

www.pathwaysfamilyservices.com  
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# PATHWAYS Foster Care News

February 2012

Volume 16, Issue 6

Pathways Office will be Closed Monday, February 20th for Family Day. Call 499-4175 with any emergencies.



*Congratulation to the following individuals for completing their*

*Level 1 Training:*

*Catherine A.*

*Jess & Efren M.*

*Way to go!*



## *In-Service Information*

Wednesday, January 25th Topic Reminders:

9:30 to 11:30 am: "Protecting Your Kids Online" From Street Savvy to Internet Savvy - Presenter: Sherilyn Serafinchan.

7:00 to 9:00 pm: Supports for Permanency - Presenter Colleen Keenan-Zdebiak.



Wednesday, February 29th

9:30 to 11:30 am: Supports for Permanency - Presenter Colleen Keenan-Zdebiak. Featuring a Power Point presentation followed by a question and answer session.

7:00 to 9:00 pm: Developing Healthy Eating Patterns in Children - Presenters - Nutritionists from Simply For Life.

An interactive presentation to give families more information about healthy eating for children and families alike. Join us for guidelines on what, how much and when kids should be eating. We will also be tackling 'boring lunches' with tips to add variety and sampling some of these yummy ideas!



Please call Janet or Marla at 488-2444 to register for all sessions.

# Foster Parent Survey Highlights

Thank you to those who took the time to fill out our survey at the Foster Parent In-service in September. Your feedback is extremely important to improving our program and service delivery. Here is a brief overview of the results of the survey. The entire survey with the results (without comments) is posted on our website: [www.pathwaysfamilyservices.com](http://www.pathwaysfamilyservices.com) - see the link on the home page.

# of Pathways Family Services respondents:	<b>40</b>
Total # of Pathways Foster Homes:	<b>65</b>
% of Pathways Foster Homes represented:	<b>61.54%</b>

Breakdown of respondents by # of years fostering:	# of Yrs	Total	%
	0—1	5	13%
	2—5	7	18%
	6—10	13	33%
	11—15	11	28%
	16—20	2	5%
	Grand Total	40	
	Average # of yrs fostering of respondents: 8.21		

Let's start with the last section first...

## Section E - Overall Satisfaction and Feedback

**E1. Please refer to the chart on Page 5**

**E2. List 3 things you like best about Pathways**

Top 5 Answers (some answers grouped together based on common theme):

1. Staff
2. Support
3. Caring
4. Knowledgeable
5. Professional

**E3. Please list any improvements you would like to see made to Pathways**

There were many different and very valuable comments/concerns indicated in this section. There was no one common theme to the improvements that Foster Parents indicated Pathways can make. Since the survey was anonymous and we have limited space in the newsletter, we will not be outlining the specific comments here. Your comments/concerns are still very important however, so we urge that if you have strong comments/concerns that you noted in any part of the survey we hope you can approach your FCSW or someone on the Leadership Team to have your concerns addressed one on one.

The rest....

## Section A – Becoming a Foster Parent (Only for new foster parents who started after Sept 1, 2010)

The Good: To our delight, no one disagreed with the question:

"The time required to approve your application and complete your home assessment was reasonable."  
(Q. A1. d.)

- 37.5% Strongly Agreed
- 62.5% of Foster Parents Agreed

Survey continued on Page 3...

## TALM Training Update



The 2012-2013 "Manual Training Registration Form" is being mailed with your January 1st to 15th Direct Deposit Statements. For those who register for training via TALM, registration will be going **LIVE** on February 1st for all training sessions and events from April 2012 - March 2013.

For those who are not using TALM, you can fax your registration form to the office, drop it off, or give it to your Foster Care Support Worker. Contact Janet at 780-442-0112 and she will be pleased to help you.

**NOTE: It's important to register for First Aid and especially Suicide Awareness in February if these expire anytime before March 2013.**

There are going to be some supplemental events listed, but as always, the Training Unit will add supplemental training throughout the year.

Survey Continued...

Area of Opportunity: The question that the largest number of respondents disagreed with was:

"You had all the info you needed about the Foster Care program before becoming a Foster Parent."  
(Q A1-a)

- 25% Disagreed (2 Foster Parents that started Sept 1, 2010 or later)

### Section B – Training, Compensation, and Leadership

The Good:

"Payments are processed in a timely manner." (B1-e.)

- 97.5% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed

"Agency Supports are made available to my family if needed." (B1-d.)

- 97.44% of respondents Agreed or Strongly Agreed

Areas of Opportunity:

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\* Some of the strongest feedback we received in the survey was regarding per diem rates (stipend).

- 32.4% of respondents (12 foster parents that have fostered from 0-15 years) Disagreed that "Per diem rates (stipend) are adequate." As many of you understand, Pathways does not set the per diem (stipend) rates, but will continue to advocate for increased per diem (stipend) rates for our foster parents.

"Leadership team is available to me when needed (Executive Director, Program Manager, Supervisor)." (B1-h)

- 5% Strongly Disagreed (2 Foster Parents that have fostered 2-5 years)
- 5% Disagreed (2 Foster Parents that have fostered 6-10 years)

"If I have an issue of conflict with an agency staff member I feel I have the opportunity to take the issue to someone else." (B1-g)

- 5.13% Strongly Disagreed (2 Foster Parents that have fostered 2-5yrs and 6-10yrs respectively)
- 2.56% Disagreed (1 Foster Parent that has fostered 2-5 yrs)

Survey Continued on Page 4...

### Section C – Staff in the Foster Care Program

#### The Good:

"FCSWs maintain regular contact with your family (home visit once a month and a phone call minimally once per month)." (C1-e.)

- 79.49% of respondents Strongly Agreed
- 20.51% of respondents Agreed
- 0% Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed

"FCSWs are knowledgeable." (C1-b.)

- 64.10% of respondents Strongly Agreed
- 35.9% of respondents Agreed
- 0% Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed

#### Areas of Opportunity:

"FCSWs are courteous and respectful." (C1-a)

- 5.26% Disagreed (2 Foster Parents that have fostered 2-5 yrs)

"The level of support is meeting your needs." (C1-g)

- 5.13% Disagreed (2 Foster Parent that has fostered 2-5 yrs)

### Section D – Yearly Evaluation (Foster Parents that have been fostering 1+ yrs)

#### The Good:

"When the Annual Evaluation is conducted, you are given valuable feedback on the care provided in your home." (D3-c.)

- 57.14% of respondents Strongly Agreed
- 42.68% of respondents Agreed
- 0% Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed

"When the Annual Evaluation is conducted, you have opportunities to provide input and feedback on the care provided in your home." (D3-a.)

- 55.56% of respondents Strongly Agreed
- 44.44% of respondents Agreed
- 0% Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed

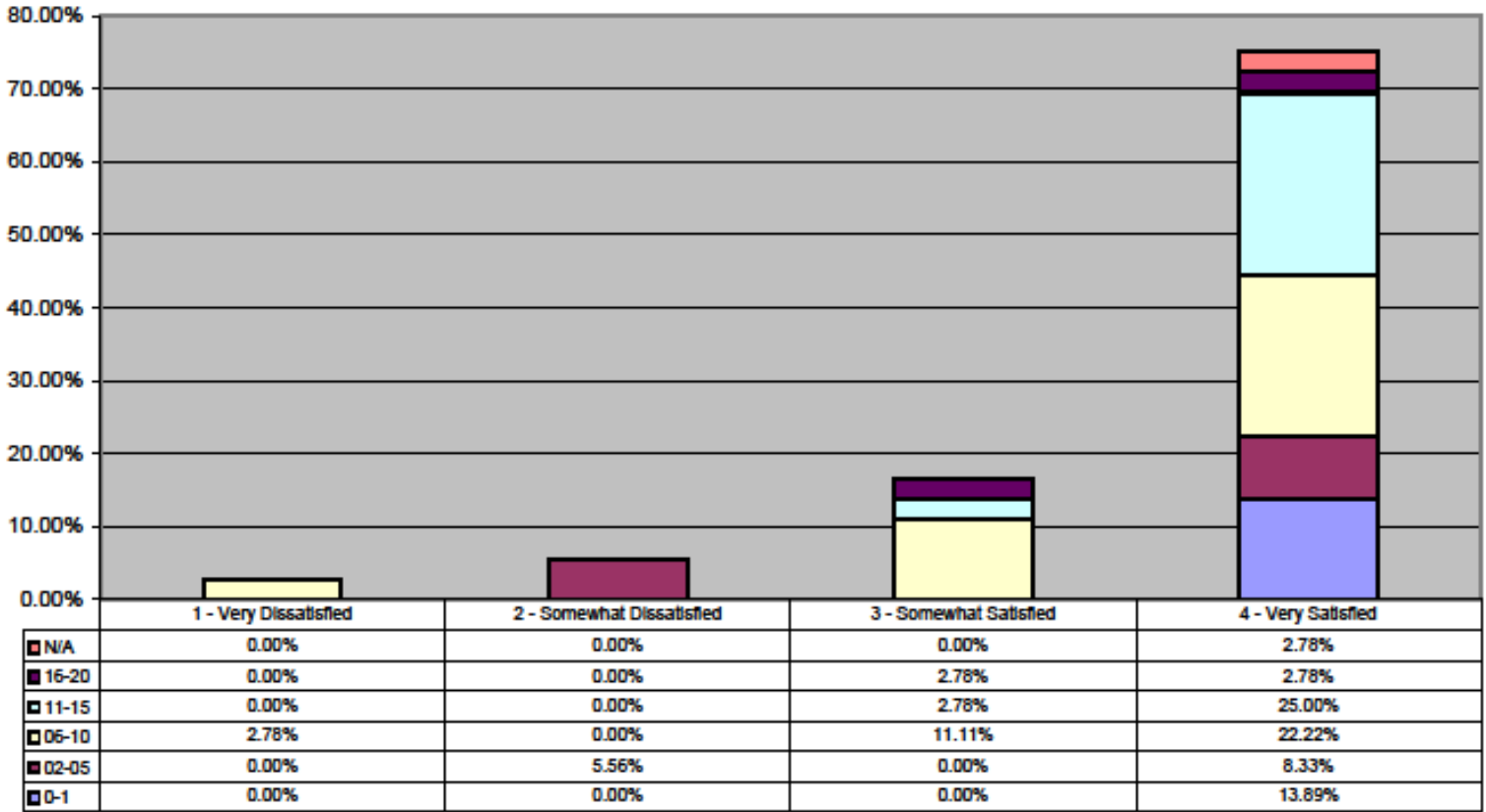
#### Areas of Opportunity:

"When the Annual Evaluation is conducted, your Learning Plan is developed or updated." (D3-c)

- 2.94% Disagreed (1 Foster Parent that has fostered 11-15yrs)

**Thank you to those who were able to complete the survey! Your feedback is invaluable and helps Pathways improve our services to Foster Parents and the Children we serve. If you have any urgent questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk with your Foster Care Support Worker or someone on the Leadership team.**

Results of Survey Question E1.  
 "Overall, how satisfied are you with the services of Pathways?"  
 Broken Down by Number of Years Fostering



% Breakdown by # of Years Fostering



Two hour information sessions are offered by St. Johns Ambulance to ensure your child's car seat is safely and properly installed in your vehicle and that your child is safely secured in their car seat. Information on Alberta car seat laws is also provided. At the end of the session, presenters will help you make any adjustments to car seats (bring them with you) and make sure you know how to properly install them in your vehicle.

Sessions taught by Certified Children's Restraint Systems Technicians. Sessions run monthly.  
 Contact St. Johns Ambulance at 780-452-6161 to register.



*Deadline for submissions to March newsletter is Monday, February 13th. Call Marla at 442-0113 with information.*



*Silver Skate Festival: February 17th to 20th at Hawrelak Park*



Festival Programming will include a wide variety of free events and activities including an epic ice slide, family snow sculpting, figure skating demonstrations, roving performers, horse drawn sleigh rides, the Cessco Snow Sculpture Garden, Night Works in the Park - a multimedia extravaganza, two evenings of fire sculptures, and Heritage Village - a rich tapestry of heritage performers including Aboriginal and Metis cultures.



ETS shuttle service to Hawrelak Park will be offered. Check [silverskatefestival.org](http://silverskatefestival.org) for info.

# Pathways Family Services

6758—75 Street NW, Edmonton, AB,  
 Business Line: 488-2444, Fax: 488-2603,  
 After Hours Emergency: 499-4175



# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>TALM Training Live</b>	2	3	4
5	6	7 <b>Direct Deposit Date</b>	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 	15	16	17  <b>Silver Skate Festival</b>	18
19 	20 <b>Family Day Office Closed</b>	21	22	23 <b>Direct Deposit Date</b>	24	25
26	27	28	29 <b>In-Services See Page 1</b>	 Month End Reports & Allowance Forms due February 29th. Happy Leap Year!		