**Coalition Meeting Notes**

**August 8, 2017 at 3:00**

**Location: Fargo PATH**

**Agency Updates:**

* **AASK/Morgan:** has eleven waiting families in our region. There are seventeen youth are waiting for forever homes with eleven more children added to this list after TPRs occurred. An inquiry meeting was held on Thursday and 31 people attended.
* **LSS/Ella:** has eleven homes and working on many home studies. Done with the COA process. Congrats! Abound Counseling has a training on September 11th with scholarships available for foster parents. A new Pride session is scheduled in September.
* **Cass County/Tracey:** there are 25 homes on the wait list. She is getting three calls a day for interest and is mailing packets out.
* **SEHSC/Amy:** Southeast is now hiring in our office, thank you for being patient as we wait to be full staff again. Please let Amy know if you would like to be invited to view the Google Docs and which email this invitation this should be sent to.
* **Traill County/Shantel:** has eight licensed foster homes and no additional homes in process.
* **PATH:** has 147 total licensed homes in our region and 30 homes are in process. The inquires seem to come in waves.
  + PATH shared that our meetings may need to be moved back to the second floor of the PATH office. Reminder of the PATH policy that you will need to check in at the front desk and be walked back.
* **ND Post Adopt/Sonja:** 
  + **Camp Connect-** Family Adoption Camp was a huge success! Held in July, it hosted 28 children, and 17 parents. Dates for next year are July 13-158, 2018 and plan to add five families. A book of photos and memories was passed around as well as a thank you card from our sponsorship to the camp.
  + **Support groups-** held August 24, Sept 14, Oct 5 and Nov 19th at the Dakota Medical Foundation. On October 5th, an evening of training will be held on the realities of adoption.
  + **Suitcases/Peace Packs-** have two and can take more. Let foster parents and counties know that Sonja can take more suitcases now.
* **Steele County/Shelia:** has zero county foster homes. Placed advertising in the newspaper, flyers and word of mouth. No response yet.

**Recruitment Items:**

Events:

* Fargo Theatre event
  + November- look at doing an adoption theme kids movie- Despicable Me & the Minions movies?? See if the November 18th day is available. Have an adoption related message on the marque. See if the news outlets would do a story on adoption at the marquee sign (AASK)? However, our Theatre Event is private, and cannot be opened to the public- so the news can’t advertise the Theatre Event. Details to be worked out… Thank you Shantel for taking the lead on the Fargo Theatre event!
* Thank you Tracey for attending the West Fargo Night to Unite booth on August 1st at Elmwood Park for the Red River Foster & Adopt Coalition.
* Thank you Jennifer for attending the Baby, Belly and Beyond booth on September 24th from at the Holiday Inn in Fargo.
* Thank you Ella for having a booth at the Fargo Pride event and having coalition brochures available.

Advertising:

* Billboard options sent around to redo the wording and layouts. Focus on empty nesters ‘nesties’ and homes for siblings. Also perhaps use local statistics- ie “Cass County has \_\_\_ children in foster care, we need you to be a foster parent.” May need to look at wording size for a billboard. Thank you Morgan for taking the lead on the billboards!
* Tee-shirts- look for tying in a tee-shirt fundraiser to the Peace Packs (suitcases). Look to set up an online store for free through Fargo Shirts. Thank you Sonja for taking the lead on the tee-shirts!

**Retention Items:**

* Look at writing out the grief and loss counseling option in January.
* Questioned if Chick-Fil-A would be willing to do things for foster families?

**Biennium Budget Planning:**

* Amy will finalize the biennium’s Request for Funding and submit this to the Central Office by August 15th. Prior to, this will be sent out for review and editing purposes.

Spending:

* Budget reviewed. Our coalition has $10,000 to spend from July 1st to December 31st 2017. The rest of the funding will reportedly be available starting January 1st, 2018 through the funding distribution of the Senate Bill 2206. This biennium our region reportedly will have the same total amount of funding as the last biennium.

**Peer Review/Support:**

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

**Next meeting: 3:00 on September 12th, 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>