**Coalition Meeting Notes**

**December 12, 2017 at 3:00**

**Location: Fargo PATH**

**Agency Updates:**

* **AASK/Morgan:** has twelve waiting families in our region and a number of waiting kids. The National Adoption Day and ND Heart Gallery Gala events went well.
* **SEHSC/Amy with Ronda & Monica:**
	+ County Services is currently fully staffed now!
	+ Brought information from the Central Office of fingerprint background check changes. The information (email, memo and forms) will be emailed by Amy to the coalition members.
	+ Reviewed roles of coalition members during Amy’s maternity leave. Thank you to the volunteers!
		- Taking coalition meeting minutes for February, March & April: Carissa
		- Coalition website inquiries: Morgan
		- Keeping track of the financials: Tracey Curley
			* Amy sent Tracey an email outlining the spending tracking that the coalition has been using with directions. Tracey can contact Amy for assistance if needed.
		- Gathering the coalition’s quarterly data from January-March **by April 10th** and emailing it to Kelsey Bless kmbless@nd.gov by April 15th.  Monica Miller, Assistant Regional Representative
		- If you need the coalition booth items- (display board and blue bin of items) you can contact our SEHSC support staff, Milly Johnson at 298-4702 or  miljohnson@nd.gov
* **Cass County/Tracey:** has 91 foster homes with some families that were previously on hold are now closed. There are 10 interested families on the waiting list. Jennifer is doing the relicensing and Renee is helping with the initial licensing.
* **PATH/Carissa:** is in the process of licensing fifteen families right now. There are 146 total PATH homes.
* **Fargo Public Schools/Sarah:** the schools are very busy at this time. Requested thoughts for services or assistance for a youth turning 18. Concerned for the winter time and the youth that are currently homeless.

**Recruitment Items:**

Events:

* Fargo Theatre- November 19th only about 30 people attended. Some take aways to consider for the next event: Sundays may be difficult for families, starting at noon is likely hard for families at lunch time, maybe try to pick a movie that is a newer DVD release and ask the Fargo Theatre for ideas on how to get more people. The coalition may choose to use the smaller theatre. Discussed that there is a benefit if the coalition holds this event every National Foster Care month- May and every National Adoption month- November as people will get used to the events being held and may be more likely to anticipate the events.

Advertising:

* Shirts – Thank you Sonja for your work on this!
	+ Baseball tee: gray/red, gray/charcoal black, gray/navy
	+ Hoodie: red marble, heather navy, dark gray marble
	+ Unisex tee: heather deep teal, ash, oxblood black, storm, heather cardinal
	+ Fleece crewneck sweatshirt: deep heather/navy, cardinal tri-blend, cardinal marble
* Will work on an advertisement for these items from the Shirts from Fargo.
* Planning of additional tasks
	+ Early part of the year:
		- Contact schools to see if an ad is in their school newspaper?
	+ April:
		- Sibling advertisement- billboard? (sibling day is April 10th)
		- Billboard for Child Abuse Prevention Month?
		- ND Family Based Conference booth?
	+ May:
		- Plan for the ribbons at the West Acres Mall- Carissa and coalition
		- Fargo Theatre event- group discussed to look at the very beginning of May due to graduations- ??
		- Billboard- ??
		- On the Minds of Moms (Mother’s Day) Will need to contact them with some lead time to get this in the May issue. Ad and possibly feature article on a family?- ??
	+ Look at the monthly marketing schedule list in Google docs for more ideas

**Retention Items:**

* Foster parent and Adoptive parent gifts
	+ Talk to Ella/LSS for getting the items for your organization. A big thank you to Ella for storing the items and assisting the coalition members!!!
	+ PATH, AASK and Cass County have picked up items for their organizations.



**Spending:**

* Discussed budget and that the current spending cycle ends (due to SB2206 and funding stream changes) on December 31st. We will try to spend what we can, but may have limitations on what can be spent and paid out before the December timeframe. New funding will begin January 1, 2018.
* The project budget totals from January 1, 2018-June 30, 2019 is $27,500 for our region.



**Peer Review/Support:**

* Workers can bring up questions and concerns related to foster parents, adoptive parents and licensing. Discussion ensued.

**Will discuss in January:**

* Training on Google Docs- Amy to train with a backup as Sonja and Carissa to check on room availability.
* Electronic Billboards for Carissa’s Native American group- Carissa noted in December’s meeting that the group hasn’t met for a bit. Will use a new billboard company as discussed earlier- Firefly. Morgan will send the information to Carissa.
* Grief & loss therapy pilot
	+ Families - $100

Or

* + Foster family and child have a ‘processing’ session and bill under child

**Next meeting: 1:00 on January 9, 2018 at PATH.**

**(meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 3:00pm)**

**General:**

* Pamphlet- Let Amy know if you need pamphlets, pens or business cards in your office.
* Website/Facebook- Please let Morgan or Amy know if you have items to post. Also if you want to be an administrator of the Facebook page, let Morgan or Amy know.
* Google Docs/Excel!
	+ A Google Excel spreadsheet was created for: Members List, Marketing Schedule, Coalition Inventory, Ideas- Big or Small, FP Gift Ideas, Working Spending Plan/Budget
	+ A Google document was created for a go to resource for advertising options. For each advertising option, you can add information about the option, contact, price, etc.

***Email Amy B*** with your email address if you would like to access and add to these resource options.

**Always keep in mind:**

* Add to the schedule/revise yearly calendar of events. Any new ideas on booth opportunities/ recruitment/ advertisement?
* Any fun ideas to put on our Facebook page? Articles, pictures, videos, thoughts or ideas?! Please share ideas with Morgan or Amy to put on the Facebook page. There are lots of opportunities out there!
* Once Upon a Child in Fargo will give foster parents 20% off their purchase. Please tell the foster parents to bring in their foster care license as proof!

Our primary goal is to increase the number of foster & adoptive homes in our region available as resources for children with a focus on assuring that children are safe & nurtured in the homes we license & retain.

**A home for every child.**

**Website:** [www.redriverfosterandadoptcoalition.org](http://www.redriverfosterandadoptcoalition.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Red-River-Foster-Adopt-Coalition-327199587508/?fref=ts>