

**Holiday:** FCS office will be closed on 3/30/18

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

**Contacting caseworkers:** We recently received notification from Franklin County Children and Youth that staff and foster parents should refrain from contacting Children and Youth staff after hours. This includes, but is not limited to, phone calls, text/sms messages, and social media messages. If you are experiencing an emergency after hours, please call FCS and follow the instructions to leave a message in the emergency mailbox which will alert our emergency worker. If you have a non-emergency, then please leave a voicemail message for your client supervisor. It is important to follow the chain of command and to be respectful of everyone's private time.

**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:** FCS training starts up in March so please review your training schedule. The first CPR/1st Aid class is 3/17/18. 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.

**Inspections:** The ID/DD Program recently completed 6400 inspection, Provider Qualification, and 6500 inspection. Thank you to everyone for doing such a great job. It takes a lot of work to keep your home inspection ready all the time and meet the service needs of the individuals.

**ID/DD 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. We anticipate that new caregiver daily pay rates will be finalized and paid in the April paycheck. We are still working on rates that are based on client needs level and number of individuals in the home.

**Life Sharing Respite:** ODP is changing the service details for life sharing respite which will have an impact on how we pay for this service. We've been told that a clarification will be provided as soon as it's finished but in the meantime we need to return to using substitute care for relief care.

### **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](http://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: 4/13 The Fatal Four, 5/11 ID and Psychiatric Disorders, and 6/8/18 Medication Errors. Upcoming consumer training: 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](mailto: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/FamilyCareServices](http://www.facebook.com/FamilyCareServices)



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# FCS Contact List

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**The FCS office will be closed on the following holidays:**

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\*\*](http://www.familycareservices.org)



## **Family Scholarships Available!**

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

SWAN application (*due 2/23*) is at: [www.diakon-swan.org/swan/event/155/](http://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](http://www.diakon-swan.org), but time is running out to apply for scholarships! And check out the Kalahari at [www.kalahariresorts.com](http://www.kalahariresorts.com)!