

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS



THE CENTER FOR
YOUTH & FAMILY
SOLUTIONS
cyfsolutions.org

December 2024

MISSION MESSAGE

As we near the end of the year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you. Your dedication and love exemplify the very heart of our mission: to serve children and families in need with dignity, compassion, and respect.

Every day, you demonstrate how powerful it is to use your unique gifts and talents to uplift and build upon the strengths of the children and families you support. By opening your hearts and homes, you are not only creating solutions for those in need but also shaping futures and cultivating hope where it's needed most.

Your selflessness, perseverance, and commitment inspire all of us. Whether it's the care you provide to a child in need, the encouragement you offer to birth families working toward reunification, or the permanent homes you create through adoption, your efforts are nothing short of life-changing.

Thank you for being the hands and hearts of our shared mission. Your actions remind us of the power of community and the boundless impact of compassion.

As this year ends and a new one begins, I hope you find time to rest, reflect, and celebrate the joy you bring into the lives of others. Please know how deeply you are valued and appreciated.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Lori Brown
CYFS Mission & Professional Development Director

WHAT IS THE CYFS FOSTER CAREGIVER ADVISORY BOARD (FCAB)?

- FCAB provides foster parents with the opportunity to support each other.
- FCAB members work side by side with CYFS staff to help create a platform for change to build and strengthen the foster parent community.
- FCAB meets monthly to join with other CYFS staff to:
 1. Address foster caregiver needs
 2. Improve services
 3. Help to develop the Foster Care Implementation Plan
 4. Help to improve the role of the foster parent as a member of the casework team at CYFS
 5. Work to recruit and support new foster parents
 6. Work to support existing foster parents
 7. Discuss and implement ways to improve the foster parent experience at CYFS and the state level
- FCAB advocates for change within the foster care system to better the experience that foster parents have while working with our youth in care.
- FCAB strives to create a more positive view on foster parenting within the communities they live.

If you would like to join the CYFS Foster Caregiver Advisory Board and make a difference for foster parents, please contact **Mindy McBride** at mlmcbride@cyfsolutions.org

CHANGES IN MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Effective January 1, 2025, all mileage reimbursement claims for insurance-funded services for youth covered by YouthCare Insurance must be submitted through the MTM app. For assistance or questions, please contact your family worker.

How the YouthCare reimbursement benefits foster parents:

- Higher Reimbursement Rate-62.5 cents per mile vs. CYFS rate of 54 cents per mile.
- Expanded Eligibility: No mileage restrictions for specialized youth claims.
- Streamlined Process: Timely reimbursements through YouthCare-no need for family worker involvement.
- Post-Permanency Support: Adoptive parents can continue to receive this benefit if the youth remain on YouthCare insurance.
- Comprehensive Coverage: Mileage reimbursement applies to all insurance-funded services, including medical, dental, mental health, developmental therapies, and more.

FCAB'S TOP TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BEING A FOSTER PARENT

1. Don't be afraid to ask questions.
2. Write it down. Take notes. Save it in a binder.
3. Make sure you have all the youth's medications.
4. Have the 906 for the youth when taking a placement.
5. Make copies of all paperwork.
6. Find your people- seek out those you can call and talk to for support.
7. It's ok to get help and support!
8. Self-care is important and necessary!
9. Go to court for your youth's case.
10. Get to know your community resources.



2025 FOSTER PARENT TRAINING TOPICS

- Jan** Human Trafficking
- Feb** Supporting Reunification
- Mar** Implementation Plan
- Apr** Education
- May** Scholarships/Resources
- Jun** Sexual Development and Youth in Care
- Jul** Investigations
- Aug** Fire Safety
- Sep** African American Haircare
- Oct** Normalcy of Parenting
- Nov** Filing Taxes/Financials

2025 FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

JOIN US EVERY FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH TO TALK ABOUT ALL THINGS FOSTER PARENTING WITH OTHER CYFS FOSTER PARENTS.



10-11 am



6:30-7:30 pm

AND EVERY THIRD TUESDAY, JOIN US FOR TRAINING!



10-11 am



6:30-7:30 pm