



January 2014

Straight From The Heart Newsletter

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

All County Information Notice NO: 1-05-14 Sharing Information With Caregivers

Information sharing has been a problem since I began fostering in the dark ages! This All County Information Notice clarifies how vital information sharing is in order for caregivers to offer the highest quality parenting that each foster child deserves. It is exciting to witness much needed changes to the way we do business, especially when those changes make the quality of life better for the children who depend on this system to protect and care for them. The first paragraph of the ACIN states;

"The California Department of Social Services wishes to remind counties of the importance of sharing information with caregivers in child welfare cases. **INFORMATION SHARING IS NOT ONLY PERMITTED UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW, IT IS REQUIRED.** Giving caregivers such information better enables them to meet the needs of children and youth living in their homes."

The link for the All County Information Notice NO: 1-05-14 is below. This is a must read!

http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/EntRes/getinfo/acin/2014/I-05_14.pdf

Body Check Protocol

As part of the investigation authorized by W&IC 328, whenever a child is alleged to have been physically abused, the SW will conduct a body check at the following time(s):

- the first face-to-face contact
- whenever there is any suspicion of abuse to the child or to the child's sibling
- on a regular basis, when a previously-abused child has been returned to the home of the perpetrator (or the perpetrator has been permitted to return to the home of the child).

Body checks are not to be conducted unless there is reason to believe that the child has been abused AND the SW has consent, exigent circumstances, or a court order.

If your social worker is insisting you undress the child during a routine visit, this is not the policy of the agency and you need to elevate this to the supervisor.

Injuries to Children

SWs must get a same-day medical opinion (if not an exam) whenever one or more of the following exists:

- Child under 1 year of age with bruises, burns, breaks, Shaken Baby Syndrome, or suspicious injuries.
- Child under 3 years of age with burns, breaks, or bruising to head, face or torso.
- Suspicious bite marks.
- developmentally- delayed or emotionally/physically- challenged child who has suspicious breaks or burns, or injuries that are traumatic enough to require medical attention.
- Any siblings and other children who reside in the home of a child whose death is suspicious or of a non-accidental cause.
- Siblings of a child with documented serious non-accidental injuries.
- Other high-risk factors related to medical and/or physical issues are present.

Please make sure you remember to report any injuries to both your child's social worker and your licensing worker.

Straight From The Heart Newsletter Page 2

SFTH Email List

If you know of other foster/kinship or adoptive parents who are not currently on our email list and would like to be please have them email us at patricialboles@gmail.com .

We send out Placement Alerts from the North County placement specialists, upcoming trainings and special events, items community members would like to donate for free to foster families, respite needs, SFTH Give Away announcements and our Newsletter. (toy give away coming soon)

Upcoming Trainings

Many hours of support group training and workshop classes are offered monthly at SFTH. For the latest schedule click on the Grossmont Foster. Adoptive and Kinship Care Education Program website.

www.fakce.org

Some Highlights!

QPI Training!

Please check your pink training booklet for the details on this important training. It is a must for all foster/adoptive parents! North county will offer this training twice, Feb 6 and March 4th from 8:30-1:00 At the San Marcos Civic Center. It will be offered in Santee and in San Diego also.

Please contact Barbie at 760-716-4824 or information@connectedthroughkids.com for more information.

Movement, Muscles, and Messes

This is a wonderful new partnership between SFTH and the University of St. Augustine, which is a school for occupational and physical therapists here in San Marcos. Come and meet other children and caregivers, get ideas to stimulate development, discuss questions and concerns and receive resources.

January 21st, 28th and February 4th from 10-11am at Straight From The Heart.

If often takes many months for services to begin due to Medi-cal approval so this is an awesome opportunity to help our children while we wait.

A Few of Our Fabulous Donors!

Sleep Train (Over \$60,000 in donations)
Tiffanys (Toys not jewelry darn it)
The Zeiss Family
Ron Hynum
San Elijo Womens Club
Toys 4 Tots
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
St. Michaels by the Sea
Teri A Cohen CPA
Susan Morris
Susan Spock
Mary Beth Muro
Connected Through Kids
Stacey Kittel
Judith Sweet
Laura Dagrosa
Dawn Cummings
Eye of the Needle Foundation
Margaret Spiewak
Summer Golden
Deborah Morton
The Church of Rancho Bernardo
North Coast Church Royal Oaks
San Diego County Board of Supervisors

We are grateful for the donations to Straight From The Heart on behalf of the foster children of San Diego County. We would not be here without your funding, donations and service.

We appreciate the volunteer service from churches and especially the San Elijo Women's Club that have given us two regular staff members!

It takes a village and ours is growing!

Extra Curricular Funds!

We have been given some money from Sleep Train for extracurricular activities for our foster children. We can fund \$100.00 per foster child, per year towards extracurricular activities such as sports, dance lessons, art classes etc... as long as there is funding. We received \$5,500 towards this fund. I will send out the application via email. Yeah for our kids!