



Cc: Marian Percy

Subject: FW: From Ross Wright re: Casework at Hope & Home

FYI

Amy

Dear Families and Friends of Hope & Home,

As many of you know, we have had a tough time over the past year maintaining enough caseworkers to support all of our families and children. This year five out of six of our new crew of caseworkers announced that they were leaving. We couldn't argue with their reasons: Two were headed out of state—one to Alaska, the other to Nashville. A third is headed back to school full time as a graduate student. The fourth is going this Wednesday to Denver to be a therapist, and the fifth is having a baby. This would have left poor Lorrie Montoya with all 38 cases. Fortunately, as providence would have it, Carol Giles, a former caseworker with Hope & Home and greatly beloved hero of our foster parents, arrived at our door looking to see if we were hiring! Needless to say, she is starting work immediately.

At the same time, we at Hope & Home are always looking for better ways of doing things. In discussions with CHINS UP, a local CPA that has been in the community for more than 30 years, we have worked out a way to combine forces so that we never get caught short-staffed again. We will be contracting with them for casework services and casework supervision. Their supervisors, Tess and Alecia, will take over all of our supervision needs. Lorrie and Carol will cover most of our cases with help with a few cases from CHINS UP. We are especially excited to be working with Carol again. I'm sure many of you remember her with her always-present bright and cheerful smile. We will also truly benefit from working together with CHINS UP. Their years of experience supporting families and children will be a wonderful addition to our incredible foster homes and families.

On a practical basis, very little will change for you. If you have had Lorrie as your caseworker, you will continue to have her. If you had one of the others, 15 cases will go to Carol and 6 will go to a worker at CHINS UP. In every case, Hope & Home will monitor the situation carefully to ensure quality casework services.

We are excited about this change because it allows us to bring a more focused approach to supporting foster parents at Hope & Home. You will soon get a call letting you know who your new caseworker will be (unless you have Lorrie, then it stays the same). Please feel free to call if you have any questions. For those of you who don't remember Carol, I've attached an e-mail about her from Amy Markwell, an attorney from the Office of the County Attorney.

Blessings,

Ross