

Holiday: FCS office will be closed on 2/20/17



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

Employee changes: We welcome Johnnie Kayhoe to FCS. She was hired to work in our Family-Based Program.

Hiring: We are considering options to hire in our Developmental Disabilities Program and/or our Foster Care Program. Please pass the word and check our website for more information.

CRR Homes: We need more homes interested in the CRR Program. These children often need extra mental health and behavioral support which also means the pay is higher. If you think you are ready to help these children or know someone else that would do well with these children, please contact us.

\$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. Her email is aadams@familycareservices.org.

Family members: It is important that FCS is notified prior to anyone new moving into your home. The different programs have different requirements regarding guests and returning family members; however, in most cases new physicals and criminal history checks are needed prior to anyone new moving into the home.

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!

Room and Board: There was a small cost-of-living increase in social security rates effective January 2017; therefore room and board rates will increase for clients in Community Homes and Family Living. The rate is \$17.92 per day, except when the client is on leave the rate is \$9.93.

Resource Parent Training. The 2017 Training Plans and instructions are included. Please select classes and have your client supervisor approve the plans at your earliest convenience. The first available class is scheduled for 3/16/17.

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. Training is available from 10 am-12 pm and 1 pm-3pm. 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 dates and topics. You are required to register for the classes at the Annex.

FCS Contact List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ext.</u>	<u>E-mail address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Ext.</u>	<u>E-mail address</u>
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The FCS office will be closed on the following holidays:

2/20/17	President's Day
4/14/17	Good Friday
5/29/17	Memorial Day
7/4/17	Independence Day
9/4/17	Labor Day
10/9/17	Columbus Day
11/10/17	Veterans Day
11/23&24/17	Thanksgiving
12/25&26/17	Christmas
1/1/18	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>

2017 PA Permanency Conference Family Scholarship!

The Adoption Coalition of Franklin County is again sponsoring a free trip to the conference for one lucky family! The conference is at the Kalahari Waterpark Resort in the Poconos from June 28-30. This is a great experience for families, as parents can choose from many sessions related to foster care, adoption, and independent living issues, while children participate in the organized children or youth programs. And don't forget the 220,000 square feet of waterpark that is included! Applications will be available by the end of February and are due by April 1. For an application, ask your client supervisor, contact Andrea Adams, or check out the ACFC or FCS Facebook pages. Consider attending this conference even if you are not selected for the ACFC scholarship. Families can also apply for other scholarships on the conference application. There is a conference rate at the resort, and rooms sleep up to 6 with waterpark admission included. Part of the conference includes a large adoption matching event, with agencies from all over PA. More info about the conference will be posted on FB when it is available, and info about the resort is at www.kalahariresorts.com/pennsylvania.