



# Clark County Department of Family Services

## Community Partnerships Workgroup

Minutes for 07/08/14

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### Present

Chair Mari Parlade, DFS  
André Wade, DFS  
Carolyn Potter, DFS  
Denise Parker, DFS – QPI  
Valerie Hicks, SAFY  
Samantha Charles, DFS  
Shelia Parks, CASA  
Theresa Ball, Mile High  
Cindy Lubiarez, Care Meridian  
Tara Phebus, NICRP  
Jessica Roe, The Adoption Exchange  
Kevin MacDonald, DFS

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### Agenda

- Minutes from June 3, 2014 QPI Community Partnerships Workgroup Meeting
- UMSM Foster Friends Event recap
- Foster Friends Conference
- Next Steps

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### Minutes

#### **Minutes from June 3, 2014**

- Minutes were distributed from last meeting for review

#### **UMSM Foster Friends Event update**

- André provided a recap of the first Foster Friends event in partnership with UMSM that was held on Sunday, June 22, 2014, at Trinity United Methodist Church.
- 10 foster families attended, and 15 volunteers participated from the United Methodist Social Ministries network.
- Common themes from the interactions between volunteers and families were babysitting, respite, discounts on services and events, and help with daily activities like going to the park.
- UMSM has trained people to babysit via their satellite visitation center program; next event will be a “Parents Day-Out” event.

#### **Foster Friends Conference**

- To be held the week of Step-Up for Kids (9/22/14). Dates for conference to be 9/23 and 9/24 (details being vetted).

- Use conference as a Foster Friends Program launch where participants will hear from foster parents, and from foster kids on the impact of their support system in care. Program must be catered to the specifics of our own community and our own foster parents' needs. Program cannot be cookie cut based on what is working in other communities.
- Respite discussion – receiving respite only from foster kids and not birth kids goes against QPI model of quality parenting. Respite should be from ALL kids, not just foster kids. Redefine.
- Casey Foundation initiatives discussed – monthly picnics held for people to connect with foster families so that if temporary care is needed, it won't be from strangers.
- GEO mapping enables us to look at licensed foster homes, community centers and churches all within the same zip code, so that we can connect resources and stand-outs in the same area.
- Use GEO map at Foster Friends Conference, whereby areas can be color coded, and attendees can be seated according to area.
- Additional ideas – YMCA's could be approached to give free family memberships; Boys & Girls Clubs currently offer discounts, could reach out to all; CareMeridian provides pediatric respite for medically fragile kids under insurance; City Recreation centers have classes that could partner on program; Ronald McDonald House is a resource for toy donations; Chamber of Commerce participation; if foster friend owns a business could they hire an IL, help a child fill out a FAFSA for college; if they are union, could they offer internships to children aging out.
- Identify levels of commitment – point of entry will depend on the partner.
- Three opportunities for program – business discounts/services, job opportunities, church members/events.
- Have business owners' talk at conference as to why they are participating. Identify list of businesses already on board.
- Ask foster families to nominate their businesses that they frequent to be in the program; or their employer who offers flexibility in work schedule for fostering.
- Highlight Sunrise Pediatrics as Foster Friend Ambassador for donating services to foster homes.
- Ask recruiters what businesses have been friendly.
- Short-term goals:
  - Launch conference in September and identify who's in the barn, who's on the farm, and who are our targets.
  - Identify who will speak to the needs of the program.
  - Develop GEO hub map.
  - Draft personalized letter to community partners.
  - Create flyer or tri-fold brochure.
  - Create registration form for conference.
  - Draft Thank You letter/component.
  - Order lapel pins for conference.
- Long-term goals:
  - Create webpage for program; list businesses on Foster Friends webpage as supporters (look at Ronald McDonald House website for ideas).
  - Make follow-up calls in the days immediately following the conference (we are happy you came, is there something you signed up to do?).
- Conference to identify who DFS is, what foster care is, and speakers speak to our needs.

### **Foster Friends Speaking Points**

**Foster Friends** is a program the Department of Family Services is currently developing to provide an opportunity for businesses, the faith community, LGBT community, charitable organizations; etc. to support children in foster care - and their caregivers - in ways other than becoming a foster parent. Examples of support and partnerships include:

- Local businesses can provide discounts to foster parents and/or display foster parent recruitment materials
- Faith-based organizations can recruit members who may be interested in providing supervision of children at Foster Friendly events or other types of support to families
- Organizations or individuals can organize a donation drive

The opportunities are nearly limitless based upon what the partner has to offer. No idea is too small. If you are interested in learning more about the Foster Friends program, which will be rolled out in September, you are welcome to call 702-455-1196.

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 12, 2014 10pm – 12pm, CareMeridian, 7690 Carmen Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89128 – Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by August 8, 2014 to [clubiarz@caremeridian.com](mailto:clubiarz@caremeridian.com)**