



Clark County Department of Family Services

Community Partnerships Workgroup

Minutes for 09/09/14

Present

Chair Mari Parlade, DFS
Tara Phebus, NICRP
Carolyn Potter, DFS
Mike Pochowski, Foster Parent
André Wade, DFS
Shelia Parks, CASA
Theresa Ball, Mile High
Kevin MacDonald, DFS
Amy Licht, Olive Crest
Samantha Charles, DFS
Vickie Wilson, DFS
Barbara Kahltenbach, DFS

Agenda

- Foster Friends Conference Updates
- Minutes from August 12, 2014 QPI Community Partnerships Workgroup Meeting distributed
- Next Steps and Other

Minutes

Partner and Conference Updates

- Tara Phebus with NICRP provided update regarding September 22, 2014 being officially recognized by the Nevada State Legislature as Children's Day in Nevada (the fourth Monday of every September is recognized as such).
- This year, there is a Community Resource Fair being held at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum in recognition of Children's Day for Step Up for Kids from 3 to 7pm. The museum is located on Las Vegas Blvd by Cashman Field. Candidates for Nevada Governor and federally elected officials will attend and speak to children's health and early childhood education issues. Cupcakes are being donated by Freed's Bakery.
- Foster Friends Conference is perfect timing, as it aligns with both national and state campaigns.
- The outcomes from the conference will likewise help incorporate the responses from the Community Partnerships & Engagement question that went out in the Caregiver Survey – i.e., what caregivers felt their greatest needs were as foster parents. The most common answers to this question were: opportunities for child care, educational services, after school and recreational activities – things that neither the federal reimbursement, nor DFS, provides for.

- The conference will raise awareness to how the community can support our needs. Foster Parents will speak, Foster Youth will speak, and Ambassadors (recognized leaders) will speak as to what the Foster Friend Program means to them, and what they need from the community.
- Everyone has a role when it comes to serving our most vulnerable population. Churches have different ideas for level of support; the construction industry can help provide services; the resort industry is sponsoring the conference.
- Conference run-of-show will be 3 tradeshow presentations – Foster Parents, Former Foster Youth & Ambassadors – followed by break-out groups of no more than 7 people that are categorical and zip-code based. Each break-out group would engage in a reflective listening exercise then report-out on what they heard. Then each participant would design their ideal Foster Friend Program model and share that model with their break-out groups. In the end, each break-out group would present on their consolidated Foster Friend Model.
- Ultimate goal of the conference is to develop resources for children to help them grow, especially those aging out of the system. We need meaningful connections with people and businesses outside of the system.
- Following conference, a business plan will be developed based on outcome of conference report outs.
- Amy Licht from Olive Crest provided update on Dreamer Project – helps young people with grief and loss. Also provides mentoring, sex education – a 357 model to get them prepared for permanency themselves. Amy to provide literature on Dreamer Project, Project Independence for conference bags.

Media Plan Update

- Foster youth will be telling their stories at the conference. They will be sharing what would have been helpful to them while they were in care.
- Channel 4 will be shooting video on 9/23/14, from which they will produce a package. Channel 4 will air the production on Chronicles.
- Jeff Penix video will be shown at beginning of conference. This video shows stories of children growing up in child welfare system. It is a collective piece that shows it takes many pieces to mold these children's lives – like a puzzle.
- Sam will organize a Press Conference in October or November to disseminate the business plan that gets developed as a result of the conference outcomes.

Materials Update

- CASA will provide items for conference bags
- Kevin has created a brochure, program interest card, window cling, name badges, and an appreciation certificate for those in attendance.
- Carolyn passed around a printed image of the conference bag that is going to be ordered with DFS, Foster Friends, QPI, CAA and ProjectWE logos on it.

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, please call 702-455-1196.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 14, 2014 10pm – 12pm,
DFS Central located at 121 S Martin Luther King Blvd.