

JANUARY 25, 2011

Why is it Important that I go to IFAPA's Legislative Breakfast?

One in four legislators are new to the Iowa Legislature in 2011. With 25% of the Legislature learning the ropes this year, it is more important than ever to get involved and help educate your legislators about the issues you care about.

IFAPA Legislative Breakfast

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 7am-9am
State Capitol Bldg - Legislative Dining Room

We invite you and your family to our Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday, February 15 at the State Capitol in Des Moines. Iowa's foster, adoptive and kinship families are improving the child welfare and child protective system by advocating to their legislators for positive change. IFAPA will continue to work to be a voice for children and families, but we need your help. In these tough financial times it is imperative that IFAPA members keep their legislators informed on the issues facing children in their care. Sharing specific information such as: how adoption subsidy has made a difference for your child; how a child has blossomed with the structure and consistency of foster care; how your family has been able to work with birth parents to return a child home; how a training taught you ways to parent a difficult teen - all tell the story of the importance of funding for foster care and adoption programs.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to IFAPA at 800-277-8145x4. For helpful tips on speaking with Legislators, visit our Legislative Resources page:
www.ifapa.org/resources/legislative_resources.asp

2011 Legislative Priorities:

- **Provide Access to Mental Health, Medical & Dental Care to Iowa's Children**
Children who are in foster, adoptive and kinship families often enter the system with neglected medical, dental, and mental health needs. Mental health services and the Medical Passport and Dental Home programs are necessary tools to address the needs of children in care. Continued funding for the Children's Mental Health Waiver will provide needed mental health support and services to some of Iowa's vulnerable children. Iowa needs a children's Mental Health System to meet these increasing needs.
- **Protect Child Welfare Programs & Provide Ongoing Services to Families & Children**
Foster families provide the care that every child needs while their birth parents are given the opportunity to rectify the reasons for the child's removal. When children are unable to return safely to their birth families, kinship placements and adoption provides a loving and permanent family for the child. Adoption subsidy is available for children with special needs to help the family pay ongoing expenses as well as assist with vital services, treatments, and therapy. Adoption subsidies enable families to provide permanent homes for children who may not otherwise be able to be adopted. Foster, kinship and adoptive parents need programs and supports to provide for the ongoing needs of the children in their homes.
- **Provide Programming & Funding for Programs that Support Youth in Care**
Youth in foster care deserve to have their needs met and their interests protected. They need healthy connections that last beyond the age of 18. The Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Program provides the necessary funding to benefit all eligible youth who age out of foster care to ensure they have the supports needed to become productive and successful adults. Youth based groups such as Elevate are available to help guide youth and provide valuable information on best practice in foster care. IFAPA supports a Bill of Rights for Youth in Foster Care as proposed by Elevate.



*13th Annual
Celebration Day*

SAT, JANUARY 29, 2011 10 A.M. - 7 P.M.
Polk County Convention Complex, Des Moines

I'll Make Me a World in Iowa (IMMAWII) Celebration Day highlights African-American arts, culture, history, performances, displays, soul food and kids games. American Idol Winner, **Ruben Studdard**, will headline the event. More info: www.worldiniowa.com



IFAPA TRAININGS FOR PARENTS

Correction

TO REGISTER: Call Stephanie at 800-277-8145 ext. 1 or sign up at: www.ifapa.org/training/training_registration_form.asp

Date & Time	Name of Training	Location
Sat., Jan. 29 9am-4:30pm	Beyond Consequences...Helping Children with Severe Behaviors Read bio @ www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/TDBeyondConsequences.pdf (6hrs credit)	Council Bluffs IWCC
Sat., Feb. 5 9am-12:15pm	Vicarious Trauma Read bio @ www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/TDVicariousTrauma.pdf (3hrs credit)	Cedar Falls Clarion Inn Univ. Plz
Sat., Feb. 5 1:30-4:45pm	Interpersonal Stress Management Read bio @ www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/TDStressManagement.pdf (3hrs credit)	Cedar Falls Clarion Inn Univ. Plz
Sat., Feb. 5 12pm-4:15pm	CPR & First Aid - please visit the IFAPA CPR & First Aid web page for the registration form: www.ifapa.org/training/CPR_first_aid.asp (4hrs credit)	Cedar Rapids To be announced
Sat., Feb. 12 9am-4:30pm	Generations X, Y & Z - The Toxic Culture of Teens Read bio @ www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/TDGenerationsXYZ.pdf (6hrs credit)	Cedar Rapids Best Western LB
Sat., Feb. 12 9am-4:30pm	Up, Down & All Around - ADHD, ODD & Pediatric Bipolar Disorder Read bio @ www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/TDUpDownAround.pdf (6hrs credit)	Clive Country Inn & Suites

The Jan. 18th issue of IFAPA's Weekly Word newsletter contained an article regarding the **new gun laws and how they effect foster parents**. The following paragraph appeared as part of the article. The correction is in red. If you have further questions regarding the new changes, please send your e-mails to Crystal Thomason at cthomason@ifapa.org and they will be forwarded on to DHS.

Please note that for weapons and firearms that are kept solely on the property of the owner and not carried or used elsewhere, a permit is not required, unless otherwise required for purchase. This has always been the case. It is important to remember that even if a permit is not required, foster parents still need to follow provisions a-c of 113.7(5). It is good practice to develop a safety plan to address how these provisions will be adhered to, regardless of whether or not a permit is required.

Internship Opportunity for Former Foster Youth

FosterClub, the national organization for youth in foster care, is currently accepting applications for its annual All-Star internship program. Current and former foster youth ages 18 to 24 are encouraged to apply for summer internships that will include assisting in the planning and facilitation of FosterClub's Independent Living Teen Conferences, as well as other child welfare events taking place throughout the U.S. Youth will be selected to represent a diversity in foster care experiences, education, current paths (college, employment, job corps), etc. The online application will be available until Tuesday, February 15. To learn more about the internship opportunity or to apply, visit: <http://allstars.fosterclub.com/article/all-star-application-overview>.

IFAPA Conference Features Dr. Wayne Duehn

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Friday & Saturday
March 4th - 5th

Ramada Tropics Resort
& Conference Center
Des Moines

Don't Miss These
Deadlines Below!

IFAPA Conference
Registration Deadline
Mon., Feb. 14th

Ramada Hotel
Reservation Deadline
Wed., Feb. 2nd

There are limited hotel rooms available at the discounted rate and they are filling up fast, don't wait until Feb. 2nd! Hotel rooms fill up quickly during girls state basketball season in Des Moines.

SAMPLE OF CONFERENCE WORKSHOP TOPICS

About Dr. Wayne Duehn: Dr. Duehn is a professor at the School of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington. He has his Master's degree in Social Work from Loyola University and holds a Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Work from Washington University. He is currently engaged in clinical research on sexual attitudes and behaviors of sexually abusive parents. Dr. Duehn serves as a consultant to social service/mental health agencies in clinical, educational, research issues related to child sexual abuse and maintains a clinical practice focusing on marital counseling, sexual therapy and behavioral approaches to sexually abusive families, assessment and treatment of sex offenders, and post-traumatic effects of child sexual abuse.

You Little Devil You! How the Child Welfare System Demonizes Our Children - We have the best of intentions in rescuing children that have been abused and neglected. All children coming into the foster care system have experienced a series of traumatic happenings. While children can recover from these multiple traumatic events, one essential ingredient is a prerequisite to their healing, namely, safety. This presentation will delineate a number of policies, licensing requirements, and therapeutic practices that are critical in ensuring the safety of our children in care.

Creating Sexual Safety and Promoting Healing in Adoption and Foster Care - Professionals and foster/adoptive families will develop knowledge and parenting skills as we address the traumagenic issues/needs of foster/adopted children who have been sexually abused. Discover how to create a healing milieu to counteract the negative impact of past trauma on a child's psychosocial and cognitive development, and to enhance positive self-esteem.

Hurt and Loss: An Accelerated Course in Creating Safety and Healing for Children - The workshop covers the functions of close interpersonal connections and how attachment between children and families develop. Separation, loss, and the grieving process are described and discussed in terms of factors that affect the placement process and which factor into the degree that placement is perceived by the child as a traumatic happening. The workshop will consider specific ways to minimize the trauma of (frequent) moves when they must occur. Treatment of common behavioral problems of children in placement, both immediate interventions and the underlying needs, will be addressed.

Social worker CEUs are available for Dr. Duehn's workshops.

To learn more about the IFAPA Conference, hotel discounts and to print a registration form, visit: www.ifapa.org/training/ifapa_conference.asp