

# **Assessment of Post-Adoption Resources in Grand and San Juan Counties 2007**

## **INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- Adoption Exchange has a toll free number and website for information and resources about post-adoption information and services throughout the state of Utah. The information gathered during the assessment of post-adoption resources for each region of Utah will be available on the Adoption Exchange website. They can be reached at 1-866-872-7212 or [www.utdcfsadopt.org/](http://www.utdcfsadopt.org/).
- Adoption Connection Newsletter is sent to all DCFS adoptive families receiving subsidy. The newsletter is designed to have current Utah-specific information regarding resources and adoption issues.
- Early Intervention Council in Grand County has a range of information that may be helpful for parents of children who are infants - age 3. Contact Char Carter at 435-259-3345.
- Utah Cares at [www.utahcares.utah.gov](http://www.utahcares.utah.gov) has many human service resources throughout Utah. To contact them by telephone call 211.

## **SUPPORT GROUPS**

### **Cluster Groups**

- An Adoption Cluster Support Group is facilitated by Caroline Rogers in Moab. She can be reached at 435-259-6497. Julie Ann Durfee co-facilitates the group. She can be reached at 435-259-1708.
- An Adoption Support Group operates through LDS Family Services in Blanding for members of the LDS faith. Delton Pugh at the DCFS office is the contact person. He can be reached at 435-678-1454.

### **Specialized Groups**

- National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI) has support and education groups in Grand County for family members of persons with mental illness. Call Dixie Dalton at 435-259-7348.
- Contact Interact has a day program for adults. Contact them at 801-259-7340.

**GAP:** There appears to be few support groups in Grand or San Juan Counties for parents who have challenging or disabled children. Grand County has the Moab Family Support Group, and they meet the first Thursday of every month at Seek Haven from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. For information contact Donna Ottenger at 435-259-0649.

### **Children's Support Groups**

- Grand County has the Sundwall pre-school for children with disabilities. Contact Karyn Kay at 435-259-5628.
- San Juan County has an early childhood special education program birth to 5 years. Contact Toni Done at 435-678-1222.
- For information on any programs for the youth, you can call Robin Parker at 435-259-3733 for current classes or events.

**GAP:** There are no known regularly scheduled support groups for children who have been adopted.

### **Chat Rooms**

- Adoption Exchange has links to nationally based chat rooms for adoptive parents at [www.utdcfsadopt.org/](http://www.utdcfsadopt.org/).

### **Culture Groups**

- Families for African American Awareness meet several times a year. The contact person is Stacy Farmer at 801-299-0673.

- India support group is comprised of parents who have adopted children from India. They meet for potluck dinners or picnics several times a year. Contact Joan Auger at 801-547-0852.
- Korean Culture Camp has an organized camp once a year for children adopted from Korea. Families meet another time for a potluck dinner. Contact Gary or Beth Beutler at 801-280-6559.
- Russian Adoption Support meets quarterly for educational classes and family activities. Contact Jenny Davis at 801-222-8897.
- South American Culture Group meets twice a year for family activities. Contact Keith or Kathy Syndergaard at 801-756-5656.
- Families for Children From China has a number of activities available. Contact Karrie Miner at 801-484-4668.
- Taiwan Culture Group meets for different activities. Contact Laura Trinnaman at 801-772-0819.
- Guatemalan Culture Group has a summer picnic and other activities. Contact Judy Sorenson at 801-254-4011.
- Marshall Islands Culture Group has a summer picnic planned. Contact Jennifer Gunnell at 801-282-0737 and Mary Jarman at 801-501-0156 for more information.
- A cultural group entitled Cause Extend is now available. Contact Chris Ivins at 801-376-8951 for more information.

## **RESPITE CARE**

### **1 - 4 Hour Scheduled Respite**

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care are used by most parents in Grand and San Juan Counties.
- Common activities such as scouts, sports, and church activities can provide regular breaks for parents while their children are involved in the programs.
- Utah Foster Friends can provide respite care in a family's home. There is no overnight care available through this program. Family Friends have completed the foster and adoption training course and have cleared a background screening for abuse or neglect charges. Respite parents who have completed their foster training course and have become a licensed home can provide overnight respite care in their homes. To request these services contact the Utah Foster Care Foundation at 435-259-3345.
- Many parents throughout the state use child care to give them regular respite from the demands of raising their children. The Eastern Region Child Care Resource and Referral program has a computerized database of all the licensed child care in the Eastern Region. There are child care providers who provide child care after school, on a drop-in basis, and provide summer programs. For example, San Juan County has the Century 21 project, which provides after school activities for children in the elementary schools. Some of these programs accommodate children up to ages 12 or 13. A parent can arrange daily after school or summer programs or can arrange for care 1 - 4 days a week. Some providers have structured programs with low adult to child ratios and many have special training to help them with the difficult to manage children. Costs vary. Contact the Eastern Region Child Care Resource and Referral program at 1-888-637-4786 or [www.ceu.edu/childcare](http://www.ceu.edu/childcare).
- Cluster group members have exchanged respite care for each other in the Eastern Region. Cluster group members are familiar to the family. The care is provided by a cluster member who may have experience with children with similar behaviors. (Adoptive parents would have to get a Respite Care license if they wanted to be available for respite care exchange with foster parents.)

### **Day Breaks**

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by most parents in Grand and San Juan Counties.
- Utah Foster Friends can provide relief care in a family's home. There is no overnight care available through this program. Family Friends have completed the foster and adoption training course and have cleared a background screening for abuse or neglect charges. Respite parents who have completed their foster training course and have become a licensed home can provide overnight respite care in their homes. To request these services contact the Utah Foster Care Foundation at 435-259-3345.

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- Cluster group members have exchanged respite care for each other in other regions. Cluster group members are familiar to the family. The care is provided by a cluster member who may have experience with children with similar behaviors. (Adoptive parents would have to get a Respite Care license if they wanted to be available for respite care exchange with foster parents.)

#### **Overnight Breaks - Weekend Breaks**

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by most parents in Grand and San Juan Counties. (Children in foster care can only stay overnight in a licensed foster home. You can, however, have someone come to your home and stay overnight, but they must have a current foster care license.)
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#### **Parent - to - Parent**

- Informal supports such as relatives, friends, or church members are used for respite care by most parents in Grand and San Juan Counties.
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#### **Immediate Crisis Respite**

- The Christmas Box Shelter in Moab can provide immediate crisis respite care for children under 12 years of age. Contact Terri Nixon at 435-259-1658.
- Canyonlands Youth Home in San Juan County can take youth ages 12 - 18 years old for a 12-hour "time out". This program can provide immediate crisis respite for the older youth. Contact Mel Laws at 435-678-1495.

### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

#### **Counselors who Specialize in Adoption**

- Four Corners Behavioral Health Center, the Medicaid provider in Grand County, is open to training and educational opportunities for their therapists to become more specialized in adoption issues. However, they would like to have the training manageable in terms of time commitment and location. They have to be certified in Domestic Violence counseling and Substance Abuse treatment, as well as well versed in every other kind of mental health issue people may come to the center to address.

**Note:** Four Corners Behavioral Health Center would be open to working with an adoptive parent as an adoptive parent mentor for a Response Team Model.

- DCFS in Blanding has a clinical counselor, Kevin Webb, who has participated in a two-day workshop regarding clinical issues for adoptive families. He can be reached at 435-678-1451.

#### **Family Focused Treatment**

- Four Corners Behavioral Health Center, the Medicaid provider, in Grand County works with the Frontier Project using a model that uses a home-based, whole family approach to provide wrap

around services that may be needed. The model is a strengths-based model. They can be contacted at 435-259-6131.

- DCFS in Blanding has a clinical counselor, Kevin Webb, who provides home-based therapy for the family. He can be reached at 435-678-1451.

#### **Home-Based**

- Four Corners Behavioral Health Center, the Medicaid provider, in Grand County works with the Frontier Project using a model that uses a home-based, whole family approach to provide wrap around services that may be needed. The model is a strengths-based model.
- DCFS in Blanding has a clinical counselor, Kevin Webb, who provides home-based therapy for the family. He can be reached at 435-678-1451.

#### **Respond Within 24 Hours to Crisis**

- Four Corners Mental Health Center, the Medicaid provider, in Grand County has a 24-hour crisis line for families and can get in touch with a counselor to work with an adoptive family.
- DCFS in San Juan and Grand Counties both have a 24-hour crisis number.

#### **Family Preservation**

- DCFS in both Grand and San Juan Counties have Family Preservation workers in their offices.

#### **After School and School Treatment Programs**

- The Frontiers Project provides tracking, mentors, therapy, and wrap around services for children diagnosed with a Significant Emotional Disorder in Grand County. Contact Rick Donham of Four Corners Behavioral Health at 435-259-6131.
- Four Corners Behavioral Health in Grand County provides several school or after school programs for youth. They have the "Gear-up" program in the middle school; a life skills groups for 12 - 18 year olds to help them with developing positive relationships and make good decisions; a peer mentor program for 12 - 18 year olds to help prevent substance abuse, and a job preparation program for 15 - 18 year olds.

#### **Residential Treatment**

- There are no residential treatment programs paid through Medicaid in San Juan or Grand Counties. If a child is a threat to self or others they may be admitted to a hospital until he or she is considered stabilized.
- Grand County uses a 90-day facility in Richfield for youth who are on court probation.
- San Juan County has a short-term residential program called Wilderness Quest. It is designed for youth 12 - 21 years old and is for private payment.
- There are other residential treatment programs throughout the state for private payment. Medicaid carve-out may applied to qualifying private treatment programs for adopted youth.