

FIRST TUESDAY

What Is the MRPA?

Hosted By:



Rob Huddler
MRPA President



Arnold Eby
MRPA Executive Director

Special Guests:
Katie Fitzsimmons,
Anne Arundel Co
&
Kristy O'Neal,
Frederick Co



The MRPA Mission Statement

- Maryland Resource Parent Association provides support services to all Resource Families in the State of Maryland.
- Discuss: *What does this look like day to day?*



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

The MRPA Charter

- To **network** with and **support** all Maryland Resource Families in collaboration with community partners who share similar goals.
- To **advocate** for legislative changes and policies to **improve services** for Resource Families.
- To **promote communication** between Resource families and local, state and national organizations.
- To **promote the recognition of contributions** made by Maryland Resource parents.
- To encourage and assist in the **recruitment and retention** of Resource families in the state of Maryland.



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

MRPA/DHS Survey

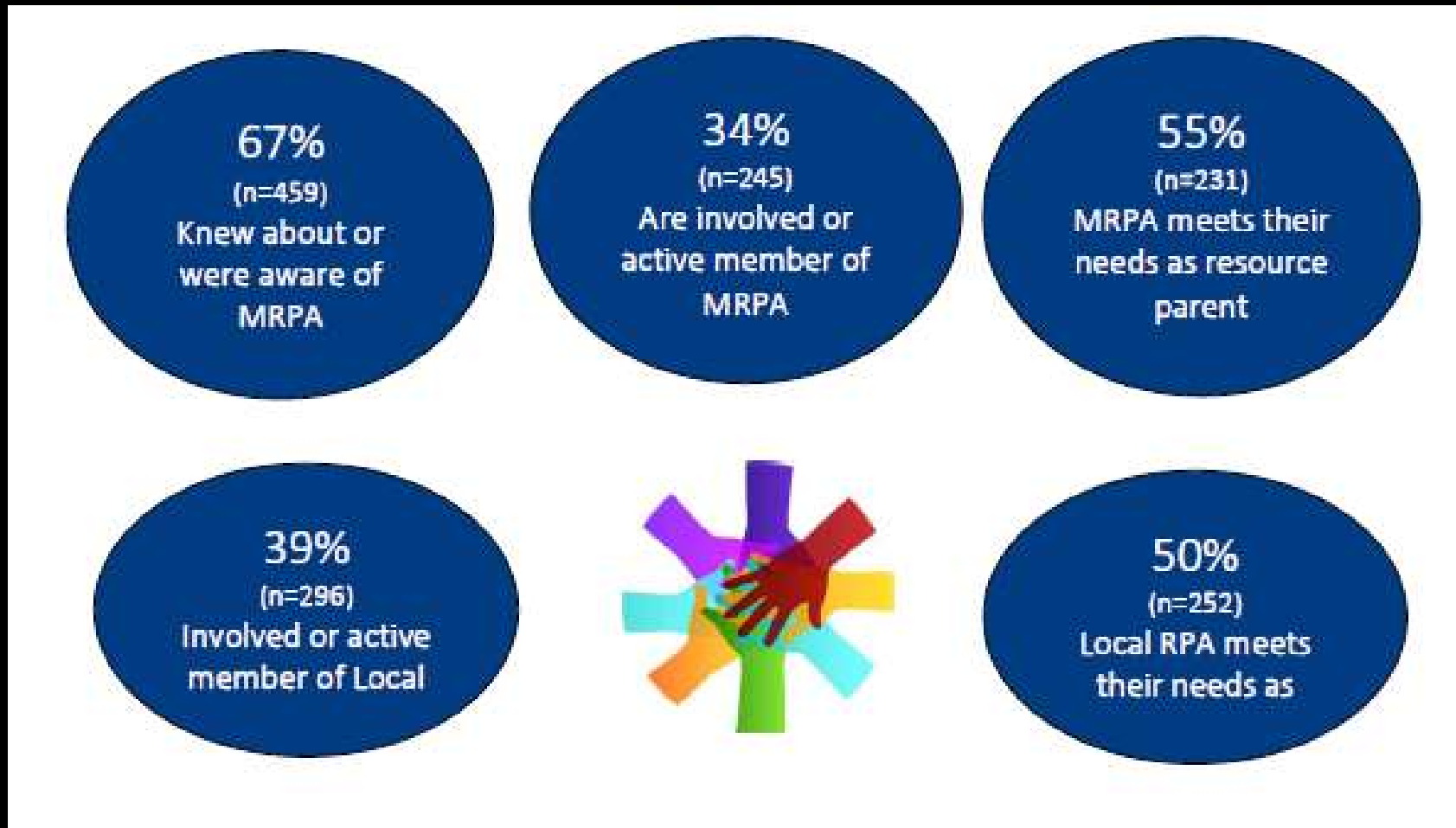
- To better understand how the MRPA and DHS are meeting our charter goals, we conducted a **survey** of Resource Parents in Maryland
- The results can be found on the MRPA Home page
- Survey quick-look at results
 - 460 Resource parents from all 24 jurisdictions!
 - Let's look at some of the key findings...



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

MRPA/DHS Survey - Results



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

MRPA/DHS Survey - Results

Top Benefits of Being Involved with MRPA (n=199) or Local RPA (n=226)



"A lot of family bonding between the Resource and bio kids from different families."

"MRPA funding to support local resource parent association."

"Local Monthly meetings, support groups and opportunities for CEUs."

"Not sure yet."



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

MRPA/DHS Survey - Results

Top Challenges to Being Involved with MRPA (n=188) or Local RPA (n=207)

"As a new Resource Parent, I didn't know certain events and services even existed."

"Only time constraints. We are a two-parent family, we both work full time, and Resource children have lots of after school appointments and activities."

"Evening meetings."



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

MRPA/DHS Survey - Results

What Additional Resources or Supports Do You Need as a Resource Parent that are not already available? (n=175)



"When a school aged child that I am willing to take has hours that conflict with my job, it affects my ability to accept children."

"Ways to connect outside Facebook."

"More flexibility in training times and topics." "It would be nice to have a professional page to receive support."



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

MRPA/DHS Survey - Results

Resource Parents' Relationship with Families of Origin and DSS

74%

(n=279)

It's important to develop a positive relationship with birth parents to achieve permanency



59%

(n=279)

It's important to have regular communication with birth parents to achieve permanency

38%

(n=272)

Have a clear idea how to partner with birth families

63%

(n=272)

Have the necessary tools & information to best care for children in their care

56%

(n=274)

Have mutually trusting relationships with DSS professionals that help them preserve and improve family relationships

31%

(n=274)

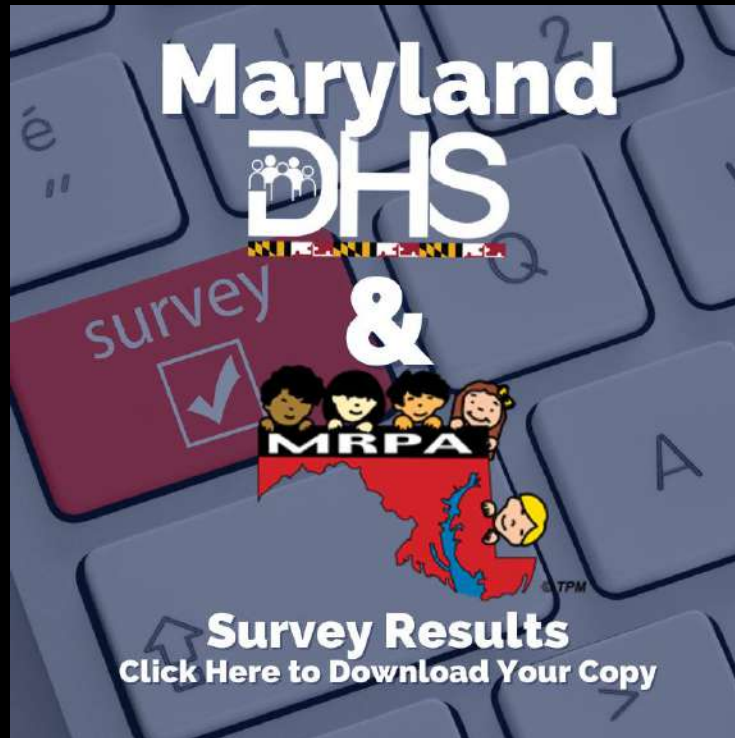
Are given accurate & specific case goals/ objectives related to youth in care & biological family



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

MRPA/DHS Survey - Results



To download a copy of the complete survey results, look for this image on the mrpa.org home page.



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

MRPA/DHS Survey - Outcome

- *Based on the survey results*, by working together the MRPA, DHS and DSS have created a **Plan of Work** for 2021 & beyond
- To be most successful, **we need more RP voices**



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

MRPA/DHS/DSS Plan of Work for '21

- **Goal 1:** Build connections; provide timely, valuable information; promote the growth of that network and participation
- **Goal 2:** Encourage and facilitate forums that promote collaboration between Families of Origin and the Local DSS
- **Goal 3:** Strengthen teaming efforts between Birth Families, Resource Parents and DSS Staff through authentic conversations that builds trust and partnership.
- **Goal 4:** Provide support and enable personal growth among Resource Parents through dialogue and inclusivity of Local DSS and Families of Origin



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

The MRPA Goals – 3 Key Areas

- Increase **COMMUNICATION**.
 - Website
 - Blogs
 - Facebook
 - Newsletters
- Provide **TRAINING** that helps Resource Parents in their role
 - First Tuesday
 - Coordinated sessions with our Partners
- Build **ADVOCACY**
 - Our special guests will discuss this with the group



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

Resource Parent Advocacy

- Special Guests
 - **Katie Fitzsimmons**, Anne Arundel Co
 - **Kristy O'Neal**, Frederick Co
- What is Advocacy? How can we grow it organically?



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

Katie Fitzsimmons, President

Anne Arundel County Foster Parent Assoc.

~75 Families

~120 Kids in care

Kristy O'Neal, President

Frederick County Foster Parent Assoc.

~40 Families

~70 Kids in Care

"Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much."

HELEN KELLER

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

CORETTA SCOTT KING

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

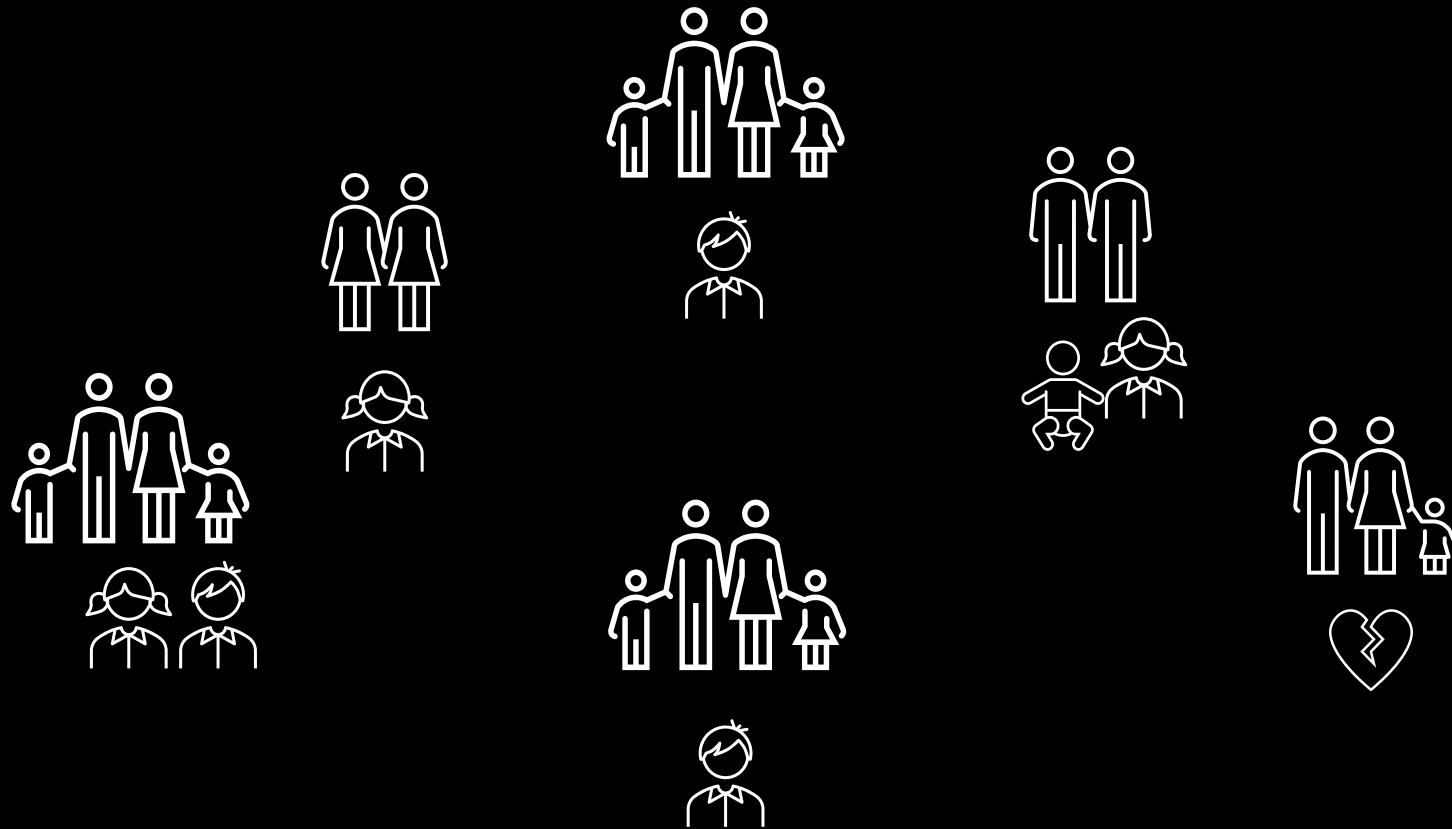
MARGARET J. WHEATLEY



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

Organic Advocacy



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

Local Foster Parent Association (LFPA) Goals

- Provide support, advocacy and connection to local foster adoptive families
- Liaise with the local Department of Social Services, but act as a stand-alone entity to advocate for foster families and families who have adopted from foster care



FIRST TUESDAY



mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

Reaching the MRPA

Please feel free to reach out to us with questions!

Via our website at mrpa.org

Email us at info@mrpa.org

Find us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/mdresourceparents/>

Watch our website and Facebook for notices about upcoming events, videos and handouts from past events, and more.



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

What's Coming Up?

- **Social Worker Appreciation Month**
 - Zoom calls to give you a chance to say 'Thank You' to a special social worker
- More **First Tuesday** Sessions
- **Trainings** per your request
 - Be sure to complete the poll on this Zoom call to let us know which trainings you'd like to see next
- **Foster Parent Appreciation Month**
- **And more!**



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org

Thank You...
for joining us this evening!



FIRST TUESDAY

mrpa.org info@mrpa.org