



Clark County Department of Family Services

Community Partnerships Workgroup

Minutes for 04/01/14

Present

Chair Shauna Davis, Children's Advocacy Alliance
Carolyn Potter, DFS
Denise Parker, DFS – QPI
Tara Phebus, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
Jessica Roe, Adoption Exchange (Check Name on Attendance Sheet)

Agenda

- Minutes from March 4, 2014 QPI Community Partnerships Workgroup Meeting
- Preparation for KaBOOM!
- Community partnership engagement of KaBOOM! volunteers (engagement after event)
- Ambassador Program

Minutes

Minutes from March 4, 2014

- Minutes were distributed from last meeting and reviewed

Preparation for KaBOOM!

- KaBOOM! Is fast approaching:
 - Prep Day Friday, April 11th 8am-4pm
 - Prep Day Saturday, April 12th 8am-4pm
 - Prep Day Monday, April 14th 8am-4pm
 - Build Day Tuesday, April 15th 8:45am-3:30pm
- Supplies
 - We still need the following tools for KaBOOM! Build Day:
 - 26 Garden Hoes
 - 19 Wheelbarrows
 - 36 Rakes
 - 6 Six Pound Sledge Hammers
 - 5 Four Pound Sledge Hammers
 - 12 Hammers
 - In addition to the companies already contacted (Home Depot, Sam's Club), the following suggestions were offered: Star Nursery, Moon Valley Nursery, Lowes, Pawn Shops, Construction Companies.
 - Tara from NICRP will send out an announcement to their contacts asking for supplies
 - Shauna from CAA will check with CAA's board members if they have connections with companies who may be willing to lend supplies.
- Volunteers

- The number of required volunteers for each day has almost been met.

Engagement after Event

- The KaBOOM! event has been a great opportunity to identify volunteers and potential community partners. We need to identify ways to retain these volunteers and community partners to help meet the needs of our Child Welfare families.
- One community partner in particular stands out because of the extra mile he has gone to help with KaBOOM. We will ensure this person and his company is properly recognized and thanked for this contributions and time. It was suggested that this person be involved with the ribbon cutting ceremony for KaBOOM.
- We need data to help us develop our “ask” from potential community partners. Data such as how many children are removed based on specific categories (Ex: 20% of children were removed due to unsafe living environments, or 70% of children were removed due to parents’ involvement with illegal substances, etc.). According to a study evaluating DFS, one of the main frustrations for case workers was having to remove a child from their home due to unsafe environments (such as a broken window on the second floor) and not having the resources to help the family instead of removing the child. This could be one of the “asks” is for community partners to step in for these types of cases and help make the home safe so families can stay intact. Another example was shared how often grandparents are denied a license to foster their grandchildren because they cannot afford to put a fence around their pool. This is another example how community partners can help.
- Denise will look into gathering the data for this purpose. Other data suggested: On average, how many social workers is a child assigned throughout the course of their involvement with DFS? How many kids have been in the system for longer than 2 years?
- East Valley Family Services has a mentoring program (peer support) for biological parents. If a biological parent has had their children returned to them and the children have safely remained in the home for at least 2 years, they can then volunteer as a mentor to help other parents working to regain custody.
- A resource list of services can be found on the Nevada NYCP website and Nevada 211.

Ambassador Program

- It was suggested that a coupon book be created for foster families so businesses can get involved by offering discounts. This can be an incentive for businesses to get involved because it is also a way to advertise their business. Coupon books are often used as a fundraising activity for school so perhaps a company would sponsor these books. If the book is too expensive to create, companies can print off their own coupons and volunteers can assemble folders compiling all the coupons. Coupons would be given to all foster families. Coupons can be for discounted haircuts, tutoring services, clothing, food, gas, etc.

Action Steps

- Denise will look into gathering suggested data.
- Workgroup members will help secure the needed supplies for KaBOOM!

Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 6, 2014 2pm – 4pm, Lincoln Room, DFS Central 121 S. MLK

Agenda: Create a list of “asks” from our community partners and support with data. Identify partners to fulfill needs. Look into cost of coupon books and participating agencies.