

# SAFETY AND WELL-BEING IN FAMILY FOSTER CARE

CENTRAL REGION

Reporting and  
Responding to  
Concerns in  
Foster Homes

# TRAINING OBJECTIVES

- Distinguish between a report of abuse/neglect and a foster care referral
- Describe the role of foster parents in the system
- Explain the importance to children and foster families for reporting/referring/responding appropriately
- Identify key components in responding to reports or referrals



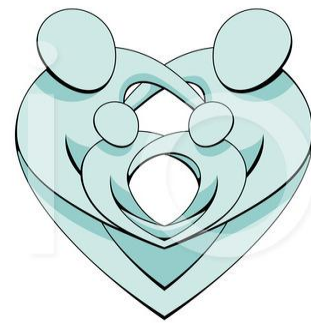


# SUCCESSFUL TRAINING WILL MEAN:



- Children in foster care experience less trauma
- Appropriate type of staff are responding (law enforcement/CPI or CBC/CPA)
- Investigations are not compromised but strengthened
- Foster families are treated with respect and supported to provide the best quality care
- More foster families are available to provide quality care
- Staff have adequate resources for placement and matching

# LET'S TALK ABOUT FOSTER PARENTS:



- Volunteer to provide care in their homes to children in state custody
- Have the most knowledge and experience with the children
- Are partners with child protection/welfare staff, GALs, attorneys, etc
- Provide the most homelike setting for children when their families cannot care for them
- Are assessed by the CBC and licensed by DCF prior to being allowed to provide care
- Have licensing staff assigned to support them
- Have specific expectations to meet (See the Partnership Plan- DCF Form CF-FSP 5226 or go to [www.qpiflorida.com](http://www.qpiflorida.com))
- Care for children who have been traumatized with a range of behaviors and needs

# TYPES OF FOSTER HOMES

- **Traditional Family Foster Home**
- **Therapeutic Foster Home**
- **CMS Medical Foster Home**
- **Residential Group Homes**



# FOSTER CARE REFERRAL OR ABUSE/NEGLECT INVESTIGATION?

- Foster care referrals do NOT meet the criteria for abuse/neglect investigations
- Foster Care Referrals refer to “calls to the Hotline regarding concerns about the care provided in a licensed foster home, group home or emergency shelter that do not meet the criteria for acceptance of a report of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.” {F.A.C. 65C-30.001(57)}
- Foster Care referrals are not handled by CPIs but by CBC licensing or foster home support staff
- Abuse/neglect investigations must meet criteria specified in law and must be handled by CPIs
- Hotline counselors are trained to ask questions to determine the difference



# FOSTER CARE REFERRALS CONT-

- Foster Care referrals are most often licensing violations
- A common Foster Care referral is corporal punishment without injury
- Many situations can be managed by case management
- Case managers should develop relationships with local licensing staff to learn more about expectations for foster parents and child welfare partners
- If a concern about a foster parent is called into the Hotline that does not meet the requirements for an intake, a foster care referral will be taken

# FOSTER CARE REFERRALS CONT-

## What to do First?

- Upon receipt of a Foster Care Referral the CPI Receiving Unit will immediately forward it to their Local CBC Agency
- Notifications – The CBC staff will notify the following parties if involved with the family; CPI, Case Manager, CLS attorney, and the GAL





# ABUSE/NEGLECT INVESTIGATION ON FOSTER HOMES

- Report is assigned to specific Unit or person that has been trained to appropriately respond to a Foster Home abuse/neglect investigation
- Notifications - The CPI staff will notify the following parties if involved with the family; Licensing coordinator, Case Manager, CLS attorney, GAL, alleged child's victim's biological parents if rights remain intact
- CPI will do a joint response with licensing coordinator and case manger when feasible
- Law Enforcement shall only respond with CPI if there is a plausible and realistic concern for the safety of a CPI, household member, when criminal activity is suspected, or statutory requirement to have law enforcement present

# BENEFITS TO CHILDREN AND FOSTER FAMILIES

- Licensing issues are handled by staff familiar to/with the child and foster family
- Children are not confused or upset by an “investigation”
- Foster families have the opportunity to develop skills without feeling threatened
- Law enforcement is involved only in abuse/neglect reports (when required)



# RESPONSE TIPS

## Investigations conducted by CPIs

- Respond with local licensing staff
- Communicate – explain time frames, outcomes, give them new informational sheet
- Use the approach warranted for the situation
- Ensure foster parent knows how to get follow-up information

## Foster Care Referrals handled by CBCs

- Determine if additional services are needed
- Connect Foster Parents with other training and supports
- Use the opportunity to teach/inform/mentor
- Coordinate with case manager, GAL, CLS as needed
- Communicate next steps

# CENTRAL REGION DCF CONTACTS FOR FOSTER CARE REFERRALS

**When doing notifications for foster homes notify these  
three DCF Contacts:**

**Amy Hammett**

**Email: [amy\\_hammett@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:amy_hammett@dcf.state.fl.us)**

**Ph# 407-317-7300**

**Candace Cox- Burpee**

**Email: [candace\\_cox-burpee@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:candace_cox-burpee@dcf.state.fl.us)**

**Ph# 407-317-7277**

# CONT-CENTRAL REGION DCF CONTACTS FOR FOSTER CARE REFERRALS

**Cont-**

**Sarah Yaccarino**

**Email: [sara\\_yaccarino@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:sara_yaccarino@dcf.state.fl.us)**

**Ph# 407-317-7533**

**When doing notification for residential group homes or facilities notify:**

**Carlos Colon**

**Email: [carlos\\_colon@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:carlos_colon@dcf.state.fl.us)**

**Ph# 407-317-7299**

# CENTRAL REGION CBC CONTACTS FOR FOSTER CARE REFERRALS

- CBC of Central Florida

Beth Batten

Email: [beth.batten@cbccfl.org](mailto:beth.batten@cbccfl.org)

Ph# 321-441-2060

- Kids Central Inc.

Melissa Papouscheko

Email: [melissa.papouscheko@kidscentralinc.org](mailto:melissa.papouscheko@kidscentralinc.org)

Ph: 352-873-6332

# CONTI- CENTRAL REGION CBC CONTACTS FOR FOSTER CARE REFERRALS

- Brevard Family Partnership

Danielle Santiago

Email: [danielle.dykes-santiago@brevardfp.org](mailto:danielle.dykes-santiago@brevardfp.org)

Ph# 321-7524650 ext. 3055

- Heartland for Children

Stephanie Diaz

Email: [sdiaz@heartlandforchildren.org](mailto:sdiaz@heartlandforchildren.org)

Ph# 863-519-8900 ext. 274

# RESOURCES

- [CFOP 175-12 and CFOP 175-21](#)
- [F.A.C. 65C-13.034 Complaint Investigations and Foster Care Referrals](#)
- [www.qpiflorida.com](http://www.qpiflorida.com) (training website for foster families)
- [www.floridafapa.org/fast.html](http://www.floridafapa.org/fast.html) (foster allegation support team)
- [www.fosteringflorida.com](http://www.fosteringflorida.com) (DCF's recruitment website for foster parents)
- <http://centralregion.dcf.state.fl.us/intranet/> (DCF Central Region website)