



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

A monthly newsletter for CFSA's resource parents in the District of Columbia



2020 Happy New Year

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Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 30
CFSA Public Town Hall
4pm — 6pm
CFSA Headquarters
200 I St., SE, WDC

Thursday, March 5
Listening Session on How To Better Serve Our Foster & Birth Families
4pm — 6pm
CFSA Headquarters
200 I St., SE, WDC

Wednesday, March 11
Office of Youth Empowerment's Financial Aid/Scholarships Workshop
5pm — 6:30pm
CFSA Headquarters
200 I St., SE, WDC

DC Child & Family Services Agency
200 I Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Resource Parent Improves Placement Process with New Form

At DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), we want to ensure that children are matched to the foster home that can best meet their needs.

As an innovative idea CFSA resource parent and adoptive parent, Patrick Foley developed a form that described himself and his village which allowed for the youth-in-care and social worker to view information, basic house rules, pictures and expectations from his family as part of the placement planning process.

"I came up with this form because I had trouble getting the agency to understand why I only wanted to accept teen boys who identify as gay. To remedy the challenge, this form is a way for youth to see their potential family and to assist the agency in making the best match for my family," said Mr. Foley.

Like those from Mr. Foley, we celebrate and encourage ideas from our resource parents that enhance the placement process. For feedback or more information, contact Marcy Chell at Marcy.Chell@dc.gov.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Child and Family Services Agency

Placement Matching Tool

Age Range	Sex	# Open Beds
13-17	Male (Identify as Gay only)	2

White/Caucasian
 Black/African American
 Hispanic/Latino
 Asian
 Developmentally delayed
 Medically Fragile

Single
 Married
 Divorced
 Widowed
 Single mother of child

LGBT
 Gay (Male)
 Lesbian (Female)
 Transgender (male to female)
 Transgender (female to male)

Traditional Foster
 Open to Adopt
 Open to Guardianship
 Open to Emergency/Temporary Placement

Name of Foster Parent: **Patrick Foley**

Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: **Phone**

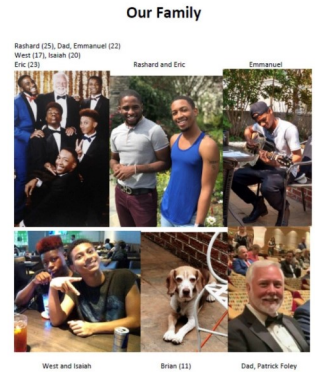
Best Time to Contact: **Any time**

FPF Home during daytime
 FPF has experience accepting for first 48 hours of placement
 FPF has car/transportation

FPF has other children in home
 FPF has other children in school
 FPF has other children in residence

FPF has experience with age group
 FPF has specialized training

The Form is a sample parent, developed in 2020 to showcase forms who identify as Gay. This has featured nine placements since becoming licensed and became the Legal Guardian to four sons.



CFSA Kicks-Off Public Town Hall Series, Registration Open



To offer regular opportunities for engagement and input from our stakeholders, and a forum to provide updates to the community, CFSA will kick-off a Public Town Hall series on Thursday, January 30, 2020 from 4pm – 6pm at CFSA Headquarters (200 I Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003).

Topics that will be discussed are agency performance data, CFSA Data Dashboard, practice and policy changes and much more. Participants are asked to RSVP at <http://cfsatownhall.eventbrite.com>.

LIVE: CFSA Launches Data Dashboard

To show our commitment to performance, transparency and public reporting, CFSA has launched the agency's first-ever CFSA Data Dashboard. This public-facing, quarterly updated Dashboard provides user-friendly information in an interactive, easy-to-navigate format.

The Dashboard is divided into sections including the Four Pillars (Front Door, Temporary Safe Haven, Well Being and Exit to Permanence) and Annual and Quarterly Reports. Coming soon are enhancements including data from the Five-Year Family First Prevention Plan, Families First DC, and much more.

Check it out now at <https://cfsadashboard.dc.gov>.



FAPAC News & Updates



Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC) News

Coming Soon!

- Dialogue between Foster Parents and Older Youth (in partnership with Best Kids). Please email info@dcfapac.org, if you are interested in participating.
- FAPAC is working on building back our training opportunities. We are gathering suggestions. Let us hear yours! Please email info@dcfapac.org with any ideas or suggestions.
- If you are not on our mailing list, or need our help, please contact FAPAC at (202) 269-9441 or info@dcfapac.org.

News You Can Use

OYE Releases Dates for College Prep Workshops for Youth-in-Care

The Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) released dates for its latest college preparation workshops for youth-in-care. Case-carrying staff can sign-up youth-in-care for the following workshops. The next session will be the Financial Aid/Scholarships on March 11, 2020 from 5pm – 6:30pm. All workshops will be held at the OYE office (3350 9th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017). [Click here](#) for a full list of OYE College Prep Workshops. To register or for more information, contact Sade Price at sade.price@dc.gov or (202) 727-7500.

Interested in Being a Resource Parent? The Time is Now!

Service comes in many forms and doesn't have to be done on one day during the year. Are you interested in serving your community? Consider serving as a foster parent, to some DC's most vulnerable youth, ages birth to 20 years old. We host an orientation session on the second Saturday of each month from 10am – 12pm and would love to have you join us! For more information or to register, call us at 202.671.LOVE (5683) or visit www.fosterDCkids.org.

Upcoming Support Groups and Training for Resource Parents

To check out the upcoming resource parent and family support groups and trainings, [click here](#). You can also access this listing on the "Foster Parents" page at www.cfsa.dc.gov. All training is free-of-charge.

Fostering Spotlight

Are You the Perfect Home for Paris?

Paris is an outgoing, friendly and caring 16-year-old. She is funny, sassy and loves to talk to almost everyone. She is expressive and cheerful with a huge personality. Paris is insightful and has an ability to advocate for herself. Paris is very open to being adopted and needs a family who is patient and can provide structure, consistency, love and the attention that she deserves and desperately desires. She wishes to be a part of a "happy family" who enjoys being active in the community. If you can picture Paris being part of your forever family, please contact Kim Walk, LICSW at (202) 727-2454 or kim.walk@dc.gov.



Have feedback, a tip or story idea?
We welcome them all! Contact us at OPI.CFSA@dc.gov.