

# King County Kinship Collaboration Full Group Meeting

Nov 9, 2009

**Present:**

John March, DCFS  
Deidre Damon, Senior Services  
Gary Van Erickson, Caregiver  
Carol Blaich, Crisis Clinic  
Gregory Townsend, Senior Services  
Paula Steinke, Child Care Resources  
Opal Hopper, Rainier Beach Support Group  
Betty Taylor, Caregiver/Federal Way Group  
Kerry Beymer, Encompass  
Katheryn Flake, Caregiver/Rainier Beach  
Kristie Lund, Casey Family Programs

Fai Mathews, Caregiver  
Cynthia Green, RAYS  
Anne Rhyner, Girl Scouts of America  
Shirlee Garrett, Caregiver  
Helen Sawyer, Kinship Navigator  
Indiana Allen, Caregiver/GAP  
Celeste Carey, CFSF  
Wendy Fortney, DSHS-CSD  
Jim Jones, DSHS -CA  
Mary Jo Magruder, ARC of King Co  
Dora Slack, Caregiver

*Staff:*

Barb Wiley, KCKC Program Coordinator  
Brittany Blue, KCKC Admin Assistant

## Announcements

- Activity Cards for caregivers and children available from Child Care Resources in multiple languages and can be downloaded from website [www.childcareresources.org](http://www.childcareresources.org)
- Partnerships for Action/ Voices for Empowerment (PAVE) helps kids with special education needs. They will help you to become your child's best advocate through their Parent Training & Information Program (PTI) For more information visit the website [www.wapave.org](http://www.wapave.org) or call 1.800.572.7368
- Grandparents As Parents (GAP) will be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner at Rainier Community Center on Wed the 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm. All are welcome to attend.
- Night of Indulgence on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9pm at the Chiropractic Center located on Genessee & Rainier. This event is FREE. For more information or to sign up to attend please call 206.723.2820
- Girls Scouts of America's Fostering a Future Program is open to informal kinship families. For more information call 1.800.541.9852 or 206.633.5600 or email Anne Rhyner at [arhyner@girlscoutsww.org](mailto:arhyner@girlscoutsww.org).
- Microsoft is giving gift cards to Senior Services to distribute to kinship caregivers that are a part of a support group. We need the caregiver information as well as how many relatives they are raising broken down by 0-12 & 12-18. Please email you information to [kckcadmin@seniorservices.org](mailto:kckcadmin@seniorservices.org), call 206.727.6217, or give your information to your support group leader who will

make sure it gets to the collaboration. Caregivers will be able to come sign out their card on Dec. 21 and 22 at multiple locations.

- Paul McVicker will be offering a third party custody clinic working session on Tuesday Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm at his offices in Federal Way, 33530 1<sup>st</sup> Way S., Suite 102, Federal Way, WA 98003. The cost is \$10 per participant please RSVP at 206.438.4090 or send an email to paul@SeattleLawandMediation.net.

## Resource Presentation

### **Crisis Clinic/211- Carol Blauch- Caregiver Program Specialist**

#### **Crisis Clinic**

- The Crisis Clinic Line is open 24/7 staffed by 220 volunteers. To date they have received 83,000 calls on crisis line
- Carol is the caregiver advocate. They have \$40,000 a year to provide emergency respite to caregivers of elders. Criteria is as follows:
  1. Over 18
  2. Live together
  3. Unpaid caregiver
- This gives them time to make the correct referral and get into COPES, etc.
- Family Care Meetings are provided to assist with helping families making those hard choices as far as where to live, who should be the primary caregiver, etc.
- The referrals for this program do not have to be from a social worker. They can be from an individual.

#### **Teen Link**

- The teen link line is open in the evening and staffed by teenagers age 15-21. They can often relate to school problems, relationships, boys vs. girls issues better than an adult.
- They do teen suicide intervention presentations throughout the year at various schools.

#### **211 Program**

- 211 received 108, 000 calls in 2008. In the month of October 2009 alone, they have received 10, 230 calls.
- The lines are open Monday thru Friday from 8am-6pm.
- Callers are given all the resources and agencies in there area that can help with their particular issue (rent, water, electric, etc.).
- They have over 30, 000 resources in the database. They are the entry point for low-cost and no-cost legal assistance around bankruptcy, fraud, etc.
- Currently, people are mostly looking for healthcare, food banks, move-in assistance, etc.
- Books are available at a cost of \$35 for the full edition and \$15 for the quick reference booklet.
- Information can be found for all holiday events, food giveaways, baskets, toys, etc. The information is always current and up to date.
- It's a good resource for back to school time programs.

- There are disability specialists on the 211 phone lines who will help callers navigate the system and assist them in making contact with the correct resources.

<b>Committee Reports</b>
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#### **Kinship Navigator Report - Gregg Townsend**

- In 2010 the program will expand to include outreach specialist serving kinship families. One out of SE senior center and one out of Central Area Senior Center
- 633 clients have been served this year (2009) which is up by 100 from last year at this time. 123 were brand new clients that have never been served.
- 347 clients called in just for economic assistance from Kinship Support Funds.
- \$210,000 is allotted each year to serve families with emergency needs.
- Approximately 200 of the clients were under 60 with the following breakdown:
  1. age 18-34: 28
  2. age 34-45: 52
  3. age 45-59: 129

#### **Event Committee- Holiday Event - Kristie Lund**

- Kinship Holiday event will take place on Saturday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 1pm-4pm  
At The New School @Southshore, 4800 S Henderson in Seattle.
- Committee will be meeting Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at Casey Family Programs from 1:30-3:30 to plan the Holiday event. Feel free to come and join us, if interested in attending.
- Representative Pettigrew will be playing Santa and their will be a catered menu

#### **Advisory Council - Cynthia Green**

- Advisory Council attended the Kinship conference in Shelton WA. A lot of great information was given.
- Susan Dreyfus, Secretary of DSHS was the keynote speaker and she urged group to strengthen our legislative advocacy group for Kinship, an advantage that foster care has over Kinship. They are organized and have built relationships. If Kinship does the same then the willingness of state legislature to work with us and for us may increase.
- Encompass will host February's Advisory Council Meeting.

#### **Pilot Site**

- Please continue to spread the word that caregivers can meet one on one with a kinship resource specialist any Tuesday 12 - 3 pm a the Rainier Beach family Center. The people that have been coming have found it very useful and some even have been coming back.
- Lunch and Learns are still being conducted every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday @ noon. Tuesday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Donald Felder from Casey will return for a follow up discussion

on advocating for your child at school using a specific case as an example.

#### Legislative Update

- There will be an outreach day in February in Olympia to do advocacy work around keeping current funding levels for kinship.
- There will be a King County Board of Developmental Disabilities Legislative Forum on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Double Tree Hotel in Southcenter from 7pm-9pm
- Keep spreading the word that the kinship navigator funds and kinship support funds are cost savings to the state - preventing children from entering foster care.

*No Meeting in December  
Join us at the Kinship Holiday Celebration on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 1pm-4pm  
At The New School @Southshore.*