Mission: To be a respected national voice for foster, kinship, and adoptive families through networking, education and advocacy.

NFPA CODE OF ETHICS PROJECT

Planning Meeting #1

Tuesday, February 12
5:30 pm West, 7:30 pm Central, 8:30 pm East

Draft Discussion Outline

Introductions (name, affiliation, role, background/interest, other)

Review of Draft Discussion Outline

Review/Revise Objectives

Clarify Rationale for the "Code of Ethics" Project

Determine Objectives

Identify Tasks (for example)

- **Additional participants?**
- **Name change, i.e. "Guiding Principles"?**
- **Surveys?**
- **Funding?**
- **Time frames?**
- **Other?**

Consider Other Issues

Next Meetings (date, time, format)

"Good of the Cause"

Thank you!

MEETING SUMMARY

In advance of the NFPA Code of Ethics Committee meeting, the Committee Chair, Eileen Mayers Pasztor, emailed the following message to the following Committee members:

- Jim Hatch, Chair, Council of State Affiliates;
- Peggy Kirby, Director, Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association;
- Jessica Lloyd-Rogers, President, Oregon Foster Parent Association;
- James MacAlister, President, Maryland Foster Parent Association.

Hello Jim, Peggy, Jessica, and James:
As emailed on January 24, 2019, thank you again for your leadership regarding the revision or update of the NFPA Code of Ethics. As promised in advance of our meeting scheduled for this Tuesday, February 12 (8:30 pm East, 7:30 pm Central, 5:30 pm West), here are resource materials we will be discussing:

Specifically:
(1) Code of Ethics Project Draft Discussion Outline (named "draft" in case we want to revise it), which also includes relevant comments from the NFPA Board of Directors meetings to help frame our work.

(2) Report to the COA at the November 2018 meeting, summarizing the history of the Code of Ethics.

(3) Example of how one state agency and Foster and Adoptive Parent Association piloted the Code of Ethics (thank you, Peggy and Louisiana).

(4) Example of how the Code of Ethics was discussed at 2018 national conferences (NFPA and CWLA); note there are some blank pages at the end.

<u>Meeting #1 Key Points</u>

The following colleagues participated in this meeting: Jim Hatch, Jessica Lloyd-Rogers, James MacAlister, Eileen Mayers Pasztor.

Regarding Participants:
While the current members of this Committee represent diverse and many years of expertise as foster and adoptive parents, child welfare professionals, former youth in care, and state and national leadership, it is recommended that this Committee expand its membership to include, additional perspectives, for example:

- Foster parents who are certified, licensed, verified through public and private child welfare agencies, probation or youth authorities, and tribes.
- More recent former youth in care;
- Birth parents of children in care;
- Birth children of foster parents;

- Foster care agency staff;
- Social Work Code of Ethics;
- Cultural diversity;
- Gender identity and sexual orientation diversity;
- Legal perspectives (however, this may be obtained through a funded project);
- Other?

Regarding the Code of Ethics Name:
It was generally agreed that "Code of Ethics" – while substantive and impressive – may provide both general and specific risks to foster parents and the agencies with whom they affiliate. Therefore, it was suggested that the name "Code of Ethics" be reframed or renamed as "Guiding Principles" or a similar title. The challenge will be to select a name that is meaningful, has a framework or foundation, but does not provide undo or unforeseen risks for well-meaning foster parents and agencies. The name change could be a charge to the expanded committee.

Challenges Going Forward:
A number of challenges were identified, including:

- Reframing the principles into a manageable number;
- Organizing to be logical without implying a rank order;
- Addressing principles perceived, implied, recognized, or identified as controversial such as fostering sexual minority youth;
- Including kinship care?;
- Seeking funding for a demonstration project that builds on the expertise of the Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parent Association;
- Recognizing that this project may take a long time but, if conducted effectively, can be of value to the NFPA beyond its 50th anniversary in 2020;
- When do we make the name change;
- Other?

Next Immediate Steps:

- Committee Chair will share a Meeting #1 Summary draft with the Committee participants for editing/correcting;
- Corrected/edited draft will be shared at the March 4, 2019 meeting of the NFPA Board of Directors for discussion and direction;
- Results of the Board of Directors discussion and direction will be brought back to the Code of Ethics Committee for Meeting #2 scheduled for **Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 pm West, 7:30 pm Central, 8:30 pm East**;
- Other?

Thank you!

Respectfully submitted by:
Eileen Mayers Pasztor, Chair, NFPA Code of Ethics Committee
2/21/2019; revised 2/23/19