



Clark County Department of Family Services

Community Partnerships Workgroup

Agenda for 03/04/14

Present

Chair Leslie Murdock, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Chair Shauna Davis, Children's Advocacy Alliance
Chair Mari Parlade, DFS
Tara Phebus, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
Denise Parker, DFS – QPI
Ali Caliendo, Foster Kinship
Vickie Wilson, DFS
Carolyn Potter, DFS

Agenda

- QPI Community Partnerships Workgroup Initiatives & Accomplishments
- Minutes from October 16, 2013 QPI Community Partnerships Workgroup Meeting
- Copy of Caregiver Courier, March 2014 Issue
- Above handouts distributed for discussion

Minutes

Caregiver Courier

- All workgroup members encouraged to get on mailing list
- Forward story ideas/stories to André Wade
- Solicit Foster participation and ideas for content of future Caregiver Couriers

Accomplishments

- Denise Parker has been working as QPI Coordinator for past 2 months
 - 6 Workgroups have been formed to address needs of the community; identified 2 issues preventing us from having fully functional, integrated system
1. **Internal Communication** – not everyone at DFS knows about QPI
 2. **External Communication** – we're not doing a good enough job of informing our community about QPI. It's all about "QUALITY" interactions, support, partnerships, communication

QPI National Conference Take-Aways

- ABC Visitation Center setup
- Expedited Licensing Program
- Improved foster training program so licensees know day one next steps
- "Foster Friends" program

QPI Community Partnerships Workgroup Additional Program ideas

- Child Haven has been selected to receive a community-built playground from KaBOOM!, a national non-profit that rebuilds playgrounds through community partnerships. DIRECTV is the funder, DFS is the beneficiary and the community partners include Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC Southwest), SAFY, UNLV, CASA. On April 15th the Child Haven playground will be rebuilt in 1 day. The campus will be opened to over 700 community volunteers that will

partake in this monumental project. In the days leading up to the event, DFS seeks volunteers to Prep the campus for this playground build. Roughly 50 community volunteers are needed each on Friday (4/11), Saturday (4/12) and Monday (4/14), to this end. Because of the unique nature of this event, and the collaborative spirit that is necessary to ensure its' success, this event can be used to send a united message to the larger community about Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention, as well as Foster Care Awareness. We will be planting a Pinwheel Garden immediately adjacent to the newly constructed playground, as well as a Pinwheel Mural in honor of Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month. Due to the significance of these two collective efforts, the playground rebuild and the Child Abuse Awareness campaign, this is perfect timing for our QPI Community Partnership Workgroup to deliver its message and begin planting the seed for a successful Ambassador Program.

- Create Volunteer Brochure/Program to include online form that can be completed for volunteers, donations, and support opportunities
- Provide links to these on QPI website
- Assign or create Volunteer Coordinator position that supports our kids, caregivers and DFS
- Create template for events
- Create Volunteer opportunities/community calendar webpage and/or calendar
- Enhance DFS website so information is easy to navigate
- Complete full development of adoption profiles component of DFS website
- Create standing annual events in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month, Foster Month, and National Adoption Month to build connections to our community thru awareness events
- Engage community partners to help unlicensed caregivers supporting large sibling groups

Action Steps

- Divide previously identified areas that foster parents are interested in among workgroup members for each member to compile a list of resources relative to that area of interest
- Order a Child Abuse Awareness flag from CWLA
- Add section to KaBOOM! Online registration form that asks registrants if they are interested in participating in future events or helping us to fulfill future needs
- Create additional QPI Workgroup for siblings, family finders, and relative care -- chaired by Vickie Wilson
- Identify what it is we are trying to do (Google Kevin Campbell)
- Create public messaging to build awareness and recognize businesses that support child welfare
- Implement a Statewide Foster Friendly Business Awareness Recognition Month – honor 1 a day

Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 1, 2014 2pm – 4pm, Lincoln Room, DFS Central 121 S. MLK

Agenda: Use the KaBOOM! April 15th Child Haven Build Day Event as a platform to send a united message to the community. The messaging and means will be discussed at the next meeting.