APEX Foster Care

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Recruitment and Progress Plan-2nd Quarter

Recruitment

We are currently recruiting foster parents in Douglas and Sarpy counties from a variety of cultural backgrounds. We are in need of an increased number of Hispanic and Caucasian homes in order to racially diversify our foster parent options. We would like to increase the number of homes in Bellevue and Millard in the next two to four months. Successfully recruiting and licensing homes in these areas would allow us to provide children the opportunity to remain in their communities. Apex will also focus on recruiting foster parents who are medically trained(or willing to be medically trained) and would be willing to foster medically fragile youth and foster parents that have the skills necessary (or who are willing to be trained) to foster youth who are DD, chemically dependent or have sexualized behaviors.

In the past we have advertised in the Bellevue Leader and Omaha World Herald. Our advertisement in the Omaha World Herald has successfully recruited potential foster parents but we have been disappointed in the response from the advertisement in the Bellevue Leader. We will continue to advertise in the Omaha World Herald with the addition of advertising in the Thrifty Nickel. Our website will be updated to allow foster parents the opportunity to learn more about our agency and the children we serve. Finally, recruitment staff will reach out to local businesses and churches for the opportunity to speak with staff and parishioners about the need for safe, stable and nurturing homes.

Each potential foster parent will meet with a member of the recruitment staff in their home. This allows Apex Foster Care the opportunity to evaluate the home and their placement preferences while offering the potential foster parent information about the specific needs of the children we serve.
Apex has previously required all potential foster parents to complete PRIDE, CPR and First Aid and NCI (Non- Violent Crisis Intervention). In January 2010 Apex will modify requirements to replace PRIDE with PS-MAPP. Additionally, in January 2010 Apex will begin providing Family Support and Supervised Visitation services in order to provide a continuum of care to the families we serve.

Progress

Currently Apex Foster Care has approximately 55 homes in the Omaha area providing care for nearly 75 children. There are six homes completing the licensing process which are expected to be available for placement by the end of December.