

Irene M. Toto
CEO



Don Martin
Board Chair

NEWSLETTER

March 2017

Message from the CEO

Greetings. Fortunately for most of us in Florida, we don't have to focus too much on the old farmer's almanac theory that if March comes in like a lion it goes out like a lamb. We've had a "lamb" of a winter so far, allowing for plenty of outdoor time for families. As we enter March, many people's thoughts turn to basketball, and we wish you much success with your favorite teams. The beginning of March also marks the start of the Florida Legislative session and we'll be following things in Tallahassee to watch for items that affect us at Kids First of Florida. We are fortunate to have great local representation in Senator Rob Bradley, Representative Travis Cummings and the newest member of our local delegation, Representative Bobby Payne. We wish them all a successful session and we thank them for their support of our Community Based Care system in Clay County.

As the year progresses, it is our goal to keep doing what's working well and to look for new ways to meet the challenges we face. While we celebrate every success, we are aware that the task of keeping children safe is a job that requires our constant commitment to quality. KFF will continue to work with our many partners to meet the needs of the at risk families that we serve. We have already begun collaborating on a statewide effort to better integrate child welfare and behavioral health services. As a high percentage of our families deal with issues of substance abuse and mental health, we recognize that improving communication and efficiencies in this area will benefit families. Working with behavioral health providers, the Department of Children and Families and our local managing entity, Lutheran Services of Florida, we will be addressing basic expectations and setting goals to provide for timely screenings and referrals, engaging parents in treatment, offering family focused treatment, increasing communication and working cohesively as a team. We are confident that the time invested in this process will offer increased opportunities for additional successes. We'll keep you updated as the project continues. As always, we welcome your input and ideas so please let us hear from you. Take good care. ~Irene

Alert: Foster Homes Needed for Teenagers and Large Sibling Groups

Interested in Becoming a Foster Parent?

There is an urgent need for foster homes that can accommodate teenagers and sibling groups so that teenagers do not have to be placed in group homes and siblings do not have to be separated.

Please contact Diahann Sutton for more information.

904.278.5644 ext. 2100

Please Join KFF in Welcoming Our Newly Licensed Foster Parents

Jeffrey & Kimberly Dziwulski

Attention: Foster and Adoptive Parent Classes Are Starting Soon

There is a great need for safe and loving foster and adoptive homes in our area. One of the first steps in becoming a foster or adoptive parent is to complete a program called PRIDE. PRIDE stands for Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education. It is a program used to prepare and educate families that are interested in providing foster care or in becoming adoptive homes for children in the foster care system. PRIDE also helps prepare prospective foster and adoptive parents with important information on how trauma impacts a child's growth and development. The program consists of an orientation session and 8 classes that are each three hours long.

If your family, or someone you know is interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent, Kids First of Florida is holding an orientation session in March.

PRIDE orientation session: Thursday, March 30th, 2017 at 6:00pm

The additional 8 classes, on Tuesday's and Thursday's, will continue through April and are listed below.

First Class: Tuesday, April 4th, 2017, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Second Class: Thursday, April 6th, 2017, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Third Class: Tuesday, April 11th, 2017, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Forth Class: Thursday, April 13th, 2017, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Fifth Class: Tuesday, April 18th, 2017, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Sixth Class: Thursday, April 20th, 2017, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Seventh Class: Tuesday, April 25th, 2017, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Eighth Class: Thursday, April 27th, 2017, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

The orientation session and classes will be held at:

Grace Anglican Church, 5804 Highway 17 Fleming Island, FL 32003
(The red barn in the back of the church)

Due to limited seating, please RSVP no later than March 17th, 2017, by contacting:
 Christie Brady at 904.278.5644 ext. 2066 or Diahann Sutton at ext. 2100.

Please do not bring children to the orientation session or classes.

Help a Child and Earn a Little Extra Spending Money

Current KFF Foster Parents, Refer a Friend!

That's right current KFF foster parents, refer a friend to be a quality foster parent with KFF and you will receive \$100 after they are licensed.

Call 904.278.5644 ext. 2016

Post-Adoption Support Group

The Post Adoption Support Group has begun again. The first meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 31st, at the KFF office located at:

1726 Kingsley Avenue, Suite 2, Orange Park, FL 32073.

The first group was a “getting to know you” meeting. Please email or call the person listed below to find out when the next meeting will occur.

Tiffany Morales at tmorales@cbkn.org or call 904.278.5644 ext. 2083.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

Post-Adoption Services Available to Clay County Residents

KFF provides services to families in Clay County who are in the process of or have adopted children, including children adopted by relatives/non-relatives, foster parents, through the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA) and private adoptions. Pre and post-adoption services consist of case management, including referrals to community resources, crisis intervention and counseling. For those in the process of adopting, “Core Adoption” classes are also provided. These classes offer an overview of the adoption process. For those who have already adopted, post adoption support group meetings are held monthly at the KFF office.

To access these services, or to obtain more information, please call 904.278.5644 ext. 2083 or email:

tmorales@cbkn.org

Caregiver Support Group

Foster Parents, Adoptive Parents, Relative Caregivers, this group is for YOU!

Monthly meetings will be held the 1st Thursday of each month from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at

Russell Baptist Church, 2299 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs, Florida.

This is a great opportunity to network, receive important updates and get your training hours.

Please contact Tracy Watford for more information: watfordtracy@yahoo.com

Clay County Resource Guide

For an On-Line Clay County Resource Guide, Visit:

http://www.ecs4kids.org/parent_fin_clayres

The guide contains information about education/employment, food/nutrition, rent/utilities/housing, financial assistance, health/mental health, legal assistance, clothing, special needs/disabilities, recreation/mentoring, relative caregiver, child care referrals, transportation, and other miscellaneous topics. There is also a link to a printable resource guide.

Don't Miss the Signs

All Floridians are legally obligated to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Child abuse or neglect includes actions or omissions that result in imminent threat of serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, or death of a child under age 18 by a parent or other caregiver. To report abuse call 800.962.2873/TDD: 800.453.5145 or visit <https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us/> for instructions on how to report child abuse or neglect online or by fax.

Main Office:

1726 Kingsley Avenue
Suite 2

Orange Park, Florida
32073

Phone 904.278.5644

Fax 904.278.5654

**Because every child
deserves a loving home!**

KFF Contacts

Main Office: 904.278.5644

Irene M. Toto, CEO, ext. 2013

Kevin Davidson, CFO, ext.
2006

Nora Milne, CPO, ext. 2007

Jennifer Clark

Program Director, ext. 2111

Vanessa Byerly

Program Director, ext. 2080

Robin Briseno

Program Director, ext. 2019

Willie Davis

Foster Parent Payments,
ext. 2091

Christie Brady

Licensing, ext. 2066

Diahann Sutton

Licensing, ext. 2100

Sarah Bridges

Placement, ext. 2072

Eric Wetzel,

Independent Living, ext. 2047



**Did You Know?
You Can Apply for Public Assistance
On-Line at:**

<http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/>

Or at the KFF Office by Contacting
Tanya Miller at 904.278.5644 ext. 2040

Florida Kinship Center Warmline

800.640.6444

A toll-free listening line for grandparents
and other relatives raising children in
Florida. The Warmline provides
caregivers with emotional support and
informational services.

Online In-Service Training Hours

As a licensed foster parent, you are required to receive 8 hours of ongoing training per
year to be eligible for re-licensure. Free training opportunities can be found at:

<http://www.qpiflorida.org/justintime/pages/training.html>

Don't forget to provide all certificates of completion to your Licensing Counselor

Dental Provider in Clay County

The Baker County Health Department, in cooperation with the Clay
County Health Department and the Clay County School District,
provides dental treatments to local children and young adults ages
3-20. For an appointment, call 1.866.617.8708 ext. 2283 or 2311.
Children can be seen at the Green Cove Springs office or on the
dental van which serves 4 schools in Clay County. The program
serves children who have Medicaid, Access Health Solutions, or
KidsCare Atlantic Dental Insurance. If a child in your care, who is
served by Kids First of Florida, does not have the above-mentioned
insurance and needs dental treatment, please contact Mary Elwood
at 904.278.5644, ext. 2043.



Preventive Health Care Periodicity Schedule

Physical Exam: 1 month, 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9
months, 12 months, 15 months, 18 months, 24 months, 30
months, 3 years of age and annually thereafter

Dental Exam: every 6 months, beginning at age 3

Vision Screening: 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 15 years of age



Prevention in Florida

For more information about:

SAFE SLEEP

HOT CAR SAFETY

WHO IS REALLY WATCHING YOUR CHILD?

WATER SAFETY

Visit: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/childfatality/prevention.shtml>.

Free Food Distribution

Food is available for foster and adoptive families and families of children in relative
and non-relative care. Waste Not, Want Not is a great program. Each month, food is
distributed and available for pick-up from foster/adoptive parent, Tracy Watford. Items
often include white & wheat bread, specialty breads, bagels, cakes, cookies,
donuts. Sometimes they have juices, salads, sodas, etc. Please call Tracy Watford at
904.704.6012 for more information and to get on the distribution list.