



## Clark County Department of Family Services

### Co-Lead Workgroup

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 19, 2016 – 1:30pm-3:30pm

#### ATTENDEES

Jocelyn Bluit-Fisher, Richard Egan, Michelle Lefebvre, Kevin McDonald, Cynthia Metzger, Denise Parker, Shannon Rooney, Audrey Rosenstein, Tara Donahue, Ann-Marie Abruscato, Carol Shauffer

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#### AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
  2. Western site update
  3. National Foster Parent Conference: June 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2016
  4. National QPI Conference: Update from Carole
  5. Committee membership
  6. Work plans for upcoming year
    - Recruitment
    - Communication
    - Child Welfare
    - Training
    - Support & Retention
    - Community Partnerships
  7. Next meeting
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#### MINUTES

##### **2. Western site update**

- Clark County has begun partnership with counties in California in hopes of information sharing that improves QPI efforts.
  - CA counties will begin posting about the involvement with QPI on their respective web pages.

- This will highlight common issues. For example: Orange and Santa Barbara County have high Hispanic populations. How do they meet the need for translation?
  - This is something we are struggling with.

### **3. National Foster Parent Conference**

- Some of our staff attended a planning meeting in November as well as a conference call last week. Further clarification is needed as to the extent of our roles for this conference.
- We are actively looking for speakers to represent us. Speakers must be submitted for review by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.
- We are also looking for QPI panel participants.

### **4. National QPI Conference**

- Carole shared three upcoming QPI conferences that we are invited to attend:
  - QPI Florida Conference, March 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
  - QPI New Sites Conference March 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Ft. Worth, Texas. All existing QPI sites are asked to send a representative to provide support for new sites.
  - National QPI conference, September 2016 in Cleveland, Ohio. Areas of focus for the national conference will include kinship, caseworkers and a youth panel.
- We are also working on efforts to establish new collaboration with all organizations.
  - The goal is to have monthly meetings that foster parents can attend.
  - Bringing together support and retention activities.

### **5. Committee membership**

- The goal is to ensure that we have all facets of the foster care process represented in QPI: Family Services employees from each department, case managers, foster parents, etc.
  - If you are having issues meeting this goal in your individual workgroups, please bring it to attention so that we can help you staff your committees.
- Each QPI workgroup needs to re-evaluate their role in QPI, the level of need for the issues they are addressing and come up with a clear work plan.
  - We would like each workgroup to write a description of what their workgroup does and their work plan so that foster parents can read this and participate in their areas of interest.
  - We request that each workgroup have this ready to present at the next meeting in March.

### **6. Work plans for upcoming year**

#### **Recruitment**

- This workgroup is focusing upon placement utilization. We have been brainstorming the barriers to successful utilization that exist on different levels,

such as from the perspectives of those working for agencies, licensing and from foster parents

- We are coming up with some great ideas to resolve these issues and improve utilization. We are collecting data on reverse matching and looking into ways that we can implement this.

### Communications

- This workgroup is focusing improving both internal and external communication.
  - One of the goals for this is to streamline the distribution of the caregiver courier throughout DFS
- In hopes of boosting QPI workgroup attendance and caregiver involvement, the Caregiver Courier will highlight all of the QPI workgroups and publish the aforementioned descriptions of each workgroup that are being written.
- Readership of the Caregiver Courier has doubled since last year according to January's numbers.
  - Higher clicks per issue and therefore higher engagement were also found this January.
  - We can conclude that we are doing a better job of writing about more relatable topics. Personal caregiver stories and Dr. Zeneah's webinars have been popular subjects.

### Child Welfare

- This workgroup is working with Washoe, communicating with them about their transition policy and how it has worked/not worked for them.
- Dr. Zeneah's webinars are continuing every other month. The next webinar will be on transitioning and placement.

### Training

- This workgroup is currently aiming to address the issue of having enough available training in Spanish.
  - We're in the process of producing online trainings in Spanish.
- We are also brainstorming ideas to produce better trainings. We want to make trainings more specific to children's age groups and personalized.
- The partnership agreement is still a work in progress.

### Support & Retention

- This workgroup has re-written the grievance policy which is to be approved.
- A major goal of this workgroup is to establish a better partnership between Foster Kinship and the Foster Parent Champions Program. We have made a lot of progress with this.
  - Kinship orientation sessions attendance has increased and in turn disruption rates have decreased.
    - There have been no disruptions in any families that attended the November/December sessions.

- We are continuing to collect data on this.
  - We have seen increased caregiver correspondence, looking at UNITY.
  - We have made calls to caregivers to update placement screen information.
- Another goal is to work with licensing to increase retention activities.

#### Community Partnerships

- This workgroup is currently re-examining their mission and purpose in order to form new goals for the upcoming year.
- This workgroup is also re-examining the Foster Friends program and how we can get it up and running again.

**7. Next Meeting: March 15, 2016 from 12:30-2:30pm at the DFS Central Office.**