



# Advocacy News

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Healing Children by Empowering Families  [WWW.DCFAPAC.ORG](http://WWW.DCFAPAC.ORG)

## EMPOWERED Foster Parents Can:

- Access critical services
- Advocate with schools and service providers
- Participate as full team members
- Identify and utilize support networks
- Increase chances for stability and permanency for the children in their homes

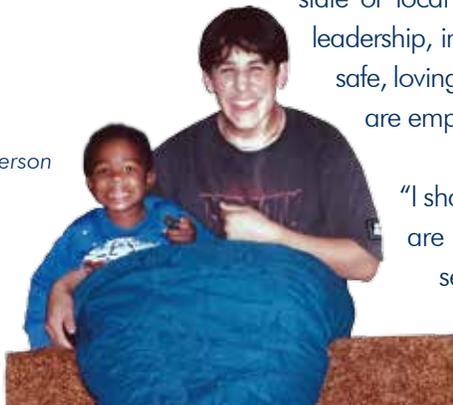
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## FAPAC News!

FAPAC is excited to applaud our partnership with CFSA towards the successful implementation of the Family Link Icebreaker Program. Icebreakers are informal meetings (a) when a child first enters care, or (b) when a new placement is made. Icebreakers provide foster parents the opportunity to talk, parent-to-parent, to share information, and begin communicating as a unified team. Rolled out this past February, icebreakers are on their way to becoming a system-wide change that supports CFSA's goals to move practice towards what is known as *Shared Parenting*. A special thanks to FAPAC's own Elizabeth Jenkins-Sahlin for her work in getting this important program off the ground! Go Elizabeth!

## FAPAC Gives Thumbs Up!

FAPAC sends Congratulations to Brenda Donald for Receiving the Betsey R. Rosenbaum Award from the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators' (NAPCWA). NAPCWA, an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association, represents executives and administrators of city, county, and state public child welfare agencies. NAPCWA presents the annual award to a state or local public child welfare agency administrator whose demonstrated leadership, innovation and a commitment to ensuring children are nurtured in safe, loving, families; families are self-sufficient and thriving; and communities are empowered to be a catalyst for social and emotional growth.

"I share this honor with everyone at CFSA and our many partners who are committed to great outcomes for the children and families we serve," Director Donald said. "It means so much for the District of Columbia to gain national recognition for progress."

**Table of Contents:** **PAGE 1:** FAPAC NEWS! | FAPAC GIVES THUMBS UP! • **PAGE 2:** ADVOCACY UPDATES: ADVOCACY ALERT! "CLEARED FOR PLACEMENT" FORM! | HOT ISSUE: RESOURCE INFORMATION NEEDED AT BEGINNING OF FIRST PLACEMENT! • **PAGE 3:** UNDERSTANDING RED TEAMS • **PAGE 4:** CHILDCARE? IF YOU WANT IT, LET THEM KNOW! | DID YOU KNOW? • **CFSA | 1:** KEEPING YOU CONNECTED | CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES • **CFSA | 2:** CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY: IMPORTANT NUMBERS • **CFSA | 3:** BEST PRACTICES WITH VICTIMS OF "MODERN DAY SLAVERY" • **CFSA | 4:** INTERNET ESSENTIALS - SPECIAL OFFER TO PARENTS! | FOCUS ON URGENCY TO PERMANENCE

# Advocacy Updates: Advocacy Alert! "Cleared for Placement" Form!

All DC children who are placed in a foster home should be accompanied by a Cleared for Placement form. The Cleared for Placement form ensures that they have had their medical screening at CFSA's **Healthy Horizons Assessment Center** (Clinic). The only exception applies to children/youth who were hospitalized, in which case, the discharge paperwork serves as the Cleared for Placement form. Although most families do report receiving these forms, we have recently been hearing of some children

being placed without them. For your convenience, enclosed with this newsletter is a blank form. Please review it and become familiar with it. If a child is placed in your home without a form, please request it from the individual who is making the placement. As well, also contact the **Healthy Horizons Assessment Center** at **202-727-8096** or **CFSA.HealthServices@dc.gov** to let them know you did not receive the form. This is a critical piece of documentation for you to have.

## Hot issue: Resource Information Needed at Beginning of First Placement!

Many families have shared their desire to have more resource information prior to, or at the time of, their first placement. This is especially critical for families who receive placements immediately after a child comes into care and before an on-going worker has been assigned. Although families understand that there might not be child-specific information to share, they feel they are often missing basic resource information (i.e. contact information and available assistance).

Potential solutions: FAPAC is currently working with CFSA to provide additional resource information at the time of placement. Once procedures have been established, we will provide our families with an update and with detailed information. Until then, we invite all families to use the contact information found in this newsletter as a helpful resource.

**FAPAC advocates to resolve barriers for families that stand in the way of healing our children. Please let us know if you have issues we should be addressing by emailing [margiec@dcfapac.org](mailto:margiec@dcfapac.org).**



# Understanding RED TEAMS:

In March 2012, CFSA implemented an overall, broad-based strategic framework aimed at improving outcomes for children and families by working to ensure that children are safe, families are strengthened, children's developmental needs are met, and children achieve permanence. The strategic framework has "four pillars":

1. **Narrowing the Front Door** focuses on keeping families together and removing children/youth from their homes only when necessary for their safety.
2. **Temporary Safe Haven** focuses on CFSA's efforts to make a plan for permanence for children/youth from the first day of entering out-of-home care. It promotes that while children/youth are in custody, they should be placed in the most appropriate, family-like setting that enables continued connections with their family, school, and community.
3. **Well-being** focuses on CFSA's commitment to work collaboratively with other systems on the healthy development of all children/youth in care, including attention to appropriate educational, mental health, and physical health benchmarks and needs.
4. **Exits to Positive Permanency** recognizes the services families and children/youth may require for stability, post-legal permanency or emancipation. Although the agency hopes that all children/youth efficiently exit care to a permanent home and a life-long connection, this pillar also recognizes the need for older youth to develop the tools necessary to be self-supporting adults.

CFSA has chosen to use a framework known as the Consultation and Information Sharing Framework to build collaborative practice within teams. This is done by a process called **R.E.D.** teams. **R.E.D.** teams (review, evaluate, and direct) support the four pillars in practice and embodies a method for organizing and analyzing incoming information. **R.E.D.** teams may include parents as well as staff from a variety of disciplines and professionals from both inside and outside of the agency. A designated facilitator leads the team using an established framework to help the team gather and sort available information. CFSA utilizes the **R.E.D.** team to bring discipline, critical thinking, and team coordination. A major difference between this framework and others that

CFSA has used in the past is the broad representation at these meetings—parents, social workers, supervisors, attorneys, and therapists—and the resulting way in which everyone has a critical role.

CFSA expanded the use of **R.E.D.** teams in 2013 to assist with safety planning, group consultation, and critical thinking around permanency. The goal of the Permanency **R.E.D.** team is to increase timely permanency outcomes for children/ youth. As a resource (foster/kinship/adoptive) parent, you can be actively involved in this **R.E.D.** team process. We encourage you to attend if invited to attend **R.E.D.** teams for the children in your home. It is important to note that any member of the team (including you!) can call for a **R.E.D.** team to occur. This could be a particularly helpful intervention if you are facing challenges and barriers in moving forward for permanency; if you feel a need for more support or services; or any other issue you believe could be improved by a full team coming together to talk, process, and make group decisions with everyone at the table.

FAPAC is highly encouraged by the use of this new framework. As a CFSA or private agency parent, you can request a **R.E.D.** team by going through your social worker and that chain of command at your agency. If that is not successful, you can feel free to call FAPAC for other suggestions.



# Childcare? If you want it, let them know!

This past June, through an arrangement with Georgetown Nanny, childcare services were made available during many of CFSA's foster parent in-service trainings. Thanks to our families who provide us with frequent feedback and suggestions, FAPAC has long been advocating for childcare for agency trainings. Our spring newsletter gave a big thumbs up to CFSA's Child Welfare Training Academy (CWTA) for this move forward.

That said, imagine our surprise to learn that these strongly advocated for and applauded services are not being used! We assume that it is just taking time for the word to get out for families to learn that the service is available. Given the many competing budgetary demands, we are concerned that this might turn out to be a situation of "use it or lose it."

Families: If you want these services to continue, please consider using them! If you do not feel comfortable using them, please contact **Erin Teagle** at [Erin.Teagle2@dc.gov](mailto:Erin.Teagle2@dc.gov) and let CWTA know what barriers and challenges exist to utilizing this service. You may also talk with Erin when you register for your classes! Thanks!



## Did You Know?

FAPAC depends on the generosity of every individual and organization that is touched by our work. Together, we can ensure that FAPAC can continue to provide critical information, training and support to families and advocate on critical issues that assist children and families. Please consider donating to us. No gift is too small. Every single dollar helps and is well spent.

Please help us to continue our important work by mailing your donation of any size to Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center; 6200 Second St. NW Washington, DC 20011, or by donating on our website at [www.dcfapac.org](http://www.dcfapac.org). Thank you!

4



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# CFSA Update

## Dear Families

This CFSA insert has become a regular part of the FAPAC newsletter. Due to an expansion of our partnership with CFSA, FAPAC has committed to keeping DC's foster, kinship, and adoptive parents updated on important changes at CFSA that impact our community. We are excited to offer you more regular updates about procedures, policies, and other information. In the near future we hope to post developing policies on our website for your review and comment. Visit our website at [www.dcfapac.org](http://www.dcfapac.org) and stay tuned!

Sincerely,

**Margie Chalofsky,**  
*FAPAC Executive Director*

## Keeping You Connected

FAPAC is now using our communication system to assist CFSA in its efforts to ensure important information reaches all foster, kinship, and adoptive parents of DC children. Please note that now that you are in our data system, you will also

receive FAPAC's own information/materials, either inside the same mailings or as separate packets. You may opt out of FAPAC's mailing list by contacting **Robert Robinson** at [Bobbyr@dcfapac.org](mailto:Bobbyr@dcfapac.org) or 202-269-9441.



## Celebrating Our Graduates!

Congratulations go out to our youth who have completed significant educational milestones this summer. FAPAC joins CFSA in congratulating all our graduates from High School and GED programs, Career Pathways, and College!

# Child and Family Services Agency: Important Numbers

At FAPAC, we often hear from parents about information they may need when their social workers are not available. As social workers may be in the field, or at court, or otherwise not “reachable,” FAPAC has compiled this list of other contacts at CFSA who should be able to assist you. Please note that contact information is always subject to change. We hope this will be helpful to you!

- **CFSA Hotline:** 202-671-SAFE
- **CFSA Main business number:** 202-442-6100
- **Day care:** Amy Templeman, 202-724-7080, amy.templeman@dc.gov
- **Fiscal:** Gloria Yates, 202-727-7383, gloria.yates@dc.gov
- **Foster Care Resources:** Includes Contracts Monitoring (monitors for contracted agencies); Family Licensing; and Family Resources
  - **Administrator:** Valerie Douglas, 202-727-2111, valerie.douglas@dc.gov
  - **Family Licensing Division:** Anna Bell, 202-727-3440, anna.bell@dc.gov
  - **Family Resources Division:** Ritu Atwal, 202-727-3777, ritu.atwal@dc.gov
  - Foster parent support unit (CFSA DC families only)
  - Antoinette.Harris-Edwards, 202-727-3949, Antoinette.Harris-Edwards@dc.gov
  - Kia-Jackson-Garnett, 202-727-4950, kia.jackson-garnett@dc.gov
- **Health Services:** Cheryl Durden: 202-727-7049, cheryl.durden@dc.gov, *Clinical on-call number* 202-498-8456
- **Kinship Support Services:** Ana Burgos, 202-727-7328, ana.burgos@dc.gov
- **Medicaid:** questions from foster parents: Denise Pringle, 202-727-7399, denise.pringle@dc.gov
- **Medicaid:** coverage and re-certification issues for adoptive parents: Jolly Atkins, 202-727-7107, jolly.atkins@dc.gov
- **Mental Health/Behavioral Health:** Jacqueline R. Brown, 202-727-5190, Jacqueline.Brown2@dc.gov
- **Mobile Crisis Stabilization:** CFSA and private agency foster parents should contact their social worker or on-call person at your agency. Your agency will initiate the referral through CFSA’s Resource Development Specialist (RDS) in the CFSA Placement office, which is open 24/7. If unable to reach your social to reach your social worker or on-call person at your agency, foster parents can call RDS directly @ 202-497-2486.
- **Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE):** Sarah Thankachan, 202-442-6174, sarah.thankachan@dc.gov
- **Ombudsman:** Jenna Beebe, 202-727-7040, jenna.beebe@dc.gov
- **Post-Permanency Services:** Trantina Waugh, 202-727-4956, trantina.waugh@dc.gov
- **School transportation, tutoring and mentoring:** Carla Perkins, 202-727-7476, carla.perkins@dc.gov
- **Substance abuse:** Valerie Kanya, 202-727-4283, Valerie.kanya@dc.gov

## CFSA policy manual on-line

<http://cfsa.dc.gov/page/cfsa-online-policy-manual>

## Additional resource:

### Post-Permanency Family Center (PPFC):

202-526-4802, Note: The Post-Permanency Family Center (PPFC) is a community service in NE DC run by Adoptions Together in partnership with CFSA. They provide comprehensive support, training and therapy for families who have achieved or are working towards the guardianship or adoption of DC children.

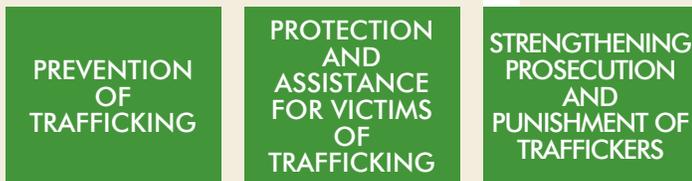
# Best Practices with Victims of “Modern Day Slavery”

This article credited to CWTA and Nina Cadney, LICSW-C-CWTA Trainer

Please see class information at bottom of article!

In 2007, national statistics estimated “250,000 children in the United States were bought and sold for sex.” This alarming statistic is most likely an underestimate due to unreported, unknown and misclassified cases, and is grounded in the reality that **“60-80% of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children CSEC (victims) have been in the child welfare system.”** This high percentage puts child welfare systems on alert to their need to support current child victims and help to prevent this epidemic from growing even further.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 is a federal law that established Human Trafficking, or Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) as a federal crime and refers to Human Trafficking as **“Modern Day Slavery.”** In addition to outlining what constitutes trafficking and sexually exploiting an individual, the federal and respective District laws also provide the foundation for service delivery for victims of CSEC. TVPA of 2000 identified the following three major goals of victim-centered services:



Best practices when working with survivors of CSEC are founded on the facets of engagement and being trauma-informed. If there is a lack of trust, poor engagement, and lack of knowledge about trauma symptoms, then the chances of re-victimizing survivors increases significantly. Additionally, absence of best practices risks increased vulnerability of future victims.

Below are the key considerations for the effectiveness of engagement as relates to the goals of victim-centered services:

## PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING: ENGAGEMENT AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH CARING ADULTS ASSISTS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Supporting child and adolescent healthy development to assist with decreasing vulnerability to perpetrators of CSEC

- Filling voids in the child/adolescent’s life and fulfilling unmet needs to decrease risk of perpetrators capitalizing on the weakness of vulnerable children and teens
- Positive relationships that communicate trust and support to a child/adolescent, which create supports their willingness to alert caring adults if they are approached by recruiters of CSEC

## PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING - IF CSEC IS SUSPECTED OR IDENTIFIED WITH A CHILD WELFARE CASE, THEN ENGAGEMENT SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING:

- Setting the stage for increased awareness of “signs of trafficking situations” (such as tattoo identifiers, excessive fatigue, frequent runaway behavior, frequent sexually transmitted illnesses, etc.) that suggest a child/adolescent may be a victim of CSEC

## STRENGTHENING PROSECUTION AND PUNISHMENT OF TRAFFICKERS - CHILDREN/ADOLESCENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO ASSIST WITH PROSECUTION OF PERPETRATORS OF CSEC IF THE FOLLOWING DYNAMICS ARE PRESENT:

- Trust with caring adults to provide reassurance, support, and safety if they disclose information about the trafficker
- Caring adults to support communicating with law enforcement for prosecution, as this can be very intimidating and/or traumatizing for the child/adolescent to talk with unknown individuals
- Victim-blaming is avoided by having strong advocates to support that child/adolescent’s rights and mental well-being

The CWTA UNDERSTANDING & PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CHILD WELFARE WORKSHOP is currently being offered on multiple dates. Future dates are: 9/12/14 from 9am-5pm; and 9/24/14 from 9am-5pm.

You can register by either using the CWTA registration form (available from CFSA and also available on FAPAC’s website [www.dcfapac.org](http://www.dcfapac.org)) or by calling the CWTA registration line at (202) 727-5329.

# Internet Essentials - Special Offer to Parents!

Today, the Internet is an essential part of a child's education. It strengthens and enhances lessons learned in the classroom and is an increasingly important tool for students and their parents to succeed in the 21st century.

CFSA is thrilled to partner with Comcast to bring *Internet Essentials*<sup>SM</sup> to the families we serve. This groundbreaking program that Comcast agreed with the Federal Communications Commission to bring community leaders, government and business together to help close the digital divide. While participating in *Internet Essentials*, families receive:

- Fast home Internet for just \$9.95 a month + tax;
- No price increases, no activation fees, or equipment rental fees;
- A low-cost computer available at initial enrollment for just \$149.99 + tax; and
- Access to free Internet training.

Families are eligible to participate in *Internet Essentials* if they live where Comcast offers Internet service; have at least one child eligible to receive free or reduced price school lunches through the NSLP; have not subscribed to Comcast Internet service within the last 90 days; and do not have an overdue Comcast bill or unreturned equipment.

To learn more or to apply, please call 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376) or visit [www.InternetEssentials.com](http://www.InternetEssentials.com). For questions regarding the CFSA partnership, please contact **Damian Miller** at [Damian.Miller@dc.gov](mailto:Damian.Miller@dc.gov).

## Focus on Urgency to Permanence

As wonderful as a good foster home may be for children in foster care, every child needs the security of a forever home. This value is the foundation of **CFSA's Urgency to Permanence** initiative, a unified and renewed effort to speed permanence for children in foster care through reunification, adoption, or guardianship. CFSA foster parents play a vital role by providing a temporary safe haven for children who cannot be safe at home—but also by becoming a permanent resource yourself or by otherwise supporting the steady progress to permanence every child needs.

Concurrent planning and making careful choices about establishing goals for guardianship for adoption are among the primary vehicles for achieving permanence, but these terms don't necessarily mean the same things to everyone. Roles of various players in the permanency process may not be clear. In the coming months, CFSA will provide training for resource parents on **Urgency to Permanence** to dispel myths and provide information. Look for details about training dates in the next edition.



## CFSA Update