



## 2012-2013 Presidents Annual Review of Goals and Recommendations

It has been a busy and exciting year for our Foster Parent Association. We saw an increase in attendance to all of our meetings and I want to thank each of you for taking the time to come out and show your support as we try and improve all of our fostering experiences in our region.

I want to start with a review of the goals we set out to accomplish for the year:

- **Training (CAS – trainings in all locations; FPA trainings)-** I think in general training opportunities increased from CAS as well as those offered during our FPA meetings. We had guest speakers presenting topics on when and how to talk about sex with our youth as well as education drugs in our community. We watched a great DVD on Parenting the Explosive Child over two FPA meetings that still has us talking about what baskets we are using with our children. I think that our CAS put on some amazing trainings throughout this year: Drug Exposed Infants; Innovations and Unaddressed Issues in Adoption and Foster Care; ONLAC.....
- **Advocacy Program** - While we don't have the advocacy/mentor program up and running considerable progress has been made and we hope that our mentor program will be up and running in September. With support from other agencies, namely Muskoka, we have a firm handle on how we want to develop our training and policies and procedures. Most importantly we have the support of our CAS up to this point.
- **Events (2 events)** - We put forth that we wanted to have two events hosted by our FPA and open to all resource homes as well as CAS staff. In December, 2012 we hosted a very well received Christmas Social. We had great participation and wonderful feedback from all that attended. We are also getting ready to host our Summer in the Park next Saturday.
- **Website-** Our website is completed and ready to launch. This site will continue to evolve over the summer with more content being added. All comments and suggestions are appreciated.
- **Per Diems** – I feel I sort of cheated with this one as the Board of Directors approved a per diem increase effective April 1, 2013. We also received a mileage increase as of October 2013. We will be completing a review of the reimbursables with CAS in the coming months.

As you can see we actually accomplished most of our goals we set forth. As with everything, we can improve and fine tune those things that worked and set new goals for the coming year.

While this is not an official list of goals as we will set that together in our September meeting, these are some areas that I think we could improve on.

- **Training:** We have room for growth here: CAS and our FPA. I still think we need to have more training available across our region (not just North Bay) being offered by CAS. I also would like to do a better job in planning our special topics/speakers as well as advertising/marketing for these.

- I would also like to see a more consistent review of our mileage, per diems and reimbursables. I would suggest every 2-3 years at most.

I am very proud of our accomplishments this year. I think we finally have an FPA moving in the right direction along with the support of our CAS. The key to our success is to continue the movement and for that we need our foster parents to step forward and commit to being involved. We are all busy. We all need another responsibility like we need a hole in the head. You have to be the change you want to see.