



Agenda	Discussion	Next Steps/Follow Up
<b>National Adoption Month Events- Kristi Poole</b>	The Blaine House Tea was held on November 1, 2016 in celebration of National Adoption Month, and the Adoption Awareness Celebration was held on November 16, 2016 at the Hall of Flags. Both were great events that were enjoyed by many families.	
<b>Post Adoption Services-Kristi</b>	<p>The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) is vested in improving post adoption services. Improvements include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A check box has been added to the annual review form asking parents if their child is experiencing an increase in mental health needs. Kristi Poole will contact parents to discuss, and may recommend that they speak with an OCFS behavioral health program coordinator or may make a referral for MaineCare services.</li> <li>2. Maine is one of five states participating in a pilot project to provide trauma informed and adoption informed training for OCFS staff and mental health clinicians. This web based training is supported by the Children’s Bureau, and the roll out is scheduled for February 2017. The goal is to have the training available nationwide.</li> <li>3. The adoption workers are assisting foster families with the transition from current services to post adoption services, which is critical to success in the long term.</li> </ol>	
<b>Foster Parent Advisory Committee Updates</b>	<p>The Foster Parent Advisory Committee was formed in 2016 with the purpose of enhancing communication between the OCFS and foster, kinship, and adoptive families. Foster parents were selected based upon being well connected and knowledgeable about issues affecting families. Subcommittees have evolved to address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foster Parent Bill of Rights-the subcommittee is in the process of drafting a Foster Parent Bill of Rights that works for all parties involved, and is currently accepting feedback for the final document.</li> <li>2. Communication-the subcommittee is working to ensure that families are provided with an OCFS point of contact, as well as the form of</li> </ol>	

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	<p>communication that suits the worker and family. A checklist is provided at the time of placement, which discusses the roles of all individuals caring for the child.</p> <p>3. Placement notebook-this notebook will be given to foster parents at the time of placement, and contains important information specific to the child. It will follow the child to subsequent placements, and it has been recommended to the committee that a resource notebook be developed that will stay with the families.</p> <p>Rick McCarthy from the State Fire Marshal's Office will be discussing fire and safety inspections at the next Foster Parent Advisory Committee meeting on December 2, 2016.</p>	
<b>Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Legislation</b>	The purpose of this legislation is to normalize life for children in care; all states are required to comply. A webinar is being created as a training module, and suggestions are being accepted for other training venues.	
<b>Next Town Hall Call</b>	The next town hall call is scheduled for January 25, 2017 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.	