



# The SACHS CHRONICLE

Volume XV

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FACILITATING AGENCY  
ACADEMY FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EXCELLENCE  
Don Dudley, Director

## SACHS MEETING

### May 11-12, 2006

**Special Guests: Former CDSS Directors**

**Dennis Boyle and Eloise Anderson**

**Topic: LIA Action Learning Projects & Graduation**

**Speakers: LIA Year 2 Participants**

**Location: Hilton, Costa Mesa, CA**

## Foster Family Care vs. Kinship Care\*

The following is the abstract from "When Children Cannot Remain Home: Foster Family Care and Kinship Care" by J. D. Berrick.

Despite the best efforts of child welfare agencies, community agencies, and individuals, some children are not safe in their homes and must be placed in substitute care setting by child welfare authorities. Increasingly child welfare agencies are placing children in the homes of their relatives rather than in traditional foster family homes.

This article discusses how such factors as the availability of foster homes, the demand for foster care, attitudes toward the extended families of troubled

parents, and policies regarding payment for the cost of care have contributed to the rapid growth in kinship care.

Research findings suggest that kinship homes can promote the child welfare goals of protecting children and supporting families, but they are less likely to facilitate the prompt achievement of legal permanence for children.

"The Future of Children." [Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect](#), 1998, Vol. 8, No. 1.

*For a copy of this article, or any other article in the Chronicle, please contact a SACHS Staff Member.*

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## Article Summary: Attracting and Supporting Foster Families

The following is a summary of the article, “**Lighting the Way: Attracting and Supporting Foster Families,**” which was published by Casey Family Programs in 2000.

The full report is available at: <http://www.openminds.com/indres/wphoto.pdf>. This summary was written for the May/June 2001 issue of *Children’s Bureau Express* and is available at: <http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/>.



Research confirms what practitioners already know– the number of children entering foster care keeps climbing, and the number of foster families is not keeping pace. A new release from the Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support (CNC) aims to help by providing a foundation for recruitment and retention efforts.

The document details 10 broad principles for promoting stable foster parents and proposes that the following principles should guide agencies and practitioners who work with foster families:

- Develop clear agency values, assumptions and goals
- Create organizational structures that facilitate good practice
- Seek and rebuild collaborations
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Emphasize responsiveness and inclusivity in recruitment
- Help families to be competent
- Find the right family for the right child
- Support teamwork and partnerships between social workers, foster families, and birth families
- Provide sufficient concrete and emotional support to allow foster families to do their jobs well
- Give families a voice in the system

## Article Summary: Leadership

The following is a summary of the book, “**Leadership on the Line**,” by Ronald A. Heifetz and Marty Linsky. The summary below was compiled by Winn McFadden, Mitch Mason, Susan Hall, Michael de la Rosa, Molly Marino, and Adelaide Mostachetti, members of the Leaders in Action Book Club.

This book details the dangers of failing as a leader, after achieving success in a previous position. The book also deals with how to avoid this danger.

The author describes several major principles and theories on leadership:

- Technical vs. Adaptive
- Take a look from the balcony
- Manage conflict
- Accept responsibility
- Understand the difference between an ally or confidant
- Look at the song behind the word and understand the real message behind the

authority

- Give back the “work place”
- Role vs. Self
- Pace the change

The authors of this summary note that all characteristics mentioned in the book resonated with their leadership style and approach. However, as agency culture may not be initially receptive to these principles, adjustments within programs may need to be made. The summary authors suggest introducing the book club idea within an agency, so that round table discussions can take place around these new leadership theories and ways of thinking.

## LIA Books

### **LEADERSHIP ON THE LINE**

Authors: Ronald A. Heifetz and Marty Linsky

Publisher: Harvard Business School Press, 2002

Pages: 252

Competencies addressed: leadership skills, political savvy

### **YOU'RE IN CHARGE—NOW WHAT? The 8 Point Plan**

Authors: Thomas J. Neff and James M. Citrin

Publisher: Crown Business

Copyright: 2005, Esaress Holding, Ltd.

Pages: 299

Competencies addressed: leadership skills, personal style

### **MANAGEMENT MALPRACTICE**

Author: Craig R. Hickman

Publisher: Platinum Press (F + W

Publications, Inc.), 2005

Pages: 257

Competencies addressed: change management, vision and strategic planning

### **FIRST, BREAK ALL THE RULES**

Authors: Marcus Buckingham & Curt Coffman

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Inc.

Copyright: 1999, The Gallup Organization

Pages: 271

Competencies addressed: vision, change management

### **LEADING CHANGE**

Author: John P. Kotter

Publisher: Harvard Business School Press (1996)

Pages: 187

Competencies addressed: vision, organizational change, team building



## Article Summary: Impact of the Rise in Meth Use on the Child Welfare System

The following is a summary of the statement issued by the Child Welfare League of America, entitled: “**Statement of the Child Welfare League of America for the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug policy, and Human Resources Hearing on Fighting Meth in America’s Heartland: Assessing the Impact on Local Law Enforcement and Child Welfare Agencies,**” which was presented in July of 2005. The full statement is available at: <http://www.cwla.org/advocacy/aod050726.htm>.

The use of methamphetamine may potentially pose one of the more significant threats to children within the last two decades. It also threatens the capacity of our nation's child welfare systems to respond accordingly. As methamphetamine production, importation, and use continue to spread into new regions, we are quickly learning what many western states have been confronting for the past decade. As state and local officials increase their meth lab seizures, they are witnessing the presence of children within these environments who suffer from severe emotional and physical dangers.

### *California*

Over the past six years northern California has witnessed a 25% increase in foster care caseloads, with an ever-increasing number coming as a direct result of methamphetamine use.

Additionally, the number of children removed from drug labs increased from 45 in 1999 to 223 in 2003. The DEA reports that federal meth lab seizures in California have increased from 108 in 1995 to nearly 1,900 in 2001.

Over a five year period, from 1998—2003, 665

Riverside County Children were present during lab seizures. Of these, 31% were under the age of six and 35% were between the ages of seven to twelve.

As of 2003, more than 600 children have been removed from meth labs in Los Angeles County.

### *CWLA Recommendations*

- Congress must reject any proposals to reduce the federal supports currently in place for abused and neglected children.
- Congress should approve new resources to provide the substance abuse treatment necessary for parents involved in the child welfare system.
- CWLA urges congress to adopt legislation to extend federal Title IV-E Foster Care to ensure that abused and neglected children can live with relatives in guardianship arrangements.
- CWLA urges congress to maintain and strengthen Title IV-E Training.
- Congress should provide new resources to support the needed training and technical assistance to help communities face the challenge of meth use.

### **LIA: Mentoring Tip of the Month**

The LIA participants are being asked to familiarize themselves with their county’s Board of Supervisors. Check to see if your LIA Participants need help with this homework assignment.