



Making A Difference

CAF AF

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE OF FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

COMMUNIQUÉ

HAPPY SPRING

The Board of Directors and staff at the Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families would like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy spring!

Support newly licensed families!
BE A BUDDY
Training and stipend provided

Are you an experienced Foster Parent?

Are you an experienced Relative Foster Parent?

When you were newly Licensed, do you remember all the questions you had when your first foster child came into your home?

Do you remember wondering what resources were available to you?

Do you remember thinking, "If only I had another foster parent to talk to who has shared the same experience?"

If you remember all of these times, then you might enjoy being a buddy!

Call **Wendy Sander**,
Peer Network Coordinator at
1-800-861-8838
Or email wendy.sander@cafafct.org

Are you interested in being a Foster Parent?
An Adoptive Parent?
Want to know how you could become a Kinship Family?
Call **1.888.KID-HERO**

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



As we go to “press” we are in the middle of the coronavirus upheaval to our daily lives. CAFAF will continue to assist DCF and our state’s foster and adoptive families in any way that we can.

CAFAF has done a lot of work along with DCF staff and dozens of Connecticut’s not-for-profits and other state agencies in discussing our options as a state in designing services under the federal Families First Preservation provisions. At the same time, DCF’s Foster and Adoptive Services Unit (FASU) has asked for CAFAF’s help in focusing on numerous ways to centralize and unify the FASU work across the 14 offices. There are 6 working committees for the Families First work and 7 working committees for the FASU work. CAFAF is happy to participate and thankful for the invitation to join the department in these areas. This work of course is “on hold for now” as all attention has turned to stopping the spread of the virus.

We were very disappointed that we could not hold Avenue of Dreams this year. As soon as Governor Lamont urged no meetings with more than 250 people, we pulled the plug on the event. Because we expect many proms to be cancelled, we worked to secure the event for **Saturday March 13, 2021** at the Trumbull Marriott.

Also rescheduled is our annual conference at the Omni Hotel. Our new dates are October 23 – 24, 2020. Please mark your calendar!!

Behind the scenes, CAFAF staff have been working our new technology grant consultants to expand additional online post-licensing training modules and the development of an app for Android and Apple cell phones. We are excited about it and we will be using it at our annual conference.

Please keep up the good work washing hands and maintaining social distances. Hopefully the weather will cooperate so everyone, especially the children, can get outside for some fresh air.

Margaret Doherty
Executive Director

Board of Directors

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Director

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Director

Communiqué is published in both English and Spanish language four times a year by the Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families, Inc. CAFAF is a non-profit organization devoted to the strengthening of foster, adoptive and relative care families through support, training, and advocacy with the aim of nurturing child safety, well being and stability in partnership with child welfare professionals and the community.

The Alliance would like to thank the Connecticut Department of Children and Families for the funding we receive.

AVENUE OF DREAMS

AVENUE OF DREAMS 2020 REGISTRATION IS LIVE

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

TRUMBULL, CT

SIGN IN IS FROM 7:00-8:00 AM (Please don't arrive prior to 7:00 a.m.)

EVENT BEGINS AT 8:15 AM



CANCELLED

**New date
3/13/2021**

Join us for a day of workshops, trainings, empowerment and more. Saturday, March 14 from 8:15 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This event is for foster, adoptive, relative care teens and anyone with DCF involvement.

Registration is mandatory. Breakfast and lunch provided. Every teen will have the opportunity to select free prom dresses and formal tux attire; professional hair artists, makeup artists and barbers will be on site to provide styles.

Online Registration only. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact 860-258-3400.

To register, please visit <https://cafafct.org/calendar/>



LGBTQ WELCOME

Contact: Catherine Davis at 860-258-3400

E-mail: Catherine.davis@cafafct.org



CORONAVIRUS

CAFAF's Plan for Corona Virus Preparedness

CAFAF has developed the following prevention plan which is now in operation.

All CAFAF employees have begun working from home until further notice. Employees will be returning phone messages left for them, sending and returning emails. The Rocky Hill office is closed to the public until further notice.

CAFAF will maintain its 24/7 HelpLine (1-888-223.2780)

DCF has asked us to remind our families that if there is an exposure in your home, you should notify your support worker and the DCF Careline at (1-800-842-2288). Please also read the memo from Commissioner Dorrantes on the next 2 pages.

Please remind members of your home to wash their hands often and to the tune of "Happy Birthday" and to avoid touching their faces. Stay informed by watching the news, listening to the radio and/or reading the newspaper. You can also go to www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch and/or www.ct.gov/coronavirus

Please stay healthy.

CORONAVIRUS



Vannessa L. Dorantes
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES *Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities*



Ned Lamont
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Licensed Caregivers
FROM: Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes
DATE: March 10, 2020
SUBJECT: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparedness

As Connecticut experiences the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Department of Children Families is taking proactive steps to be as prepared as possible. The Department is doing everything we can to ensure the safety and health of the children in care as well as of the parents entrusted to provide care, including the household members. For that reason, the Foster Care Division is asking for your help to obtain the following information:

- Are there household members with **health issues**? (*The Department has a listing of children who are medically complex.*)
- What is the employment status of parents? Do parents **stay at home** full time or are they employed?
- Do you plan out-of-state **travel**?
- What is your emergency **childcare plans** in the event your child's school closes or you are otherwise unavailable to provide care?
- Do you have **WIFI or internet service and a computer or other device your child can use for online learning**?
- Have you provided your child's **school** with your **emergency contact information** in the event of early dismissal or closing?
- What is your **email and/or cell phone** number to update **Everbridge** (*mass alert notification system*)?

Please expect a call from your Foster Care Support Social Worker to verify and/or obtain the above information. The Therapeutic Foster Care Agencies (TFC) will contact their licensed caregivers directly.

Please note that to ensure timely, immediate and consistent responses, the Foster Care Division's Placement Specialists (Matcher) in each region will serve as the point of contact for ***all*** licensed caregivers to:

- Obtain a **signed Permission to Treat** (460a) for medical care including treatment and testing (*460a provides consent for a medical evaluation and treatment*); and
- Notify the Department should a child, caregiver or household member have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

The contact information for the Placement Specialists/Matcher is included in the table below. Their phones are always covered during the hours of 8:00 to 5:00 M-F. Afterhours, please contact the Careline at 1 800 842-2288. Please note the Placement Specialist/Matcher **cannot provide medical advice or updates**. Please contact your medical provider or for the latest information, resources, and guidance related to coronavirus (COVID-19), visit **ct.gov/coronavirus**. Guidance from the federal government can be found by visiting the CDC's website at **cdc.gov**.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
www.portal.ct.gov/DCF
An Equal Opportunity Employer

CORONAVIRUS

SUBJECT: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparedness

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Please also be aware that **symptoms** of COVID-19 can include:

- Fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Everyone should follow some **basic steps to keep themselves healthy:**

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based sanitizer;
- Avoid shaking hands as a greeting;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Stay home when you are sick;
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash; and
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Matchers:

Regions	Last name	First Name	Desk	Cell	Area Offices
1	Innocent	Fritz	203-384-5537	203-673-5006	Bridgeport, Norwalk
2	Hayre	Mark	203-306-5359	203-687-0848	New Haven, Milford
3	Kaiser	Kathleen	860-892-2920	860-705-6322	Norwich
3	Escarraman	Ileana	860-450-2034	860-213-2556	Willimantic
3	Maxfield	Kathleen	860-638-2145	860-503-4319	Middletown
4	Ebo	Veronica	860-418-8185	860-418-8185	Hartford, Manchester
4	Mack	Jennifer	860-418-8176	860-418-8176	Hartford, Manchester
5	Lovetere	Jenn	203-721-8722	860-601-1662	Waterbury, Torrington, Danbury
5	Tousey	Renee	203-721-8730	860-601-1641	Waterbury, Torrington, Danbury
6	Burgos	Glenda	860-832-5101	860-982-2649	New Britain, Meriden

Finally, thank you for opening your home and your heart to the children in your care. Together, we will get through this challenging situation. There is no reason to be alarmed, and please know that we will be there with you as we prepare to respond and act.

CORONAVIRUS



MEMORANDUM

TO:	DCF All Staff
FROM:	CT DCF Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes
DATE:	March 17, 2020
SUBJECT:	Guidelines Regarding Visits Between Families and Children in Care

We have collaborated with our partners in the Judicial Branch in the event visits between families and children in care must be postponed.

The Courts will remain open for "Priority 1 Business Functions" as identified in the guidance provided here: [Statement from Judge Patrick L. Carroll III Chief Court Administrator](#)

Additional information pertaining to Detention Centers and Detention Hearings is available here: [JCC & JRS Response to the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Caregivers may inquire about postponing visitation with particular children in care due to their special health care needs or those of others in the household. We want to be consistent in our review of these requests. In these circumstances, consultation with the RRG Nurse as well as our Medical Director is warranted.

Decisions to change the visitation schedule should only occur after consultation with the chain of command and other individuals within the office. Under these circumstances, we must offer the family and child alternatives such as, Skype, Face time, phone calls, etc., when face to face visits do not occur.

It is important the Department maintains clear documentation in the LINK record as to why the visits are not occurring and the personnel involved in the decision making. Staff should also notify the legal counsel of the child and family regarding the change in visitation schedule during the time these emergency accommodations are in effect.

Again, we remain very appreciative of everyone's efforts during these very difficult times.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DONATIONS



COMING SOON!!

LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF TICKETS TO THE 2020 [DUNKIN DUGOUT](#) TO THE HARTFORD YARD GOATS 5/31/2020 GAME. EACH ATTENDEE WILL RECEIVE A FOAM FINGER AND THE ENTIRE GROUP WILL HAVE THE OPTION TO TAKE AN ON-FIELD PHOTO PRIOR TO THE GAME.

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS. REACH OUT TO CATHERINE.DAVIS@CAFAFCT.ORG



VISIT THE CAFAF TABLE AT THE 2020 [FERRY PARK FARMERS MARKET](#)

JULY 29, AUGUST 26, SEPTEMBER 2 4:00-7:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 30 3:00-6:00 P.M.



[Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors](#) donated \$500.00 to the Children's Hope Fund.

EASTER BRUNCH IDEAS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

- 1) [Artisan](#)
- 2) [Amarante's Sea Cliff](#)
- 3) [Griswold Inn](#)
- 4) [Infinity Hall Norfolk](#)
- 5) [Saint Clements Castle](#)
- 6) [L'escale restaurant and Bar](#)
- 7) [Shell and Bones](#)
- 8) [Abigail's Grill and Wine Bar](#)
- 9) [Flemings](#)
- 10) [J. Gilberts](#)
- 11) [Bee and Thistle Inn](#)
- 12) [Bistro on Main](#)
- 13) [Mill on the River](#)
- 14) [Pond House Café](#)
- 15) [Avert](#)
- 16) [Millwrights](#)
- 17) [Firebox Restaurant\](#)
- 18) [Market Grille](#)
- 19) [River: A Waterfront Restaurant and Bar](#)
- 20) [Metro Bis](#)
- 21) [The North House](#)
- 22) [Treva](#)
- 23) [Park and Oak](#)



EVEN MAKE BRUNCH AT HOME WITH SOME OF THESE AWESOME RECIPES

[Hashbrown Egg Cups](#)

[Grilled Cheese Egg in a Hole](#)

[Pancake Fruit Tarts](#)

[Sheet Pan Eggs](#)

[Avocado Toast](#)

[Lemon Elderflower Waffles](#)

[Cauliflower Egg in a Hole](#)

SUMMER CAMPS



Summer is approaching quickly. Boys and Girls ages 4 to 13 are welcome. Programs include swimming, nature, arts and crafts, archery and team sports. Also offered are programs such as rock climbing, zip lining, and cooking. The annual open house will take

place on May 3 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. To learn more about this summer camp, click [here](#).



This experience is designed for boys entering 6th, 7th or 8th grades. This 3 week program offers the best academics and recreation and is focused on the 3 C's of 21st century learning. Critical thinking, creativity and collaboration. Daily recreational activities will include dodgeball, flag football, knockout, shooting contests, table tennis, ultimate Frisbee and more. To learn more about this program, click [here](#).

The Guilford Riding School
INC.



The Guilford Riding School Summer Half Day Program is for children ages 8-14 and runs weekly from late June through August. The sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m and there is also a 1-5 p.m. session. The curriculum includes a barn seminar in grooming, tacking and horse care. For more information, please click [here](#).

AIR
TEMPLE
ARTS

WOODBIDGE
EAST HAMPTON



Join the Intensive Summer Youth Program at Air Temple. This program is perfect for practiced youth looking to hone their aerial skills and for beginners looking for a challenge in a safe, fun and supportive environment. The exclusive summer class will run 1.5 hours twice per week and includes instruction in a variety of aerial disciplines including silks, trapeze and Lyra. To learn more about this program, click [here](#).

REGULATION REMINDER

DCF HAS ASKED CAFAF TO REMIND FOSTER PARENTS OF THIS IMPORTANT REGULATION. PLEASE READ AND KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

Section 17a-145-152 Criminal History; Pending Criminal Actions; History of Child Abuse or Neglect

(a) The granting of a license or approval shall be denied if any member of the household of a foster family or prospective adoptive family:

- (1) Has been convicted of injury or risk of injury to minor or other similar offenses against a minor
- (2) has been convicted of impairing the morals of a minor or other similar offenses against a minor;
- (3) has been convicted of violent crime against a person or other similar offenses;
- (4) has been convicted of the possession, use, or sale of controlled substances within the past five (5) years;
- (5) has been convicted of illegal use of a firearm or other similar offenses;
- (6) has ever had an allegation of child abuse or neglect substantiated; or
- (7) has had a minor removed from their care because of child abuse or neglect.

(b) The renewal of a license or approval may be denied if any member of the household of a foster family or prospective adoptive family:

- (1) Has been convicted of injury or risk of injury to a minor or other similar offenses against a minor;
- (2) has been convicted of impairing the morals of a minor or other similar offenses against a minor;
- (3) has been convicted of violent crime against a person or other similar offenses;
- (4) has been convicted of the possession, use, or sale of controlled substances;
- (5) has been convicted of illegal use of a firearm or other similar offenses;
- (6) has ever had an allegation of child abuse or neglect substantiated; or
- (7) has had a minor removed from their care because of child abuse or neglect.

(c) The granting or renewal of a license or approval may be denied if any member of the household of a foster family or prospective adoptive family:

- (1) Is awaiting trial, or is on trial, for charges as described in subdivisions (1) through (5) of subsection (a) of this section;
- (2) has a criminal record that the department or child placing agency believes makes the home unsuitable; or
- (3) has a current child abuse or neglect allegation pending;

(d) No approval shall be renewed if the holder of such approval knowingly arranges for the substitute care of a child by a person described in subsection (a) or (c) of this section.

(Effective February 20, 1997)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Legislature

The CT State Legislature opened the 2020 session on January 9, 2020 and its ends on June 5th. Most of the potential bills have been filed and referred to committees. Hearings on the bills have been held. The committees then met to vote on the bills to decide which bills move forward. In this short session, all bills are presented by committees rather than individual sponsors.

To read more about these proposed bills, you may go to www.cga.ct.gov.

Bills of interest:

S.B. 113, “An Act Concerning Access to Original Birth Certificates by Adult Adopted Persons.” This would permit all adult (over 18 years of age) adopted individuals access to their original birth certificates and not just those adults whose adoptions were finalized on or after October 1, 1983. This legislation has many co-sponsors in the legislature and is widely supported. It passed out of the Planning and Development Committee and is being reviewed in the Legislative Commissioners’ Office.

S.B. 156, “An Act Concerning Financial Assistance for Post-Secondary Education Expenses for Youth Adopted Through the Department of Children and Families Foster Care Program.” This would expand the eligibility criteria for post-secondary education expenses for individuals adopted through DCF’s foster care program on or after January 1, 2001. It passed unanimously in the Childrens’ Committee and is now being reviewed in the Legislative Commissioners’ Office.

S.B. 283, “An Act Extending the Age of Eligibility for Legal Representation Provided by the Department of Children and Families.” This would extend the eligibility to received legal representation through DCF from age 18 to 23. The bill passed unanimously in the Childrens’ Committee and is now being reviewed in the Legislative Commissioners’ Office.