**Coalition Meeting Notes**

**October 10, 2017 at 3:00**

**Location: Fargo PATH**

**Agency Updates:**

* Welcome to the students attending from the NDSU Nursing- Public Health program!
* **AASK/Morgan:** has nine waiting families in our region. National Adoption Day is November 18th and the ND Heart Gallery Gala is November 9th at the Fargodome.
* **Cass County/Tracey:** has 95 foster homes and fifteen families on the waiting list. Working on revamping and updating paperwork that goes to inquiry families and licensed families. Have seen a decrease in inquiries/phone calls.
* **LSS/Ella:** has 1 more family than last month and is working on eight families right now. LSS hired a new worker to do the licensing and recruiting (Ella will still help out with recruiting). Ella just finished with the therapeutic foster care manual (woo hoo!)
* **PATH/Bill:** is in the process of licensing ten families right now. The total number of homes is down five homes. Also have seen a decrease in inquiries/phone calls.
  + **Trunk or Treat-** PATH is offering their 3rd annual Trunk or Treat on Monday, October 30th. Morgan will dress up ☺
* **Ransom County/Shantel:** has 1 licensed home now and is starting 2 homes.
* **SEHSC/Amy:** County services has hired Ronda Hoff to fill Kathy P’s position
  + **Statewide Recruitment & Retention Meeting-** Amy did a very nice job with writing notes. Everything thought the meeting was interesting and educational

**Recruitment Items:**

Events:

* National Adoption Day events at Cass County Court House- Balloons for National Adoption Day – Morgan will be in contact with Tracey about balloons.
* Fargo Theatre-
  + November 19th Amy has the flyer that she sent out on 10/11/17. Not allowed to post on social media/websites. But please tell all families to attend!!

Advertising:

* Newman Billboards-
  + Morgan spoke with supervisor at Newman regarding service and paying everything at once on 10/11/17. Will know soon if we can pay everything right away.
  + Everyone agreed that once our contract is complete with Newman Billboard in December, we will switch to Off the Wall Advertising/Firefly.
* Shirts – Agreed on sweatshirt, unisex shirt, baseball tee, coffee mug, and water bottle. We will tie in the blue somehow. It would be nice to advertise at the Fargo Theater Event. Sonja

**Retention Items:**

* Foster parent and Adoptive parent gifts



* + Total for oven mitts cost $866.13.
  + Total for Pizza Cutter is $723.71
  + This is for 320 each and includes set up charge and shipping. Tracey and Ella will talk on 10/11/2017 to get the credit card number and Ella will order this ASAP.

**Spending:**

* Heart Gallery still has 23 children who need sponsors for this year’s Heart Gallery Gala – Morgan will ask how many waiting kids from our region still need sponsors as this is a viable option for our funds.
* Cass County has the credit card!! Woo hoo!
* Discussed budget/what has been spent so far and any needs

**Peer Review/Support:**

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

**Will discuss in January:**

* Electronic Billboards for Carissa’s Native American group
* Grief & loss therapy pilot
  + Families - $100

Or

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

**Next meeting: 3:00 on November 14th, 2017 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>