

MAY 2022

Foster Parent Newsletter





IMPORTANT DATES:
COURT: 5/26 & 27
APRIL \$: 5/13
MAY \$: 6/10
OFFICE CLOSED MAY 30TH

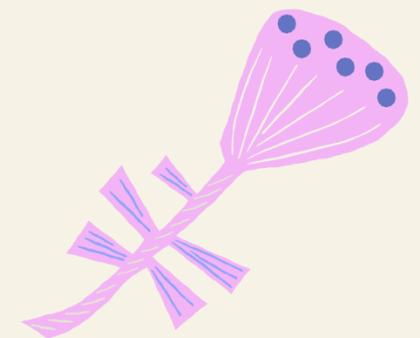
BUDGET FREEZE: MAY 13- JULY 1



REMEMBER TO TURN IN ALL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE
OR OTHER NEEDS FOR REIMBURSEMENT BEFORE MAY
13



ANY NEEDS FOR SUMMER CAMP/ACTIVITIES SHOULD
ALSO BE TURNED IN BY MAY 13



Social Worker Spotlight ~ Melanie Ellis (& her dog Louie)

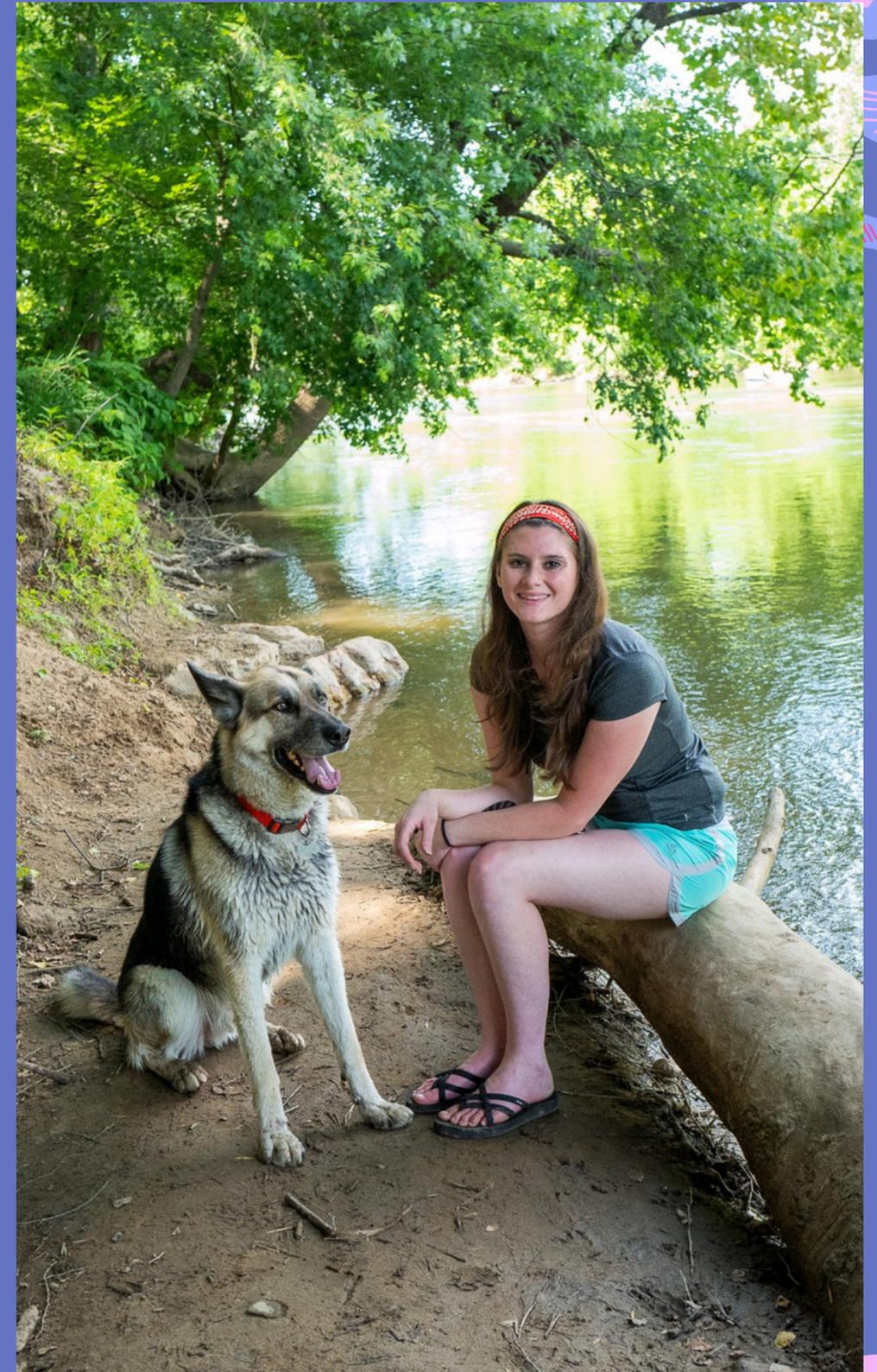
Melanie was born and raised in FL, but moved to the coldest, snowiest place in NC she could find when she was 18. She received her BSW in 2013 and went back to complete her MSW and graduate certificate in addiction counseling in 2019.

She worked as foster care social worker for over 8 years, and has been the CPS supervisor since July 2021.

She loves hiking/backpacking, snow, ice cream, and Montana. She hopes to work for the National Park Service when she “retires” from social work.

Melanie was drawn to social work because she wanted a job that involved working directly with people rather than sitting in an office and has always felt that foster children, specifically teenage foster children, are one of the most “forgotten” populations to exist.

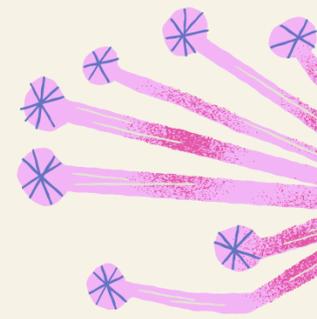
Her favorite part of social work is forming relationships with families (both bio- and foster families) and seeing children and families overcome challenges that most of us could never imagine facing.

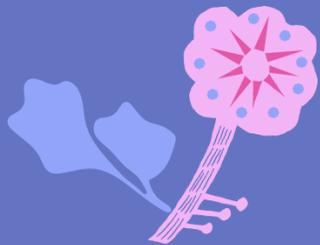




FOSTER PARENT SPOTLIGHT

Jim & Maegan Furman have been a foster family for almost four years. They currently have 5 children, their biological children Ella (18) and Bryant (16), and 3 kids in foster care (15, 4, 2). During their time fostering they have had over 35 children placed in their home for varying amounts of times, often times taking older children temporarily needing a home while they wait for a group or therapeutic placement. They enjoy building relationships and support systems with biological families, creating many relationships that continue well after reunification or placement change. Even though they were initially hesitant, they have found that fostering older children/teenagers has been a rewarding experience. They are in the process of adopting their son, Abel, who has been placed with them for 3.5 yrs, they can't imagine their family without him. They also recently found out that they have the potential to take permemancy of their 15 yr old foster son, and his 2 yr old sister; they have lived with them for 15 months.





New State Policy- Required Training



On September 1, 2021, Session Law 2021-132 was enacted which established new training requirements for foster parents. As part of the licensure process, foster parents must complete a pre-service training that includes a module, created, developed, and made available by the Department which explains the roles and obligations of foster parents in judicial proceedings. The new module, Court: Roles and Obligations of Foster Parents, is now available.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The module, Court: Roles and Obligations of Foster Parents, discusses the roles of key players in court, types of court hearings in child welfare, responsibilities of foster parents, and the Foster Parents' Bill of Rights. It is an online, self-paced training available on [FosteringNC.org](https://www.fosteringnc.org), and is accessible 24/7. The course can be found at: [Court: Roles and Obligations of Foster Parents | A learning site for NC foster and adoptive parents and kinship caregivers](https://www.fosteringnc.org/court-roles-and-obligations-of-foster-parents) ([fosteringnc.org](https://www.fosteringnc.org))

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:

Beginning May 1, 2022, all new foster parent application packets will be required to have a certificate of completion included for each person applying for licensure.

Current licensed foster parents will need to complete this course as part of the re-licensure process and the certificate of completion must be submitted with the re-licensure packet.

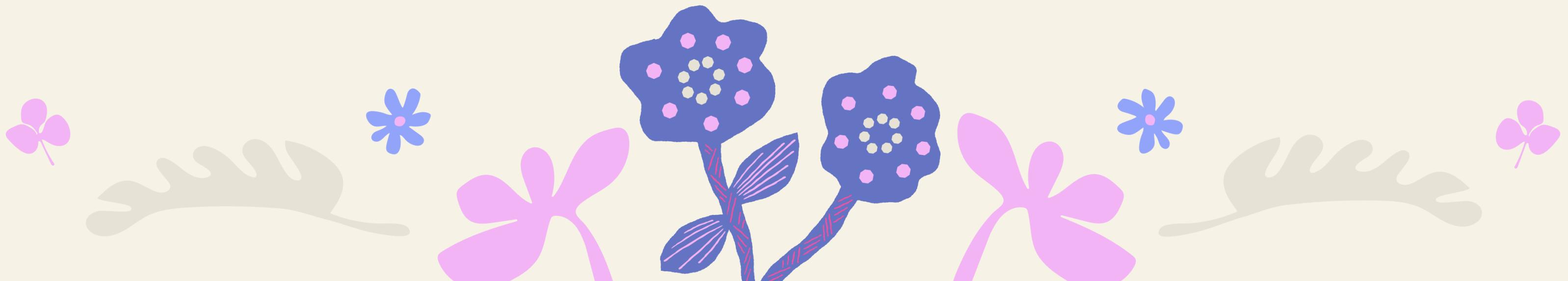


OFFICE UPDATE

*We are now having permanency planning team meetings (PPAT) in person. They were previously held over the phone due to Covid.

*Masks are optional in our offices

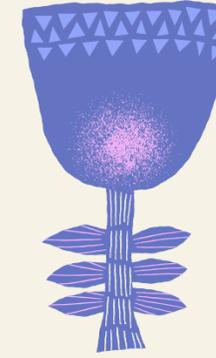
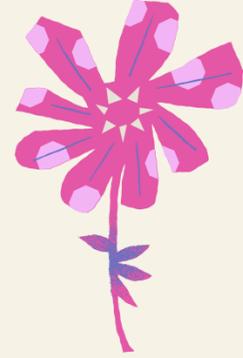
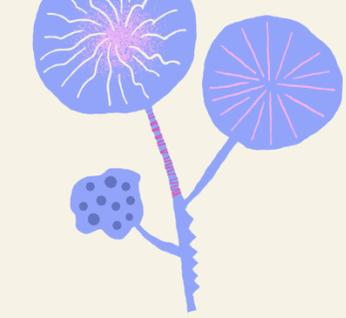
*We are working on a website that will house all licensing documents, trainings and resources





HAPPY

MOTHERS DAY!

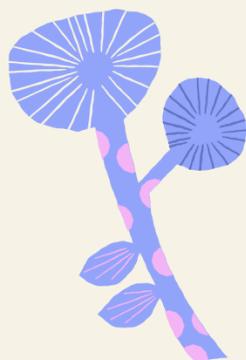


FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

Over 400,000 kids in care in the US

Roughly 20,000 kids in care in NC

74 kids in care in Watauga County





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
COMMITMENT AS FOSTER
PARENTS!**



AFTER HOURS



828-264-3761



OFFICE



828-265-8100



**MENTAL HEALTH
CRISIS LINE**



828-264-4357

