**LCPA Monthly Provider Meeting**

**February 2, 2022**

1. **Welcome (Crystal)**
2. **Black History Month Program and Celebration (Gretchen)**

The DCS foster care division’s inaugural Black History Month program and celebration will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, at Flanner House’s Ujamaa Community Bookstore in Indy. All resource families are invited to attend! Flyer with information is linked below:



1. **RAPT Super Saturdays (Chatney Grice)**

The RAPT Training Team is developing “RAPT Super Saturdays” for training for Foster Parents. These will occur on the 3rd week of the month, with the exception of holiday weekends (for example, April’s will occur on the 4th weekend). These will run from 9am-4pm.

There will be one zoom link to use on-going. These opportunities will be open to DCS and LCPA foster parents. There will be lots of speakers and training topics and the system will track FP participation time. There will be partial credit for partial day attendance – database will provide a list of how long people were in attendance.

Taking suggestions for training topics and subject matter experts to assist – email Chatney (Chatney.Grice@dcs.IN.gov).

Excited about this as an ongoing opportunity for foster parents to bring education and in-depth information that foster parents can utilize as they care for IN children. An informational flyer will be sent out via the email list, please assist us with filtering this information out to your teams and foster parents. Please email Chatney if there’s someone you want to add to the distribution list

1. **External Policy Review Group (Whitney Vowels)**

The Residential Licensing team is working to develop a chapter of official DCS policy as it pertains to child placing agencies and license-related activities for LCPAs. As part of this process, we will be convening an External Policy Review Group and would like to invite LCPA staff to join this group. The group will have several virtual meetings to discuss policy drafts and provide any feedback. Whitney will send an email out either this afternoon or first thing in the morning requesting names and email contacts for interested individuals so that the contact list can be developed.

1. **Exciting News in the world of Policy: Annuals Policy is officially live as of 2/1/22! (Nicci Chenoweth & Angela Smith Grossman )**

[12.15.pdf (in.gov)](https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/12.15.pdf)



[12.22.pdf (in.gov)](https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/12.22.pdf)



* FAQ will be coming out from the informational sessions held by the foster care unit. Please email Nicci with any additional questions and she will add those.
* FCU has updated consultant assignments and your agency’s consultant may have changed. The updated list has been sent out to the agency distribution list and is also attached below. If you have any questions, please reach out to Nicci for additional information.



* Several policies updated: 12.11, 12.15, 12.22, 13.09 and 13.10
* Biggest change and benefit is that the majority of the required annual forms have been removed
* Annual review Home-study process has changed – not utilizing SAFE update, have incorporated statutory requirements into the Annual Report regarding Resource Foster Home. **The SAFE Home Study tools are still to be utilized for Initial Licenses, Relicensure, Transfers, and if requested, *new* Adoption Home Studies.**
* If you have started the annual review with SAFE, Nicci gave guidance to continue that. The intent with the policy change was to prevent duplicative work. Wanting to shift focus to having meaningful conversations with families and spending quality time with them, assessing the family for strengths and opportunities, and to focus on building up the quality of foster homes.
* Please email Nicci.Chenowith@dcs.in.gov or Angela.Smithgrossman@dcs.in.gov with any questions or comments on the annual changes or if you need a list of changed consultant assignments.
* Utilizing the current forms as a tool as opposed to a required document
* Biggest change to background check policy – local criminal court records check for individuals who have lived out of state. Prior to 2/1, if a person resided outside of Indiana within the last 5 years, local criminal court records were required until the 5 years surpassed. Initial licensure will require checks in states resided within the last 5 years, however, for the purpose of annuals, these are no longer required. Mycase will be used for local criminal court record check purposes, however, these results are public record. No release is required from the foster parents. CPS checks will no longer be completed annually. MaGIK identifies when a foster parent or household member is named as an alleged perpetrator of child abuse/neglect. The CO FCU will continue to review completed 311s and will develop a process for monitoring potential duplicate persons pages to identify CPS involvement within individuals identified on a foster home license. All new household members and/or current household member(s) turning 6, 14, or 18 require a “full” background check to be completed as applicable. All background checks will still be required annually for alternative childcare plan providers, as the individual(s) will not be identified on a foster home license.
* The annual review checklist will remain in MaGiK because there are no administrative changes being made to that system at this time as DCS phases it out. This will disappear from the new system. You may enter the date of the home visit in fields that are no longer applicable.
* Our early feedback from DCS licensed foster homes has been favorable. They have looked forward to having conversations with our team members about how we can build their skills and discuss their needs in a more focused way. The team is curious if LCPAs and their foster homes will have similar experiences. Feel free to share when/if you do. The 3 Informational Sessions held for LCPAs went well. If an agency was unable to attend, Nicci and/or your assigned consultant can schedule a makeup session. Nicci plans on holding two additional sessions to discuss barriers or successes you are having utilizing the new Annual Report (SF 53213) in the coming weeks.
* Correct version of the form SF 53213 is not yet available as there was a snag with finalizing the policy and link. This will be fixed as soon as possible.
1. **Time Change for LCPA Monthly Call (Crystal)**

The time of the LCPA Monthly Call will be changing for future months. Crystal is considering moving to either 1pm or 3pm for this call. If you have a conflict with either of those times that would prevent you from attending completely, please reach out to Crystal via email (Crystal.Whitis@dcs.IN.gov).

1. **Aftercare Services (Crystal)**

Part of FFPSA Implementation and QRTP Designation process is the requirement that residential treatment programs provide 6-months of family-based Aftercare. Have received several questions as of late about QRTP Aftercare and the impact on the foster home when a youth has discharged to foster care.

* 1. How can we help Foster Families feel prepared to support Youth coming from Residential into their homes?
	2. How can we help Foster Families understand Aftercare and how they can help the Youth and the Residential in the Aftercare process?

Important that Aftercare providers understand the requirements for foster families involved with LCPAs

Some foster families have lots of services in place, others do not. It is possible for the Residential Aftercare provider to be flexible and meet the foster family where the need is and either maximize or minimize presence, depending on what needs exist for the youth and family.

Will be important to identify roles at the beginning of the process. Angela discussed taking some of this feedback back to the DCS workforce to target communication

When discharges are not fully planned, it feels like you are chasing the information instead of receiving it on the front end. The FCM’s communication around these things and their level of engagement very much impacts how this whole process goes.

Angela and Crystal are going to discuss further to determine how to best filter some of this feedback down and discuss some more detailed approaches to this.

Feedback discussed that Residential Aftercare providers are not always aware that the youth is in an LCPA home, versus a DCS home.

1. **Professional Foster Care (Crystal)**

Internal group is still working on the Professional Foster Care Standard at this time. The consideration has shifted to identifying desired outcomes for Professional Foster Care versus being more prescriptive about exactly what Professional Foster Care should look like.

Looking to develop a small group for Professional Foster Care discussion – please reach out to Crystal to be added to this.