



## Notable News Fall 2021

An exclusive publication for  
Mahoning County Foster Caregivers



**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**  
Nicole Tsarnas

**Editor**  
Sandy Appel

# From the desk of the President

Hello Foster Parents,

I can’t believe that Autumn is already upon us. We have recently marked the 1 year anniversary of the new Mahoning County Foster Parent Association!

This first year has been very productive. Some of our speakers throughout the past year have been: MCCS Executive Director Randall Muth, Ongoing Program Administrator Julie Rudolph, Judge Theresa Dellick and Magistrate Jerilyn Mercer of Mahoning County Juvenile Court, Nancy Carson from the Mahoning County Casa Program, as well as several workers from different departments throughout the agency.

In addition to all that we have learned from our speakers, we have also been blessed to build friendships with other foster parents. We all know how important it is to build our village to help us navigate through the foster care journey.

If you have not had a chance to attend a meeting, our next one will be October 25th, 2021 at 6pm. We meet at The Gate Church. The address is 11836 South Ave. North Lima, OH 44452. We provide dinner and childcare. Foster parents receive 1 training hour per meeting. Please look out for a reminder email from me the week before the meeting.

We will be taking a break for the holidays. Our November meeting will be by Zoom, and we will not be meeting in December. However, please remember that myself and the other board members are just a phone call or email away. We are happy to provide any support needed.

Thank you all for providing the best care for our Mahoning County Foster Children!

Nicole Tsarnas

FPA President

[Nicole.Tsarnas1@gmail.com](mailto:Nicole.Tsarnas1@gmail.com)

[MahoningCountyFPA@gmail.com](mailto:MahoningCountyFPA@gmail.com)

330-536-9098

Our monthly meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at 6:00pm, at The Gate Church located at 11836 South Ave., North Lima, Ohio 44452.



## FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Reminder to please participate in: “Monday Meetings with Randy”

These meetings are held virtually through Zoom on the second Monday of each month from 6-7pm. They are designed to be an open forum type meeting with Randy Muth, Executive Director of Mahoning County Children Services, and Foster Parents for Mahoning County Children Services. Randy will highlight two to three topics and try to reserve half the time to hear from and have discussion with the Foster Parents in attendance. If you are interested in being a part of the meetings, please reach out to Nicole Tsarnas, Foster Parent President, and she can send you an email with an invite to the meeting.

Nicole Tsarnas

**President**

Matt Mager

**Vice President**

Amanda Rettig

**Secretary**

Tara Bishop

**Fundraising Coordinator**

SPOTLIGHT

Waiting Children Seeking Adoptive Forever Families



Anthony born August 2005

Meet Anthony!

Anthony is 16 years old and full of life! He is friendly and thoughtful. He loves making others smile and genuinely enjoys spending time with others. Anthony gets along with all age groups and is easy going. He loves being outside swimming, enjoying nature and playing sports recreationally. He has a passion for interior design and decorating. He is thrifty and enjoys crafting. Anthony enjoys a clean space and takes pride in keeping his home clean and tidy.

Anthony has done very well keeping his spirits up and remaining hopeful and positive through his time in care. He has learned to take ownership of his faults and work through them. Anthony expresses that he strives to be better than he was yesterday.

Anthony would love a family who is willing to spend time with him. He loves staying active and being around people. Anthony is eager to find his forever home. He is seeking a family that will accept him and be there for him physically and emotionally.

If you are interested in providing permanency for this child,  
please have your worker contact:

Natalie Finamore | Phone: 330.941.8888 | Fax: 330.941.8787 | Email: [Natalie.Finamore@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Natalie.Finamore@jfs.ohio.gov)

AGENCY NEWS

**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 Valerie Johnson at (330) 941-8888 or [Val.Johnson@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Val.Johnson@jfs.ohio.gov).



AGENCY NEWS



THE SALVATION ARMY  
Christmas Assistance 2021



Serving Mahoning County Residents ONLY

Register for: Christmas Toys (up to age 12) and/or Food Voucher

September 14 to October 28

Every Tuesday through Thursday

Phone-In Registration @ 330.270.5999

10:00-2:00 pm

You may only sign up with one agency or church for assistance

**Eligibility Requirements**

- ❖ **Current Driver's License or State ID**
- ❖ **Proof of All Children in the Household**
  - Birth Certificates
  - Proof of Guardianship
  - Custody Papers
- ❖ **Proof of Other Adults in the Household**
  - Picture ID
- ❖ **SS Cards for All Adults/Children in the House for Verification Purposes**
- ❖ **Proof of Income**

Pay stubs - last 30 days	SSI/SSD Letters
ODJFS Print out - last 30 days	Worker Comp Statement
Child Support Papers	Rent Subsidy/Utility Allowance Stubs
- ❖ **Proof of Expenses - 1 Bill or Proof of Residency**

Lease or mortgage papers	Car Payment
Utilities	Insurance

Please be patient for phone lines to be open. If you are a new client within the last 2 years or desire to add additional household members, you must make an appointment with the caseworker.

1501 GLENWOOD AVENUE, YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44511

## RULE REVIEW

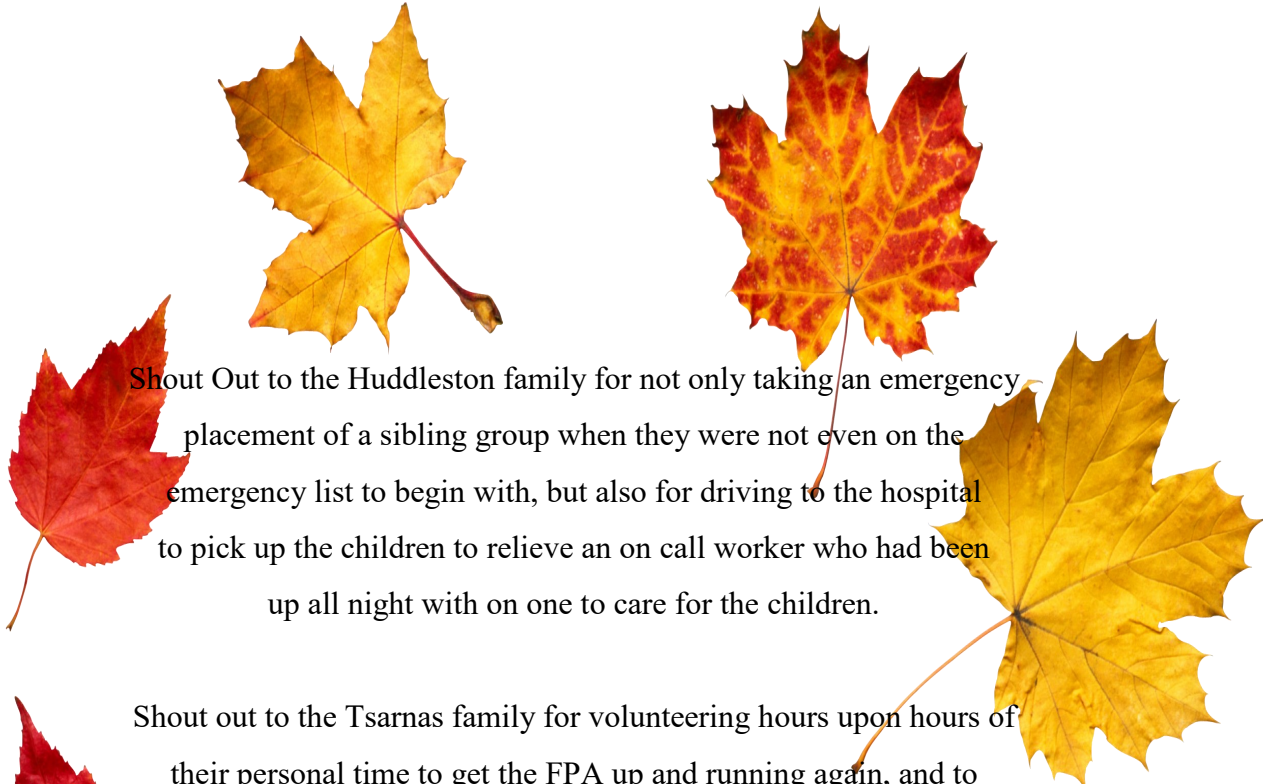
### Rule 5101:2-7-12 | Site and safety requirements for a foster home.

- (H) A foster home shall comply with the following requirements regarding weapons:
- (1) The following weapons kept on the grounds of or in a foster home shall be stored in an **inoperative condition**, in a **locked area**, and **are to be inaccessible to children**:
    - (a) **Firearms**.
    - (b) **Air rifles**.
    - (c) **Hunting slingshots**.
    - (d) **Any other projectile weapon**.
  - (2) **All ammunition**, arrows or projectiles for such weapons shall be **stored in a separate locked space** from the firearm, air rifle, hunting sling shots or any other projectile weapon.
  - (3) Any foster caregiver who is also a law enforcement official and can document that their jurisdiction requires them to have ready and immediate access to their weapon shall be exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.

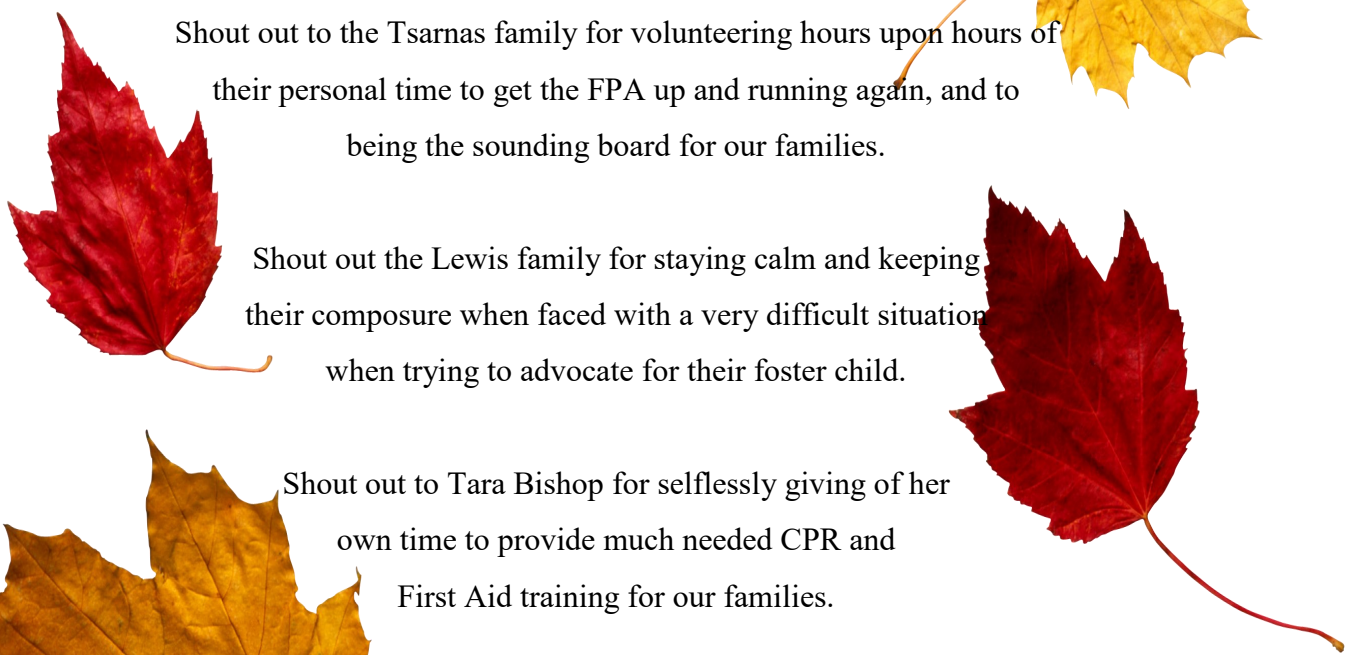
### Rule 5101:2-7-02 | General requirements for foster caregivers and applicants.

- (G) An applicant or household member may be required to secure and provide a report, in addition to the JFS 01653-Medical Statement For Foster Caregiver/Adoption Applicant and All Household Members, of an examination of any member of the household by a licensed physician, psychologist, or other certified or licensed professional if either of the following are applicable:
- (1) An applicant or any person residing within the household has suffered a serious illness or injury within the past year.
  - (2) The recommending agency determines it to be necessary to ensure the safety, health, or care of any foster child who may be placed in the home.
- (H) Homes certified prior to June 1, 2020 do not have to comply with immunization requirements.
- (I) Immunizations for homes certified on or after June 1, 2020.
- (1) All children who are household members are to be up to date on immunizations consistent with the recommendations of the American academy of pediatrics, the advisory committee on immunization practices of the centers for disease control and prevention, and the American academy of family physicians unless the immunization is contrary to the child's health as documented by a licensed health care professional or for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions.
  - (2) All household members in a home caring for infants and children with special medical needs are to have an annual influenza vaccine consistent with the recommendations of the advisory committee on immunization practices (ACIP) unless the immunization is contrary to the individual's health as documented by a licensed health care professional or for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions.
  - (3) All household members in a home caring for infants are to be up to date on the pertussis vaccine unless the immunization is contrary to the individual's health as documented by a licensed health care professional or for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions.
  - (4) Copies of the immunization records are to be placed in the file of the home.
- Rule 5101:2-7-02 was amended on June 15, 2020 to reflect these rule changes.


## SHOUT OUTS



Shout Out to the Huddleston family for not only taking an emergency placement of a sibling group when they were not even on the emergency list to begin with, but also for driving to the hospital to pick up the children to relieve an on call worker who had been up all night with on one to care for the children.



Shout out to the Tsarnas family for volunteering hours upon hours of their personal time to get the FPA up and running again, and to being the sounding board for our families.




Shout out the Lewis family for staying calm and keeping their composure when faced with a very difficult situation when trying to advocate for their foster child.

Shout out to Tara Bishop for selflessly giving of her own time to provide much needed CPR and First Aid training for our families.

thank you!

WELCOME NEW FOSTER PARENTS



Jessicca Hall - April 13, 2021

Jalae & Ishmael Brown - April 26, 2021


Lois K. Williams - May 28, 2021

Ashley & Dennis Hohos - June 1, 2021

Weslee & Chelsea Withers - July 21, 2021

Christina & William Vass - August 10, 2021

Da’Nazha & Sarina Fludd - September 21, 2021



ANNIVERSARIES

June

Richard & Victoria Palmer - 7 years

July

Nicole Coulter - 3 years

August

Jake & Sarah Kinser - 3 years

September

Gilbert & Marissa Wiley - 1 year

October

Stepanie & Andrew Huddleston - 11 years

Susan Mateo - 1 year

Stephanie & Joshua Foster - 3 years

Jo’Vohna Hughes - 1 year






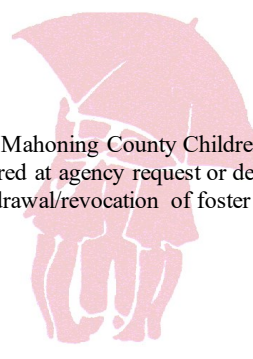

AGENCY POLICY

Foster Caregiver I.D. Card

The Health and Safety Committee is implementing an I.D. card program for Foster Caregivers at Mahoning County Children Services.

Foster Caregivers please send a clear picture/head shot via email to Sandy @ Sandy.Appel@jfs.ohio.gov

Example: Your picture and name will be in the right upper corner on the card.

 <b>Mahoning County Children Services</b> 222 West Federal St. Youngstown OH, 44503	
<b>This foster parent is certified and licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and complies with the requirements found in chapters 5101:2-7 and 5101:2-5 of Ohio Administrative Code.</b>	Property of Mahoning County Children Services Board, to be surrendered at agency request or denial of recertification or the withdrawal/revocation of foster home certificate.
_____ Signature of Foster Parent	
_____ Signature of Director	

Foster Caregivers please keep this I.D. card on you at all times. The I.D. cards will be used when foster caregivers are transporting child in agency custody, visitation at the office or Hope House, meetings, medical appointments and/or medical emergencies.

Once the card is created you can either sign the card at your next visit to The Agency or your worker will bring it at her next home visit.

After the signature is received, the card will be laminated, placed in a CSB lanyard, and returned.





## EMERGENCY LIST REMINDERS

**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 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 we are trying to get a child to the safest placement as quickly as possible, 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. After 30 days, it goes to the regular daily 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.

You may access these classes online at the American Heart Association/American Red Cross or contact your licensing worker for more information.

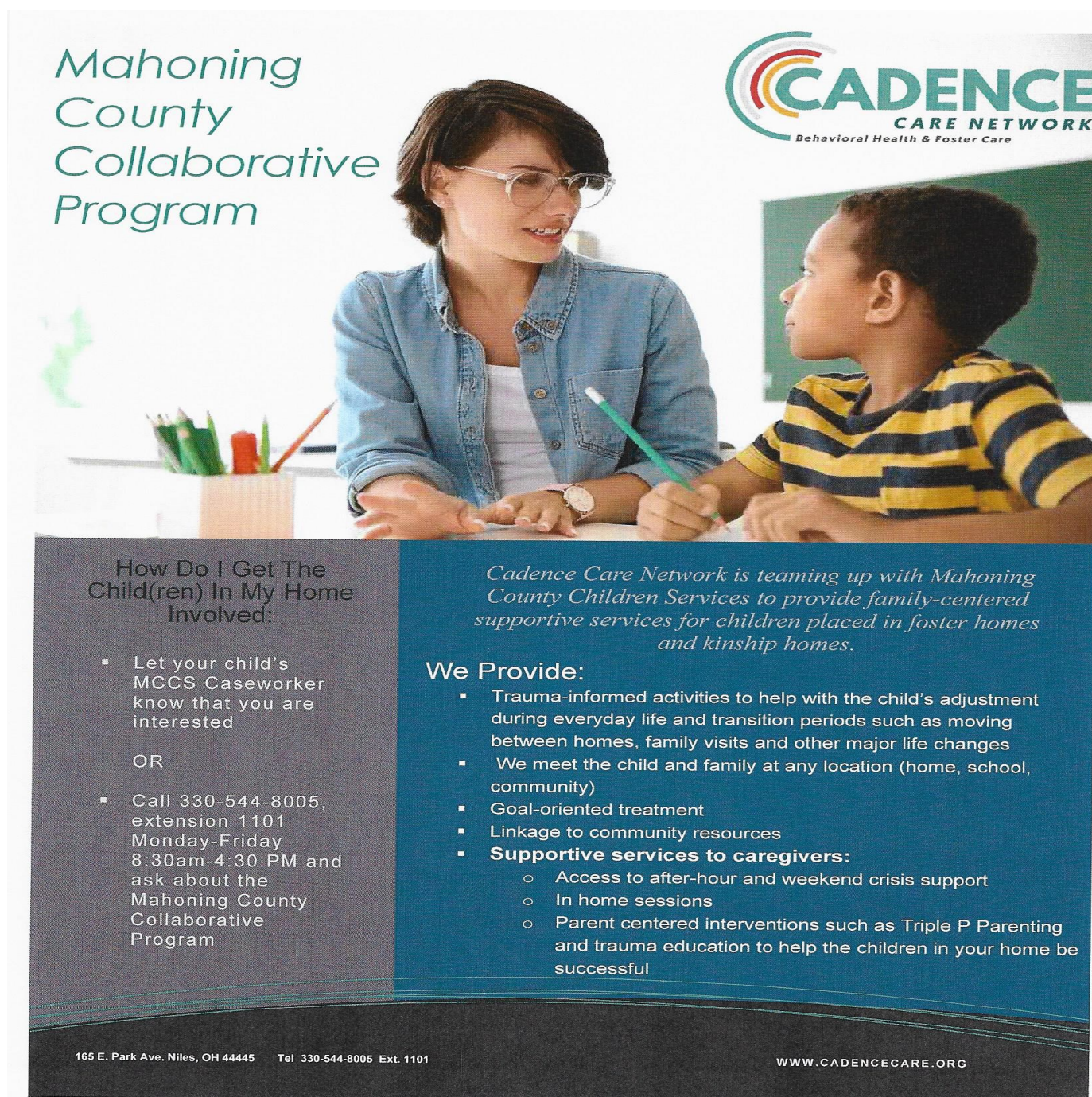
**All CPR/First Aid training must be an in person training. No CPR/Fist Aid cards will be accepted from an online training.**



## AGENCY PROVIDERS

The attached flyer from Cadence Care outlines services now being offered to our foster and kinship caregivers through a collaborative with the agency. We are excited Cadence Care is willing to provide this support to you and the children in your care and see it as a positive step forward. The hope is this will allow more children to be placed in MCCS foster homes. We know you provide a valuable service to the children and families in Mahoning County. You selflessly open your hearts to provide a safe, stable, nurturing environment for children who unfortunately require out of home placement! If you are a family that has an interest in becoming an emergency foster home, we want you to know the services outlined would be available to you upon request.

- Anthony Paris, Program Administrator



**Mahoning County Collaborative Program**

**CADENCE CARE NETWORK**  
Behavioral Health & Foster Care

**How Do I Get The Child(ren) In My Home Involved:**

- Let your child's MCCS Caseworker know that you are interested

OR

- Call 330-544-8005, extension 1101 Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30 PM and ask about the Mahoning County Collaborative Program

*Cadence Care Network is teaming up with Mahoning County Children Services to provide family-centered supportive services for children placed in foster homes and kinship homes.*

**We Provide:**

- Trauma-informed activities to help with the child's adjustment during everyday life and transition periods such as moving between homes, family visits and other major life changes
- We meet the child and family at any location (home, school, community)
- Goal-oriented treatment
- Linkage to community resources
- **Supportive services to caregivers:**
  - Access to after-hour and weekend crisis support
  - In home sessions
  - Parent centered interventions such as Triple P Parenting and trauma education to help the children in your home be successful

165 E. Park Ave. Niles, OH 44445 Tel 330-544-8005 Ext. 1101

WWW.CADENCECARE.ORG



## IMPORTANT ONGOING TRAINING INFORMATION

Training is very important to ongoing foster parents. Because of this, the agency strives to bring you as many relevant and informative trainings as possible. Our training schedule is set by the regional offices and the expectation is we will have at least 8 participants at every training. Previous trainings have had to be cancelled due to lack of participants. Please try to attend if possible.

Please park in the garage underneath the building. The entrance for the parking lot/garage is on W. Commerce St. which is behind MCCS. Enter the lot after waiting patiently for the parking arm to raise. Drive through the lot and park in the parking garage. Enter the building through the doors on your left (non-employee doors). Take the elevator to the third floor for training. Do not park on Federal St. or try to enter from the front doors on Federal St. as these doors remain locked afterhours. The parking garage will close 15 minutes after the start of training. Reminder sometimes it can be chilly in the training room, so you may want to bring a sweater or sweatshirt. Please dress comfortably.

Please bring a mask as some trainers may require masks being worn during training.

## TRAINING REMINDER

**Please make sure 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 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 30 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.			
Wednesday, October 27 6:00—9:00 p.m.	949-31 Lifebooks: The Gift that Keeps Giving Presented by Beth Cardina	Tuesday, November 2 6:00—9:00 p.m.	981-29 Understanding and Helping Hurting Primary Families Presented by Janice Williams
Monday, November 8 6:00—9:00 p.m.	983-1 Living the Legacy: The Dramatic Effects of Prenatal Substance Exposure Presented by Ronna Johnson	Thursday, December 9 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	922-25 Strengthening the Child Welfare Team: Who, What, Where, When and How far for the Best Interest of the Child Joint FP/Staff Training
Thursday, December 9 1:00—4:00 p.m.	925-40 Interventions with Lying and Stealing Presented by David Zidar	Monday, December 13 6:00—9:00 p.m.	923FF2A-S Early Childhood Development Presented by Beth Cardina
Wednesday, January 5 6:00—9:00 p.m.	983-19 Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: The Forgotten Child Presented by Cindy Wallis	Saturday, January 22 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.	989-67 AHA Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid and CPR Without Skills Testing Presented by Deanna Prezioso
Thursday, February 10 6:00-9:00 p.m.	990-2 PLEASE Don’t Share! Communicable Diseases and Children Presented by Ronna Johnson	Thursday, March 3 6:00—9:00 p.m.	983-10 Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder Presented by Anthony President
Monday, March 14 6:00—9:00 p.m.	925-115 When Children Fight Presented by Susan Tucker	Wednesday, April 20 6:00—9:00 p.m.	927-7 Culture and Diversity Issues in Foster Care Presented by Brian Lowery
Thursday, April 28 6:00—9:00 p.m.	928-FF8A-S Engaging Primary Families Presented by Angie Irby		



<b><u>COLUMBIANA COUNTY</u></b>	
All trainings will be held at Columbiana County Job and Family Services, Government Service Center: 7989 Dickey Dr., Lisbon, Ohio 44432. 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>NO FALL TRAINING</b>	

<b><u>TRUMBULL COUNTY</u></b>			
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>Wednesday, October 6</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	989-66 Laughing Just for the Health of It  Presented by Karen Vadino	<b>Saturday, October 16</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.</b>	925-94 Dynamic Discipline for Kids in Care  Presented by Anthony President
<b>Saturday, October 16</b> <b>1:00—4:00 p.m.</b>	925-103 Dangerous Games Kids Play  Presented by Anthony President	<b>Saturday, November 6</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b>	952-8 Sufficient Time to Regroup and Mend: Preventing Disruption  Presented by Gene Smiley
<b>Monday, November 15</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	994-3 Educational Advocacy: Supporting Your Child’s Success at School  Presented by Ronna Johnson	<b>Saturday, December 4</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b>	941-FF14-S Fostering Self-Reliance in Children and Youth: Roots and Wings  Presented by Brian Lowrey
<b>Monday, December 6</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	950-5 Understanding the Role of the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem  Presented by Beth Cardina		



**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 <https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp> or by calling your licensing worker.

<b>Monday, November 22</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	947-PA02-S Adopting Your Foster Child After Reunification Fails  Presented by Angie Irby	<b>Monday, November 29</b> <b>1:00—4:00 p.m.</b>	945-24 Car Seat Clinic: Ensuring Safety for Child Passengers  Presented by Angie Buckalew
<b>Monday, November 29</b> <b>6:00—9:00 p.m.</b>	945-24 Car Seat Clinic: Ensuring Safety for Child Passengers  Presented by Angie Buckalew	<b>Saturday, December 4</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.</b>	925-57Home Invasion: Overcoming Media Madness  Presented by Anthony President
<b>Saturday, December 4</b> <b>1:00—4:00 p.m.</b>	949-20 Impacting Visitation for Success  Presented by Anthony President	<b>Monday, December 6</b> <b>6:00—8:00 p.m.</b>  <b>AND</b> <b>Wednesday, December 8</b> <b>6:00—8:00 p.m.</b>	990-42-NOS AHA Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid and CPR without Skills Testing  Presented by Ronna Johnson  <b>Must attend both sessions for credit</b>
<b>Saturday, December 11</b> <b>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</b>	990-3 Practical Precautions for Communicable Diseases  Presented by Ronna Johnson		

