

The West Virginia Initiative for Foster Care Improvement (WVIFCI –“wiki-fiki”)
UPDATE ACTIVITIES AND GOALS

The WV Initiative for Foster Care Improvement will improve the health status of children and youth in foster care by educating WV Chapter AAP members, creating a foster parent advocacy network and providing combined pediatrician/ foster care parent consultation to stakeholders in WV DHHR, Medicaid, Child Protective Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates, medical schools, judges and parents of children with special health care needs.

Activities and Objectives:

1. Recruit three foster care parent/pediatrician leadership teams across the state
2. Meet with key WV foster care directors and stakeholders in a Foster Care Improvement Conference
3. Address current foster care state plan deficits and develop a blueprint for the future
4. Survey WV Chapter AAP pediatricians to assess needs and knowledge
5. Build an effective WV Chapter AAP Foster Care Committee (FCC) focusing on education and parent collaboration
6. Establish a WV Chapter of the National Association of Foster Care Parents (NAFCP)
7. Hold a joint WV Chapter AAP Annual Meeting in association with the WV Chapter NAFCP in April 2014.

The WVIFCI will create three co-champion foster care parent and pediatrician improvement teams from the three largest cities and medical school locations at Morgantown, Charleston and Huntington. These teams will participate in training and planning conference calls and meet together for ½ day on May 8th in the capital, Charleston, at the WV DHHR offices with foster care stakeholders (DHHR, Medicaid, Child Protective Services, foster care agencies, social work case managers, CASA workers, lawyers, judges and others as appropriate). These discussions will enable the 3 parent/pediatrician teams to share their concerns while clarifying other stakeholder priorities, problems and plans. They will also develop contacts with local agency representatives to build collaborative teams in their respected areas.

The 3 teams will become members of a WV DHHR Foster Care Program Advisory Committee to provide expert parent and medical consultation on current and future foster care improvement efforts.

Current WV DHHR foster care objectives to; (1) establish a primary care provider for every child, (2) assure that every child receives a medical exam after their placement, (3) track tobacco and BMI status for all children and evaluate effective intervention, (4) implement Ages and Stages Screening (ASQ-3) testing, and (5) reduce the use of urgent care centers for routine health care.

The three pediatricians will become co-chairpersons of the WV Chapter AAP to coordinate activities at their site. They will be mentored by senior WV Chapter AAP leaders including Raheel Khan, John Phillips, and Traci Acklin.

Working with the 3 parent champions the FCC will develop a foster care education plan for the WV Chapter AAP membership based on current AAP guidelines. A foster care quality improvement project for members will be developed for 2015 after a presentation at the May 9th & 10th WV AAP Annual Spring Meeting at Stonewall Jackson.

The 3 parents will collaborate with parent-led efforts already underway to develop a state-wide network of families with children with special health care needs including the establishment of a WV Chapter of Foster Care Parent Association. A representative of the national FCPA will attend the parent meeting May 9th at the WV AAP Annual Spring Meeting at Stonewall Jackson Resort.