



# Notable News

## March 2018

An exclusive publication for  
Mahoning County Foster Caregivers

### OUR MISSION

“Mahoning County Children Services,  
In partnership with the community, is  
committed to being the leader in protecting  
children while helping to preserve families”



Mahoning County  
**Children Services**  
330-941-8888    [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)



Mahoning County  
Children Services



MC Children Services



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## FPA Officers

### President

Tammy Partelano  
(330) 743-6718

### Editor

Valerie Johnson

# From the desk of the President

Happy March Everyone!

I'm getting excited that spring is right around the corner! Warmer weather, longer days, flowers budding and St. Patrick's Day!

I'm also excited to welcome new foster caregivers! If you haven't checked out the FPA, please do so. We are a great resource for each other with years of experience to share with you. We would love to meet you and we encourage you to attend a monthly meeting.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 19th at 6pm on the 3rd floor of the Children Services offices. There will be babysitters as well as some refreshments.

The Annual FPA Golf Scramble is scheduled for June 23, 2018. At our next meeting we will be discussing the event, making plans and working out the details. Please plan to attend with your ideas and suggestions to help us with this fundraiser for the kids. We hope you're able to get a team together, sponsor a hole, donate a basket or volunteer your time. And spread the word, maybe you know a business that can help out or you know some golfers. Any help is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Thank you for all you do for the kids - it won't change the world, but it certainly changes the world for that child.

*Tammy Parteleno*

Cell phone number: 239-682-2534

Email: [partopar@peoplepc.com](mailto:partopar@peoplepc.com)

## FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Get Involved!

The Foster Parent Association of Mahoning County needs officers! Please Contact Tammy Parteleno, 239-682-2534, if you are interested in any of the following positions.

**Vice President**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

SPOTLIGHT



**Ja’Cary born December 2012**

**Larry born December 2011**

**Wanted:**

- A family who can give Larry & Ja’Cary the attention, acceptance and affection that they need.
- A family who can teach the boys at their levels, in spite of their delays.
- A family who has experience with developmental delays and autism or one who is willing to learn.
- A family who enjoys seeing their children learn and celebrates their victories.
- A family who believes in keeping the special sibling bond that these two have.
- A family who wants to provide legal permanency by adoption for Larry and Ja’Cary.

If you would like to add this sibling group to your family to provide them with a permanent loving family, please contact your resource worker to submit your home study to:

**Karen Tesyk**

Phone: 330.941.8888    Fax: 330.941.8787  
Email: Karen.Tesyk@jfs.ohio.gov

AGENCY NEWS

**Board Bills**

Board Bills are due the 7th of every month. Remember these can be done electronically. Please email Kathy Thomas: Kathy.Thomas@jfs.ohio.gov if you haven’t already gotten set up!

**Change in Mileage Reimbursement**

The Internal Revenue Services has increased mileage reimbursement from 53.5 cents per mile to **54.5 cents per mile** starting January 1st. Please adjust your mileage reimbursement forms accordingly.

**Emergency List**

We are in desperate need of Emergency Homes for children ages 0 to 18! Please consider being on the Emergency List! For more information contact Lori Robinette at (330) 941-8888 or Lorraine.Robinette@jfs.ohio.gov.

RULE REVIEWS

Important things to remember when you are on the Emergency List or are considering becoming an Emergency Placement:

- ◆ Must answer the phone or return call to the agency representatives
- ◆ Must notify agency immediately if you are not able to continue to be on the Emergency Placement List
- ◆ Must take children sight unseen. A gentle reminder that when you are on emergency, take whatever steps you feel necessary to be sure you hear your phone all times day and night. While we realize everyone is busy, it is important to know that we are trying to get a child to the safest placement as quickly as possible and by not answering the phone or by saying “no”, you are impeding the placement of a child.
- ◆ Placements are often made in the dark. Be sure your house is well lit and marked to make it easier for workers to find.
- ◆ Reimbursement for an emergency placement is \$60 per day for the first 30 days, then it goes to a regular rate.
- ◆ Have car seats and beds available for children you are agreeing to accept on emergency.

CPR / FIRST AID TRAINING

CPR/FIRST AID Requirement

Remember to register for adult/infant/child CPR and First Aid once every recertification period.  
This is a COA requirement for your foster care license.

The necessary classes required for your foster care license are offered at Thomas Trainers. You may access these classes online at <http://thomastrainers.com/OurSchedule.html> or contact your licensing worker for more information.

APRIL 2018				
Wednesday April 11, 2018	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	CPR / AED	Room 220A	
Saturday April 14, 2018	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Pediatric First Aid /CPR	Room 220A	
Saturday April 21, 2018	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Child Abuse Prevention	Auditorium	3 hour certifications ONLY
Saturday April 21, 2018	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Communicable Diseases	Auditorium	3 hour certifications ONLY
Saturday April 21, 2018	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM	CPR / AED	Room 220A	
Wednesday April 25, 2018	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	First Aid	Auditorium	
Saturday April 28, 2018	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	First Aid /CPR AED (CLASS IS FULL)	Auditorium	Must take both classes

## SHOUT OUTS

Congratulations to the Clemons family on expanding their family and finalizing their adoption of Marcus.

Congratulations to the Webster family on expanding their family and finalizing their adoption of Mack.

A heartfelt thank you to Suzanne Balestrino and Dawn McGee-Taltoan for participating in our Foster Care Recruitment Luncheon on February 24th. We sincerely appreciate it.

## AGENCY POLICY UPDATES

The agency has developed a “Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard” Policy which will be effective April 1, 2018. This is required by OAC Rule 5101:2-5-33(2)(a)(xiii)

A copy of the RPPS Policy is attached for your review. Please contact your licensing worker with any questions.

The babysitting reimbursement rate has been \$2/hour for years and years. Great news! It has now increased to \$3/hour! For those of you who use babysitters for childcare while you work, this should make your sitters very happy! You will continue to use the babysitter invoice for reimbursement as usual. If you have any questions, please contact your licensing worker.

## TRAINING REMINDER

**Please make sure that when you attend a training to sign in and name the agency/county where you are from, otherwise, you may not get credit**

***REMINDER PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN TO TRAININGS***

You can earn up to 3 credit hours for reading a book; however; you must contact your licensing worker for a book review outline that is required for training credit. You can also earn 3 training hours by watching *Despicable Me*, *Juno*, *Like Dandelion Dust* or *Meet the Robinsons* and completing the movie guide. You can contact your licensing worker about getting the movie guide. Movies can be rented from your local video store, Redbox, Netflix or your local library.

**SIPS** ask your licensing worker for SIPS.

These are supplements to help with completion of a minimal amount of training hours. Each SIPS can only be completed once.

Online addresses: [www.fosterparentcollege.com](http://www.fosterparentcollege.com), [www.fosterparent.com](http://www.fosterparent.com) and [www.fosterclub.com](http://www.fosterclub.com).

Webinars are also a great way to get your hours. Akron Children’s Hospital offers many informative webinars regarding children’s health issues. Please note that you can earn up to 12 hours in a 2 year time frame by reading a book, watching a movie, doing SIPS, or going online.

# Trainings

Please remember that your 40 hours of ongoing training is due *no later than 30 days* prior to your license expiration date.

MAHONING COUNTY			
All trainings will be held at the Mahoning County Children Services’ building at 222 W. Federal St., 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Youngstown, OH 44503. You can register through E-track at <a href="https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp">https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp</a> or by calling your licensing worker. To show our appreciation, light snacks and beverages will be provided from the agency at our trainings.			
<b>Wednesday, March 14, 2018</b> <b>6:00—9:00 PM</b>	924-30 When Love is Not Enough— Session 3: Headed for Healing <b>No Prerequisite Required.</b> Presented by: Kathleen Terry	<b>Monday, March 19, 2018</b> <b>6:00—9:00 PM</b>	925-135 Helping Foster Parents Avoid Common Parenting Traps: Steering Clear of the Quicksand Presented by: John Ward
<b>Wednesday, April 4, 2018</b> <b>6:00—9:00 PM</b>	941-22 Helping Children with Peer Pressure Presented by: Susan Tucker	<b>Wednesday, April 18, 2018</b> <b>6:00—9:00 PM</b>	941-28 Independent Living Issues for Caregivers Presented by: Bert Nero
<b>Wednesday, April 25, 2018</b> <b>6:00—9:00 PM</b>	988-37 Understanding Birth Parent Addiction and the Impact on the Children in Your Home Presented by: China Darrington		

TRUMBULL COUNTY			
All trainings will be held at 2282 Reeves Rd., N.E., Warren, OH 44481. You can register through E-Track at <a href="https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp">https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp</a> or contact your licensing worker.			
<b>Thursday, March 22, 2018</b> <b>6:00-9:00 PM</b>	980-5 Power Negotiation Presented by: Anthony President	<b>Saturday, March 24, 2018</b> <b>9:00AM —4:00 PM</b>	927-FF11-S Cultural Issues in Foster Care: Dealing with the Dynamics of Difference Presented by: CeCe Norwood
<b>Wednesday, March 28, 2018</b> <b>6:00-9:00 PM</b>	923-56 The Forgotten Ones: Through the Eyes of Teenagers Presented by: Jackie Johnson	<b>Wednesday, April 11, 2018</b> <b>6:00-9:00 PM</b>	994-10 Don’t Let the School System Snowball You: Be an Effective Educational Advocate for your Child Presented by: Jackie Johnson
<b>Saturday, April 14, 2018</b> <b>9:00AM —4:00 PM</b>	925-58 home Invasion: Overcoming Media Madness Presented by: Anthony President	<b>Thursday, April 19, 2018</b> <b>6:00—9:00 PM</b>	927-FF11-S Cultural Issues in Foster Care: Dealing with the Dynamics of DifferencePaula Kyle-Stephens

SUMMIT COUNTY			
All trainings will be held at the Education Center at 264 S. Arlington St., Akron, OH 44306. You can register through E-track at <a href="https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp">https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp</a> or by calling your licensing worker.			
<b>Wednesday, March 21, 2018</b> <b>6:00—9:00 PM</b>	941-45 Transitioning Your Foster Child into Adulthood: What Do I Do Now? Presented by: Jackie Johnson	<b>Thursday, March 22, 2018</b> <b>9:00AM —12:00 PM</b>	201-84 Building Relationships Between Caseworkers and foster Caregivers JOINT: FP/Staff Training Presented by: Val Larkin
<b>Friday, March 30, 2018</b> <b>9:00AM —4:00 PM</b>	952-18 Preventing Foster and Adoption Care Disruptions JOINT: FP/Staff Training Presented by: Jim Still-Pepper	<b>Monday, April 9, 2018</b> <b>6:00—9:00 PM</b>	924-41 Emotional and Social Development: Love is sometimes a Rocky Road Presented by: Jackie Johnson



**Local Woman’s Blanket Ministry Comforts Children in Foster Care**

Wanda Marland’s mission is all about blanketing individuals and children in need with comfort.

In 2005, Wanda created “The Comfort Blanket Ministry” to comfort individuals and children who are experiencing difficult life situations by giving them a comfort blanket. Many of the blankets donated are beautiful hand-sewn quilts (like the one pictured).

Wanda has literally “blanketed” the Mahoning Valley with comfort. Her Comfort Blanket Ministry has reached many local agencies such as The Rescue Mission, Protestant Family Services, Akron Children’s Hospital, Sojourner House. Her blanket ministry has also gone international with comfort blankets sent to Russian orphans and to missionaries in Spain and India!



Three years ago, Wanda expanded her blanket ministries to include more local children. She is now working with Mahoning County Children Services to provide special “Birthday Bags” for children in foster care. Each month and throughout the year, Wanda will ensure that each child in foster care will receive a Birthday Bag on their birthday filled with a special comfort blanket and other age-appropriate items or toys.

Thank you Wanda for finding a way to recognize and make children in foster care feel extra special on their birthday!



# Mahoning County Children Services

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PREVENTION

## 2018 PREVENTION MONTH EVENTS

Friday | April 13rd | 1:00 p.m.  
**12th Annual Pinwheels for  
Prevention Community Event**



Annual community event to recognize and raise awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention. Pinwheels are the national symbol of Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention  
**NEW Location:** Holiday Inn Boardman

**Registration Required.**  
**RSVP:** Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov

April 3-30th | All Day |  
**Visit our Pinwheel "Garden" Display**  
Boardman Park Front Lawn (facing U.S. RT 224)  
Route 224/Boardman-Poland Road.

Each year, Pinwheels are planted in communities across the nation. The Pinwheel Garden represent individuals who advocated and took action on behalf of a child.



Wednesday | April 11th |  
**Ohio Wears BLUE DAY**

Wear Blue is a statewide awareness campaign that takes place on the second Wednesday of every April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ohioans are encouraged to wear blue that day – to work, to school, to a community event to show support for preventing child abuse and neglect. Get the Blue Out!

Friday | April 20th |  
**Above the Rim  
Basketball Event**  
**5:30 PM Doors Open**  
**6:00 PM Tip-Off**  
**NEW LOCATION!**

Cardinal Mooney High School  
2545 Erie St. Youngstown  
**Info: 330.941.8888**

Friendly rivalry charity basketball game "**Battle of the Blue**" featuring: 2017 Champs Youngstown Fire Dept.

- Food/Music by "Bobby DJ"
- Gift Basket Raffles/Half-time activities
- Wear **BLUE** to the game to support National Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month!

**Admission:** \$5 Adults \$3 children 12 and under



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