

**Caring for Kids Advisory Council Meeting
May 22, 2018 3 pm @ CCDJFS**

Present: John Hersh, Christy Cox, Mary Kay Washam, Lori Colian, Georgia Farmer,
Shanon Willaman, Rachel Ketterman, Eileen Dray-Bardon

Rachel welcomed members.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Update

The current balance in the Caring for Kids account as of May 21st, was \$142,846.25. 2018 receipts so far are \$6,136.59, and expenses are \$21,619.26.

Net expenses for the birthday allowances so far for 2018 are \$12,396.38 – 66 kids served.

Net expenses for Christmas 2017 were \$6,965.31 – 95 kids served.

There was discussion about possibly revising the birthday allowance policy. In 2014-2015, the birthday allowance amount of \$250 each was provided to kids in permanent custody only. In 2016, it was expanded to include kids in temporary custody. Georgia had concerns that \$250 for each child was too high, but Lori felt that kids in foster care do not receive anything else during the year. It was decided to discuss this further and to be planful about the decision the council makes and the best time to implement it (perhaps the end of the calendar year so that all kids receive their birthday allowances this year).

Child Activity Report

There are currently 78 children in foster care.

Children received into custody since the last meeting (March 27th):

- 2 between the ages of 4 & 6 (1 for physical abuse and 1 for dependency)
- one 8-year-old for dependency
- one 12-year-old for dependency/drug abuse of parent
- one 13-year-old for dependency & behavior issues
- one 14-year-old for dependency/drug abuse of parent
- one 15-year-old for abuse
- 1 infant received into custody today for drug abuse of parent

Children who left custody:

- 3 reunified
- 1 went with a relative
- 2 siblings were adopted

Birthday Gift Allowance Report

Gifts included clothes, shoes, toys, educational toys, art supplies, balls, dolls, and electronic toys.

Child-Specific Needs Update

Shanon reported that there were no specific needs.

Eileen reported that donations of 21 small kids' suitcases on wheels and 75 stuffed animals were received from the OSU Extension office. The Child Support Enforcement Agency Administrator, Debbie Kempers, goes out to the prison frequently and has brought back lap blankets crocheted by the prisoners for kids in foster care and for senior services customers. **Georgia would like to donate yarn for Debbie to take to the prisoners.**

Old Business

Georgia's church (East Fairfield Methodist Church) will be donating quilts for the 2 graduates in foster care – one boy and one girl.

Shanon reported that they will both be emancipating and will attend Youngstown State University through the Bridges and Independent Living programs. Children Services has been getting them items they will need, but they can always use more sheets and towels. They each received a special allocation in the amount of \$250.00 for children in foster care who are graduating. The girl does have a job, but Shanon was not sure if the boy was working. With the Bridges program, they will both still receive case management services.

New Business

Rachel reported that she was contacted by a woman who asked for our Caring for Kids Cookie Event invitation list for an event her organization was planning, but she did not give it to her in case we decide in the future to hold the cookie event again.

Georgia announced that her church is looking for a few speakers to speak briefly (about 2 minutes each) during their morning worship service (a special Mission service and Resource Fair) on Sunday, October 21st, at 9:30 am. Shanon suggested that perhaps CCDJFS foster parent recruiter, Sherry Smith, could come and speak and have a resource table there. She will speak to Sherry and will let Georgia know for sure who will be coming.

The next Caring for Kids Advisory Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 24th, at 3 pm in the CCDJFS Community Room.