

Dear Foster Parents & Kinship Care Providers:

We have scheduled the team meetings for January and February. Please mark this date on your calendar and be sure to attend. For those of you who are new to our program, the team meetings are planned approximately every 6 weeks. The purpose of these meetings is to get all foster parents together to provide information, updates, and training opportunities. This is also an opportunity for you to meet other foster parents, build connections, and get to know the foster care team. We want to remind all foster parents that attendance at these meetings is mandatory. The hours are counted towards your maintenance training each year.

We continue to invite all Kinship Care Providers to these meetings as we recognize that you also benefit from many of the training opportunities. These meetings tend to be geared towards the foster care program, however if you are interested in attending the presentations by our guest speakers please do so. We would be happy to have you join us.

The following team meeting has been scheduled for the New Year:

January 24, 2009

Drug Presentation by the Medicine Hat City Police. 9 am – 12 pm (please note this is a 3 hour session)

It will be held in the first floor board room at the Provincial Building (come in the front doors by Dairy Queen and the room is to your right)

Constable David Chow from Medicine Hat City Police will be attending to provide a presentation on drugs. He will discuss the 5 most common drugs in Medicine Hat, the signs and symptoms of drug use, drug paraphernalia, what do drugs look like, what to do if you suspect your child is using drugs, and other related information. This information is beneficial to you all as you deal with families, teens, and the effects of the many aspects of drug use on the children in your care.

All those that attend this session will be given credit for E6 – Managing Substance Abuse. If you already have E6 credit will be given for maintenance hours.

Immediately following the morning session Dena will be offering H1 – Communications at 12:30 pm. It will be held in the first floor board room at the Provincial Building (come in the front doors by Dairy Queen and the room is to your right).

Please bring a bag lunch or plan to grab something quickly downtown as you will only have a half hour for lunch.

February 28, 2009

**Cultural Presentation by Saamis Immigration
10 am – 12 pm**

It will be held in the first floor board room at the Provincial Building (come in the front doors by Dairy Queen and the room is to your right)

Marijana Agicic from Saamis Immigration will be attending to provide a presentation on the many cultures within Medicine Hat and services provided within our community. It is important for all foster parents to have information on working with other cultures and be knowledgeable about services within the community as you have various children coming into your home who may require assistance in connecting with their cultural roots.

All those that attend this session will be given credit for F3 – Creating Connections.

Immediately following the team meeting there will be a foster parent association meeting.

Just as a reminder: babysitting will be reimbursed for these sessions (up to \$5/hour/child; up to \$50/child/day; up to \$150/day/home). Expense claim forms will be available at the session (please note these expense forms are different from the maintenance invoice forms). Receipts are required for babysitting and must be attached to the expense claim form. All expense claim forms must be submitted within 2 weeks following the training session. Any claims coming into the office beyond two weeks will not be reimbursed.

We are always looking for new ideas for team meetings. If you have any suggestions for training opportunities please do not hesitate to contact us.

We wish you and your families a safe and wonderful holiday season. Merry Christmas to you all and all the best in 2009.

Sincerely,

The Foster Care and Kinship Care Team