

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

May 6, 2015

M E M O R A N D U M

What's Inside:

Information about Foster Care Month and introduction of the films ReMoved and ReMoved 2.

TO: REGIONAL DIRECTORS, FIELD SUPPORT MANAGERS, CIRCUIT MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS

FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR

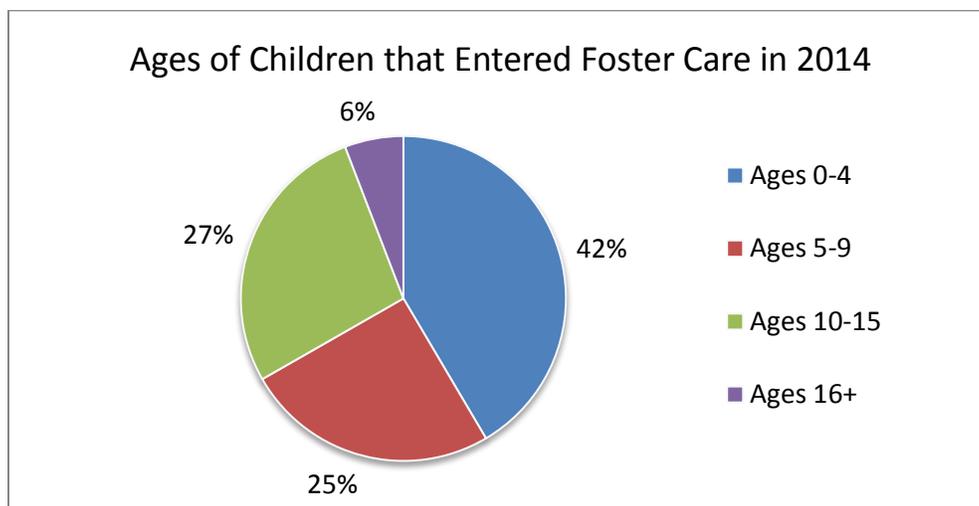
SUBJECT: REMOVED AND NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

DISCUSSION:

"Sometimes someone hurts you so bad, it stops hurting at all. Until something makes you feel again, and then it all comes back: every word, every hurt, every moment."
(Taken from the film ReMoved)

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to reflect on youth in foster care and the important work done with and on behalf of them every day. As our agency moves forward in becoming trauma informed, thinking of how trauma effects children, parents and even staff can help move toward best practice and better service to those who need it most. The purpose of this memo is to bring awareness to decisions, practice and work done every day.

In 2014, Foster Care numbers rose to an all-time high. During calendar year 2014, 7,195 children entered foster care. Below is a breakdown of their ages:



Often children enter foster care due to traumatic events, but subsequent events add to the negative impact on children. Moves and sibling separation are two areas that have great impact on children, their well-being and their permanency.

According to 2014 Best Practice Review (BPR) results;

- 60% of youth in foster care were placed with their siblings
- 39% of those youth not placed with their siblings, were able to visit their siblings weekly

The Children's Division continues to improve in decreasing unnecessary placement changes, which affect stability, permanency, services provided and school. Currently there are over 13,000 children in foster care; together those children have had 44,288 total placements during their collective time in foster care.

To help bring awareness, two inspiring films, ReMoved and ReMoved 2, are now available to staff, resource parents and any community partners committed to improving the lives of the many children in foster care.

ReMoved was created by Nathanael and Christina Matanick, two film makers from Southern California who were inspired to make the film while going to foster parent classes and thinking of foster care through the eyes of the child. They entered the 168 Film Festival in which they had one week (168 hours) to make a short film. Using all volunteers and their inspiration from their foster parent classes they created ReMoved and won the 168 Film Festival. The films feature a real life glimpse into the trauma of removal, foster care, moves and sibling separation. Viewing the films is intended to bring a renewed awareness to all those who watch it and in turn result in better outcomes for foster youth.

"I am lovable. I am worthy of care," Zoe says in the final scene of "ReMoved." "And that glimmer of light -- it makes all the difference."

Everyone is encouraged to watch both ReMoved and ReMoved 2, even if seen previously as a reminder of the Children's Division mission and dedication to the children served. Since the films have a larger file size, it is advisable to watch the films in a group setting, if possible, to avoid affecting computer use for others.

NECESSARY ACTION

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

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CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS N/A
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES ReMoved ReMoved Part 2
RELATED STATUTE N/A
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS PA-CPS 10.03 PA-FKC 2.04 PA-FKC 6.06 PA-FKC 16.01 PA-CPS 11.02 PA-FKC 2.05 PA-FKC 6.07 PA-FKC 19.02 PA-CPS 11.04 PA-FKC 5 PA-FKC 7.01 PA-CPS 11.05 PA-FKC 6.03 PA-FKC 7.02 PA-CPS 11.06 PA-FKC 6.05 PA-FKC 7.05
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) N/A
PROTECTIVE FACTORS Parental Resilience Social Connections Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development Concrete Support in Times of Need Social and Emotional Competence of Children
FACES REQUIREMENTS N/A