



# Clark County Department of Family Services

## Co-Lead Workgroup Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 – 12:30 -2:30 pm

Lincoln Room

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### Attendees

Rick Egan, Cynthia Metzger, Denise Parker, Shannon Rooney, Andre Wade

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### Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Meeting Minutes from August Co-Lead meeting
3. Workgroup Descriptions
4. November 'Town Hall, Meet and Greet, Mixer'
5. Workgroup Updates
  - a. Training
  - b. Child Welfare Services
  - c. Support and Retention
  - d. Recruitment
  - e. Communications
  - f. Community Partnership
6. Statewide Workgroups, UNITY, Foster Parent Handbook, Information Sharing/Confidentiality, Normalcy

7. Legislative Statewide Initiative
8. Other

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## Minutes

1. Welcome
2. Meeting Minutes from August's Co-Lead meeting
  - a. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed, and no changes or corrections were requested.
3. Workgroup Descriptions
  - a. The new descriptions are great and reflect what we are working on.
4. Annual National QPI Conference
  - a. The annual National QPI Conference will be in San Diego this year. We will send representatives. We need to send more people than we did to the regional QPI meeting. We want to have a robust representation that includes our foster families.
    - i. We would like to have foster families submit their interest and what they intend to do with the information they would gain from the conference.
    - ii. We would like to do the same thing with case workers, and send both foster parents and caseworkers that have been involved on our workgroups.
  - b. What would we like to highlight that we have accomplished in the past year?
    - i. For example, our Caregiver Survey and the high return rate we got from this, our Foster Friends event, etc.
    - ii. Each group should pick what they would like to feature. We could potentially do a two (2) minute video that updates attendees as to where Clark County is and what we have done with QPI.

- iii. Each group gets 10-15 minutes to talk at the conference, and we could consider incorporating something, such as a video, that shows what we've done in addition to presenting our concrete accomplishments, such as the Caregiver Survey and the 360 Evaluations.
  - c. At the regional meeting Nevada was challenged to come up with the one thing that we want to "hang our hat on" and send to legislation. The thing the group came up with was our accomplishments in encouraging everyone to work as a team. We would like to potentially put something forward that says caregivers need to be viewed as team members, as this could go a long way in pushing this forward. Lisa is on board with this idea.
- 5. November 'Town Hall, Meet and Greet, Mixer'
  - a. Michael wants these meetings to only focus on one thing (i.e. the Partnership Agreement), and have it as an opportunity for caseworkers, Licensing workers, and foster parents to get together and discuss this one topic.
  - b. The way this is presented will affect case worker attendance.
    - i. The site meetings are typically packed.
      - 1. Can these meetings be presented similarly?
    - ii. Can the meeting be made mandatory?
      - 1. It may be not mandatory, but they may do drawings for things (i.e. incentive time off).
  - c. What we want out of the meeting will determine the format. Do we want just a Town Hall meeting, or do we want a format that is more interactive?
  - d. We are looking at this lasting about 1.5 hours; probably from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday nights.

- e. We want to provide an opportunity for a welcome/greeting/overview from Lisa. Each of the associations can do greetings as well. Attendees will sit at tables, and there will be some kind of food. We could potentially incorporate some type of “getting to know you” activity. The discussion will be around the Partnership Agreement; not about changes that can be made, but about what it means and our intent moving forward, etc. Audrey suggested to get Three Square to give us some type of Thanksgiving “boxes” to incentivize people to come. If the IDs are done, we can potentially offer an opportunity for foster parents to get their IDs.
- f. We need to provide child care. How will this work?
  - i. One of the associations has a group that they use for babysitting for their meetings.
  - ii. Some churches also offer babysitting.
  - iii. Rick offered to contact the Red Cross to see if they have teens that have been trained in babysitting to help out with this event.
  - iv. We can perhaps have 1-2 adults in the room with teens that are trained to help.
  - v. Maybe there could be a movie night for the kids during the event
- g. Denise will probably have a meeting next week and collect ideas of how to get specific things, like babysitting, accomplished.
  - i. She will encourage attendees at this meeting to take accountability for different tasks.
- h. We want to have four of these meetings: one in each region of Las Vegas.
  - i. Rick can look at the Northwest area to help finding some locations. The one that comes to mind is the Centennial Hills YMCA.
    - 1. This building is technically owned by the county, which could make it easier to secure.

- ii. We could also look at City of Las Vegas locations, and can contact Councilman Ross, who may be able to help us secure locations.
    - iii. Is there a budget for the venue?
      - 1. Ideally we would like to find a free venue so that the budget can be saved for food and babysitting.
  - i. What type of food do we want to have?
    - i. We will have to feed the kids as well, so perhaps chicken nuggets and pizza; maybe snacks.
  - j. The invitation should go out soon, so that parents put it on their calendars and know it is coming.
  - k. The Foster Parent Champions (FPCs) can start to inform caregivers about this in their introduction calls, and can send out invitations as well. They can also help with ideas for the meeting from a caregiver's perspective.
  - l. We want to have all four (4) of these meetings in the first two (2) weeks of November, as the latter two weeks includes holidays.
    - i. November 19<sup>th</sup> is adoptions day.
  - m. The hope is for one of the four meetings to take place in each of the four corners of the city. Anyone can come to any meeting, so if the one closest to their home is on an inconvenient day, they can choose another meeting to attend.
  - n. Is it OK to use a church for one of the locations, if one ends up being a best option?
    - i. Individuals who do not subscribe to religious beliefs likely would not mind an event such as this being held at a church, and not find it a barrier to attendance.
  - o. This series of meetings can become a regular/yearly event that people anticipate every November.
6. The Foster Friends event is next week.
- a. Please spread the word.

- i. If there are foster families that would like to attend, encourage them to do so.
  - ii. If we know businesses that want to attend and register, that would be great as well.
  - iii. Is not intended to be a recruitment event, but instead is more targeted towards individuals who don't necessarily want to be foster parents, but want to provide support and help out in other ways.
- 7. Due to members' schedule conflicts, attendance was low so the meeting was kept short, and not all topics on the agenda were addressed.