



Clark County Department of Family Services

Co-Lead Meeting

Wednesday November 19, 2014 – 12:30 pm – 2:30 p.m.

Lincoln Room

Attendees

Jennifer Erbs (Maple Star), Richard Egan (Nevada Department of Health)

DFS- Tara Donohue, Denise Parker, Shannon Rooney, Andre Wade

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Meeting minutes from – October
3. Town Hall Mixer, meet and greet
 - a. Subcommittee report
4. National Conference in San Diego
5. Workgroup update
 - a. Training
 - b. Child Welfare Services
 - c. Support and Retention
 - d. Recruitment
 - e. Communication Plan
 - f. Community
6. Statewide workgroup

- a. UNITY
 - b. Foster parent-handbook
 - c. Information sharing/confidentially
 - d. Normalcy – BDR -legislative
7. Other

Agenda

- 8. Welcome
- 9. Meeting minutes from – October
- 10. Town Hall Mixer, Meet and Greet
 - a. Subcommittee report
 - b. This event will be held in February. Initially, it was to be held in January, but if this was the case than invitations would be sent out in December and likely get lost in the holiday shuffle. Holding the event in February enables the invitations to be sent out in January, when they are more likely to be noticed, leading to higher attendance.
 - c. The group is looking into holding it at Palace Station, so that attendance will not be limited by the size of the facility.
 - d. The intent for this is to be a meet-and-greet style event in which the focus is on The Partnership Agreement.
 - i. For the most part, this will be caregivers, caseworkers, and other staff and QPI members discussing the Partnership Agreement. Most will be caregivers, case workers, etc. discussing the Partnership Agreement.
 - ii. Other achievements will also be discussed; Kristi has created a video that highlights everything that has been accomplished through QPI.
 - 1. One of these other accomplishments that will be highlighted is the survey, including the results and how they will be distributed, and what steps will be taken moving forward.
 - e. The statewide committee is working on the Foster Parent Handbook. They will be consulting with the University of Southern Florida (USF) and collaborating on

their work. There has never been a national initiative to create a handbook like this before.

- i. The handbook will be online, but it will contain links to different websites which will have information that is region-specific.
 - ii. The goal is to design it in a way so that changes can be made to specific pages so that it is easy to update and keep current.
 - iii. Denise has been given certain sections to write, and she will be sending consulting with individuals who are experts in specific areas to help her craft each section.
 - iv. Denise has been given all of the statewide information, and she will put it together and then send it to USF for them to format.
- f. Rick and his organization are interested in supporting DFS (The Department of Family Services) trainers by sending them to “train the trainer” courses in Suicide Awareness and Prevention so that further training can be offered in-house.
- i. The goal is to build pyramids of safety in any organization that asks for help doing so.
 - 1. Even though foster children are one of the most traumatized and at-risk groups, they are also well-protected.
 - ii. One great goal would to be partner with the Independent Living program and potentially offer trainings to them. A two-day course for the Independent Living group is offered every quarter, and encouraging trainers to attend is a great goal.

11. National Conference in San Diego

- a. This conference will be held January 20th-22nd. The information has been sent out to all of the Foster Parent associations.
- b. DFS will be sponsoring some foster families to attend. These families will be selected through an application process. Applications have already been distributed.
- c. Case managers will also be sent to the conference, and have the opportunity to fill out an application. The process to select case managers will be similar to that where foster parents will be selected.

- d. The Casey Foundation is sending some people as well.
- e. Management from DFS will be attending.
- f. DFS is unable to sponsor everyone (i.e. it would not be possible to sponsor all of the Co-leads), but if Agencies and other groups want to send some of their members, this would be a great opportunity.

12. Other

- a. The Foster Parent Champions (FPCs) have been working on respite requests and trying to help keep children with their foster families over the holidays. The respite numbers are down.
- b. The cases that FPCs are unable to resolve are being forwarded to Licensing and Denise and Tara are carrying out visits.
 - i. These are primarily to the families that believe they deserve a “vacation” from fostering for the holidays.
- c. We don’t want our children to feel less important, and these outlier families are giving this impression to children. After FPCs forward these cases on, they are being handled as necessary.
- d. During the first QPI meeting in September 2012, one of the important statements made was that “we need to love these kids,” and a small group seemed to disagree with this. It is important to make foster children part of the family until they return home.
- e. The messaging in training, etc. is changing, and these expectations are being communicated.
 - i. This change seems to be happening with case workers as well.

13. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 17th, 2014 – 12:30 pm – 2:30 p.m. at DFS Central in the Lincoln Room.