**Coalition Meeting Notes**

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

**Location: Fargo PATH**

**Updates:**

* **AASK/Morgan:** has thirteen waiting families, AASK has been really busy.
* **PATH/Carissa:** has 131 total licensed homes, 36 homes are in process and some homes are waiting approval.
* **SEHSC/Amy:** A new fingerprint support staff has been hired and she is doing a good job. Reviewed Kyle Vorachek’s email stating: “1. Once we receive the out of state foster care license, I (Kyle) needs to be the one entering into the system. I have noticed that workers have been doing this. 2. We always need to pay the receiving state foster care rate. We do not pay the ND rate when placing kids in out of state foster care homes.”
* **LSS/Ella:** is busy, has eleven foster homes, four in process, and twelve homes are on the waiting list. PRIDE sessions are every Thursday.
* **Youthworks:** has two homes in process in Fargo.
* **Cass County/Rose:** has three in progress and seventeen homes on the waiting list.
* **Traill County/Shantel:** has five licensed foster homes and in process of licensing three homes.
* **Steele County/Sheila:** is doing some advertising and indicated that there are no foster homes in progress.

**Discussion:**

* Peace Packs Bag Drive- Wondering if the outer counties would like to keep a couple bags on hand? There have been a lot of good quality ones. The poor quality bags are donated. (Sonja/Morgan)

**Recruitment Items:**

Events:

* Frostival- look to next year’s participation options.
* RRAC conference booth- Linda D at Cass County could be a contact. (?)
* ND Family Based Conference. Again two door prizes- April. (Amy)

Advertising:

* Forum/Jobs HQ- the online ad was completed and the bill was submitted. Option 2 will be worked on for February & March. (Amy & Rose-payment)
* Wendy’s Wonderful Kids commercial was run and the bill was submitted.
* Look to do the sibling commercial in February (Rose & Jennifer T)
* Look to do the Native American Diversity commercial in May (Rose & Jennifer T)
* WDAZ/WDAY- Kate, a Grand Forks PATH worker is working with WDAZ/WDAY to look at running segments on television. Nothing new at this time. (Bill)
* Redhawks advertising reviewed. This was put on hold for now.
* Fargo School Talk Blog- <http://fargopublicschools.areavoices.com/> . Nothing new at this time. Idea of having an interview with a featured foster parent/teacher. Cass and PATH to think of possible options for teachers/school staff to interview. (Carissa/Rose)
  + FargoSchoolTalk is the official blog of the Fargo Public Schools. We post stories and information about staff, students, activities, events, curriculum, and various educational topics.
* School Newspapers:
  + [Sudhian](https://sites.google.com/a/fargoschools.org/school-newspaper/) Newspaper (Fargo South High)- Nothing new at this time. The ad has not yet been created. The coalition decided to put an advertising request in for April for ½ page for a total of $135. (Sarah- contact, Amy- ad & Rose-billing)
  + We have posted advertisements/information in: AdVentures, Cass County Reporter, Central Cass Courier and the Catholic Schools.
* Pizza Box Flyers- The group thinks we used Pizza Patrol or Slap Shot Pizza & possibly Ole & Lena’s last year. (? No volunteer.) This was tabled for next year.
* Sandy’s Doughnuts- Shantel has a contact to see if they can put a flyer on their box of doughnuts and possibly a message on their billboard. (Shantel to follow up)
* Flags for downtown? Ella will inquire on what other groups have done in the past. (Ella)
* Printing: it may be beneficial to have flyers, other promotional items (yard sign, etc?) on hand.
* We are continuing to work on closing the old coalition website for good. This is a work in progress. No new information. (Amy)
* Marketing Schedule:
  + January:
    - Continue school ads
    - Contact minority group
    - Pizza box flyers for Superbowl
  + February:
    - Continue school ads
    - Sibling TV ad- need to come up with a new ad (Empty Nesters?)

**Retention Items:**

* Thank you Rose for ordering coalition pens and the insulated lunch bags.
* Fargo Theater- Amy spoke to Nicole at the Fargo Theater and this sounds like a better option than Marcus Theaters. We can rent out the larger theater and can seat up to 830 people. The group would like to have the movie in May for foster care month. A list of questions was generated to review with Nicole. It is important to get the bill to Rose by the end of May for payment purposes. Fun fact- they do kids movie series on the weekends in January and February! (Amy)
* There is a scheduled trauma training meeting to discuss planning on January 25th. (Rose)
* Training DVDs/Books: Please ask your agencies if there is interest in particular resources to add to our coalition’s library that is located at the PATH office. The group is still looking for a book for the birth children of the foster parents. (Group)

**Financial Items:**

* Reviewed that we have not received a bill for MAT Bus and Transit Advertising. (Amy)
* The Newman bill was submitted for payment.
* Wendy’s Wonderful Kids commercial was run and the bill was submitted.
* Inforum/Jobs HQ- online ad completed and bill reportedly sent.
* Order foster care month ribbons in March. (Rose)

**Next meeting: 3:00 on Tuesday, February 14th, 2017 at PATH.**

Carissa to check on reserving the PATH room for 2017

**Parking Lot of Ideas:**

* Peace Packs Bag Drive ~ in Memory of Michael– Recruitment & Retention Coalitions in ND are teaming together to gather new or lightly used luggage and duffel bags for youth to use, whether it is to transition back home, to a facility, a foster home, a forever family, or into their own apartment, these bags will be made available to any youth in foster care in ND. The Fargo PATH office is a drop off site for collecting the bags. Flyer posted on Facebook. (Sonja)
* Extra funding for child care for post adopt support group
* Something at Frostival
* Something at Streets Alive
* Empty Nesters- target group – ‘Looking forward to the kids being gone, but once they are gone you realize that your house is too quiet. Fill your home with foster youth!’
* Windshield flyers (AASK has a lot of adoption flyers & the coalition has a bunch of old window clings)

**General:**

* Pamphlet- Let Amy know if you need pamphlets 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.
* 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 if you would like to access and add to this resource option.

**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>