. We can change the plan as the location is not an integral requirement of the grant.

FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILY EVENTS: NHFAPA assisted with two recent events for foster/adoptive families. The first event, held at Spaulding Youth Center on Saturday, May 5th, was enjoyed by more than 400 children and family members. Activities included face painting, arts and crafts, games, clothing give-away, raffles, storytelling, and lunch. This is truly an event enthusiastically attended by young and older youth.

A big thank you to Larry Pilla, Jen Lamontagne, as well as Deb Bradley, Beth Maltzie, and Stephanie Sullivan for assisting with the North Country Giveaway and the emptying of the infamous Dolloff Closet. Larry and Jen were instrumental in organizing the event, and reports from Jen indicate the event was well-attended and provided an opportunity for families to meet, share some food, and connect. The best part is the closet is now empty on the

materials and resources stored for so long are now being used and enjoyed by the children for whom it was intended.

Make note that the Makeover Ministry event is being held Saturday, Mat 19th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at 40 Ronald Street in Manchester.

STAKEHOLDERS: GOLF TOURNAMENT: The golf committee has been several times and all indicators are that the 2nd Annual golf tournament will be better attended and will gross more revenue than the initial event. This year the committee developed three sponsorship levels, (Gold at \$5,000, Silver at \$3,000 and Bronze at \$1,000) with each level offering tiered benefits. A Gold sponsor has already been identified and committed to supporting the event! This means the event has the potential to double the proceeds from last year (which was a bit over \$4,000). Jeff Caron from Mt. Prospect is the Gold sponsor, and Mattress Firm is aiming at being a sponsor as well. Autoserv will supply a car for the winner of a "hole-in-one" contest. The event will take place on Monday, July 16th at Lochmere Country Club and volunteers are always welcome!

One point for discussion is the level of involvement that the NHFAPA boards seek to have regarding the campership/scholarship awards currently managed by Community Faith-Based Initiative (CFBI). It has been previously suggested that a member of the board be directly involved with scholarship awards, which is not an unreasonable request given the level of commitment and involvement of NHFAPA. At the very least, NHFAPA should request documentation of how the proceeds were disbursed including information on camperships awarded (name and location of camps, amount of award, and number of children and youth served). The board should review the selection process to ensure CFBI's criteria aligns with NHFAPA's mission and is supportive of all children in care.

PICNIC and MOTORCYCLE RIDE: At last month's board meeting, the group had decided to move forward with the motorcycle event. Shortly afterward, the topic of NHFAPA supporting a foster parent event at Flat Rock Bridge Campground was posted on Facebook and many members (including board members) weighed in. If the BOD decided to support the Flat Rock event, the funds would have likely come from the funds targeted to support the motorcycle event. The BOD now has before it a proposal for the Flat Rock Bridge event.

The board has identified the need for updated marketing materials and Beth Maltzie has suggested we enlist the artistic assistance of a youth in care. When speaking to this teen about the opportunity, she was delighted to be asked and assured us she would be most interested. The board can develop an outline of the types of materials needed and can review details either in a regular board meeting or perhaps in an ad hoc committee comprised of a board member or two and a member of the general membership.

RETREAT and REVIEW OF BYLAWS, MISSION and VISION STATEMENT: As the board continues to develop, grow, and become higher functioning, the group would benefit from conducting an annual retreat. This year's retreat could include work on the organization's bylaws, mission, and vision statement. Determining a date and venue should be addressed several months in advance to give everyone enough notice for scheduling purposes.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie Gaudette

Executive Director
New Hampshire Foster and Adoptive Parent Association