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Between

families

ISSUE NO. 6

June 2013



Director's Desk

Gaven Ludlow, MSW, MBA

Dear Foster Parent,

TFI Family Services, Inc. appreciates your dedication and commitment to provide a loving home for children in foster care. We are committed to providing quality supports and service to your family. We want to ensure you have all the resources you need to support the children in your homes. This year we evaluated and changed our structure for reimbursement and have made an overall increase in our rates provided to Foster Parents. We project this new rate structure will increase payments to foster parents across our TFI network of homes by approximately a half of a million dollars a year! It has been a few years since foster parents have received a rate increase and we feel that it is needed and well deserved at this time. All new rates and changes will go into effect June 1st, 2013. Below are some details of the rate

changes for the most common Levels of Care (LOC).

LOC	Age	Rate
Satellite	0 to 5	\$20.00
	6 to 12	\$21.00
	13 & older	\$22.00
Specialized	0 to 5	\$33.00
	6 to 12	\$35.00
	13 & older	\$37.00
Treatment	0 to 5	\$40.00
	6 to 12	\$42.50
	13 & older	\$45.00
Intensive Treatment	0 to 18	\$80.00
Emergency	0 to 18	\$23.00

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Welcome Resource Families

Joe and Kelly Casillas

Sheila Brown

Allen and Rebecca Zylstra

James and Toni Kroll

*Chrystal and Kim Grimes/
Bollen*

Alfonso and Crystal Paredes

Christopher and Mary Myers

Charles and Carrie Gibbs

Scott and Tammy Archdekin

Tyrone and Sharon Glessner

April Bell

Scott Oakes

*Jeffrey and Lorraine
Merando*

Sherry Edmiston

David and Suzie Vermetten

Afton Jones-Ruhl

Daniel and Fawn Sternberg

Scottie Cook

Dear Daisy,

Dear Daisy:

Over the summer months my family enjoys weekend trips to the lake and vacations out of town. Is it okay to take our foster children with us on these adventures?

Signed—Summer Fun in Kansas City

Dear Summer Fun:

Spending quality time together in the great outdoors is what summer time is all about! Sharing these opportunities with the youth placed in your home can create lasting memories. If your travel plans include out of state travel, please make sure you connect with your Resource Family Worker with as much notice as possible. He or she will contact the Reintegration Team for your youth and get the approval necessary from the court in order for the child to leave the state with you whenever possible. There may be times when the travel is not approved, such as if it interferes with birth family visits, but for the most part it is something that can be approved with notice and planning.

Signed—Daisy

Green Tips

Sara Willimon, Communication Specialist

Crayons, markers and pens, Oh my! Arts and crafts is great for kids, but collateral damage of misplaced ink and stickers can be a challenge. Luckily, there are eco-friendly and family-safe cleaning agents to the rescue!

For crayon or marker on hard surfaces, scrub with baking soda and water.

For marker or pen ink on fabrics, blot with rubbing alcohol and repeat until it goes away. A word of caution - do not use vinegar for ink stains on fabric as it will likely set the stain.

For misplaced stickers, try covering with olive or coconut oil, letting it sit, sprinkling with baking soda then scrubbing with a dry cloth.

<http://simplehomemade.net/15-natural-solutions-for-kid-messes/>



→ **Director's Desk**, Continued from page 1

Our goal is to provide levels of reimbursement that match the needs of each child placed in your home. Part of this process includes **removing the sometimes controversial "Step-Down" rate process** within a level of care on June 1, 2013. However, we do know in some cases step-down rates can be beneficial and in those cases we will **offer a choice. Each family with a current 'Step-Down' rate will be able** to choose to keep that rate or can request a change to the new rate as indicated above. These new rates will provide a more consistent and overall higher level of reimbursement and will not result in anyone receiving a lower rate than they are receiving today for the level of care provided. The new rates will establish a foundation for your Resource Family Worker and TFI to advocate for a proper Level of care an appropriate rate for children placed in your home.

In summary, the key points about the new reimbursement structure:

- Rates to families have mostly increased or remained the same. No family will experience any decrease with the new rates.
- **Rates will be based on two factors: 1. the youth's age, 2. the Level of Care (LOC) assigned.**
- TFI and your worker will be the advocates to help ensure the proper LOC is in place by June 1st, 2013.

This is an exciting change and demonstrates our level of commitment to the service you provide to the children of Kansas. Most of you may have been informed of these changes by your worker ahead of this letter. If you have any questions regarding your rate of reimbursement, please contact your worker, they will be able to assist you. As you all know so well, your worker is your connection to all things important.

Sincerely,

Gaven Ludlow, Vice President of Foster Care and Adoption Services for Kansas

Welcome Resource Families

Jerid and Kelly Arnold

Jeff and Rachel Trachsel

James and Angela Endicott

Charles (Chuck) and Darlinda Harris

Daniel and Sara Simonds

Nancy Roberts

Joan Donnelly

Stephanie Keith

Robert and Wendy Cherry

*Allison and Amanda Rogers/
Jay*

Jeff and Joanne Barkley

*Gary and Shelli Chapman/
Lochner*

Elmer and Velma Harding

Daniel and Della Lind

*Robert and Billie (Jayne)
Burton*

Catherine Boehm

Logan and Laura Prestonback

Dustin and Brittany Schuh

Sabrina Rias

Pathways of Hope

Nebraska Division of Children & Family Services

Love surmounts distance no matter how far away. As soon as DHHS informed the father living on the coast that his wife was jailed for felony child abuse, he boarded a plane and flew back to Nebraska. The children were quickly placed with him that same day. The next week, discussions with the family resulted in agreement that the father would ensure the safety of his children. A judge dismissed a petition to terminate parental rights. The family joined him, and the mother is receiving treatment. Quick action on the part of DHHS, the county attorney, the courts and the father kept the family together and placed them on the road to recovery.

TFI's partnership with Nebraska is a growing one in which we hope to make a positive impact in the lives of the Nebraska families and children. More positive stories from child welfare providers are online at: www.dhhs.ne.gov/pathways!



Devoted to the
Strength of Family

Care Providers of the Month

Jason and Tiffany Wiske, SE Region

Jason and Tiffany Wiske have been nominated as the Southeast Region Care Providers of the Month. Jason and Tiffany are able to keep placements long term to provide a stable environment for them. They handle difficult situations with help from their worker, when needed. This helps their foster children feel at home in their house.

Jason and Tiffany have helped recruit by talking to others during doctor appointments and giving those they meet their resource worker's phone number so they can call and submit a phone application. They work well with the agency and transport their kids to needed appointments without complaints.

Jason and Tiffany have been working with kids for a long time. Jason and Tiffany started foster care for a specific child and now take in teenage girls. They know how to deal appropriately with behaviors that occur. They are able to remain calm to have a successful outcome for the children with whom they work.

Submitted by Jennifer Ruth, RFW—Pittsburg

Jason and Leah Graves, West Region

Jason and Leah Graves have been nominated as the West Region Care Provider of the Month. They have been with TFI since September last year and are very caring and down-to-earth! The Graves family initially became interested in foster care after moving to Salina and recognizing a need for foster and adoptive parents in the community. It is their hope to someday add to their forever family by adopting. Since becoming foster parents, Jason, Leah and their two children have welcomed two toddlers into their home and hearts.

While still considered to be new foster parents, Jason and Leah have wasted no time learning the ins and outs of fostering! They are always eager for more information pertaining to foster care/adoption services, community resources, the children in their home and how to best advocate for the children. When in doubt about something, they always ask questions! Jason and Leah transport for visits when able, participate in case plans, attend court hearings, join in the fun at agency events and are a shining example of what team work in foster care should look like. Basically- they rock!

The Graves family is dedicated and passionate about positively impacting the lives of children and their biological families, and it shows through their words and actions. They have been a wonderful family to work with!

Submitted by Casey Rittel (Neuburger), RFW—Salina

Rob and Wendy Weiss, NE Region

I would like to nominate Rob and Wendy Weiss as the Northeast Region Care Providers of the Month. Not only are they a committed and loving family that incorporates children into their home. They asked for an exception to be granted to take a sibling set after they saw the devastation that was brought by siblings who were separated in two different foster homes. They are now in the process of adding on to their home to increase their license to three. This family really goes above and beyond to help kids and partner with biological families.

Submitted by Sarah Henning, RFW—Emporia

Resource Family Anniversaries

One Year

*Dustin and Bethany Reader
Eugene and Nicole Davis/John
Joshua and Michelle Mosqueda
Thomas and Susan Brian
Jeffrey and Bonnie Chockley
William (Ernie) and Patricia
(Patty) Miller/Katsbulas-Miller
Torrie Lyles*

Larry and Romana Dawson

Peter and Lori MacKinney

Martin and Elizabeth Bell

Debra Balma

Marcella Harlan

Dustin Mitchell

Michelle Mitchell

Norvett and Lisa Jacques

John and Rebecca Hurla

Roland and Bridgette Darey

Timothy and Sandra Jenkins

Dale Whiteside

Zach and Tanya Krug

Three Years

Tony and Melinda Kasten

*James Jr. and Heather
Workman*

Corey and Amy Linton

Todd and Debbie Baker

Cheryl Lakin

Ray and Kimberly Copple

Five Years

George and Shirley Lyles

Dennis Florence

*Lewis and Teresa Scott/LaFort
Scott*

Support Meetings June 2013

Burrton: Thursday, June 6, 2013 at the South Hutchinson Christian Church. Topic: TBA.

Chanute: Tuesday, June 25, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chanute TFI office, 1709 W. 7th St., Chanute, KS.
Topic: The Impact of Trauma.

Concordia: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at the Concordia TFI office, 516 & 518 Washington St, Concordia, KS. Topic:
Court Process for Children, Module 2.

El Dorado: Friday, June 21, 2013 from 7:45pm to 9:30pm at Rock River Rapids, Derby, KS. Topic: Appreciation Event.

Emporia: Saturday, June 22, 2013 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Skating Rink, Emporia, KS Topic: Appreciation
Event.

Fort Scott: Monday, June 24 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Community Christian Church, 1919 S. Horton, Ft.
Scott. Topic: The Impact of Trauma.

Garden City: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm at the First Christian Church, 306 N. 7th St., Garden City.
Topic: Dealing with Lying, Stealing, and Hoarding.

Independence: Date: TBA from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Independence TFI office, 501 N. Penn Ave., Independence, KS.
Topic: Documentation.

Iola: Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 6:00pm at the Iola TFI office, 1702 N. State St., Iola, KS. Topic: Foster Parent Burnout.

Kansas City: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Kansas City TFI office, 9000 State Ave., Kansas
City, KS. Topic: Using Social Media in Foster Care

Leavenworth/Atchison: Monday, June 24, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Leavenworth Public Library, 417 Spruce,
Leavenworth, KS. Topic: Internet Safety.

Lawrence: Thursday, June 20, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Lawrence Heights Christian Church, 2321 Peterson Rd.,
Lawrence, KS. Topic: Behavioral Challenges.

Manhattan: Monday, June 17, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Manhattan TFI office, 116 S. 4th St, Ste. 1,
Manhattan, KS. Topic: Abuse and Neglect.

Overland Park: Monday, June 17, 2013 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Overland Park TFI office, 8300 College Blvd. Ste.
301, Overland Park, KS. Topic: FAS—The Link to Behavior.

Parsons: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Location: TBA. Topic: The Impact of Trauma.

Phillipsburg: TBA.

Pittsburg: Monday, June 17, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Schlanger Park, 725 E. 6th St., Pittsburg, KS. Topic: The
Impact of Trauma.

Salina: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Salina TFI office, 131 N. Santa Fe, Salina, KS. Topic:
Contract Changes Effective July 1st.

Topeka: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Topeka TFI office, 217 SE 4th St., Topeka, KS Topic:
The Family that Plays Together, Stays Together.

Wellington: Friday, June 21, 2013 from 7:45pm to 9:30pm at Rock River Rapids, Derby, KS. Topic: Appreciation Event.

Winfield: Friday, June 21, 2013 from 7:45pm to 9:30p at Rock River Rapids, Derby, KS. Topic: Appreciation Event.

Wichita: Friday, June 21, 2013 from 7:45pm to 9:30pm at Rock River Rapids, Derby, KS. Topic: Appreciation event.
Wichita, El Dorado, Wellington, and Winfield families are invited.



For after hour emergencies, please call 1-877-921-4114.

Visit TFI's website and view the **Between Families** newsletter
online at tfifamilyservices.org



Like us on Facebook, [facebook.com/tfifamilyservices](https://www.facebook.com/tfifamilyservices), and follow us on Twitter
[@TFIFamily](https://twitter.com/TFIFamily) for tips, reminders, and more!

TFI Family Services, Inc. is licensed by the State of Kansas Department of
Health and Environment as a Child Placing Agency. License No. 766.

Recruitment Moment

Tabitha Rosebrough, Recruitment Manager

What Can You Do To Help Change the World?

Believe it or not, you are already doing something. You are foster parents **and you are impacting lives every day...and we need more of you.** There are over 5,600¹ children in out of home placement in Kansas, and there **aren't enough families like you opening their homes to children and teens** that need what you are giving every day: stability, guidance, and love.

TFI's current foster families who refer others who become licensed receive a \$500 recruitment bonus in appreciation of your efforts to bring awareness and increase resources for kids in need. You know best what it is like to lend a helping hand and a place to stay for a child whose family **can't provide that at the time. You know best the challenges and rewards** that come with this mission. You are our best recruiters.

The lives of 5,600¹ children and youth can and will be changed by foster families in Kansas. 5,600¹ future adults, neighbors, co-workers, and friends will be shaped by their experiences in out of home care. **If that's not helping change the world, I don't know what is.**

Tabitha Rosebrough, LMSW
Recruitment Manager

¹ <http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Documents/FY2013DataReports/ServedInDCFCustody/PlacementbyRegionFY13.pdf>

