Inside This Issue

Important New Adult Foster Care Requirements 2
Adult Foster Care Info Mtg 2
Group Residential Housing (GRH) Updates 3
New Elderly Waiver Service Termination Requirements 3
Recognition Evening 4
Child Foster Care Info Mtg 4
Child Foster Care Training 5
Online ADHD Training 6
Adult Foster Care Training 6
Measles 6

SOCIAL MEDIA

Does anyone write a letter anymore? Times they are a changing and social media is a prime example. It is exciting to see all the ways people can keep in touch – Facebook, messaging, tweets, snap chat. This presents challenges to foster parents.

Recently, DHS sent the following reminders, outlined by statute, to meet the foster child’s “basic need for privacy”:

- Foster children have a basic right to privacy. It is expected that foster parents will “keep information about a child and their family confidential, and discuss information only with appropriate agency staff members or other professionals designated by the agency”.

- The only acceptable way for a licensed provider to post any information and/or pictures regarding person(s) served by their program, is to obtain written permission from a parent, or guardian of the child. Without the permission, foster children should not be in pictures or information shared on any form of social media.

DHS recommends “proceeding with caution if posting pictures and information. Information is now public and may be accessed by anyone for any reason.”

WELCOME LISA HOFMANN - OUR NEW CHILD FOSTER CARE LICENSOR

Hi, my name is Lisa Hofmann and I am the new child foster care licensor at Washington County. I earned my Bachelors of Social Work degree from The College of St. Scholastica. Prior to joining the team at Washington County, my professional experience was as an Adoption Social Worker, Pregnancy Counselor, and most recently as a Case Manager working with individuals on a CADI waiver. I am passionate about strengthening families and supporting individuals to reach their full potential. I look forward to supporting our foster care providers in my new role.

On a personal note, my husband and I feel blessed to have four children and one fun grandson. In my time away from work I enjoy traveling, exploring new cultures, getting together with friends, and partaking in anything adventurous.
Adult Foster Care Providers Needed!

When life gets difficult... ...can you help? As a Washington County Adult Foster Care provider, you can make a difference in the lives of adults with a mental health diagnosis who are unable to live independently. Many choose to live in a family setting and simply need the support and stability of foster care to manage the demands of everyday life.

Who needs care?
• Over 18 years old
• Individuals with a mental health diagnosis
• Need a safe, caring environment
• May be involved in programs during the day such as school, work, or organized day program
• May stay with you for a long time, but most are short-term

What is adult foster care?
Licensed individuals or families provide adult foster care in their own home. The adults in care need a safe and supportive environment in which to thrive and learn independent living skills.

Please pass the word on so we can keep adults in local foster homes. OUR NEXT ADULT FOSTER CARE INFORMATIONAL MEETING: Mon., October 2 6:00-8:00 p.m. Government Center 14949 62nd St. N. Stillwater

For more information call 651-430-6455.

IMPORTANT NEW ADULT FOSTER CARE REQUIREMENTS

This has been a year of major changes for providers and it continues with these new or updated requirements passed by the legislature which affect adult foster care providers. Some of these, while not new requirements, have been strengthened and clarified.

Adult foster care providers must now provide a key lock on all bedroom doors. If there is a health, safety, or well-being concern for why the person should not have a lock, this should be documented in their individual resident placement agreement. For example, if a person has a medical condition, such as epilepsy, which would require immediate access to the room or if a person is not capable of responding to an emergency situation, then maybe that person should not have a locking door. If there is no health, safety, or well-being issue then a resident must be allowed to use the lock.

It has always been true that residents must consent in writing to share a bedroom with a specific person and to keep a copy of this consent in their individual files. What is new is that providers must notify a resident of their right to request a change of roommate. This should be documented as well. We will be updating the consent to share a bedroom form to reflect this change.

Resident’s rights have been updated. See below. We will be issuing an updated resident’s rights form to comply with the new rights. At admission, providers are still required to provide residents and their legal representatives copies of resident’s rights, a summary of the vulnerable adult protection act, and the name and address of the local agency where they can make complaints. Providers will be required to provide all new and current residents with a copy of these updated rights.

Here are the new rights:

Adult foster care resident rights:
• Daily, private access to and use of a non-coin-operated telephone
• Receive and send mail or electronic correspondence or communication
• Use of and free access to common areas and the freedom to come and go from the residence
• Privacy for visits, including privacy in the resident’s bedroom
• Keep, use, and access the resident’s personal possessions as space permits
• Choose visitors, time of visits, and participate in activities
• To share a bedroom and bed if both spouses are residents of the adult foster home
• Privacy, including the use of the lock on a resident’s bedroom or unit door
• Furnish and decorate the resident’s bedroom or living unit
• Engage in chosen activities and have an individual schedule supported by the license holder that meets the resident’s preferences
• Freedom and support to access food at any time
• Have personal, financial, service, health, and medical information kept private and be advised of disclosure by the license holder
• Access records and recorded information about the resident according to applicable regulations
• Be free from maltreatment
• Be treated with courtesy and respect
• Reasonable observance of cultural and ethnic practices and religion
• Be free from bias and harassment regarding race, gender, age, disability, spirituality, and sexual orientation
• Be informed of and use grievance policies
• Assert rights personally or have the rights asserted by a family member or representative
• Give or withhold informed consent to participate in any research or experimental treatment

Rights may be restricted only if necessary to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the resident. Rights should only be limited as a last resort and there should be a plan to remove or lessen the restriction in the future. Any restriction of a resident’s rights must be documented and justified in the resident’s individual abuse prevention plan.
Name Change
The state legislature approved a name change for Group Residential Housing. Effective 7/1/2017, GRH will be known as Housing Support.

Housing Support Rate (formerly GRH) Increased
The Housing Support (room and board – formerly GRH) rate is going up to $893 effective July 1. This rate is set each year by the state. These state funds help cover the cost of rent, food, utilities, household supplies, maintenance, cleaning, and trash collection. Individuals in placement are eligible for this support based on their income and assets. Providers must have a contract with the county in order to receive this funding.

The amount of the personal needs allowance has not changed from $97 a month.

Housing Support Overpayment Change Notice from the Department Of Human Services

Special Notice to Group Residential Housing Providers Regarding Overpayments:

Effective 7/1/2017, the process for handling GRH overpayments is changing. Make sure you carefully review each GRH overpayment notice that you receive after 7/1/2017 and carefully follow the instructions. Please also note that the legislature approved a name change for GRH, which will be known as “Housing Support” as of 7/1/2017.

NEW ELDERLY WAIVER SERVICE TERMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Adult foster care providers must now follow these requirements for elderly waiver clients:

• Annually provide resident and/or legal representative a copy of the resident termination policy
• Establish policies and procedures for service termination that promote continuity of care and service coordination with the resident and the case manager and with another licensed caregiver, if any
• Document, prior to giving notice of service termination, actions taken to minimize or eliminate the need for termination
• Provide written notification of an intended service termination to the resident’s legal representative and case manager at least 30 days prior to termination of services

The new legislation outlines when service termination notices can be given. The reasons allowed for termination are:

• Termination is necessary for the resident’s health, safety, and well-being and the provider is not able to meet the resident’s needs
• Safety of the resident or other residents is endangered and positive attempts to address the issue have failed
• Health, safety, and well-being of another resident is endangered
• The provider was not paid
• The provider closes
• Resident is no longer eligible for waiver services

If you need a copy of the DHS version of the service termination policy contact your licensor.
Foster Parents Needed!

Word of mouth is one of the best forms of recruitment to get new foster parents in Washington County. If anyone has said to you, “I’ve always thought about becoming a foster parent” or you know of someone who is good with kids, wants to help the community, and you think has what it takes to become a foster parent, please send them our way!

We need people who can provide care to a variety of youth, such as teens, sibling groups, children with mental health diagnoses, developmental disabilities, and everything in between.

We need foster parents in all areas of the county. Whether families can only commit to one or two weekends per month for respite care or be a placement resource, we have a need for both!

Please pass the word on so we can keep kids in our local foster homes.

OUR NEXT CHILD FOSTER CARE INFORMATIONAL MEETING:

Mon., September 11
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Government Center
14949 62nd St. N.
Stillwater

For more information call 651-430-6455.

Thanks so much!

FOSTER CARE RECOGNITION EVENING

On June 22, the Washington County Community Services Licensing Unit hosted the annual Foster Care Recognition Event at the Lake Elmo Event Center. The event was attended by 21 adult foster care providers, 25 child foster care providers, and 38 staff. Delicious hors d’oeuvres and desserts provided nourishment throughout the evening as attendees socialized with each other, listened to recognition speeches, and were awarded door prizes donated from community businesses.

Becky Motzko, Licensing Unit Supervisor, emceed the evening and offered words of thanks and appreciation for the dedication of our providers and the impact it has on the lives of vulnerable adults and children. Washington County Community Services Director, Chris Sorenson, was unable to attend the event, but via pre-recorded video, shared his personal connection to foster care and adoption and voiced his appreciation for the hard work and commitment shown by our licensed providers. Board Chair Commissioner, Lisa Weik, also shared words of gratitude and support for foster care providers. She, along with Commissioners Bigham, Kriessel, and Miron, honored newly licensed providers and presented special recognition awards to providers celebrating milestone years of service.

Child foster care providers Teresa England and Ranell and Erik Kirsch were each acknowledged for their 10 years of service. Adult foster care providers Kate and Doug Melhlhorn and Corrine and Dennis Schmidt were each acknowledged for their 20 years of service. Ruby and Ted Engelhaupt and Ronda Nelson were each acknowledged for 30 years of service. Dually-licensed child and adult foster care providers Marline and Gary VanderKelen were given a standing ovation for their 40 years of service to adults and children. Sara Thorson, who could not attend the event, was also recognized for her 50 years of dedication to adult foster care.

We hope the evening offered an opportunity for attendees to connect with other providers and enjoy a brief respite from the challenging work you do on a daily basis. The Washington County Licensing Unit sincerely appreciates the care you provide for vulnerable children and adults!
WASHINGTON COUNTY

All trainings will be held at the Washington County Government Center in Stillwater unless otherwise noted. To register for trainings contact Katie Olsen at 651-430-6646 or katie.olsen@co.washington.mn.us. All trainings are free to Washington County Foster Care Providers unless otherwise noted.

*Reimbursement Reminder: Foster parents can seek up to $100 training reimbursement per calendar year per household.

*Training Reminder: 12 hours of training is required yearly. One hour needs to be mental health related.

CARS (Children and Restraint Systems) Training

This training is required when caring for kids 8 and younger. Limited participants! No walk-ins. Anyone arriving more than 15 minutes late will need to attend another session.

Date/Time: Tues., August 22 • 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Trainer: Washington Co. Public Health Staff

The Significance of Substance Abuse in Families

Substance abuse by biological parents greatly impacts children's behavior. This three-hour introductory training on alcohol and other drug abuse offers resource families a framework in which to comprehend the topic of alcohol and other drug abuse. Participants will learn about different levels of chemical abuse and explore strategies for working with children and families.

Date/Time: Tues., September 28 • 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Trainer: Dept. of Human Services Contracted Trainers

COMMUNITY TRAININGS

Challenging Behaviors, Positive Supports, and School Success

Going back to school can be difficult for children and youth with challenging behaviors. New teachers, new classrooms, and unknown expectations often increase nervousness and unwanted behaviors. This workshop will provide parents and others with information to help prepare for the new school year.

Date/Time: Tues., August 29 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Stillwater

Cost: FREE

Registration: www.pacer.org/forms/workshops.asp?wksp=CE886BA9-FED7-48D8-808E-20334D13DCC8

CPR - Infant and Child

Designed for child care providers, teachers, parents, and others who care for children, this course teaches participants how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in infants and children. This course meets child care licensing requirements.

Date/Time: Wed., October 11 • 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Location: Ramsey County Public Works Bldg., Marsden Conference Room, Arden Hills

Cost: $20 per person; $35 per parenting couple

Registration: www.mnadopt.org/eventregister/?event_ID=1508

First Aid - Pediatric

This course will help you recognize and deal with emergencies, injuries, and sudden illnesses in your child care setting. Class covers basic first aid principles and practices, injury prevention, and safety information. This course meets child care licensing requirements.

Date/Time: Sat., September 9 • 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Location: Canvas Health, St. Paul

Cost: $33-38

Registration: Register by September 2 at: www.developtoolmn.org/app/EventDetail.aspx?EVID=250342

Intro. to Beyond Consequences for Parents & Professionals

Please join adoptive mother, clinical social worker, and skilled trainer, Brenda Benning, as she offers new perspectives in helping families understand and address their children's difficult behaviors. This specialized training is for parents and professionals working with families and children who suffer from traumatic histories and attachment concerns. This training summarizes the work of Heather T. Forbes in the "Beyond Consequences, Logic and Control" book.

Date/Time: Sat., September 30 • 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Location: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Cloud

Cost: $20 per person; $35 per parenting couple

Registration: www.mnadopt.org/eventregister/?event_ID=1507

Strategies to Support Youth Through the Launching Years

One of the most tumultuous developmental milestones is the transition from teen to adult and when that teen both demands independence and is not ready to manage its demands. This workshop is for any parent who is going through the tremendous heartache of helping your near-adult child land somewhere after high school graduation. The barriers are many and the resources few, especially when your child's issues prevent him from working with you and you become the enemy. Family Therapist, Krista Nelson, and parents Melissa Peterson and Jenna Gruen, will suggest themes and strategies, gems of wisdom, resources, and cautions.

Date/Time: Wed., October 11 • 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Location: Ramsey County Public Works Bldg., Marsden Conference Room, Arden Hills

Cost: $20 per person; $35 per parenting couple

Registration: www.mnadopt.org/eventregister/?event_ID=1508
**ONLINE ADHD TRAINING**

The Department of Human Services now offers a one-hour, online training on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This training can be used to fulfill the annual mental health training requirement for child foster care providers. The training can be accessed at: [https://youtu.be/7MezNUnJRI4](https://youtu.be/7MezNUnJRI4).

**ADULT FOSTER CARE PROVIDER TRAINING GROUP**

Trainings are held at the Government Center in Stillwater unless noted differently.

**Topic: VA Mandated Reporter**

All adult foster care providers are required to complete Vulnerable Adult training annually. Topics include: VA Act definitions, process of reporting and investigating, record keeping, required training, and a question and answer session.

**Date:** Tues., Sept. 26 • 6:00-9:00 p.m. (*note: 3 hour session)

**Topic: Guardianship vs. Conservatorship (Lutheran Social Services)**

Have you taken a resident into your home that uses a guardian? How about a conservator? Ever had anyone with a Power of Attorney? This training will address the differences between the roles, expectations, and the responsibilities you have as the provider to these roles.

**Date:** Tues., Nov. 28 • 6:00-8:30 p.m.

---

**Measles**

A very contagious viral disease spread through the air when infected persons breathe or cough.

Fever, cough, runny nose, or watery/mattering eyes are the first symptoms with a rash developing 2-3 days later lasting 5 to 6 days. The rash begins at the hairline moving to the face and upper neck and then down the body. Complications from the disease include: diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia or brain swelling.

Measles is preventable with vaccination. Children get the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine at 12-15 months and at 4-6 years of age.

---

**Ann Maudal**
Senior Worker /
Child Foster Care Licensor
651-430-6485
ann.maudal@co.washington.mn.us

**Katie Olsen**
Child Foster Care Licensor
651-430-6646
katie.olsen@co.washington.mn.us

**Lisa Hofmann**
Child Foster Care Licensor
651-430-4167
lisa.hofmann@co.washington.mn.us

**Vacant**
Child Foster Care Recruiter

**Robbin Ann Rosén**
Adult Foster Care Licensor
651-430-4169
robbin.rosen@co.washington.mn.us

**Jessica Lentz**
Adult Foster Care Licensor
651-430-6550
jessica.lentz@co.washington.mn.us

**Becky Motzko**
Supervisor
651-430-6476
rebecca.motzko@co.washington.mn.us

**Adult Foster Care Email:**
ComSvsAFCLicensing@co.washington.mn.us

**Child Foster Care Email:**
ComSvsCFCLicensing@co.washington.mn.us

Visit us on the Washington County website at:
[www.co.washington.mn.us/fostercarelicensing](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/fostercarelicensing)