



**Court Appointed
Special Advocates
of Mendocino &
Lake Counties**



You may be hearing a lot lately about SOS or Signs of Safety in your community as a best practice being implemented by child welfare & their community partners. In November, I traveled with a group of 10 from Mendocino County to Minnesota and took part in a week long SOS Residency through SafeGenerations. The SOS assessment and planning tools are adaptable across the continuum of services, encouraging more prevention and family support oriented services with all partners. Read on for more information about SOS.



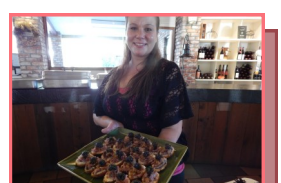
The SIGNS OF SAFETY is an innovative strengths-based, safety-organized approach to child protection casework. The model of its approach was created in Western Australia by Andrew Turnell and Steve Edwards, who worked with over 150 front-line statutory practitioners and based it on what those practitioners know works well with difficult cases. The Signs of Safety approach has attracted international attention and is being used in jurisdictions in North America, Europe and Australasia.



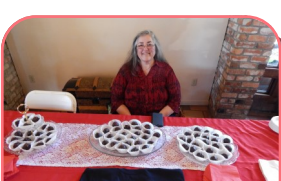
Tonia Payne



Kris & Pat Snyder



Sarah Smith Catering



Eagle Peak Middle School



Redwood Community Services



Ashlin Garbocci Catering



Julie Lyly & Roxi Kowan



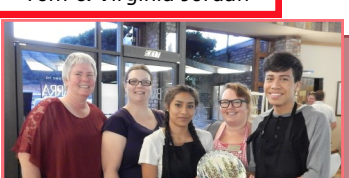
Tom & Virginia Jordan



Anna Gregorian & Court



Soroptimist Ukiah



Accelerated Achievement Academy



Savings Bank 1



Savings Bank 2



Jeni Giuntini

THANK YOU
everyone for making our 2016
SIPS, EATS, & SWEETS EVENT
A SUCCESS



COMING SOON

With the New Year, we will be hearing even more acronyms than usual in child welfare. Bring on **CCR & RFA**. What the heck? No, Creedence Clearwater Revival is not making a comeback nor is this a Request for Application opportunity.

CCR or Continuum of Care Reform, legislatively AB403, is a comprehensive reform effort that has been in the works to make sure that youth in foster care have their day-to-day physical, mental, and emotional needs met; that they have the greatest chance to grow up in permanent and supportive homes; and that they have the opportunity to grow into self-sufficient, successful adults. Hmmmmm....isn't that what we've always supposed to have done?

Let's move to the next acronym...RFA—Resource Family Approval. RFA is a new family friendly and child-centered caregiver approval process that combines elements of the current foster parent licensing, relative approval and approvals for adoption and guardianship and replaces those processes. RFA is streamlined: It eliminates the duplication of existing processes; Unifies approval standards for all caregivers regardless of the child's case plan; Includes a comprehensive psychosocial assessment, home environment check and training for all families, including relatives; Prepares families to better meet the needs of vulnerable children in the foster care system; and, Allows seamless transition to permanency.

2017 is going to be busy

