

Newsletter

Aug 2023

Issue



Community Supports

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that childcare providers make reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of these children. United 4 Children Inclusion Specialists help with on-site or telephone technical assistance, short term observations, consultation and training specific to the needs of a particular child.

<https://united4children.org/inclusion-services/>

IMPACT helps you understand your child's educational rights. They assist in IEP review, facilitate meetings and mediation. Upcoming trainings include Positive Behavioral Intervention, and Bullying Intervention. <https://www.missouriparentsact.org>



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Announcing Placement Specialist Team Expansion

We are excited to share some important updates regarding St. Louis Partners (SLP) growth and the impactful work we have been doing to support children. Over the past few months, we have made some changes to our team. Current Placement Specialist, Meaghan Westhus, has recently been joined by Kim Willis in our Home and Family Finding team.

Previously, Meaghan was the sole member of the Home Finding team, working tirelessly to find homes and families for children in our care. Now, with the addition of Kim, this department has expanded into formal family finding.

This program focuses on family navigation and includes elements of the *30 Days to Family* model, which focuses on connecting children with stable and loving relatives. Our approach differs as we work throughout the entire life of the case ensuring ongoing family finding.

One of our primary goals is to place children with their family and kin whenever safe and possible.

We also strive to keep siblings together and help youth who are approaching the transition to adulthood without a permanent home. These services are available to all St. Louis Partners kids.

While this program is still in early stages, Meghan and Kim are pleased to report that there have already been successful placements with relatives. They have identified and engaged with relatives, even those who live out of state, who have demonstrated a willingness to provide care and support for these children.

Family finding is a core aspect of our work, and we actively search for individuals who have a connection to the child, typically within 3-5 degrees of separation. We also reach out to people such as teachers and family friends who may have fostered deep connections with these children and youth. *Continued p.2...*



Letter from Saint Louis Partners COO Lanette Bowring

Important changes coming
w/SLP & Our Little Haven. . .



One thing that is constant in life is change, and Saint Louis Partners is changing too! Our Little Haven has been a valued partner providing excellent foster care case management (FCCM) services for over 20 years. As times change, the Our Little Haven board decided to move into a new direction and discontinue their case management services as of Sept. 30, 2023.

With two more years of the current FCCM contract, Saint Louis Partners' continuing agencies Bringing Families Together, Good Shepherd and Lutheran Family & Children Services remain strongly committed to the children and families served in the greater St. Louis region.

All four partner agencies have been committed to a smooth transition meeting regularly over the last couple of months to ensure that Our Little Haven's exit from the partnership does not impact services to our clients and foster parents.

SLP remains a strong partnership & will continue the long history serving children & families.

Good Shepherd will take over as the lead agency for the State of Missouri FCCM contract replacing Our Little Haven as main point of contact. Good Shepherd has an extensive history of commitment to children and families and will bring their years of experience and strong leadership to their new role.

I want to ensure everyone that Saint Louis Partners remains a strong partnership and will continue the long history serving children and families with foster care case management.

We wish Our Little Haven success in their new endeavors and thank them for their years of services.

Please feel free to reach out directly to your lead agency or to myself if you have questions about these changes. Your success is our success and we couldn't do what we do without your commitment and efforts! Thank you!

*Lanette Bowring, LSCW,
MSW, SLP Chief
Operating Officer
314-754-2727*

Announcing Placement Specialist Team Expansion, continued from p. 1...

In addition to family finding, the team is dedicated to home finding for all new cases, placement disruptions and sibling separations. As we move forward, our team remains committed to creating stable and nurturing environments for children in our care.



It's back to school time!

Back to School Events

Everyone is gearing up to go back to school and excitement is in the air! The Fun4stlkids website can help you find local back to school events for backpacks, school supplies, healthcare and haircuts.

Check it out at fun4stlkids.com/Whats-Happening/Back-to-School/!

We're excited, are you?! . . .



Increase in Foster Care Support Funds

Exciting news that the Children's Division has approved an increase in funds to support foster children. These rate

changes went into effect 7/1/2023 (although we were notified later in the month).

SLP has already made the internal changes necessary and the increase in rate payment will be included with all July payments. SLP is pleased to announce our compliance with the rate increases.

There were no increases at this time to Clothing Allowance or Respite reimbursement rates.

There were increases allotted to Guardianship/Adoption subsidy cases. Those will also be automatically increased. (Memo #CD23-21)

Partners Mileage Reimbursement Rate:
(paid by invoice)

All allowable miles (visitation, medical, therapy, court, etc.); submitting your mileage form to CM monthly is required (*see form attached*)
Rate: \$.55 per mile

Children's Division Guardianship/Adoption Subsidy Rates: (paid monthly)

Placement Type	Rate:
Traditional/Relative Age 0-5	\$ 368.00 per month
Traditional/Relative Age 6-12	\$ 435.00 per month
Traditional/Relative Age 13 and over	\$ 571.00 per month
Level A/Medical All ages	\$ 978.00 per month

Note on below chart: RHU means Unlicensed Relative Home; RH means Licensed Relative Home

The new rates are as follows...

Placement Type	Rate:
Unlicensed RHU Age 0-36 months	\$14.33 per day
Unlicensed RHU Age 3-5 years	\$11.34 per day
Unlicensed RHU Age 6-12 years	\$13.41 per day
Unlicensed RHU Age 13& over	\$14.96 per day
Traditional FH/RH Age 0-36 months	\$19.73 per day
Traditional FH/RH Age 3-5 years	\$16.73 per day
Traditional FH/RH Age 6-12 years	\$18.97 per day
Traditional FH/RH Age 13 & over	\$23.41 per day
Level A/Medical, All Ages	\$36.79 per day
Level B, All Ages	\$66.87 per day

Childcare Searching Tools

As we have all experienced, finding childcare is more difficult than ever. We wanted to provide some searching tools to help you on your journey to find quality caregivers.

Child Care Aware:

[Child Care Search - Child Care Aware \(mochildcareaware.org\)](#)

This website enables you to seek childcare based on location, days and times, type of facility, and other special circumstances. They also have a phone number to call for further assistance. (866) 892-3228 (option 2).

Childcare Connection – St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Jefferson County:

[Childcare Connection- St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Jefferson County | Facebook](#) This page contains both individuals seeking childcare and those offering childcare services. Please be aware that not all of these situations would qualify for state subsidy.



Interested in Adoption, Foster Care or Mentoring?

We would love to hear from you! We always have kids in need of a loving home and mentors to provide support. To learn more, call Saint Louis Partners 314-938-5690.



FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILY PICNIC
SAT., SEPT. 23

- **Time:** Noon to 3 p.m. - *Rain or Shine!*
- **Location:** Millar Park, 7603 Carleton Ave, University City 63130
- **Admission is free!**
- **Bring** your blanket and chairs

RSVP by Fri., Sept. 15 to: Amy Black ablack@gstl.org w/number attending

Saint Louis PARTNERS August 2023 Issue



Saint Louis Partners
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314-531-3183, ext. 23
www.saintlouispartners.org



All agencies are accredited by
Council on Accreditation

For nearly eighteen years, Saint Louis PARTNERS (Permanency: Achieving Results Through Networking, Education, Resources and Services) has been investing in the strength and stability of family through compassionate, comprehensive foster care and adoptive services. Our primary goal for each child is to create a bridge home to permanence, anchoring a child in the rich and trusted love of family. Our primary partner in this effort is you, the foster parent.

Saint Louis PARTNERS unites a partnership of four strong agencies:

