

January 2025

News You Can Use

Foster Parent Newsletter



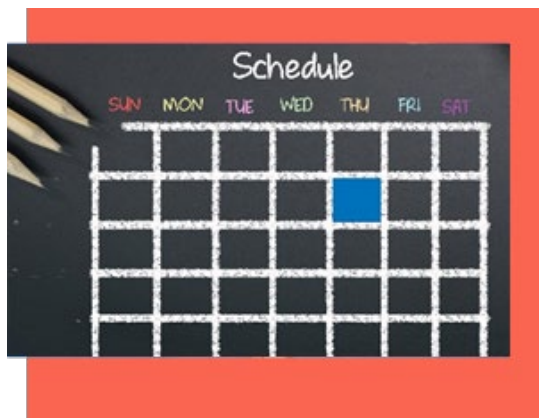
Happy New Year! We hope you've experienced a great start to 2025.

And since it's the new year, it's time to do some of those things that take place at this time every year, like making sure your car seats haven't expired. Information about that and more is included in this issue. Here's what you'll find:

- The foster care board payment schedule for the next six months
- Making sure medication logs are completed
- New camera and recording guidance
- In-service training opportunities
- Sunshine Health reminders
- Foster parent spotlights

If you need information about a topic we haven't covered, or you'd just like to learn a bit more, please reach out to us at communications@fpocf.org. We'll try to include information about the topic in an upcoming edition.

As always, thanks for all you do!



Foster Care Board Payment Schedule

Foster board and childcare subsidies are issued the second Thursday of the month following the date of service. Below is the reimbursement schedule for the next six months.

- January services reimbursed Feb. 13
- February services reimbursed March 13
- March services reimbursed April 10
- April services reimbursed May 8
- May services reimbursed June 12
- June services reimbursed July 10

Don't Forget to Complete Your Medication Logs

Caregivers, we need your help to achieve compliance with psychotropic medication requirements.

Case managers are required to review and obtain medication logs (maintained daily) at each home visit. We are asking caregivers in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties to please upload the logs to the [caregiver portal](#) and for caregivers in Brevard County to email them to BHS@familyallies.org.

This will ensure that the logs are properly saved to FSFN for the child's official record. If you cannot access the portal or have difficulties uploading the forms, please email them to your assigned case manager. The form used to log medication is available [HERE](#).

Your assistance with this important step is greatly appreciated.





Car Seat Safety: Check the Date

To promote the safety of children placed in our foster homes, the licensing team is required to check for car seat expiration dates during their quarterly and licensing visits. Please check the expiration dates for car seats used in your home. Those dates are usually found on labels located on the bottom or side of the seat.

If your car seat is expired, take advantage of Target's car seat trade-in program. It allows you to drop off your expired car seat with discount eligibility toward the purchase of a new seat. This service usually happens twice per year. Details can be found on the [Target website](#).

If you need help installing a car seat, check with your local fire department.

Camera and Recording Guidance

We have received new guidance from the Department of Children and Families that cameras are no longer required to record. If a camera does record, the footage still needs to be kept for 14 days. Cameras are not allowed in bedrooms or bathrooms.





Report Mid-year Changes

While the items below have always been required, the state will be audited by the Federal government beginning late this year for compliance tied to federal IV-E funding. Please notify your relicensing and support coordinator immediately to report any of the following changes to your household so we can help keep your home in compliance with code requirements:

- **New household members.** Any individuals ages 12 and older must be background checked immediately. If you know in advance that someone new will be living in your home, the licensing team will work to process their background screening in advance to prevent your license from being out of compliance. **Having any adult living in your home who has not been background screened can impact placement of children in your home until the background checks are completed.**
- **Renovations** to your home.
- **Changes in sleeping arrangements**, such as adding or removing beds in rooms.
- **Marriage or divorce.**

In-Service Training Opportunities

Effective Discipline Training Offered

Two sessions of “Effective Discipline” training will be offered in February. Registration is not required. Join by using the information below.

- **Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.**

Meeting URL: <https://embracefamilies-org.zoom.us/j/83607669494?pwd=ZkNb2w3LSqQ2TXirl7SK9GUDVnueLu.1>

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Meeting ID: 836 0766 9494

Passcode: 337126

- **Feb. 5 at 12 p.m.**



Meeting URL: <https://embracefamilies-org.zoom.us/j/88166843553?pwd=7VZXK3ROi4CRC78oauqMdX7gxB7aLM.1>
Meeting ID: 881 6684 3553
Passcode: 588727



In Brief & Reminders

Sunshine Health Over-the-Counter Benefit

Sunshine Health is now accepted at CVS, Walgreens and Publix pharmacies. And have you used the over-the-counter benefit this month? Through Sunshine Health, each participant can receive up to \$25 worth of over-the-counter items every month.

Use this benefit to purchase items such as baby wipes, vitamins, Tylenol tablets, laundry detergent, soap and toothbrushes. Visit the [Sunshine over-the-counter web page](#) for details. If you have problems accessing the benefit or have questions related to Sunshine Health, please contact one of our nurse care coordinators: Sabrina Beharie at Sabrina.Beharie@fpocf.org or 407-490-6665 in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties and Lauren.Madden@brevardfp.org in Brevard County.



Church Foster Closet Reopens

Nona Church, Moss Park Campus, operates Nona Closet for Orlando-area foster parents. Located inside the church at 11221 John Wycliffe Blvd., Orlando, Nona Closet offers new and gently used baby gear, diapers/pull-ups/wipes and clothing, sizes infant through child 14/16. For days and times the closet is open, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566026223206>

Foster Parent Spotlights

Alicia Ortiz is a newly licensed foster parent this year. She jumped right in to accept placement of a 12-year-old boy with a lot of needs. She has been an amazing advocate for him since day 1 and providing a loving home. There have been challenges, but Alicia has just continued to love and support him through everything. Despite his history and her being a brand-new foster parent, she recognizes all the trauma he has experienced over the years and is very patient and nonjudgmental in her approach. She has gotten services in place for him, advocates for him at school and at court, and works with case management to ensure all his needs are met. We are very thankful for her and all she is doing to support her foster son.



Wendy Fider does a great job building rapport with parents and offers ongoing support. She also communicates and offers additional visitation to parents with whom they have built rapport while working on the goal of reunification. Thank you, Wendy, and family for doing a great job!

We Appreciate You!

About Family Partnerships of Central Florida

Family Partnerships of Central Florida is committed to protecting children, strengthening families and changing lives through a comprehensive, integrated, community-based system of care that provides adoption, foster care and independent living services for children and families in Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties.

Contracted with the Florida Department of Children and Families as the lead child welfare agency in the four-county area, Family Partnerships of Central Florida's mission is to ensure that the children it serves thrive in safe, healthy and loving families.



**Family Partnerships
of Central Florida**

BREVARD | ORANGE | OSCEOLA | SEMINOLE

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