



FAMILIES FORWARD

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Health Needs of LGBTQ Children and Medical Subsidy

When it comes to the health care coverage and needs of children and youth in the foster care system, there are often significant needs for their physical and mental health. The Child Welfare Information Gateway discusses that the supplying of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) along with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) has helped to increase the amount of access and affordability of health care for the majority of children and youth in foster care, especially those who are most in need. Please visit The Child Welfare Information Gateway, Health Care Coverage information brief to learn more information.

Affirming health care is incredibly important for all children and youth receiving their health care needs. It is extremely important for children and youth who identify as LGBTQ+ in foster care, because gender affirming care is not what people assume it to be. The World Health Organization defines gender-affirming care as “encompassing a range of social, psychological, behavioral, and medical interventions. This is designed to support and affirm an individual’s gender identity when it conflicts with the gender they were assigned at birth.” The interventions are meant to help transgender people align various aspects of their lives through emotional, interpersonal, and biological support with their gender identity.

In the state of Michigan, there is a Medical Subsidy program that provides support to some children adopted from foster care. The ultimate purpose of this program is to provide for medical conditions when families have exhausted all other funding sources. The medical subsidy program serves those who are directly related to a physical, mental, or emotional condition that existed, or is the cause of which existed before the adoption. It is also important to note that a child does not need adoption subsidy benefits in order to be eligible for medical subsidy. For more information on all of the topics discussed and more please visit the following websites! (<https://nacac.org/help/adoption-assistance/adoption-assistance-us/state-programs/michigan-adoption-assistance-program/>)

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EMPLOYEE'S OF THE MONTH



Jeremy had a very successful month and returned three children home to their birth parents. He continues to demonstrate outstanding case management work and ensures his clients' needs are always being met. Even though some days are difficult in this line of work, Jeremy consistently portrays a positive attitude and advocates for the children and families he manages. Great job Jeremy and thank you for all of your dedicated work.



Kristin has adjusted well to her new position as foster care specialist. She has outstanding communication skills and can navigate difficult situations with calmly and respectfully. She demonstrates proficient writing skills and has done a great job managing her huge caseload, including a five sibling group. Keep up the great work Kristin, we enjoy having you as part of our team.

Ferndale & Motor City Pride Events



The Ferndale and Motor City Pride events were very well attended. So many people expressed their interest in Forever Families by signing up to receive more information. The weather was amazing, and the food was great. Overall, an enjoyable time was had by all.

What else are we up to?

- We currently have 91 foster children in care.
- So far in 2022 we have:
 - Reunified 3 child with their birth parents.
 - Finalized 13 State Ward adoptions.
 - Licensed 7 foster homes.
 - Domestic Adoption has had 5 adoptive placements.

Don't forget about your training hours!

The monthly support group for foster parents is the 4th Saturday of the month from 9-11 am.

Remember you earn 2 training hours every time you attend a support group, and have an opportunity to receive a prize by attending support groups.

Check out our upcoming support group dates & topics for 2022:

6/25/2022: Parenting LGBTQ Children

7/23/2022: Engaging with Technology

8/27/2022: Internet Safety

9/24/2022: IEP/Education

10/22/2022: Resources

11/19/2022: Parent Visits & After-Care

Here is the zoom link to our monthly support group:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84986619737>

Meeting ID: 849 8661 9737

Hope to see you there!

Don't forget to check out our bi-monthly blog post on our website!