



Director's Message

July 2, 2018

Greetings, Hope Givers!



Virginia Pryor
Director

Thank you for all of your support this past week as we launched the State of Hope application. I encourage each of you to spread the word about State of Hope in your communities. YOU are an ambassador for the Division and using our collective impact, we will make the state of Georgia a better place for all families. If you have any questions about the application process or State of Hope in general, please email: StateofHope@dhs.ga.gov. To access the State of Hope Toolkit and other information, visit: <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/state-hope>

I hope you enjoy this holiday week with your loved ones. In honor of Independence Day, I'd like to close with a poignant reminder of why we celebrate our independence.

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become
silent about things that matter."*

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Always forward,

Ginger

Recap: 2018 Celebration of Excellence

by: Erika Dennis, Interim ILP Director

Division Director Virginia Pryor, along with community partners, hosted nearly 250 foster youth for the annual Celebration of Excellence festivities on Saturday, June 2, 2018. The statewide graduation ceremony took place at 11 a.m. at the Westin Perimeter in Atlanta. Celebration of Excellence is an annual event hosted to commemorate the achievements of students in foster care. This year's graduating class consisted of 200 High School graduates, 40 GED Program graduates and 10 Post Secondary graduates. Additionally, more than \$45,000 in scholarships has been awarded to honorees.

The Celebration of Excellence program is the culmination of a three-day experience for youth transitioning out of the foster care system despite any obstacles or adversity they may have faced. According to event coordinators, a primary goal of the program is emphasis on the idea that, although difficulties and misfortunes may happen, they do not have to keep one from achieving his or her goals.

DFCS continues to be committed to offering this annual Celebration of Excellence observance in an effort to showcase the milestones of eligible youth and to provide them opportunities to continue on their path to success with the tools, community resources and connections needed to thrive.





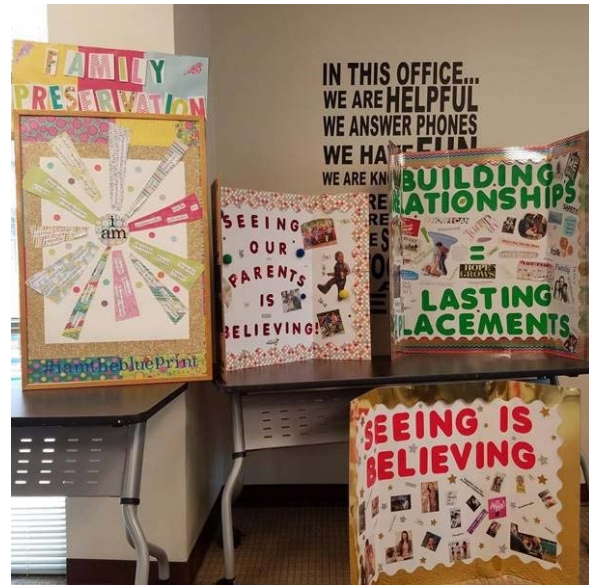
Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Overview

Please print and share the [attached informational flyer](#) from Casey Family Programs.

Region 13's "Seeing is Believing" Campaign for EPEM

by: Sabrina Watson, Region 13 Director

Region 13 has committed to shining the light on our *Every Parent Every Month* (EPEM) practice. We have acknowledged that the EPEM statistics give us a false sense of our engagement with parents since it tracks any type of contact – not just our face-to-face contacts. During the month of June, we had a kick off celebration in each R13 county for a campaign that we have titled, **"SEEING IS BELIEVING"**. This title reflects that if a case manager commits to **seeing** our parents each month, this demonstrates **our belief** that face-to-face contact is valued and will increase **our belief** in the parents' capacity for change. Also, if we commit to **seeing** our parents each month, this will most certainly increase **their belief** in the case manager's desire to partner with them to achieve success. We are drilling down with each unit to review their cases and reach a consensus (SBC style) as to the best type of contact standard for that case.



As part of the kick off, there were vision boards presented by staff that represented the "Seeing is Believing" philosophy from a staff perspective, as well as the development of a score card that will serve as a visual reminder of our progress toward increasing our face-to-face contacts. Our goal is to increase our actual face-to-face contacts each month to exceed 95 percent! Keep watching as Region 13 increases our face-to-face contacts each month because "SEEING IS BELIEVING"!

Community Spotlight: Foster Fam Fun Fest

by: Brooke Ford, Cherokee County Director

Cherokee County celebrated its very first “Foster Fam Fun Fest” last month at the Wildlife Action Outdoor Complex. This event was hosted by one of our friends at Keller-Williams (The Bradford Team) and included a day full of fun! Some of the activities were “Touch A Truck” with a SWAT Team truck from the local Sheriff’s Dept, a petting zoo, craft tables hosted by Home Depot, Archery, Martial Arts, Canoe and Boat rides, lunch, etc.

Some sponsors gave money, some gave time and some gave items of value to give away. Below are our sponsors:

The Michael Bradford Team @ Keller Williams Realty

Heart Of Atlanta Cares (501c3 organization for the Heart Of Atlanta Group)

Heart Of Atlanta Group - Keller Williams Realty

Thomas & Brown, Attorneys At Law

Supreme Lending

Pest USA

Right Way Health And Wellness

Tudor Doctor

Gas South

Cobb EMC

660 Photography

The Home Depot

SunTrust Bank

Epic Martial Arts

Sams Club

BJ's

Cherokee County Sheriff's Office

Cherokee County Department Of Families And Children Services



Leadership Academy Grads

by: Knowledge Management Section

Autumn Shepard, Myrna Williams and Carina Thompson from Knowledge Management all graduated the Leadership Academy in June.



Rising Leaders

Congratulations to the following leaders for their new roles:

- Anna Wheeler - Green and Morgan County Interim Director effective June 1.
 - Tina Teater - Towns and Union County Director effective July 1.
 - Cara Kitchen - Habersham County Director effective July 1.
 - Tony Galloway - Rabun County Director effective July 1.
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