



Ohio Family Care Association

OFCA E-News

January 2010

Make Your Voice Count: Consider Joining OFCA

In order to remain the state's voice for resource families, OFCA is working hard to grow our membership. We want to be able to count your voice among the growing number of adoptive, foster, kinship, respite caregivers and the staff who support resource families that make up our organization. With your support and involvement, OFCA can continue to help Ohio's abused and neglected children, their troubled families, and the resource parents who serve them. To learn more about how to become a member of OFCA, please go to our website: www.ofcaonline.org.

Ohio House Committee Hears Testimony on Kinship Care Bill

Earlier this month, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on H.B. 197 which expands the list of relatives who may obtain a power of attorney and caregiver authorization that lets them enroll children in their care in a local school district, and to authorize medical and dental care. Under H.B. 197, the authorization affidavit would be limited to relative caregivers who are physically caring for a child, and after reasonable efforts could not locate the child's parents. Under current law, only grandparents are permitted to receive such authorization.

In testimony before the Committee, Executive Director Crystal Allen of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio said, "We know from research that safe, familiar relatives and other kin often provide a safe and stable family for a child in need. We also know that child outcomes such as school attendance and academic performance are better for children in kin homes than in unrelated foster care, and these children and youth experience fewer unruly and delinquent behaviors."

Some concerns have been raised about the bill, including that it could be misused to get children on football teams. According to Committee Chairwoman Sandra Stabile Harwood, no more hearings would be held on the bill pending a meeting with interested parties. For more information about the bill, go to: <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128> HB 197

Tips for Young People Who Want to Go To College

Do you have a young person in your home who wants to go to college but doesn't know how to get started? Here are four steps that you can share that will help make college a reality:

1. **Be a pain.** Tell everyone you know that you want to go to college. Don't stop until you find an adult who will help you.
2. **Push yourself.** Find what classes you need to take in high school to meet college entrance requirements.
3. **Find the right fit.** Find a school that matches your career interests and reflects your goals and personality.
4. **Get your hands on some cash.** There is money available to help you pay for college. Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

For more information, go to:

www.KnowHow2GO.org

Link Between Poverty and Teen/Unplanned Pregnancy

A new report identifies some compelling facts that show the link between unplanned pregnancy among teens and poverty. To read more, go to: [Briefly - Policy Brief: The Link Between Reducing Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and Poverty](#)

Give Back What Trauma Has Taken From Your Child

Upcoming Conference for Foster Parents and Caseworkers
March 12 & 13, 2010

Sponsored By the Central Ohio Trainer's CO-OP
Fort Rapids Indoor Water Park Resort Columbus, OH
For more information, call 614-868-1380