

The Caring Times

Winter 2021



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Letter from Karen

Welcome to 2021! We are excited for this New Year! How about you? A new year brings much excitement and things to look forward to. We want to thank you for everything you have done during this pandemic. It's not over, but there is light ahead. Thank you for taking on extra respite; for saying yes to placements, even though you were already full; for answering our phone calls; for going the extra mile with kids who needed help with virtual school; for the extra transportation required during family interaction; for extra supervision; and for so much more. We realize this is not easy, and can be emotionally draining at times. We also want to say thank you to everyone that has agreed to take a placement and then it didn't happen. We know that can play havoc on the emotions and that the not-knowing is hard. In most cases these children were placed with relatives, but we know you were already planning ahead to bedroom preparation, school, and fitting the child into other family circumstances. We sincerely want to express our gratitude for all of this! And for saying YES in the first place!

We want to encourage all of you to complete foster parent training hours right now. Leniency has been given by DCF to allow for more virtual training. There are so many trainings available online that you should not have difficulty finding something that interests you. Tabitha has provided lots of additional information throughout this newsletter regarding training. Please pay close attention.

And now for some positive parenting advice. Many of you may be familiar with Love and Logic parenting. Practicing it will help you to do it well. What type of parent are you? Do you want to "raise self-confident, motivated children who are ready for the real world?" Love and Logic provides loving, yet powerful tools for parenting children of all ages. Love and Logic Parenting encourages empathy. It also encourages you to take care of yourself first. It should be your goal to be a consultant parent, not a helicopter or drill sergeant parent. When your child comes to you with a problem you can show empathy by saying "Wow, that's really terrible or that's really awful. How are you going to handle it? Or how do you think you should handle it." This is important. Even if you are really upset about what you have just been told or bothered by it, it is important that you show empathy and not respond in a negative way or the child's brain will go into fight or flight thinking. Learn more about Love and Logic parenting by visiting their website <http://www.loveandlogic.com>. You can also sign up to be part of their "Insider's Club" and receive free weekly parenting tips. Love and Logic is currently offering a special deal on their training. Attend all six online modules for \$49 total. (\$100 discount). As a reminder, the Foster Care Program will reimburse you for trainings as long as your pre-approve them with one of us. Reimbursement will happen after documentation of completion is given. The training log should also be presented at the same time so you can receive credit toward your training hours.

Take care everyone. Please reach out to us if you have questions or are in need of anything. We hope you all know that you are truly valued and we think of you everyday.

Federal Tax Returns & Foster Care Placements

Many foster parents have questions right now on whether or not foster children can be claimed on federal tax returns. This is an important question to pose to your tax professional as we cannot give tax advice. Below is information that our agency has received from the State of Wisconsin on the topic of taxes.

The State of Wisconsin is required to make IRS Form 1095-B available to all individuals who were enrolled in a Medicaid plan that meets the criteria to be considered minimum essential coverage at any time during the year, including children receiving Foster Care Medicaid in 2019.

Members must request a copy of the IRS Form 1095-B from DHS if one is needed for tax filing purposes. The 2020 IRS Form 1095-B will be available to request beginning in mid-January 2021. Members can request a copy of their 1095-B tax form:

- **By phone:** 1-866-667-9419
- **By e-mail:** memberservices@wisconsin.gov
- **By mail:**

Attn: Member Services 1095-B
313 Blettner Boulevard
Madison, WI 53714

- In person at their local Income Maintenance (IM) Agency: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/imagency/index.htm>

When requesting a copy of the 1095-B tax form, members should make sure to have all of the following information available:

- The requestor's full name,
- The full name of the member whose form is being requested,
- The member's Medicaid ID number or Social Security number,
- The member's date of birth, and
- The address where the 1095-B form needs to be mailed.

If all of the above information is not made available when requesting a copy of the form, DHS may not be able to send the copy of the 1095-B form to the requestor. If an out-of-home care provider or parent/guardian requests a copy of the 1095-B form, they may not be able to directly obtain the form if the child is flagged in ForwardHealth interChange as a child in out-of-home care. For confidentiality reasons, the 1095-B form will not be directly released to the caller unless the caller is listed on the case for the child for whom they are requesting a form. If the relationship cannot be verified through the information on file, the agent may send the letter to the appropriate child welfare agency. The Department of Health Services (DHS) will send the form to the county agency with the attention line of "1095-B Tax Form" so that the county can protect any sensitive information from the individual requesting the form, if necessary. It may take 5-7 days for the agency to receive the form. The person requesting the form must then obtain the form from the child welfare agency. Agencies are encouraged to review the form for confidential information that may need to be redacted before providing the requested form to that individual.

DCF and DHS do not provide tax advice. Questions regarding the ability to claim a child in out-of-home care as a dependent for tax purposes should be directed to the person's tax professional. For additional information about the 1095-B form, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/form1095b.htm>.

First and foremost, we want to say how much we appreciate you on any given day of the year. The past 7 months have given us a new appreciation for you as we were all navigating through the pandemic, which affected every single person, in different ways. Thank you to everyone for helping us all work as a team when placements came in. We know there are COVID risks involved with having placements right now, so we thank you for jumping in where and how we needed.

2020/2021 Licenses & Relicenses

Licenses

- Theresa & Bradley Collins
 - Trisha Fritz
 - Isabel Rojas
- Bethany & Bruce Robinson
 - Anna Schuh
- Andra & Aaron Erdmann
- Lindsey & Ulises Garcia
- Alicia & Christopher Walters
- Jennifer & Michael Garceau
 - Amy & Adam Mooren



Relicenses

- Terry & Nathan Ehle
 - Darla Otto
 - Diane Rabe
- Sharon & Rob Kirt
- Kelly & Troy Tiegs
- Connie & Mark Kimmes
 - Jon Sturm
- Karie & Jay Kobel
- Bethany & Leslie Sensenig
 - Linda Hauschultz
 - Jenna & Jim Heling
 - Darla Mendolla
- Julie & Jerry Bramstedt
- Melanie & Todd Hunt
- Vicky & John Schmidt
 - Lori & Tim Foth
- Debra Hochstetler

Resources

The Foster Care Institute-

Created by nationwide speaker and foster parent, Dr. John DeGarmo. Newsletters are sent full of articles, podcasts, trainings, and support on a regular basis. To sign up for the email newsletters, go to:

[https://
www.drjohndegarmofostercare.com/](https://www.drjohndegarmofostercare.com/)

National Foster Care & Adoption Directory

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/nfcad/app/>

This website has many resources discussing situations you may encounter in foster care along with information regarding foster care, child abuse & neglect, etc.

An app is also available for IOS and Android devices.

Wisconsin Foster Parent Association (WFAPA)

Foster parent support services, information coming from State level, networking with other foster parents, involvement in helping foster children, and more!!

<https://www.wfapa.org/>

Learn more about what \$10 per year will get you when you become a member!



The Coalition for Children, Youth, & Families

- Support
- Lending Library
- Recorded Trainings & Interactive Webinars



Foundation Training (First 2 years of licensing)

Once you are licensed, you have 2 years to complete the required 30 hours (10 modules) of Foundation Training. If these modules are not complete at time of relicensing an extension exception will need to be sent to the State. The State may choose to approve or deny the exception, moreover, could choose to lower your Foster Care Level to a Level 1, which would also decrease your monthly rate.

Currently sessions are offered virtually, either through a CANVAS model or Virtual Instructor Led Model, explanations of each are below. You will need to sign into your PDS account to register for these trainings. Please only sign up for one session , including waitlists.

If you have any questions or troubles with your PDS account or signing up, please contact Tabitha.

<p>Zoom</p> <p>Live Training</p> <p>Listed in PDS location as VILT</p>	<p>Canvas</p> <p>Self-Paced Training</p> <p>The Canvas classes are indicated by "TITLE- Distance Learning</p>
<p>Live meeting setting done online in real time with instructor and other participants. Participants are expected to engage with video and audio discussions throughout the training. This format most resembles the classroom experience.</p> <p>Participants must have access to a computer or smart device, reliable internet connection, webcam and microphone. Telephones can be used as an alternative for audio, but are not recommended for video and other Zoom features.</p> <p>Computers provide the best user experience and are preferred.</p> <p>Participants are expected to access handouts electronically through an emailed provided link.</p> <p>To receive credit for the class participants must attend the full training.</p> <p>Due to the sensitivity of discussions and images during class, participants should ensure children are not exposed to the content. Parents should make arrangements for childcare if necessary.</p> <p>Same training title in PDS</p> <p>Training location listed as "VILT (Virtual Instructor Lead)"</p> <p>Both parents need to be registered in PDS</p> <p>Both parents can attend together using a shared device</p>	<p>Self-paced coursework done anytime within the training window. Participants move through lecture, participate in discussions and complete assignments and other virtual interaction with instructor and participants.</p> <p>This is a great option for those whose schedule doesn't allow them to participate in a live class or have barriers in using Zoom.</p> <p>A unique email address is required for each participant. Parents in the same family are able to work through the course together however, each needs a separate Canvas account and provide unique answers in assignments.</p> <p>Although trainers provide support and are available for assistance, some online skill is needed (clicking on tabs/completing online documents).</p> <p>Reading and writing is required.</p> <p>Training title in PDS will be (normal title)- Distance Learning</p> <p>Training location will be listed as "Canvas - Online Platform"</p> <p>Both parents need to be registered in PDS</p> <p>Children should not be present during training</p>

Ongoing Training (subsequent relicensing years)

After relicensing, foster parents will each need to complete 10 hours each licensing year (20 hours by next relicensing period).

These can be trainings related to a wide variety of topics: parenting, foster parenting, behaviors, development, etc.

These trainings can be ones you find in the community, trainings HSD hosts, trainings HSD sends out that are held in the community, etc.

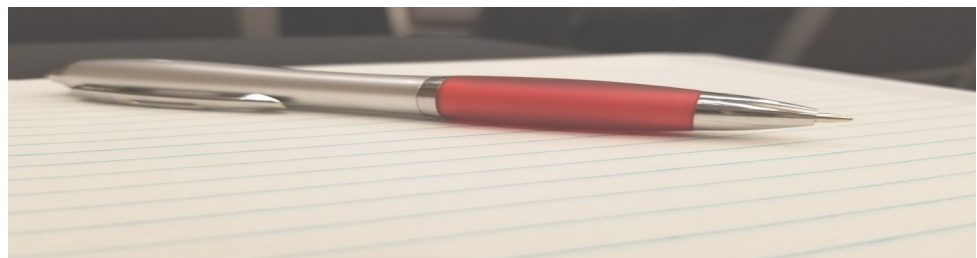
Typically, foster parents are allowed 2 hours of “non-interactive” training hours per licensing year (4 total). Non-interactive includes: books, magazine articles, recorded webinars/online trainings (no opportunity for discussion), etc.

Due to COVID and in person meetings not occurring, we are able to allow additional non-interactive hours.

Foster Care Staff continues to send out additional trainings that are available during this time.

In 2020, over 61 hours of ongoing training opportunities were sent out to caregivers in the Manitowoc County Foster Care Program!

Please see the next page for additional resources that can be utilized



Additional resources that can be utilized:

<https://www.championclassrooms.org/catalog>

Dr. John DeGarmo's trainings:

<https://www.drjohndegarmofostercare.com/speaking-training.html>

Foster Parent College

<https://www.fosterparentcollege.com/>

REMINDER!!!

A Training Record Log MUST be filled out within 60 days of training completion for all ongoing training hours (anything except Pre-Placement or Foundations Training). The only exception to this are the in person trainings hosted by the Foster Care Team at Human Services. Training Record Logs should be returned to Tabitha Lecher.

Easier Goodbyes

When a placement leaves your home, whether they are going to another foster home, going home to their birth family, or moving in with a relative, it can be incredibly emotional, not just for the foster parents, but also for the children.

Dr. John DeGarmo discussed ways of making these goodbye's easier and turned into a positive and calming experience.

- ◇ Purchase a brand new suitcase for the child's belongings
- ◇ Spend time together packing; taking time to fold clothes and placing into suitcase
- ◇ Send along their Lifebook and pictures of you and the family during the time they were with you
- ◇ Give them your contact information to contact you: phone number, email, physical address
- ◇ Listen to and answer their questions and concerns regarding the move
- ◇ Throw them a going away party to celebrate the time you have had together
- ◇ Reach out to them after they have left, if possible, via letter, text, email, phone call, or visit



To view Dr. DeGarmo's video, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYbqU3Xm0Y0>