**Coalition Meeting Notes**

**November 14, 2017 at 3:00**

**Location: Fargo PATH**

**Agency Updates:**

* **AASK/Morgan:** has ten waiting families in our region. National Adoption Day is November 18th. The ND Heart Gallery Gala was November 9th at the Fargodome and there was approximately 400 people in attendance.
* **Ransom County/Shantel:** has one licensed home now and there are two additional foster homes waiting for regional office approval.
* **SEHSC/Amy:** County Services has hired Monica Miller as a new position in our office. She will be working on a variety of tasks including PATH licensing, Early Childhood Licensing and other duties.
* **PATH/Carissa:** is in the process of licensing fifteen families right now. There are 147 total PATH homes. Retention continues to be an issue of concern.
* **Post Adopt/Sonja**: There will be interviews this week. Chris Martin is covering post adopt services until a new worker is hired. There should be no gap in services with Chris covering. Use the same contact information as before.
* **Cass County/Tracey:** reports that they are down to 88 foster homes as many homes did not relicense due to moving, adopting, etc. There are 18-20 people on the waiting list. Very busy.

**Recruitment Items:**

Events:

* National Adoption Day events at Cass County Court House- Balloons for National Adoption Day – the total for balloons came to $161.16.
* Heart Gallery- the coalition voted via email to sponsor two youth from our region on the ND Heart Gallery- the total for Heart Gallery sponsorship was $500.
* Fargo Theatre- November 19th please tell all families to attend!! Tracey will get the movies to Amy. Carissa, Morgan, Amy and Ella will attend. The contract is signed with the Fargo Theatre. After brief discussion, it was decided to do a similar marquee message as the foster care month done in May. Amy will connect with Nicole Larson at the Fargo Theatre.

Advertising:

* Shirts – Agreed on sweatshirt, unisex shirt, baseball tee, coffee mug, and water bottle. We will tie in the blue somehow. Sonja
* Reviewed the stickers and stamps purchased from Vistaprint. The stickers can be used for (but not limited to) packets of information sent to inquiries or new foster parents and the stamps can be used for (but not limited to) materials purchased by the coalition.

**Retention Items:**

* Foster parent and Adoptive parent gifts
  + Talk to Ella/LSS for getting the items for your organization.



**Spending:**

* Heart Gallery sponsorship of two children in our region
* National Adoption Day balloons
* The credit card has not yet been paid. The billing cycle ends on the 17th. Tracey will check the balance.
* 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.

**Peer Review/Support:**

* Workers brought 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
* Grief & loss therapy pilot
  + Families - $100

Or

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

**Next meeting: 3:00 on December 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>