



Clark County Department of Family Services
Community Partnerships Workgroup
Minutes for 21 July, 2015

Present

Jocelyn Bluitt-Fisher, DFS
Denise Parker, QPI
Greg Holloway, DFS
Samantha Charles, DFS
Deborah Litke, DFS
Barbara Kaltenbach, DFS
Allie Lakey, Open Doors
Dr. Leslie Murdock, ELM Education Consulting

Meeting Minutes from 7/21/15

Education Update – Leslie Murdock – DFS Education Liaison

- Leslie is working with Clark County School District to eliminate some barriers our foster parents face when navigating the school system- Legislation has deemed foster kids as homeless. This gives them added benefits, i.e.; free lunches, options to stay in the same school, transportation to school, and possible fee waivers under Title 1.
- An Education Guide of FAQ's for foster parents and caregivers is being finalized. The guide will be used for training and available on the QPI website. The target dissemination of the Education Guide is the Back to School Event on August 13th. In addition, QPI will develop a "CCSD Update Corner" on the QPI website and in the Caregiver Courier to keep participants aware of education updates.
- There is a Foster Care Advocate on every campus that is trained in the CCSD Guidelines, what resources are available to foster children and to assist with academic plans.
- The next project is on "Info Sharing", making sure the schools know that foster parents and DFS can access school records. They will develop a sample letter for foster parents and DFS with information on how to obtain and interpret the records.

Back to School Drive and Event

- The event is August 13th 8:30-12:00 noon at the Juvenile Justice Gymnasium at 651 N. Pecos.
- The drive is going well and will end August 7th.
- Post cards for registration are done and will be sent out.
- Vendors are being secured. CCSD and the City of Las Vegas Safekey programs are some of the vendors that will be in attendance.

Apple Camp

- Casa has partnered with the Apple stores and they are doing a day camp for kids ages 8-14. The kids learn either interactive storytelling or film making. They have given 40 of our kids in care a week of sessions beginning August 10th.

Camp To Belong

- The camp has been cancelled this year.
- The CPE team is exploring other options for some sort of sibling reunification activity this summer for our children in care.

Diligent Recruitment Project

- DFS received a grant for recruitment of foster parents for large sibling groups, teenagers, and medically fragile children.
- R & R Advertising will develop the marketing campaign for recruitment as well as the collateral and ads. In addition, the agency will provide some pro bono services to develop our online & social media outreach.

Statewide QPI Conference

- The Statewide QPI Conference will be held in Reno October 19, 20, 21, 2015.
- 20 DFS staff will be attending to include QPI leads and foster parents.

National QPI Conference

- The National QPI Conference will be held in February 2016. Florida will be the host.

National Foster and Adoptive Parent Association Conference

- The National Foster and Adoptive Parent Association will be hosting their annual conference in June 2016 in Las Vegas at the Flamingo.
- It will give Nevada a chance to see how different states work and we will be able to highlight some of our work such as Foster Parent champions, Education and faith based programs.
- Denise Parker is the point person.

Foster Friends Update

- It's a Piece of Cake has closed its location. Once the owner gets established at a new kitchen, she will update us with her contact phone number and we will share her new information in the Caregiver Courier.

Step Up for Kids Conference

- Step Up for kids Conference will be held September 9th at the Wynn Casino from 8:00-12:30 p.m.

Foster Friends Speaking Points

The Foster Friends Program is 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 – August 18, 2015

DFS Central located at 121 S Martin Luther King Blvd

