

Central Region Fostering Focus Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 28, 2016
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Regrets: Debbie Thibault
 Ann Jennex-Roberts
 Maureen Wickwire

1. Terms of Reference – Revised Copy
 - To meet four times a year – schedule meetings (copies of Terms to be provided)
2. Flow Chart / DCS Escalation
 - Working group: Vickie Black, Jill Barkhouse, et al to figure out process for resolving conflicts
 - “When you disagree process” no longer in effect
 - Current practice: programming, financial, etc.? go to social worker, than supervisor, Manager of Service Delivery
 - How to know who to go to? Staff Lists will have limited value as changes too often, but will be prepared. Team leads for case aids will be included on list.
 - An up-to-date booklet should accompany the child at the time of each placement
3. Provincial Emergency Duty * located at the Dartmouth Office (call 1-866-922-2434)
 - Information seeking to understand crisis, asking questions to assess situation. Focus on foster parent’s needs.
 - Needs vary from simply debriefing about a conflict, or issues about access, (can do purchase orders) financial, emergency placement, medical care, behavior, removing of child, etc.
 - Lists for emergency placement should be provided to emergency duty weekly (on call number, emergency foster homes available) but in practice: on a monthly basis more often. Do availability search on ICS.
 - Importance of communication with team: e.g. Reports from Emergency Duty are sent out to Child Welfare Office daily
 - Expression of difficulty of foster parents calling in crisis to have child removed -> what is in the best interest of the child? How are other children in the home affected?
4. Peer Support Services Program
 - Mentor program in place through Federation being organized to provide foster parents with support – especially as so much is left up to the foster parents – this will be of much value
5. Email Communication
 - Content is the issue, no confidential information (e.g. child case plan) – emails about appoints, etc. are ok
 - Policy regarding electronic communications from DCS prohibits sharing of confidential information through email; faxing and written letters are acceptable
6. Dialogue Update
 - Restorative Approach being used as part of the de-escalation process

7. Other

- Access is being looked at by DCS, Head Office Level

8. Dates & Times of remaining meetings:

- April 21
- June 16
- Sept 29
- All meetings 1:30pm to 3:30pm