

# Summary of Participant Recommendations

## Fostering Strategies for Change Conference Evaluation 11/18/10

### Session 3

**Facilitator: Rosalyn M Bertram PhD**

Participants: 3 Foster Parents, One Cornerstones of Care Staff Member

- Loved the panels (Session 1 each day), however the adoptions panel was too focused through private adoptions. The situation is different when there has been a TPR and the adoption is via Children's Division
- Believed this conference was "more rounded", not just focused on foster parents, probably the best conference in five years
- VERY grateful for scholarships
- Convention center location may deter foster parents who live suburban or ex-urban
- Many presentations offered statistics or statements of the problem but there was not enough discussion on how to resolve the problems
- In regards the above, perhaps the introduction remarks on each day should emphasize to all (presenters and participants) that this conference is an opportunity to network and discuss, but probably not a place to resolve issues.
- Perhaps there should be a discussion group/support group session for foster parents
- Wyandotte Center has trainings that might fit with conference but they were not on the conference mailing list
- Related to this, Children's Division participants from other counties informally reported that there was no notification through or to their offices that this conference was occurring, its focus, urging their participation, etc
- There should be a presentation on multi/cross-racial adoptions and foster parenting
- Perhaps have a panel in which there is a representative from each agency/system involved in a family support team
- How about a presentation on the effects and frequency of turnover in Children's Division or child welfare agencies: What contributes to it? How is it addressed? What are the effects?
- SEND THE CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS TO FOSTER PARENTS
- Perhaps a panel/workshop designed for new foster parents presented by foster parents and alternative care CD staff
- More practical workshops about behavioral assessment and interventions
- Perhaps one on IQ/developmental assessment of kids
- How about a foster parent suggestions and question group?
- Offer some workshops more than once in the conference

- "Peach was peachy"
- Maybe practical workshop (not ideology) on taxes, medicaid, health insurance etc for foster and adoptive parents
- Invite legislators, judges, commissioners & engage them in Q & A
- "Filling the gap, specialized needs of GLBTQ was all about statistics, not information on how to work with such youth
- There were lots of residential treatment vendors, but what about tutors, mentors, places to volunteer, etc
- Definitely best conference in last five years (case manager & foster parents)