

Holiday: FCS office will be closed on 2/19/18 for Presidents Day

2018 Holiday Schedule: Please see page 2 of the newsletter for the agency holiday schedule.

Website: Our website has been updated. We are in the process of working out some bugs, so please be patient with us.

Resource Parent Training: The first class starts 3/15/18. Total training hours should be completed by 10/31/18. Your client supervisor can provide outside training resources if you are anxious to get started on your training requirements for this year.

ID Program Changes: The program is undergoing some of the biggest changes in years and we continue to collect information to help improve our quality and efficiency. We need the details of the service notes so please continue to document the service details daily. Caregiver pay enhancements effective January 1, 2018 include receiving supervision and transportation pay every day of the week when eligible. Daily pay rates now include the \$.35 increase to the daily Room & Board rate due to the SSI increase. The creation of Lifesharing respite is a significant change that provides \$50 vacation pay to the primary caregiver when the individual is absent for Lifesharing respite. This service is completely new and must be agency and ISP approved in order to be eligible. If you have questions, please talk with your client supervisor.

Tax Time!

Here is a brief list of the main things you need to know about your resource parent pay and your taxes;

1. Most resource parents will not receive a 1099 form because resource parent pay is generally exempt from federal income tax. Some types of respite may be the exception to this rule. By the end of this month, we will send you a 1099 form if required.
2. You will not receive a difficulty of care letter because difficulty of care certification is no longer needed to support the federal income tax exemption.
3. Foster parent pay is not taxable when paid by a qualified foster care placement agency for the care of qualified foster individuals. Family Care Services is a qualified placement agency and most of the clients we serve are qualified foster individuals; therefore, the income paid to resource parents is generally not taxable for federal income tax and should not be included in your federal return.
4. You may qualify for tax exemptions or credits because of your foster children. Please consult with a tax professional to determine if you qualify for any of these exemptions or credits.
5. We do not report resource parent pay to state or local tax authorities.
6. If you have questions about your resource parent income, please call Charlie at extension 122.

Financial Aid: Do you have clients who will be graduating from high school this year? It's time to really dig in to preparations for post-high school education! "Free" money is available to youth who have been in foster care or adopted, so don't miss out. The first step toward obtaining financial assistance is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application can be completed at the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) website, www.pheaa.org. The PHEAA website also has many other helpful resources and timelines for educational planning, so check it out!

Family members: It is important that FCS is notified prior to anyone new moving into your home. The programs have different requirements regarding guests, returning family members, and new placements; however, in most cases new physicals and criminal history checks are needed prior to anyone new moving into the home. It is important that all client supervisors working in your home are notified of home composition changes prior to anyone spending the night or any new placement or respite.

Room and Board: There was a 2% cost-of-living increase in social security rates effective January '2017; therefore room and board rates will increase for clients in Community Homes and Life Sharing (Family Living). The rate is \$18.27 per day, except when the client is on leave the rate is \$10.15

FCS Education & Training Center: We have added a bookshelf in the training room which contains many new training materials (DVDs and books). These materials are available to be signed out by you. Some of the training topics include: fetal alcohol syndrome, special education, autism, grief and loss, anger outbursts, childhood anxiety disorders, self harm, eating disorders, sexualized behaviors, ADD, ADHD, ODD and many more!

Free Training: The HCQU continues to provide monthly training opportunities at the Franklin County Annex Building. Caregiver training is available from 10 am-12 pm and consumer training is available from 1 pm-2pm. Caregivers are welcome to attend both topics. Upcoming caregiver training: 3/9 Respiratory Complications, 4/13 The Fatal Four, 5/11 ID and Psychiatric Disorders, and 6/8/18 Medication Errors. Upcoming consumer training: 3/9 Understanding Doctor Appointments, 4/13 Dental Appointments, 5/11 Environmental Safety and Awareness, and 6/8/18 Healthy Habits.

A wide selection of HCQU topics are available online that can be completed at your convenience and you can print the training certificate from home. Talk with your client supervisor for training details. You are required to register for the classes at the Annex.

\$100 Bonus!

Do you have friends or family that may be interested in being a resource family, caregiver, or adoptive parent? Let us know! When they provide care for 30 days, YOU get \$100! Invite them to contact our recruiting team leader Andrea Adams, ext. 209, aadams@familycareservices.org.

Are you on Facebook? "Like" our FCS page for helpful articles and blogs, links to community and online trainings and events, and encouragement! Find us at [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/FamilyCareServices)
[FamilyCareServices](http://www.facebook.com/FamilyCareServices)



FCS Contact List

Name	Ext.	E-mail address	Name	Ext.	E-mail address
Andrea Adams	209	aadams@familycareservices.org	Kara Shipp	210	kshipp@familycareservices.org
Angela Ciccarelli	163	aciccarelli@familycareservices.org	Kelly Kline	134	kkline@familycareservices.org
Charlie Ruthrauff	122	cruthrauff@familycareservices.org	Kristen Fisher	211	kfisher@familycareservices.org
Emilee Little	137	elittle@familycareservices.org	Nathan Sullivan	203	nsullivan@familycareservices.org
Kristina Weaver	213	kweaver@familycareservices.org	Pam Dice	124	pdice@familycareservices.org
Iratze Garrity	215	igarrity@familycareservices.org	Pauline Ruthrauff	123	pruthrauff@familycareservices.org
Jessica Briggs	129	jbriggs@familycareservices.org	Marsha Knoll	206	mknoll@familycareservices.org
Jessica Coons	132	jcoons@familycareservices.org	Rebekah Mowen	139	rmowen@familycareservices.org
John Fisher	111	jfisher@familycareservices.org	Sherri Holmes	143	sholmes@familycareservices.org
Johnnie Kayhoe	205	jkayhoe@familycareservices.org	Tony Fisher	200	tfisher@familycareservices.org

The FCS office will be closed on the following holidays:

2/19/18 President's Day
 3/30/18 Good Friday
 5/28/18 Memorial Day
 7/4/18 Independence Day
 9/3/18 Labor Day
 10/8/18 Columbus Day
 11/12/18 Veterans Day
 11/22&23/18 Thanksgiving
 12/25&26/18 Christmas
 1/1/19 New Year's

FCS Web Site! Calendar of events, Resource Family Manual, current forms, 12 months of this newsletter, resources, staff listing and phone numbers are all on:
<http://www.familycareservices.org>



Family Scholarships Available!

Adoption Coalition application (*due 4/5*) is at :
www.facebook.com/FamilyCareServices or ask
 Andrea at x209, adams@familycareservices.org

SWAN application (*due 2/23*) is at:
www.diakon-swan.org/swan/event/155/

Apply for a free trip to the Permanency Conference at the **Kalahari Resort** in the Poconos from June 13-15, 2018! Programs for children and youth are available, and everyone will have plenty of time in America's largest indoor waterpark! The Adoption Coalition of Franklin County is sponsoring two families to attend for free this summer, and SWAN also provides family scholarships. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with resource families from across the state, learn about issues that are important to you, and have a wet and wild time! The brochure of conference sessions will be available soon at www.diakon-swan.org, but time is running out to apply for scholarships! And check out the Kalahari at www.kalahariresorts.com!