

AFRICAN-AMERICANS UNITED FOR INCLUSIVE CHILD WELFARE REFORM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Community Engagement in Foster Care Reform”:
Town Hall Meeting Set for Wednesday, October 07, 2009
at Heartlove Conference Center 3229 N. Martin Luther King Drive, Milwaukee
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Milwaukee, WI—(September 27, 2009)—In response to several highly critical local child welfare documents that address principal areas of deficiencies and opportunities for growth, a few African-American child welfare agencies have come together to campaign on behalf of foster parents and foster youth. The executives of Fresh Start Family Services, Inc., Harmony Social Service Child Placing Agency, and New Horizon Center, Inc. have teamed up to raise awareness around the tremendous need for increased support of biological and foster parents in order to support the children and youth in the Milwaukee County child welfare system at the local and community level.

In our effort to support children and families in our community, we have invited several national and local speakers to discuss the following key documents with foster parents: Bureau of Milwaukee Settlement Agreement and Corrective Action Plan: Jeanine B. v. Doyle; Study of Service, Support, and Placement Needs in the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare; Recruitment and Retention Plan for Milwaukee County; and A Community Conversation About the Safety of Children in Foster Care.

The need for stakeholder involvement is a leading agenda item at child welfare meetings across the country. Increasingly, foster parents are aware that child welfare agencies cannot achieve the outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being for children by acting on their own. A wide array of “stakeholders”—within agencies, across public organizations, in communities and in families—must join in the work to achieve positive outcomes.

In order to engage in meaningful conversation that defines the culture of child welfare in our local market, our goal is to create an environment where positive exchange can occur.

For more information on ways to get involved with the coalition and impact the direction of child welfare reforms affecting the community, please contact Theresa or Abby at (414) 351-1100, ext. 117 or 110

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