



South Carolina Department of Social Services

Child Welfare Services Manual

760.6 Foster Parent Associations

Effective Date: 07-21-2016

Purpose Statement:

The agency is committed to a collaborative relationship with Foster Parent Associations that serves the needs of foster families. This section describes the policies and procedures to be followed when facilitating this partnership.

Policy:

The agency shall designate Regional Foster Family and Licensing Support Coordinators (FSCs) to be the liaison with the local Foster Parent Associations and shall encourage involvement and support by all staff.

Procedures:

The Family Support Coordinator shall:

1. Represent the agency's viewpoint to the association;
2. Attend meetings and functions of the association;
3. Apprise staff of the Association's activities;
4. When appropriate, seek guidance from his or her supervisor and other staff in working with the Association;
5. Assist the Association with leadership development;
6. Assist with the program planning for association meetings;
7. Assist with development of association goals and projects;
8. Facilitate communication between the agency and foster parents;
9. Provide support services (e.g. arranging meeting space); and
10. Discuss with the association members the impact of MEPA. The FSC shall discuss with the Association members that race, color, national origin, religion, state of residence, age, disability, political belief, sex, or sexual orientation of the applicant and/or the child involved may not be considered in making foster care placement decisions. Culture may not be used as a proxy for race, color, or national origin in making placement decisions.

Documentation:

- Contacts with Foster Parent Association
- Correspondence with agency staff