

TREATMENT/AGENCY SUPPORTED FOSTER CARE FACTS

Contributed by Sharon Heckathorn and Kadi Holmberg

Visinet Omaha would like to extend an invitation to all their foster parents and youth to attend K.J.'s Carts for Kids fourth annual celebration. This event will be held on August 10th from 1 to 5 pm at the Digz, 4428 S. 140th St here in Omaha. This is a time to celebrate and connect with other foster parents in the Omaha area. Please come and enjoy bands, clowns, skateboarding, and so much more. Thanks for all that you do and enjoy this event that has been planned to honor you.

School is just around the corner. Please communicate with the foster parents in order to have all schedules arranged for when school starts. Starting an earlier bedtime will help the youth with a smoother transition back to the school schedule. If a youth is transferring schools all records must be transferred as well. Foster parents should also have transportation to and from school arranged. Daycare of other community programs fill up quickly, so make plans now to ensure that before and after school care is set up in advance. It is also a good idea for the foster parents to have a backup plan in case the child becomes ill at school.

Open communication is an important part of working as a team. If you have a concern or are unsure of how to handle a situation with your foster child please be sure to communicate to the supervisor or specialist assigned to your home. They are there to encourage you and provide support when difficult situations arise.

If you know anyone who would be interested in becoming a foster parent please refer them to Pat Samuel at 898-8881 X 1010 and in Lincoln, contact Kadi Holmberg at 464-8866 X 1022.

Visinet, Inc. offers a complete full-time benefits package including medical, dental and life insurances, 401(k) plan with company match, paid time off and more. Contact your coordinator for more information, see if you qualify, and find out the requirements.

All Visinet, Inc. employees are required to attend a 30-minute weekly meeting with their supervisor. Employees in a dual role will attend weekly meetings with each supervisor. If you cannot attend your scheduled weekly meeting, you must call your supervisor in advance to reschedule. These weekly meetings should discuss case issues/concerns, appropriate interventions, Visinet, Inc. mission, goals, and philosophy and on-going training on PSMs/EM and Family/Person Centered Practice. Additionally, CFSR and DHHS trends should also be discussed to keep staff abreast of community state changes.

Visinet, Inc. employees are responsible for the information contained herein.

SAFETY & IN-HOME SERVICES SOUND OFF

Contributed by Shane Berry, Angi Allphin, Mindy Wall and Jennifer Warren

Visinet welcomes this opportunity to showcase the Families F.I.R.S.T. model. The Families F.I.R.S.T. training will be paramount to utilizing experience, education, and skills with our families, ensuring that collectively we become versed in our contract and share a universal language across our continuum and office locations. During this period of transition should you have any questions please consult the Team Leaders or Safety and In-Home Services Coordinators for more information on available trainings.

Safety & In-Home Services Families F.I.R.S.T. Team

<u>ESA</u>	<u>SESA</u>	<u>CSA</u>
<u>Safety Services Coordinators:</u> Shane Berry	Cinda Konken	Jen Warren
<u>In-Home Services Coordinators:</u> Angi Allphin	Mindy Wall	Jen Warren
<u>Team Leaders:</u> Stephanie Jacobs Radiance Klein Rechelle Lewis Melissa Podkovich	Sarah Palmer Pat Sneckenberg Candace Sturgeon	Julie Landreth Kelley Mast Lisa Soto

The new Safety & In-Home Services Program includes the array of services:

In-Home Safety – Family stabilization; observation; implementation of safety plan; *Florida Supervised Visitation Training Standards, Guiding Skills in High-Risk Families Phases I & II, Protective Capacity Assessment.*

Residential Safety – Skill acquisition; early childhood activities; school transportation; *Building Skills in High-Risk Families: Strategies for the Home-Based Practitioner.*

Family Engagement – Family meetings, including non-custodial parents; assessment; genograms and ecomaps (Wonder Ware).

Intensive Family Preservation – Intensive crisis intervention; counseling; life-skills education; *Building Skills in High-Risk Families Phases I & II.*

Family Support – Identification and building of family strengths; assessment; *Building Skills in High-Risk Families Phases I & II.*

Visitation/Supervision – Facilitate, contact, and supervise interactions; control and manage child safety; evaluate safety plan and protective capacities; *Florida Supervised Visitation Training Standards.*

Electronic Monitoring/Global Positioning System – Structured supervision; activate and passive GPS.

Tracker – Intervention; social skills; educational support; coordination of services; pre and post-test assessment; transportation.

Drug Screening and Testing – U.S. DHHS Standards; SAMHSA approved verification site; verification review by trained staff; 10-panel 1-cup test.

Respite – Planned and crisis respite; reengagement services after respite; review of safety plan and parental protective capacities.

Not sure where to find the right human services in your area?

Now "getting the 2-1-1" is easier than ever—with access to statewide information on services such as mental health, housing, and legal assistance.

Search the comprehensive human services database at www.ne211.org or dial 2-1-1.

Human Services in Nebraska
2-1-1TM
Get Connected. Get Answers.
www.ne211.org

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Articles contributed by Sara Crandall, Jenny Crank, Mindy Hinton and Jackie Winbolt

CTA CONNECTION

The month of August can mean celebrations with family and friends, summer vacations, or even time off to relax. In the midst of all this, we do not want to forget about our responsibilities. Being responsible in our own lives can help us instill these skills in our clients. It can help us learn to be leaders and make good decisions. Responsibility can be shown in many different ways. Here are some things to keep in mind as you enjoy the end of a busy summer that can also be used in your sessions with clients to help them become more responsible too.

Being responsible for our actions. Do you complete work on time? Do you take initiative? Do you follow expectations?

Being responsible for our words. Do you follow through with what you say you will do? What kinds of words are you using to explain something (kind or unkind)? Do you think before you speak? You cannot control what others say to you, but you can control what you say back.

Being responsible for our thoughts. You have the power to decide what you think about. Try ignoring negative thoughts by replacing them with more positive ones. Think about what is going good, or what is working for you.

Being organized. By being organized it is much easier to follow through with things. You can write things down that need to be done, have specific places for certain things, and/or create a timeline of when things need to be done.

Being able to make good choices. Are you able to weigh the pros and the cons? Do you gather all the facts? Be sure to make a decision that is the right thing to do as well as the best thing for you!

Friendly Reminder: Please make plans to change your schedules accordingly as clients will be returning to school in the next few weeks. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

IN-SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Omaha

August 4 MANDT 9-5

August 5 and 7 MANDT 5-9

August 25 CPR/First Aid 9-5

August 26 CPR 5-9

August 28 First Aid 5-9

Lincoln/Grand Island - N/A

IN-HOME THERAPY NEWS

The therapeutic relationship and the trust built between a client and therapist is one of the most essential parts of the healing process. When trust is present, a client feels safe to explore feelings, develop new perspectives, and try out new behaviors. The following tips from The Counselor Intern's Handbook, 3rd Edition are helpful in developing client trust:

Make sure that your client has your full attention when they are speaking. Try to demonstrate your caring in both verbal and nonverbal ways.

Start and end sessions on time, and do your best to maintain the regularity of the appointments scheduled. Whenever possible, give your client plenty of advance notice if you will be on vacation or unavailable for regular sessions.

Always follow through on counseling-related tasks that you have discussed with your client, such as finding a support group or a list of helpful books.

Do not talk about the specific details of problems of other clients, even without mentioning their names. Clients may feel that their own time with the counselor is intruded upon when attention is focused on other clients during the session. This could also be considered a breach of confidentiality.

Maintain professional boundaries at all times. Do not disclose intimate personal information or discuss your own problems. Clients may feel obligated to take care of your needs and emotions, rather than attending to their own.

BEHAVIORAL LEARNING CENTER

During the month of August we will be finishing up summer activities and preparing for the new school year. The theme for August will be "Outer Space" and we will focus our activities around that. The activities will be geared around planets, stars, astronauts, spaceships and these are just to name a few. All of the youth really enjoy painting so a lot of the art projects will involve painting. The youth also love to read and look at books, so we will include books about Outer Space too.

The youth at the BLC enjoyed participating in the Fourth of July festivities. The youth had a day where they got to play with water balloons and water guns, and an indoor picnic where they ate special Fourth of July snacks. Fourth of July necklaces were earned and taken home for the children who earned weekly reward. Everyone did a great job interacting appropriately during these fun activities. Staff addressed safety concerns with the children that may arise during firework displays.

Many of our presently enrolled youth will be of age to start school in the fall; therefore, our program will be focused around the preschoolers, also allowing availability for the after school program. Beginning in August, the new BLC curriculum will be an accredited preschool program through "Funshine Express". The BLC staff look forward to a new school year starting and to enhance the learning of these special needs youth.



VISINET, INC.

- Treatment Foster Care
- Agency Supported Foster Care
- Intensive Family Preservation
- Individual and Family Therapy
- Outpatient Psychological Services
- Outpatient Psychiatric Services
- Comprehensive Assessments
- Behavioral Learning Center
- Community Treatment Aide
- Crisis Response Team
- Family Support
- Supervised Visitation
- Escort/Transportation
- Drug/Alcohol Screening
- Parent Partnering
- Substance Abuse Assessment/Treatment

PHILOSOPHY

Visinet, Inc. believes that working with the entire family within their natural environment is essential. Service design must be individually tailored to suit each family in order to implement the most effective methods, thereby reducing significant barriers. Visinet stresses the need for culturally competent professionals that have the ability to assess clients within the family's own cultural and social context. We believe that everyone receiving services will develop best within the framework of respect, accountability, and open communication.

MISSION

Visinet's mission is to provide families and individuals with a stable, nurturing and secure environment for the promotion of healthier family functioning. We encourage people to be self-sufficient; utilizing community resources when necessary. Every effort should be made to prevent extended out of home placement and maintain the least restrictive environment possible.

GOAL

Visinet's goal is to provide families and individuals the skills necessary to improve their quality of life.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Omaha Office:

4 Years: Miranda Stelk
Heidi Terrell
3 Years: Rechelle Lewis
1 Years: Tamika Dale
Tracy Hortman
Kathryn Korth
Shawn Riddle
Melvin Whitcomb
Kristy Zorn

Lincoln Office:

4 Years: Deanna Johnson
2 Years: Paul Oakland
1 Year: Kyla Chocholousek

Grand Island Office:

1 Year: Wanda Fedorchik
Susan Graf

SUGGESTIONS

Someone suggested that Visinet put pillows in the rooms for comfort on the floors for kids who can't stand and play. Due to sanitary reasons we do not provide items that need constant laundering. Please feel free to bring any item you deem necessary for the comfort of your visit, this includes any special toy your child may cherish. If you are unsure about what can and cannot be brought to visits, please feel free to ask your Family Partner, Family Assistant, or Team Leader.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Summer is here and that means hot weather. Please be careful to ensure that both you and your families take precautions for possible heat related illnesses. The heat and humidity can cause heat exhaustion, heat stroke (sunstroke) and possibly exacerbate other conditions. It is recommended you drink plenty of water and do not stay in the heat/sun for an extended amount of time. There are numerous indoor activities that can be done to avoid long hours in the sun. Please be cautious and remember safety first. The Risk Management Committee continues to review all incident reports, so please continue to fill them out accurately and in a timely manner. All programs have done an excellent job with the completion of these documents. If you have any questions/concerns that you need addressed, please contact your Coordinator or a RM Committee team member.

HUMAN RESOURCES, RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT (HRRR)

As many of you are aware, the EM-A had some PTO changes for field and office staff. These changes will not take effect until January 2009. Your current PTO will remain the same for the 2008 calendar year.

Per the new RFB contract all employees working under the contract must agree to an additional National Criminal History Record Check. If you have not already signed the request for permission form, please do as soon as possible. All receptionists have them at the front desk, as well as any HR staff member.

Remember, with the 1st and the 16th being billing/paydays, this is also the time HR requests any missing/overdue information from your personnel file. Please come with enough time to fill out any of this information that is requested of you.



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