



Clark County Department of Family Services

Co-Lead Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 – 12:30pm-2:30pm

ATTENDEES

DFS – Shannon Rooney, Denise Parker, Kevin MacDonald, Cynthia Metzger, Alexa Walker

Office of Suicide Prevention – Richard Egan

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
 2. Conference update
 - National Foster Parent Association conference
 - National QPI – Ohio – September 26-28.
 3. Webinars
 - Court Improvement May 19th, 2016
 - Normalcy May 25th, 2016
 4. Relaunch – May 24th, 2016
 5. Foster Parent Association update
 6. Foster Parent Appreciation Month
 7. Committee Membership
 8. Committee updates
 - Recruitment
 - Communication
 - Child Welfare
 - Training
 - Support & Retention
 - Community Partnerships
 7. Next meeting – July 20th, 2016
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MINUTES

2. Conference update

- The National Foster Parent Association conference will be held here in Las Vegas June 22nd-24th. We will be giving a presentation on QPI, as well as presentations from a birth parent and members of the Foster Parent Champion team.
- The National QPI conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio September 26th-28th. We will be sending approximately 20 representatives to this conference. We need to begin to identify who these individuals will be.

3. Webinars

- The last Dr. Zeneah webinar will be held on May 19th, wrapping up this webinar series. The topic of discussion is court improvement.
- A webinar on normalcy will be held May 25th. It will include an introduction from Barbara Buckley, discussion of statewide policy from the rural counties (Clark, Washoe), and discussion of the draft for normalcy policy for Clark County. The draft is anticipated to be done by May 20th and launched by the end of the summer of 2016.

4. Relaunch – May 24th

- There will be a leadership meeting regarding QPI philosophy and practice for DFS managers and supervisors on May 24th.

5. Foster parent association update

- Leadership on this project is meeting with the director to discuss funding. Anticipated start date is late summer 2016.

6. Foster parent appreciation month

- Foster parent appreciation certificates have been mailed out.
- An ice cream social and raffle is being held on Saturday for foster families. We currently have 247 families signed up for this event.

7. Committee membership

- Everyone is encouraged to be actively spreading the word about QPI workgroups. We need new members such as case managers and community partners. The more involvement we have the better policies and procedures we can develop that will incite positive changes.

8. Committee updates

- Recruitment
 - Last meeting we discussed the great need for more representation outside of the department; community involvement.
 - We had a healthy, productive meeting with representatives with placement and brainstormed some ideas for matching techniques.
 - We will be refocusing back on market segmentation data.

- PRIME software is expected to roll out in July 2016.
- Communications
 - The last issue of the caregiver courier had the highest click rate to date.
 - Videos are getting the most clicks.
 - The list of summer activities distributed was extremely popular. We want to create more activity lists like this one.
- Training
 - Increase in yearly training hours letter has been mailed out.
 - The TIPS/MAP rewrite is anticipated to be completed by the end of summer 2016. We are currently waiting on a quote for the remainder of the rewrite from UNLV. Chapters 1-4 of the rewrite are already complete.
 - The date/time of the training workgroup meeting will be changing, pending a survey for the best time for committee members.
- Support & Retention
 - We are continuing to make relative disruption survey calls and gather data. We have tweaked the questions in the survey slightly to collect more relevant data.
 - We are continuing efforts in our partnership with foster kinship.
 - We will be having several retention events this summer for foster families. We are working on a movie night for June and a swim night for July.
- Child Welfare
 - There will be a conference call held tomorrow to discuss visitation. Changes to the visitation program are being set in motion.
 - We are continuing work on the partnership agreement and information sharing policy.
 - We are brainstorming ways to improve transitions. We are seeing a lot of issues with schooling in transition. Children are constantly moving schools and falling behind. Because of this, there is a large need for specialized tutoring which we do not have enough of.
 - We are working on forming post-adoption support groups to decrease dissolved adoptions.
 - We are still getting a lot of questions about Foster Friends. There are no current developments with foster friends. We hope that the foster parent association will be able to make progress with this once it is up and running.

9. Next Meeting: July 20th, 2016 from 12:30-2:30pm at the DFS Central Office.