CoSA Meeting Notes – 3/26/2024

Adoption Subsidy after death Policy Update (Ill provide information f rom everyone's emails)

Participants:

Arnie
Amanda
Jan
Denise – Texas
Sarah Hatt – Maine
Kellie Pittman – Texas
Rhiannon Franklin
Sue Dondiego – New Jersey
Dot Erickson/Anderson - Ohio
Tammy Wells
Maryellen MacKay – New Hampshire (formerly New Jersey)
Pat O'Brien, NY

Amanda

What happens if an adoptive parent dies?

Especially important when new guardian is looking for subsidy amount.

Denise – Texas

Has put those words in her will.

Kellie Pittman – Texas

Says that if the caregiver doesn't provide a replacement caregiver, benefits can lapse.

Sue Dondiego

Remind parents to make a will even for bio children; very important issue we should discuss
and address

Dot - Ohio

What are the Federal guidelines? You have to take your child through child welfare but ultimately they lose the child. Needs of the family have to be reassessed. Very confusing.

Maryellen MacKay – New Hampshire

Reminds me what we did for families with disabilities. If you have it set up right there is no stumble in benefits. Don't let children lose their parents and their home on the same day. Consider having an adult child become a co-guardian to make it easier. Does Tanna(?) follow the child?

Amanda
It seems like each state has some wiggle room when it comes to the Federal Policy.

Arnie
If it comes out of IV E with guardianship is maybe a little easier than an actual adoption. Josh Kroll is the expert on this. NY, NJ, MI, CT, (Texas does their own thing), all the rest kind of a crap shoot.

Amanda
Need to encourage people to talk to their adoption lawyer.

?
Why is this different from the full adoption contract that grants adopted children the same rights as birth children.

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/public_html/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy_dsp.jsp?citID=138

Place to share conferences, events, policies? (website, facebook, oth er media?)

Group me?

Dot Erickson/Anderson – Google Drive

Foster Parent Well-Being Research update

Amanda
Did two focus groups. Will try to provide the group a copy of the results in late April. Shows that states are really very progressive compared to 10 years ago.

United HealthCare Group
Is interested in having an open session. Would love for CoSA to be involved to help shape the future of health care for foster

Pressing Issues

Denise
Everything is driving me crazy in Texas. Lots of politics. Hard to get answers. Standing strong though and gaining respectability.

Maryellen
New Hampshire/Massachusetts never did a home study. Man killed a girl and carried her around dead in a bag. Mother is going after money in

both NH/MA. Two states with two foster care systems that fails. Don't know where it's going. It's a very big issue. I don't think NH did anything wrong, but judge made a mistake. Child was 5. Mother took 2 years to even ask about the child. Judge in MA retired immediately after this happened. Legislative committees. Going after DCYF. Bill pending: If you make a false report they will go after the person who reported it.

O'Brien

In NY they are getting rid of anonymous reporting.

Dot Erickson/Anderson - Ohio

With our new department, six of the cabinet-level has 19 projects. Chaos with structure. Governor and Lt. Governor, and Director of Child Services into adoption. State has allocated 34 million a year ($10-$20,000) to be spent by the end of June for adoptive families. Spending humongous amounts of money. Plus millions for the Opioid crisis being thrown into the system to fix the problems but not necessarily in the right way. Trying to get accountability and get money to including parents as the decision-makers. Giving parents power at the top level is very important to us, not just as advisory members. I would hope that NFPA would take this seriously. How do we make parents the decision-makers.

KC families suggested that we may have parents who are professionals who can help make this happen

Amanda

Has applied to present about how social workers and been rejected and told that sharing lived experience is a disservice.

Kelli Pittman

Everyone has lived experience. Everyone.

O'Brien

Needs to be taken to the Federal level.

Stefany Lang

I have to hop off for another call. In Maryland we are preparing to hold a "Meet the MRPA" (MD Resource Parent Association), We want to make aware all the resources the MRPA has to offer (support, training etc). We try to hold a monthly session of so me sort of training that relates directly to them.

Sue

I'm going to send out a flyer with information on how to donate to the silent auction.