

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU Foster Parent Quarterly

July 2018

This quarter's featured article comes from **The-Happy-Manager's** team building resource webpage. Teamwork plays a very important role for the young people we are managing on a daily basis. Some helpful hints are included to improve Teamwork.



Why is TEAMWORK Important?

It's one thing to join a team, but quite another to perform as a team member. To put it simply, teams don't work without teamwork.

What is teamwork?

There are several ways to define teamwork but for some thoughtful color, why not think of it as the French do? The French language has an excellent expression to describe it: *esprit de corps*.

This means sense of unity, of enthusiasm for common interests and responsibilities as developed among a group of persons closely associated within a task, cause, enterprise, etc.

Teamwork can be likened to two compounds, almost essential to modern life: It's the **glue** which keeps a team *together*, a bond which promotes strength, unity, reliability and support. Teamwork is also the **oil** that makes the team *work*. It can enable smoother movement towards targets, can prolong forward momentum, and can help teams to overcome obstacles.

Teamwork has the potential to underpin so much of what is valuable in work. In fact, the benefits to be gained from teamwork synergies are essential for the effective management of resources.

It doesn't mean everybody is doing the same thing or everybody is able to do each other's jobs. It is more of a means to a synergistic way of working, where the sum is greater than the parts.

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our agency website at www.ysbiv.org.

If you would like to join our Foster Parent Facebook page please contact Kelley Lumpkin for an invite. She can be reached at kelleyl@ysbiv.org



“Teamwork” continued...

Properly managed, teamwork maximizes strengths...bringing out the best in each team member, which is a key theme on this website. These specific, possibly unique individual strengths are then complimented by the strengths of others, or of the team as a unit.

This article contains 8 good reasons why teamwork is important:

1. Creates synergy – where the sum is greater than the parts.
2. Supports a more empowered way of working, removing constraints which may prevent someone doing their job properly.
3. Promotes flatter and leaner structures, with less hierarchy.
4. Encourages multi-disciplinary work where teams cut across organizational divides.
5. Fosters flexibility and responsiveness, especially the ability to respond to change.
6. Pleases customers who like working with good teams (sometimes the customer may be part of the team).
7. Promotes the sense of achievement, equity and camaraderie, essential for a motivated workplace.
8. When managed properly, teamwork is a better way to work!

Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley’s Mission Statement is to **“help young people and families succeed by serving them in their home, school, and community.”** That sure is a lot of glue and oil for our young people.

Let’s introduce the Licensing TEAM in your area:

Kelley Lumpkin, Licensing Supervisor in the Aurora office. 630-820-6303, ext. 114

Tina McCullough, Licensing Caseworker , Aurora office. 630-820-6303, ext. 110

Jami Foster-Valenzuela, Licensing Caseworker, Ottawa office. 815-433-3953

Terri Pinder, Licensing Caseworker, Glen Ellyn office. 630-474-9601

Tracy Morgan, Licensing Caseworker, Rockford office. 815-316-1994

Ann Pastula, Licensing Caseworker, Rockford office. 815-316-1969.



OVERHEARD ON A MORNING RADIO SHOW

On May 25, 2018, a man named Richard called into an Illinois radio station called WBGL. The radio personality, Jonathon, asked for people's answers to what they wished they knew beforehand. Richard's response was that he wished he knew the importance of accepting others help.



Richard went on to state that he and his wife accepted DCFS placement of their then young grandson and have since adopted their grandson. Their grandson is now 12 years old. Richard and his wife were embarrassed that this was occurring in their family. So, Richard and his wife went through moments of being a victim and moments of being the hero. In both situations, he has learned that a person expects to do everything themselves without anyone else's help.

Richard believes that past situations would have gone better and smoother if he and his wife had accepted help offered by others. They learned the importance of teamwork and community the hard way. They are not victims nor heroes. They are one of the teachers by which their grandson is learning how to live in this world as he grows up.

Teamwork is vital to all of us for our learning and the learning of the children for whom we have been entrusted to care for. Have you sought out support groups, trainings, and advice of the child welfare professionals for resources?

TRAINING

There has been some confusion regarding training hours. It is the foster parent responsibility to keep track and notify the Licensing caseworker when a training is completed. In order for a traditional foster parent to renew their license, they must have completed 16 hours of training. At least one parent must complete **Educational Advocacy** within the first four years of the license. If you have a pool/hot tub/water hazard on your property, you must be **CPR/First Aid** certified. You can obtain certification through the Red Cross. YSB does not offer this training.

In order to renew a Specialized Foster parent license, you must have 16 hours of training per year, one parent completes Educational Advocacy, and if there is a water hazard, then you must be CPR/First Aid certified. If you have an expanded capacity license then the parents must do an additional 9 hrs. per year starting the year they increased capacity.

For more information, please check with your Licensing worker.

Mentor Resources

Big Brother/Big Sister programming at a local YMCA or YWCA

Boys and Girls Clubs

BACA/Bikers Against Child Abuse, advocacy and mentorship of assigned children/youth

Fox Valley Chapter (covers DeKalb, DuPage, Cook, Will, Kane and Kendall counties), president@fv-il.bacaworld.org

Blackhawk Chapter (covers Rockford Region and surrounding counties), president@bl-il.bacaworld.org

East Central IL Chapter (to the east of Peoria), president@ec-il.bacaworld.org

Heart of IL Chapter (south of Peoria but north of Springfield) president@hi-il.bacaworld.org

Recruiting:

*If you know of someone who might want to be a foster parent, please call **Kelley Lumpkin** at **630-820-6303 ext 114**.*

SUMMER FUN

Part of having summer fun is building structure and boundaries for the children that is lost when school is out. Have you found available local activities through park districts, YMCAs, and community centers for sports, day camps and overnight camps? For the little ones, are they registered for the summer schedules at the local day care center?

Another part of summer are vacations and weekend outings with your entire household. Have you informed your caseworker ahead of time so that the paperwork that she needs to fill out is completed and sent to DCFS's consent team. Remember your part of teamwork helps us all, especially the child.

The serious part of summer fun is safety needs. Do you have water safety gear for going out on a boat? Do you have the correct sunscreen SPF for the children in care? Do you have CPR and/or 1st Aid training? Will you be sure to see that a lifeguard is on duty at beaches and public pools?

You also need to keep up on any therapies required for the children in your care. This is important for the children to not lose any ground on their healing through their traumas. Remember, the therapists are also on the team for the child's care, so ask for time with the therapist to learn from the therapist how to care for the child in a healing therapeutic manner. This should always to be a part of the child's care and therapy.

TRAINING IDEAS

Does your work place require trainings that may tie back to care of the children? The 5 competencies are: 1) Protecting and Nurturing Children (which includes items like CPR and 1st Aid); 2) Meet Developmental Needs & Address Developmental Delays (including any therapeutic training); 3) Support Relationships Between Children & Families; 4) Connect Children to Safe Nurturing Relationships Intended to Last a Lifetime; and 5) Work as a Member of a Professional Team.

ONLINE WEBSITES

- www.fosterparentcollege.com
- www.attach.org
- www.fosterparentstest.com
- <http://dsc.uic.edu/>
- www.pepartnership.org/resources/search/advocacy/familymatters
- llearning.inccrra.org/providers/gateway-to-opportunity-trainings.html