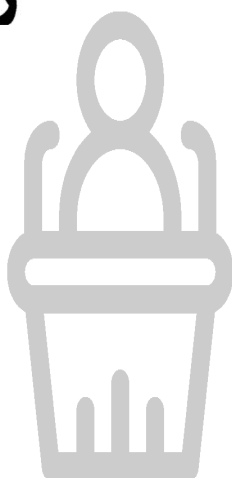




WFAPA

Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

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CONFERENCE
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Grandfamilies

Imagine you are a child. In the middle of the night, your mom drops you off at your grandmother's house to live. Your mom and dad can't care for you anymore. Their opioid and alcohol abuse have made it impossible to parent. You're glad to be with your grandma because it feels safe and comfortable at her house, but you're worried about some things. Where would you go to school? How will you get your asthma medicine? Can grandma get it for you? Will your mom and dad be okay?

Grandfamilies face unique strengths and challenges. Unlike parents, grandfamily caregivers do not have inherent legal rights and responsibility with respect to these children. They often take informal responsibility for children suddenly and have no planning time to meet their financial, housing or other needs.

How many children live with grandfamilies? Over 7.9 million children in the United States live with a relative who is head of the household:

- ◆ Over 6 million of these children live with grandparent householders, and another 1.8 million live with other relative householders, such as aunts or uncles.
- ◆ About 2.7 million children are being raised by a grandparent, other relative or close family friend and do not have a parent living in the household.

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PART OF THE STORY

Adopting a child is such a powerful, emotional experience and like pregnancy and birth, no two adoption stories are the same. We are making another WFAPA Quilt and if you have adopted a child or you were an adopted child, we would like to hear from you. Sherry will send you a quilt square-which you will design. Also, you will need to provide a short essay about what your adoption means to you.



Please remember, no identifying information. You can reach Sherry Benson, WFAPA Treasurer and Social Worker Liaison, by emailing her at misssherry@new.rr.com or by texting or calling her at (715) 923-1124.

Election of Vice President and Secretary at Fall WFAPA Conference

To nominate yourself or someone else for Vice President or Secretary, please contact our nomination committee person: Lauri Thorssen at (715) 816-4152, PO Box 122, Solon Springs, WI 54873 or email her at lthorssen@gmail.com.



Vice President

1. Be active board or committee member.
2. Assist the President in the performance of his/her duties and shall assume all the responsibilities of the President in the President's absence, except the signing of contracts, unless approved by the Board of Directors.
3. Perform such other duties as provided by those by-laws or as commonly appertain to the office of the Vice President, or as assigned by the President.
4. Be elected for a term of two (2) years with a three-year consecutive term limit or until a successor can be found.

The Secretary

1. Keep all the records of the board of directors' meetings and general membership meetings.
2. Compose all communications as directed and approved by the President and Board of Directors.
3. Keep a record and see that the President has a copy of all correspondence sent and received.
4. Perform such other duties as provided by those by-laws or as commonly appertain to the office of Secretary.
5. Be elected for a term of two (2) years with no limit on the number of terms.

A huge round of applause and a great BIG thank you to Tammy Wood-Garr during your tenure as Vice President and Michelle Ward for Secretary. Your hard work and dedication are very much appreciated!



the President's Message

Hello all,

It is hard to believe that we are preparing for our August newsletter already! Our printer person and his team have been working on and off with the COVID-19 and requested that we get the information to them sooner. Besides, our newsletter person is being a "cute" bulldog and "stated" when I would have the information to her. I do listen!!

With, COVID-19 still present in Wisconsin as well as the world, I hope that you are all safe and healthy. I spoke with our hotel to see what will be happening in October for our Conference and I was informed that they are open and will be up and running. At this time, they are not certain of any restrictions there may be in October. We will have to play it out as we did for our Spring Conference. For me this was music to my ears! It is a go. I am so excited to be able to bring you all together again for the speakers, networking, and our camaraderie. It is always a pleasure to see each of you, and to watch you exchange your stories, tips, and advice. This is what WFAPA is all about! This is what WFAPA members look forward to!

Check out the speakers, fill out that registration and get it out today. I cannot wait to see you all in October and share how life has been since last year.

Be kind, it goes a long way.

Tina 

Amazon Users-SMILE PROGRAM

When shopping on Amazon, don't forget to use the Amazon Smile Program! Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to WFAPA whenever you shop on Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know - same products, same prices, same service.

SUPPORT WFAPA by starting your shopping @smile.amazon.com. WFAPA thanks you!!

- ♦ 139,004 children are in the legal custody of the child welfare system with relatives providing the care. This represents almost one-third of all children in foster care.
- ♦ The percentage of children in foster care with relatives has increased from 24% in 2008 to 32% in 2018.
- ♦ For every one child in the foster care system with a relative providing the care, there are 19 children outside the system with a relative.

What does available data show about these Grandfamilies? While grandfamilies include families where grandparents, other relatives or close family friends are caregivers, most of the demographic data available is about families in which grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren. Over 2.4 million grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren. The data show these millions of grandfamilies span the racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic spectrum.

National Comparison Chart – Financial Support

Outside the Foster Care System or Unlicensed Kinship Foster Care Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Child-Only Grants	Licensed Kinship Foster Care Foster Care Maintenance Payments	Kinship Guardianship and Adoption Assistance Guardianship or Adoption Assistance
One Child National average \$249/month Typically must apply separately for Medicaid	One Child National average of minimum foster care maintenance payments is \$511/month Automatic Medicaid	One Child Up to the foster care rate. Based on the minimum payment, \$511/month Automatic Medicaid
Two Children National average \$344/month Typically must apply separately for Medicaid	Two Children National average of minimum foster care maintenance payments is \$1022/month Automatic Medicaid	Two Children Up to the foster care rate. Based on the minimum payment, \$1022/month Automatic Medicaid
Three Children National average \$423/month Typically must apply separately for Medicaid	Three Children National average of minimum foster care maintenance payments is \$1533/month Automatic Medicaid	Three Children Up to the foster care rate. Based on the minimum payment, \$1533/month Automatic Medicaid

Policies and programs at the federal, state, and local levels should encourage, rather than discourage, the responsible actions of grandfamily caregivers who step forward to take care of children who cannot be raised by their parents. Public awareness through community education and media outreach is an integral part of any effort to support these families. As an aid towards improving public knowledge about grandfamilies, Generations United has created this fact sheet to freely distribute and use as a resource. Led and inspired by our GRAND Voices national network of caregiver advocates, and in partnership with other advocated and policy makers, Generations United will continue to work to improve the lives of children and adults in these “grand” families.

This fact sheet “Grandfamilies: Strengths and Challenges” is 7 pages long. Due to the length of it and the limited space we have with our newsletter, only parts of the fact sheet were put in this article. For the full fact sheet, please go to www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/Documents/Grandfamilies-GeneralFactSheet%20%287%29.pdf. I strongly encourage everyone to go to their website, www.grandfamilies.org, a comprehensive one-stop national website for publications, materials and laws impacting grandfamilies both inside and outside the foster care system for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For fact sheets for each state and the District of Columbia containing specific state information related to grandfamilies, including a comprehensive list of resources and services, please go to www.grandfactsheets.org.

In the Covid-19 Economy, You Can Have a Kid or a Job. You Can't Have Both.

Our struggle is not an emotional concern. We are not burned out. We are being crushed by an economy that has bafflingly declared working parents inessential. Last week, I received an email from my children's principal, sharing some of the first details about plans to reopen New York City schools this fall. The message explained that the city's Department of Education, following federal guidelines, will require each student to have 65 square feet of classroom space. Not everyone will be allowed in the building at once. The upshot is that my children will be able to physically attend school one out of every three weeks.

At the same time, many adults — at least the lucky ones that have held onto their jobs — are supposed to be back at work as the economy reopens. What is confusing to me is that these two plans are moving forward apace without any consideration of the working parents who will be ground up in the gears when they collide.

Continued On Page 6



Conference Agenda

FRIDAY - SUNDAY OCTOBER 2nd - 4th, 2020

This Conference Counts for 12 Hours of Training/CEU'S for Attendees.

GRAND LODGE
WATERPARK RESORT
1100 Imperial Ave.,
Rothschild, WI 54474

Friday, October 2nd

- 4:00PM - 9:00PM Registration (Auction/Raffle Items and Raffle Tickets)
- 5:30PM - 7:00PM Hospitality Room ~ Food Available
- 5:00PM - 6:00PM KATS Program ~ Mary Jo Freeman, MD
- 6:00PM - 7:00PM Katie Kirmse-Fuhrer ~ Regional Independent Living Coordinator
- 7:00PM - 8:00PM This Is Us Too

Saturday, October 3rd

- 7:30AM - 8:30AM Breakfast
- 8:30AM - 9:30AM Treatment Foster Care Permanence Specialist, Her Story! ~ Cierrena A. Spataro-Haynes, MSW, APSW
- 9:30AM - 10:00AM COO ANU Family Services ~ Heidi Mayer, MSW, APSW
- 10:15AM-11:45AM Bridging the Gap Between Teens ~ Tamara Niewolny
- 12:00PM - 1:00PM Lunch
- 1:00PM - 1:30PM Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Program ~ Chelsey Zommers, Adoption & Permanency Specialist
- 1:30PM - 2:00PM Camp to Belong-WI ~ Kate and Rob Bauer
- 2:00PM - 3:00PM Birth Parents Need Information Too. How You Can Share the Wealth. ~ Tiffany L. Meredith, MSW, APSW
- 3:00PM - 3:30PM SAAN (Surviving Allegations of Abuse and Neglect) FASPP (Foster and Adoptive Support and Preservation Program)
- 3:30PM - 4:30PM State Updates ~ Jonelle Brom
- 4:30PM - 5:30PM General Membership Meeting ~ Nominations and Voting for Vice President and Secretary; Drawing for free conference and room, Certificates Handed Out
- 6:00PM - 10:00PM Banquet, Awards, Auction, and Raffle

Sunday, October 4th

- 9:00AM - 12:00PM FASPP & BOARD MEMBERS ONLY. Closed To General Membership.
WFAPA Thanks You For Joining Us!



www.wfapa.com

Life Begins Here

**LIFE
BEGINS
HERE**

For our upcoming Fall Conference, WFAPA is pleased to be donating to The Independent Living Transition Resource Agency ~ Region One, which serves Marathon, Forest, Lincoln, Langlade, Oneida and Vilas Counties.

The following items have been requested: full and queen air mattresses, new full and queen sheet sets, Aldi's gift cards, Walmart gift cards, laundry supplies, and toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)

FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

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Registration includes workshops, hospitality room and meals on Saturday. Please make check payable to "WFAPA FALL CONFERENCE." Registration and fee must be received no later than September 21, 2020. Send registration and fee to Kristy Barr N5098 17th Avenue Mauston, WI 53948 email KrisandKrity@hotmail.com. There will be a \$20.00 service fee for all checks returned for insufficient funds. Cost is \$65.00 per person (WFAPA members). \$75.00 per person (non- members). **Membership fee is only \$10.00 per family per year** and you may become a member at the same time you pay your registration. **There are no refunds. Remember we are now accepting credit cards at the door.** No childcare is available for this conference. Due to the sensitive nature of many of our discussions, children are discouraged from being present in training sessions. Infants are welcome but please be sensitive to other attendees by removing fussy or noisy babies. **Donations will go to our "Life Begins Here" program. See details in Newsletter.**

Participate #1 _____ Participate #2 _____

Street Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ County You Are Licensed With (REQUIRED) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Is this your first conference? ____ Yes ____ No COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST AVAILABLE AT HOTEL.

I am bringing a first time attendee with me ____ Yes ____ No If yes, name: _____

BUFFET MEALS WILL BE SERVED. **If you have any dietary restrictions, please call Kristy at 608-548-0399 so she may make proper food arrangements for you.** PLEASE ENCLOSE AN ADDITIONAL \$10.00 FOR LUNCH (person(s) not attending conference) \$20.00 FOR AN EXTRA BANQUET MEAL (for person(s) not attending conference). Each person (\$65 or \$75) x ____ = \$ _____ Extra Lunch \$10 x ____ = \$ _____ / or Extra Banquet \$20 x ____ = \$ _____ Number attending banquet ____ Membership dues \$10.00 per family.

Total Enclosed for all \$ _____

DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED AND ENCOURAGED FOR OUR RAFFLE AND AUCTION.

Call for reservations to: **Grand Lodge Waterpark Resort Wausau at 1-715-241-6300.** Reservation for rooms are at the price of **\$86.00**, which does not include local and state taxes. Occupants up to 4 per room. Any more than 4, is an additional \$15.00 fee for each person. Waterpark passes and breakfast passes are included in room fee. **Deadline for held rooms is September 10, 2020.** Special room prices are only confirmed through that date. Check in is 4:00PM and check out is 11:00 Noon. See you there!



Become A Member



Considering joining or renewing your membership with WFAPA? WFAPA continues to play a role in influencing public policy and advocating on behalf of Foster and Adoptive children and parents in Wisconsin. WFAPA's Leadership has helped to educate policymakers and engage Foster and Adoptive Parents in the debate on issues that affect the Foster and Adoptive System.

As a member, you:

- ◆ Receive four newsletters in the mail each year.
- ◆ Get first hand information of what's happening at the State level.
- ◆ Who to call when an allegation arises.
- ◆ Peer Support.
- ◆ Opportunities to become involved in projects to help foster children.
- ◆ Scholarship information.
- ◆ Reduced rate for conferences.



Please join today. \$10.00 per family.

WFAPA Membership Form

For Family memberships, return this form along with \$10.00 to: Michelle & Larry Ward * W7018 Discovery Dr. * Fond du Lac, WI 54937 Email: twowards@charter.net

Name _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Your Address _____

Would you be willing to help out with WFAPA? ____ yes ____ no

County, State or Agency Name (that licenses you) _____

Additional Donation: ____ \$5 ____ \$10 ____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ Other _____

GO GREEN! ____ I'd like to "go green" and paperless by receiving my newsletter online only.

Let me say the quiet part loud: In the Covid-19 economy, you're allowed only a kid or a job. Why isn't anyone talking about this? Why are we not hearing a primal scream so deafening that no plodding policy can be implemented without addressing the people buried by it? Why am I, a food blogger best known for such hits as the All-Butter Really Flaky Pie Dough and The 'I Want Chocolate Cake' Cake, sounding the alarm on this? I think it's because when you're home schooling all day, and not performing the work you were hired to do until the wee hours of the morning, and do it on repeat for 106 days (not that anyone is counting), you might be a bit too fried to funnel your rage effectively.

For months, I've been muttering about this — in group texts, in secret Facebook groups for moms, in masked encounters when I bump into a parent friend on the street. We all ask one another why we aren't making more noise. The consensus is that everyone agrees this is a catastrophe, but we are too bone-tired to raise our voices above a groan, let alone scream through a megaphone. Every single person confesses burnout, despair, feeling like they are losing their minds, knowing in their guts that this is untenable.

It should be obvious, but a nonnegotiable precondition of “getting back to normal” is that families need a normal to return to as well. But as soon as you express this, the conversation quickly gets clouded with tangential and irrelevant arguments that would get you kicked off any school debate team.

“But we don't even know if it's safe to send kids back to school,” is absolutely correct, but it's not the central issue here. The sadder flip side — the friend who told me that if their school reopens, her children are going back whether it's safe or not because she cannot afford to not work — edges closer.

“Why do you want teachers to get sick?” isn't my agenda either, but it's hard to imagine that a system in which each child will spend two weeks out of every three being handed off among various caretakers only to reconvene in a classroom, infinitely increasing the number of potential virus-carrying interactions, protects a teacher more than a consistent pod of students week in and out with minimized external interactions.

“You shouldn't have had kids if you can't take care of them,” is comically troll-like, but has come up so often, one might wonder if you're supposed to educate your children at night. Or perhaps you should have been paying for some all-age day care backup that sat empty while kids were at school in case the school you were paying taxes to keep open and that requires, by law, that your child attend abruptly closed for the year.



“Why aren't you enjoying the extra quality time with your kid?” lays bare what is really simmering below the surface — a retrograde view that maybe one parent (they mean the mom) shouldn't be working, that doing so is bad for children, that it's selfish to pursue financial gains (or solvency, as working parents will tell you). It is a sentiment so deeply woven into our cultural psyche that making the reasonable suggestion that one shouldn't have to abandon a career or livelihood if offices reopen before schools, day cares and camps do is viewed as a chance to redeliberate this. It is not, and you're off the debate team, too.

I've heard from parents who have the luck of a grandparent who can swoop in, or the deep pockets for a full-time nanny or a private tutor for their child when schools are closed. That all sounds enviable, but it would be absurd to let policy be guided by people with cushioning. If you have the privilege to opt out of the work force and wish to, enjoy it. But don't wield it as a stick to poke others with because far more people are being forced to “opt out” this year and will never professionally or financially recover.

I resent articles that view the struggle of working parents this year as an emotional concern. We are not burned out because life is hard this year. We are burned out because we are being rolled over by the wheels of an economy that has bafflingly declared working parents inessential.

Part-time teachers, full-time parents. For context, let me tell you how the last few months have been for my family. The first few weeks of school and business closures were jaw-clenchingly stressful. I am self-employed and worked full-time from home already, so that part required no transition. But I needed to use this flexibility to ensure that my husband, who would normally have been at his office, didn't miss a meeting, call or email, while I managed the remote-learning curriculums of our two children, one in pre-K, one in fifth grade. I compensated by working until about 2 a.m. each night.

Three weeks later, our marital work-balance stress evaporated as my husband was put on furlough. He took over home schooling and basically everything else as I became the sole breadwinner, trying to work as hard as I could, at every hour. Last week, he was fully laid off.

Despite our own financial strain, we've continued to pay the nanny who used to help shuttle the kids around while we worked, even though she hasn't worked for us since March. Even if we asked for her help in home schooling our children this fall, who would do so for her school-age children? When will my husband be able to look for work? How can he go back to work if there's no one to watch the kids? And I speak from a position of significant privilege. We were, until recently, a two-income family with savings, paying for more than the minimum of child care hours that we needed each day just to cover what-ifs, living in one of the most expensive cities on earth. We have laptops, tablets, Wi-Fi, and didn't think twice before panic-ordering pencils, paper, markers and anything else we thought might help our children. But my family, as a social and economic unit, cannot operate forever in the framework authorities envision for the fall. There are so many ways that the situation we've been thrust into, in which businesses are planning to reopen without any conversation about the repercussions on families with school-age children,

(Continued On Next Page)



With Mama Kasch

Perfect Rhubarb Crisp

Prep Time: 15 minutes Cook Time: 40 Minutes Total Time: 55

INGREDIENTS: 6 cups (diced rhubarb, fresh or frozen (if frozen let thaw and drain first), 3/4 cup sugar, 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour, 1 tTsp quality pure vanilla extract **FOR THE TOPPING:** 1/2 cup all-purpose flour, 1 1/2 cups rolled oats, 1 cup packed brown sugar, 1/4 cup almond meal (highly recommended but if you don't have any simply omit it), 1/2 cup unsalted butter, cubed, 1 1/2 Tsp ground cinnamon, 1/4 Tsp salt



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat to 350 F. Stir the rhubarb, sugar, flour and vanilla extract together in a bowl to evenly coat and then spread the mixture out in a buttered 13x9 inch baking dish.
2. In a large bowl add the flour, oats, brown sugar, butter, cinnamon and salt and work it until combined and crumbly (use your hands, a fork or a pastry cutter). Sprinkle evenly over the rhubarb.
3. Bake on middle rack for about 40 minutes or until the topping is browned and the rhubarb is bubbling.
4. Let cool about 10 minutes before serving to allow the rhubarb filling to soak up excess juices. Serve warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Continued From Page 6 In the Covid-19 Economy, You Can . . .

is even more untenable for others. Under the best of circumstances, the impact on children will still be significant. Students will lose most of a year of learning as parents — their new untrained teachers — cannot supervise in any meaningful way while Zooming into the office. At best, the kids will be crabby and stir-crazy as they don't get enough physical activity because they're now tethered to their parents' work spaces all day, running around the living room in lieu of fresh air. Without social interactions with other children, they constantly seek parental attention in bad ways, further straining the mood at home. And these are ideal scenarios.

But what about kids who cannot learn remotely? What about kids who need services that are tied to schools? Or those who are at higher risk for complications if they get the virus and might not be able to go back even one week out of the three? When learning plans for children with special needs could not be followed appropriately this year, academic gains for many students were quickly wiped out. Remote learning has already widened racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps because of disparities in access to technology tutors. As parents are crushed by the Covid economy, so are the children who need the most support. It's no wonder the American Academy of Pediatrics released a statement this weekend urging that students be physically present in school as much as possible this fall.



The long-term losses for professional adults will be incalculable, too, and will disproportionately affect mothers. Working mothers all over the country feel that they're being pushed out of the labor force or into part-time jobs as their responsibilities at home have increased tenfold.

Even those who found a short-term solution because they had the luxury to hit the pause button on their projects and careers this spring to manage the effects of the pandemic — predicated on the assumption that the fall would bring a return to school and child care — may now have no choice but to leave the work force. A friend just applied for a job and tells me she cannot even imagine how she would be able to take it if her children aren't truly back in school. There's an idea that people can walk away from careers and just pick them up where they left off, even though we know that women who drop out of the work force to take care of children often have trouble getting back in.

And lest you think it's everyone vs. teachers, I cannot imagine a group this situation is less fair to. Teachers are supposed to teach in the classroom full-time but simultaneously manage remote learning? Even in non-pandemic times, teachers would tell you that they already work unpaid overtime on nights and weekends, just planning and grading. Where, exactly, will the extra hours come from? For teachers with their own school-age children, the situation isn't just untenable, it's impossible.

The wealthy win. Again. Without a doubt, reopening schools is a colossal undertaking. There are no easy solutions to finding enough space for students to socially distance, ensuring teachers and staff are protected, adding more sinks and cleaning staff, and implementing widespread temperature checks, testing and contact tracing.

But after nearly four months since the lockdowns began — four months of working all hours, at remarkable stress levels, while our children have gone without play dates and playgrounds and all of the other stimuli that help them thrive — most parents have been shocked to find that state governments don't have any creative or even plausible solutions.

For parents who cannot simply sort it out, our national response feels more like a dystopian novel where only the wealthy get to limit their exposure and survive the pandemic unscathed. Allowing workplaces to reopen while schools, camps and day cares remain closed tells a generation of working parents that it's fine if they lose their jobs, insurance and livelihoods in the process. It's outrageous, and I fear if we don't make the loudest amount of noise possible over this, we will be erased from the economy.

Article written by: Deb Perelman, who is a New York writer and the creator of the food blog smittenkitchen.com. The article was published in *The New York Times* on July 2, 2020 and updated on July 8, 2020.



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or receiving items for a foster child, contact us!**

wifostercloset.org

thefostercloset@yahoo.com

or Tammy at 715-497-3561

What Do I Do Now?



FASPP may be able to help! Our FASPP and SAAN volunteers are highly trained to provide you with information and/or resources to guide you through various issues. FASPP and SAAN is made up of fellow foster or adoptive parents.

FASPP (Foster and Adoptive Support and Preservation Program)

FASPP's mission is to meet the needs of foster and adoptive parents statewide through a network of peer driven support and information which will help to preserve foster and adoptive families.

SAAN (Surviving Allegations of Abuse and Neglect)

SAAN is a peer driven support network, the purpose of which is to minimize the trauma to foster and adoptive families while undergoing an allegation without compromising the integrity of that investigation. Foster parents welcome children into their homes knowing that they bring their histories and issues along with them. For this reason, foster and adoptive parents are at a higher risk of having an allegation made against them. Undergoing an investigation is a stressful and scary situation for anyone, and SAAN is here to provide information to support you throughout the investigation process.

Please call or email the following people with questions in these areas:

Norma, Chairperson (Advice on general/allegations) ~ Phone: (920) 922-9627

Melissa (Focuses on fostering younger children) ~ Phone: (608) 333-6650 Email: lovedalemelissa@gmail.com

Tammy (Advice on general/foster) ~ Phone: (715) 497-3561 Email: tmeesha1973@yahoo.com

Lauri (Advice on general/adoption) ~ Phone: (715) 816-4152 Email: lthorssen@gmail.com



WFAPA BOARD MEMBERS

For additional Board Members, please go to our website, www.wfapa.org, and click on Board Members.

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715-938-6667

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