



Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley



Foster Parent Quarterly

April 2019

*Children who have been involved in child welfare seem to be especially vulnerable (at risk) to traffickers and their influence over the children. An article by the OLP Foundation and **HumantraffickingSearch.Net** has shed some light on the subject. This newsletter briefly mentions some of this information and offers some resources to seek out for the safety of the children in your care.*

Foster Parents of the Quarter

Thomas “TJ” and Trinity Heck have been married for 10 years and have been together for 20. The couple originally began their foster care journey by helping out a family member whose child was born with substance exposure. They were willing to do whatever was necessary to help. Additionally, they recently took on another substance exposed infant and have been caring for him since his release from the hospital.

When the foster babies are sick in the hospital, both parents take turns to be there around the clock.

In addition to their foster family, they have three children of their own...two of which came through private adoptions.

On top of raising 5 children from the ages of 3 months to 18 years, they also run an in-home daycare together, which has been going strong for over 8 years.

Despite the long hard road they’ve travelled, TJ and Trinity have been there every step of the way with a positive attitude to ensure that all of these children are properly cared for, safe, and mostly, loved.

TJ and Trinity are not only amazing foster parents, but they are also genuinely great people with huge hearts. YSB is lucky to have such dedicated people on our team who believe so strongly in our mission.



“Like” the agency wide Facebook page, Instagram (ysbiv17), or Twitter (YSBofILValley), or visit 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



Human Trafficking

Most people know that because of risks to the safety and well-being of children, this topic is a concern to a child welfare agency. There are two types of trafficking: **Sex trafficking** which is recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person for a commercial sex act; and **Labor trafficking** which is recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion.

Statistics from the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse showed that 98% of children who are identified as survivors of sex trafficking had previous involvement with child welfare services, and many were legally in the care and custody of the state while they were being prostituted by traffickers. As many as 300,000–400,000 children are sexually exploited in the U.S. each year. At least 800,000 runaway children will be lured into sexual exploitation.



Here are some signs to recognize sex trafficking in youth:

keeping excess cash; hotel keys; lying about age/false ID's; engaging in prostitution or sex acts; any mention of a pimp or refers to an employer/boyfriend as "Daddy".

Several Signs of labor trafficking include: family relationships are not clear; person is excluded from family events;

physically exhausted; works long hours; child is fearful of family he/she lives with; child may not be in the child of 'parent' in the home; no evidence of legal guardian.

As overwhelming as the issue of human trafficking is, below we have listed some websites on ways to prevent this in your area. **Safe Families** (<https://safe-families.org/>) chapter in your area. Download a free tool kit to conduct a community assessment at (<https://engagetgether.com/toolkits>). Talk to young people about internet safety with NetSmartz (<https://www.netsmartz.org/Home>). Become a CASA volunteer, (<http://casaforchildren.org>). Human Trafficking on DCFS training website www.dcfstraining.org.

DCFS: Licensing Standards for Sleeping Arrangements

Babies: Your baby should not sleep in a bed, couch or chair with anyone, even other children. Always place the baby on their back to sleep. The baby should sleep in a crib with a firm mattress covered by a tightly fitted sheet. If you are having difficulty getting the baby to sleep, contact the pediatrician or the Fussy baby network at 1-888-431-BABY. Or visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Crib safety Information center at www.cpsc.gov for sleep safety tips and a list of recalled products.

Unrelated children under two years of age may share a bedroom with children of the opposite sex who are also under the age of two if each child is provided a separate bed or crib.



Children under six years of age may share a bedroom with related children of the opposite sex who are also under age six if each child is provided with a separate bed or crib.

A foster child may share a room a bedroom with his or her own children of either sex if each child is provided a separate bed or crib.

A foster child shall NOT share the bedroom with an adult except under emergency conditions for a brief period of time, when child is ill, needs frequent attention.

When adulthood (age 18) is reached by the foster, biological or adopted child for whom sharing the bedroom with a foster child under eighteen years of age has been determined to be in best interest of foster child and supervising agency.

DCFS requires each bedroom to have a window for ventilation, a bed that is off the floor with springs and mattresses that are clean and unsoiled with no rips, tears or sags and not infested with bugs. Bedding that is suitable for the season. Linens cleaned at least weekly or as often as needed. Waterproof covers provided on all mattresses for all beds/cribs in case of enuretic children. Suitably furnished with a dresser, closet and comfortable for the age and sex of the child in the room.

If you have any question regarding sleeping arrangements please refer them to your licensing representative.

Trainings

Educational Advocacy

- ***Saturday, May 18***
Aurora
- ***Tuesday's, March 19,
and March 26***
Dixon
- ***Saturday, March 23***
Glen Ellyn
- ***Monday's, May 13,
and May 20***
Joliet
- ***Thursday's, April 25,
and May 2***
Rockford

Recruiting:

Do you know anyone interested in an Informational meeting about fostering? Possibly a church group, social group or just a group of friends to learn more about foster care?

***Call Tasha at
630-820-6303 ext. 107***



Training, Training, Training

There seem to be a lot of foster parents scrambling to get training completed when it comes to renewing their foster parent license. Let's review the regulations regarding training hours:

If you hold a Traditional Foster Parent License and want to renew you must have 16 hours of training, and attended Educational Advocacy class in classroom.

If you hold a Home of Relative License and need to renew your license you must attend Educational Advocacy class in classroom.

If you hold a Specialized Foster Home License and want to renew you must have 16 hrs with an additional 4hrs each year for a total of 32 hrs.

If you have an Expanded Capacity License and want to renew you must have 16 hrs, Educational Advocacy and additional 9 hrs of approved training each calendar year, beginning the calendar year the expanded capacity licensed is issued.

You can find trainings on DCFS training website www.dcfstraining.org under the "on demand" icon. Scroll down to the class you might be interested in. Here we have listed a few:

1. **Trauma** 2.5 credit hours
2. **Keeping Children Connected to Siblings** 1.5 credit hours
3. **Human Trafficking** 3 credit hours
4. **Caregiver Social Media** 1.5 credit hours
5. **Normalcy-reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard** 0.5 hrs
6. **Life of a Case Part 1** 1.5 credit hours
7. **Life of a Case Part 2** 1.5 credit hours

Educational Advocacy Classes are listed in the column to the left on this page.

If you have any questions regarding training or signing up for a class, just ask you Licensing worker.