

Anu connections

The newsletter of Anu Family Services

Winter 2010 | issue 02



We create permanent connections to loving & stable families.



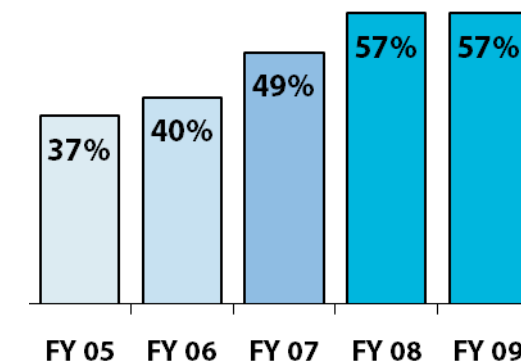
It's About Quality....

There's something very different about Anu Family Services and decision makers across the State are noticing our difference. Anu is one of the few treatment foster care agencies in Wisconsin that has earned the prestigious Council on Accreditation (COA) status, which we have had since our inception in 1992. COA is the "gold standard" in child welfare quality. In addition, we have

nationally-recognized outcomes for our children. Did you know that 95% of our children stay in the same treatment foster home during placement at Anu? In addition, our focus on permanence has made us a national leader in the percent of children that we reunify with their families or help find adoptive families. The average success rate of the nation's top-performing TFC agencies is 45% and at Anu, our average is 57%! Our clinical model of care, our training, our measurement and tracking of outcomes, our quality processes, our COA accreditation, our low caseloads, our outstanding staff and foster parents, and our commitment to child permanence make Anu a leader of quality care in TFC in Wisconsin. We have been asked to testify to the Legislative Council, serve on State committees to help recreate Wisconsin's system of care, and present to various leaders at the State. Our commitment to quality care for children is something we can all be proud to share!

Amelia Franck Meyer, CEO

Children Discharged to Permanency At ANU



*Permanency is Family Reunification or Adoption

Check out FOCUS

The Newsletter of the Foster Family-based Treatment Association
http://ffta.org/publications/focus_archives.html



516 Second St. Suite 209
Hudson, WI 54016

Board Highlights

- Many updates in policies have been approved for COA.
- Updates to the strategic plan are in process.
- Approval to form an audit committee and approval of the FY09 audit.
- Discussions about changes at the State impacting our services.

this issue

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	Good News	Connections to Permanence	Upcoming Events



Donate Online at
www.anufs.org

GOOD NEWS

- We were awarded a contract to work with a young man who is deaf and blind. We will be hiring 15-20 new staff and opening the DeafBlind program this spring to bring him home from a residential facility in Florida.
- Kessler's adopted two children to give them a forever home!
- We are moving along with our application process for COA re-accreditation and have submitted many components to prepare for our April self-study deadline. (Thank you Becky & Rob).

- We received many individual gifts at year-end totaling \$7,092 in pledges and gifts in December including \$1000 from our Hudson landlord Burt Nordstrand.
- Amelia was asked to participate in a work group to develop core competencies of human service managers in social work for the U of MN School of Social Work.
- Amelia is sitting on the State Rate Regulation Committee to help craft Wisconsin's child welfare reform including determining agency requirements and rates.
- Amelia was asked to develop a senior management presentation for the Foster Family-Based Treatment Association's national conference on how the CEO uses CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) to drive agency decisions.

In FY 2009

- 168 TFC children were served.
- Anu Family Services reached a record high of 113 children in care in a single day.
- 79% of children were discharged to less restrictive settings.
- 57% of children were reunified with their family or adopted.
- 95% of children remained with the same family during care.
- Anu cut the number of children experiencing a social worker transfer by more than half.
- No restraints occurred in Anu Family Services Foster Homes.



TCIF* – Tips & Reminders

By Mechele Judd, Western Regional Director

The focus for this month comes from the 4 questions we ask ourselves when assessing a potential crisis situation. The first question we ask is *What am I feeling now?*

The first step in controlling our behavior and what we communicate to the youth is being aware of our feelings. Factors that may influence our feelings are:

- Personal background & experiences.
- Values.
- Beliefs about others.
- Experiences as a parent.
- Influence of other family members.
- Personal interpretations of the organization's goals & philosophy about the care of youth.
- Ethnic and cultural background.

Being aware of these factors as well as how they influence our feelings is an important task. Managing our anger is important when dealing with a potential crisis. Remember, "when we are at our angriest we are at our stupidest". Being aware of our triggers and avoiding negative self-talk can be helpful in managing our anger.

So, keep asking yourself, "What am I feeling now?" when faced with a potential crisis situation. Greater self-awareness can ensure that the outcome of a crisis is a safe and therapeutic one.

**Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Family Care Providers.*

Connections to Permanence

By Susan Schwab, Family Resource Specialist

HOW TO PREPARE FOR FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Visits between children in foster care and their family really matter. There is more stability and emotional well being if they have connections with family. Foster parents have a key role to make a child's time with their family positive. How can foster parents and social workers prepare for family visits?

According to "Family Connect: Putting the Pieces of Family Visits Together" by Wendy Negaard, transitions from family visits back to the foster home can be challenging. By providing structure and helping kids develop a transition plan, their feelings can be better understood. Recognize how *you* deal with change and

handle children's reactions to change. Put *yourself* in the birth parent's shoes and imagine saying goodbye to your children after a family interaction.

Visits can trigger separation and loss issues. Feelings are processed and easier transitions occur when youth have regular family contact. Foster youth may need soothing and reassurance after visits. By listening and showing support, youth may gradually become adjusted. Here are ideas to promote smoother transitions for youth:

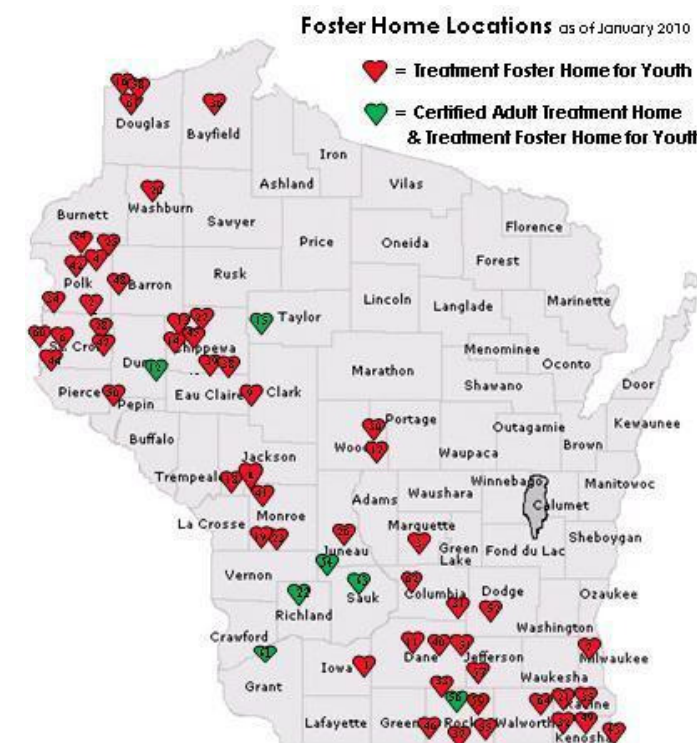
- Establish and maintain a routine
- Establish a goodbye ritual
- Recognize the child may need some alone time after the visit
- Establish a hello ritual once they have returned to the foster home
- Acknowledge the child's feelings
- Reassure
- Normalize
- Set boundaries

Anu Family Services is Referenced by the Children's Bureau

The University of Minnesota & Anu Family Services (formerly PATH Wisconsin) collaborated on an extensive literature review identifying evidence-based practices for preventing placement disruptions in foster care. Two broad topics came to light: (1) identifying risk and protective factors for placement stability and (2) implementing practices to prevent disruptions. The study's complete findings include a comprehensive review of the literature and an annotated bibliography of pertinent research.

Children's Bureau (2009) Express. Spotlight on National Foster Care Month: Preventing Placement Disruption in Foster Care Vol. 10, No. 4. Retrieved on December 12, 2009 from <http://cbxpre.ss.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewPrinterFriendlyArticle&articleID=2605>

Expanding the continuum of care in a family setting



Another seven Anu families become certified to provide treatment family care to Adults.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Tracy Gabryel
Michael & Mary Downs
John & Karen Schmidt
David & Nancy Kropp
Ann Paul
Jenny & Danny Kiker
Loralee Vielhuber

Upcoming Events

Next Board of Directors meeting: Thursday, January 21st from 10a-2p at the Eau Claire Anu Office. Board meetings are open; please contact Nancy Fier at 715-386-1547 ext. 301. Call well in advance if you plan to attend.

Upcoming Treatment Foster Parent Trainings

-Required Training -

Refining our Mission & Model at Anu "Helping Foster Children Develop & Maintain Connections"

When/Where:

3/27/2010-Madison Anu Office
From: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

TCIF Full Course Training

2/18, 2/19, 2/20 in Eau Claire
From: 8:30-5:30
4/16, 4/17, 4/18 in Madison
From: 8:00-6:00

TCIF Refresher

3/12 – Madison Office
From: 9:00-5:00

-Non-Required Training -

Spring 2010 Dates & Times TBA
In Eau Claire
Child & Adolescent Mental Health
Cultural Diversity
In Madison
Child Neglect & Abuse and it's Impact on Development
School Systems and Your Foster Child

Treatment Foster Parent Anniversaries

Andrew & Natalie Braun – 2 yrs
Mandy & Shaun Collier – 1 yrs
Julie & Roger Haight – 7 yrs
Joseph & Billie Jo Hancock – 6 yrs
Phillip & Jodie Klamm Jr – 6 yrs
John & Donna Kramer – 7 yrs
Brad & Shanna Lois – 1 yr
Eric & Dawn Luebstorff – 8 yrs
Earl & Darla Nick – 4 yrs
Georgeina O'Connell – 2 yrs
Kevin & Jane Pierzina – 6 yrs
Barbara Ray – 5 yrs
Jesse & Gae Seaman – 3 yrs
Scott & Cheryl Simer – 3 yrs
Jason & Kim Vaaler – 1 yr