

**Holiday:** FCS office will be closed on 4/14/17



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**New Hire:** Rebekah Mowen was hired to work in children’s placement services.

**CRR Homes:** There has been an increase of children diagnosed with a mental health illness needing out of home placements. We need more homes interested in serving these children in our CRR Program. You already know what it takes to be good parents and can explain this information to others. Please speak with your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. If you know of others that may be interested in opening their homes to these children and adolescents, please pass the word. Contact Andrea Adams if you know anyone that might be ready to help these children. Thank you so much for any assistance you can provide.

**\$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](mailto: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](http://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 \$9.96.

**Resource Parent Training.** The first class is scheduled for 3/16/17 so please review training. The Training Plans are different for each program; however, all plans should include a summary of how and when total hours will be completed. There are a wide range of good trainings available outside of FCS so it is important to include these hours in your plan. Client supervisors will assist with locating these training resources and help monitor hours completed.

**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. Upcoming topics: Cardiovascular System on 4/28/17, Understanding Brain Injury on 5/12/17, and Everyday Lives and Recovery on 6/9/17. 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.

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