

MCFAPA hosts 'Coffee Talk' Support Group at Educational Summit



MCFAPA hosted a "Coffee Talk" session at the Educational Summit. For those of you that have not had the opportunity to attend a session, Coffee Talk is a confidential support group that meets quarterly, in conjunction with our regularly quarterly meetings, and offers foster parents a conduit to be able to openly share concerns and experiences about being a foster parent.

Saturday's Coffee Talk offered an incredible experience to be amongst outstanding foster parents. As always, foster parents feel the need to do more for the foster children they serve. The most popular requests from foster parents were to 1) know their rights and 2) have a contribution in the court. The foster parent rights are listed below and a Foster Parent Court Summary has been created and is in the process of being approved for admission. As always, Coffee Talk is a way to connect, communicate and confide in fellow foster parents. MCFAPA's goal is always to support our foster families, be advocates for foster children and contribute positively to the foster care process. Our quarterly meetings are held 10a-12p November 5, 2011, January 21, 2012, April 21, 2012, July 21, 2012, and October 27, 2012. The next meeting will be held at Bob Walton Plaza, 700 Stonewall Street, Charlotte, NC 28212.

Foster Parents have the right to:

- 1. Be treated with consideration, respect for personal dignity, and privacy.*
- 2. Be included as a valued member of the service team.*
- 3. Receive support services which assist in the care of the child in their home including an open and timely response from agency personnel.*
- 4. Be informed of all information regarding the child that will impact their home or family life during the care of the foster child*
- 5. Have input into the permanency plan for the child in their home.*
- 6. Assurance of safety for their family member.*
- 7. Assistance in dealing with family loss and separation when a child leaves their home.*
- 8. Be informed of all agency policies and procedures that related to their role as foster care giver.*
- 9. Receive training that will enhance their skills and ability to cope as foster care givers.*
- 10. Be informed of how to receive services and reach personnel on a 24 hour day 7 days a week basis.*

- 11. Be granted a reasonable plan for relief from the role of foster care giver.*
- 12. Confidentiality regarding issues that arise in their foster family home.*
- 13. Not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, color, creed, sex, national origins, age, or physical handicap.*
- 14. Receive evaluation and feedback on their role of foster care giver.*

We hope to see at our next Coffee Talk!

Suzi Allora , Vice President – Mecklenburg County Foster Parent Association

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