

# NEP-TUNES



A Monthly Newsletter from Nepenthean Homes

*A Caring, Full Service Foster Family Agency*

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November 2009



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*by Richard Farlinger*

As the fall season begins and we approach the completion of our twentieth year, many caring people are gathering together to make the upcoming holidays happy and bright for all our children and families. I thank those who are presently donating their time and efforts to make this season very special to all our children and families. As time grows nearer, we will announce the dates, times, and locations of our social events.

We are currently planning to relocate our Fair Oaks office as we downsize a bit in preparation for the imposition of rate cuts. We will remain in the Fair Oaks village and possibly occupy a smaller space in the same building we are in now, or another smaller-spaced address on the same street. We will keep you posted on this matter as well.

My thanks to all for your patience and commitment to your work as we all additionally copy with the challenge of budget cuts. We are currently exploring additional avenue in development of our program, such as independent living for older clients, higher level training for foster parents and staff, fund raising, grant seeking, and possible collaboration with other experienced providers.

*Daylight Savings Time ended on Sunday, November 1, 2009.*



*Did you remember to set your clocks back one hour?*

## UNUSUAL INCIDENTS IN FOSTER CARE

*by Michael F. Quinn, MA*

During your time as a care provider -- whether for a few weeks, months, or many years -- unusual incidents involving foster children will inevitably occur.

Remember, many children in foster care have had chaotic and traumatic experiences prior to protective custody placement. These experiences often translate into medical, psychological and negative behaviors that surprise foster caretakers. Refer to your state, county, or private agency for specific reporting mandates regarding unusual incidents.

Simply put -- any incident that affects the safety, supervision, or emotional well being of foster children in your care -- is a reportable one. Consider:

1. **Other-than-routine medical care must be reported within 24 hours:** this includes injuries (in the home, school, sports, playground, neighborhood, and family outings), emergency medical examinations for illness, adverse reaction to medi-

cations -- and scheduled surgeries or special medical procedures requiring court authorization. It does not include routine physical and dental exams.

2. **Incidents involving suspected child physical and sexual abuse in or away from the care home must be reported within 24 hours:** This includes incidents in the foster home and declarations of previously unreported abuse suffered prior to placement -- or -- alleged to have occurred during birth family visits.
3. **Severe sexual acting out behaviors involving children must be reported within 24 hours:** this includes public displays of sexual behavior (masturbation, soliciting others for sex, predatory advances or assaults made to other children in the home or neighborhood) and provocative behaviors towards care providers and other vulnerable children.
4. **Emergency psychological or psychiatric hospitalization:** this includes crisis interventions in the home or away (at school, trips, birth family visits) that involve mental health or other emergency service responders. This also includes suicidal threats or thoughts made by the child.
5. **Severe acting-out behaviors involving physical aggression towards others:** this includes threats and actions to care providers and other children in the home; physical fighting in the home, neighborhood; and suspension from school for aggressive acts towards staff or other children.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**CAPITOL CITY NEWS**



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (916) 704-7780  
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

Date: **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**  
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Topic: “Unusual Incidents and Safe Parenting” (Foster Parent College videos)  
Where: Fair Oaks office  
Speaker: Michael F. Quinn, MA

**FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:**  
The next foster parent orientation meeting will be on **Saturday, November 7, 2009**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Fair Oaks office. **Please call Rich Farlinger at (916) 535-7780 to RSVP.** This meeting will answer your questions about foster children, foster parenting, and becoming a certified foster parent with Nepenthean Homes FFA.

**ATTENTION FOSTER PARENTS!**  
As you know, 12 hours per year of foster parent training are required to maintain your certification.  
To help with this, Nepenthean Homes is now offering our 21-DVD Foster Parent College training set. These videos are available for viewing in-house at our Fair Oaks and El Sobrante offices **ONLY**—we cannot offer home check-out.  
You may call the offices to schedule a time to view the videos. Each DVD is 30 to 45 minutes in length. Viewing only gives you one hour training credit; viewing plus taking the test gives you two hours training credit.  
For more information and to schedule your viewing time, please call the Fair Oaks or El Sobrante office.

NEW SUPPORT GROUP for kinship caregivers and grandparents has begun on **Wednesdays 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** Held at: Family Resource Network, 5232 Claremont Ave., Oakland, CA. For more information and RSVP call Sonia Waters at (510) 547-7322 x15.

**BAY AREA NEWS**



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (510) 750-4769  
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

Date: **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**  
Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Topic: “Positive Parenting”  
Where: El Sobrante Office  
Speaker: Kevin Smith, MA

**ADDITIONAL FOSTER PARENT TRAINING:**  
The Center for the Vulnerable Child (CVC) at Children’s Hospital Oakland, in cooperation with Alameda County Social Services and Nepenthean Homes Foster Family Agency, presents NO-FEE foster parent trainings. The classes serve as continuing education hours by foster care agencies. Verification of attendance is given.

Date: **Wednesday, November 11, 2009**  
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
Topic: “East Bay Agency for Children”  
Speaker: Timothy Desmond, Director of the Therapeutic Nursery, EBAC.

*and*  
Date: **Wednesday, November 25, 2009**  
Due to the holiday we will not have a class today. Our next class will be December 9. Happy Thanksgiving!

Where: Children’s Hospital Oakland, Center for the Vulnerable Child, 5275 Claremont Ave. and 5400 Telegraph, Oakland  
(This building has two entrances—enter on either side.)  
**RSVP:** Call Peggy Pearson at (510) 428-3783, ext. 5326. **Sorry, no childcare is available.**

**FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:**  
If you are interested in learning more about foster care, please call Kevin Smith at (510) 222-2666. An individual orientation meeting will be set up to answer your questions about foster children, foster parenting, and becoming a certified foster parent with Nepenthean Homes FFA.

**FOOTHILLS NEWS**



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (530) 392-1597  
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

**UPCOMING AUBURN AREA FOSTER PARENT TRAININGS WILL BE HELD ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, PER CFH. PLEASE CALL THE FAIR OAKS OFFICE TO SCHEDULE YOUR FOSTER PARENT TRAINING, AT (916) 535-7780. (REMEMBER, YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST 12 HOURS OF FOSTER PARENT TRAINING PER YEAR TO MAINTAIN YOUR CERTIFICATION!)**

**FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:**  
If you are interested in learning more about foster care, please call Mike Quinn at (916) 535-7780. An individual orientation meeting will be set up to answer your questions about foster children, foster parenting, and becoming a certified foster parent with Nepenthean Homes FFA.

**CENTRAL VALLEY NEWS**



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (209) 495-9492  
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

Date: TO BE ANNOUNCED  
Time: TO BE ANNOUNCED  
Topic: TO BE ANNOUNCED  
Where: TO BE ANNOUNCED  
Speaker: Rich Farlinger, Exec. Director  
**Watch your mailbox for the training flyer!**

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to view the Foster Parent College training DVDs, which are available in the Fair Oaks and El Sobrante offices (see article on this page, column 1).

**PLEASE NOTE:** You may do a maximum of six (6) hours of online foster parent training with Foster Parent College. Please call Mike Quinn or Rich Farlinger at the Fair Oaks office (916) 535-7780 with your email address, to get set up for this **no-cost** training.

## CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING

### NEVADA COUNTY:

Nevada County offers ongoing training twice a month, which includes Medic First Aid, BasicPlus CPR, AED (Automated External Defibrillator), and First Aid. Committing to additional time, the Medic First Aid Infant and Child Supplement can be included following Adult CPR/First Aid.

Date: **Saturday, November 7, 2009**

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Nevada County Superintendent of Schools' conference room  
112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, CA.

Fee: **\$30.00 (must be prepaid to confirm your reservation).**

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a snack and beverage. Please call Nikki Johnson at (530) 478-6400, ext. 201 for more information.

(Continued from "Unusual Incident in Foster Care" on page 1)

6. **AWOL (absent without leave):** This includes runaway behaviors, curfew violations, and repeated unexcused absences from school that result in suspension or law enforcement involvement. AWOLs can require law enforcement notification—including the filing of a Missing Person's Report (MPR).
7. **Criminal behaviors that result in law enforcement action including incarceration or citation:** this includes shoplifting; repeat runaways, assaults upon others, soliciting, possession of illegal drugs, alcohol and drug intoxication, and possession of weapons.

**Note:** Remember -- despite the best efforts of county and agency staff in gathering background information on foster children -- it is impossible to know everything about that child. Unusual incidents -- while often stressful for care providers -- can provide valuable information regarding the real needs of the children -- and ultimately lead to designing better, effective treatment and case service plans.

## CHILD WELFARE SERVICES—FACTS FOR YOU

- California provides General Fund support for county-run child welfare programs and responds to approximately 487,000 referrals for child mistreatment each year. Child welfare specialists at the county level respond to reports of possible abuse or neglect, provide prevention and early intervention services, address safety issues, and facilitate access to a broad range of services for families including food, health care, cash assistance, and drug treatment.
- At any given time, approximately 75,000 children and youth are in foster care because they have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect, or living in at-risk environments. Foster care includes placement with family members, foster family homes, foster family agencies, and group homes for those with behavioral or psychological challenges.
- Currently there are approximately 9,600 children placed in Group Homes, 18,500 in Foster Family Agency placements, 28,200 with family members and 18,800 in foster family homes.
- The majority of foster care providers are family caregivers who receive an average of \$730.00 per child per month grant.
- The California Department of Social Services is responsible for foster care payment rates for Foster Family Agencies, among others. These rates provide for the care and supervision needs of children placed in foster care.

## PLACER COUNTY:

Date: **Friday, November 6, 2009**

Time: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Topic: "Miss Julie's Manners"

Where: Sierra College Gateway Campus  
333 Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

**RSVP: (916) 781-6214 by November 3 for dinner and childcare!**

A formal dinner will be served. Please dress in your Sunday best! Priority reservations will be given to first-time attendees. Training begins promptly at 6:00 p.m.—it's not polite to be late!

Date: **Saturday, November 14, 2009**

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Topic: "Whole Family Foster Homes"

Where: Sierra College Gateway Campus  
333 Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

**RSVP: (916) 781-6214. Must RSVP by November 12th.**

Lunch provided. Sorry, no childcare.

## NEVADA COUNTY:

Date: **Friday, November 6, 2009**

Time: 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Topic: "How to Empower Youth and Build Their Sense of Self-Worth"

Where: The Imaginarium, 112 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City, CA (**Across the street from NCSOS**)

Speaker: Ann Heinrich, MFT

**RSVP: Mary Jane (530) 478-6400, x210**  
Child care will be provided.

Date: **Tuesday, December 1, 2009**

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Topic: "Living with Personality Differences"

Where: The Imaginarium, 112 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City, CA (**Across the street from NCSOS**)

Speaker: Steve Saylor

**RSVP: Mary Jane (530) 478-6400, x210**  
Sorry, no child care provided.

## **The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, Inc., presents:**

Topic: "Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect"

Dates: **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Where: Child Abuse Prevention Center  
4700 Roseville Rd., No. Highlands, CA

**RSVP: Call Isela Murrieta at (916) 244-1959** or email to [imurrieta@thecapcenter.org](mailto:imurrieta@thecapcenter.org) for more information. Sorry, no childcare is provided.

**WELCOME NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK:**

**BAY AREA:**

- \* Haylee N.
- \* Alissa M.
- \* Ora S.



**GOOD NEWS!**

Jesse R., of the Tiong home, continues to play 8th grade flag football at Wilson Riles Junior High—and having a blast! Way to go, Jesse!

**NOTICE TO ALL FOSTER PARENTS:**  
Once again, Project Linus of Sacramento will be providing blankets for all of our foster children. They will be disbursed out of our Fair Oaks office; please call Mike Quinn for more information at (916) 535-7787. Project Linus is a nationwide non-profit organization whose mission is: “To provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.” They have distributed over three million blankets to children in need since their inception in 1995.

For more information on this worthy organization, look on the internet for [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org).



**Wish List**

**FAIR OAKS:**

- Play Station I games (new or gently used)
- Digital scale (to weigh children)
- Kids’ movies on DVD
- Computer CPU
- Computer software

**MODESTO AREA:**

- New or gently used laptop computer for Modesto teen

**BAY AREA:**

- Changing table
- Hand-held electronic games
- VCR

**AUBURN AREA:**

- Wireless mouse
- New or gently used office copy machine

**NEPPY’S NOTABLES**

*November birthdays for staff:*

Trish Leonard (Board) on November 29



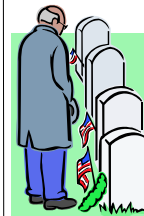
**Birthdays this month!**

**FAIR OAKS:**

Anise D. (Tiong home).....16 on 10/21 (Belated happy birthday!)

**BAY AREA:**

Jerrell T. (Amie home).....18 on 11/5



All Nepenthean Homes offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 to celebrate Veteran’s Day, and on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27 for

**Thanksgiving**



Nepenthean Homes is a private, non-profit Foster Family Agency that helps adults become successful foster parents. If you want to improve a needy child’s future by becoming a certified foster parent, please telephone:

- \*\* in Sacramento area, 1-800-439-8998
- \*\* in Foothills area, 1-800-479-8998
- \*\* in Modesto area, 1-800-696-0611
- \*\* in Bay Area, 1-800-564-2292

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