



Clark County Department of Family Services
Community Partnerships Workgroup
Minutes for September 20, 2016

Present

Denise Parker, QPI
Samantha Charles, DFS
Oliska Batiste, Core Academy
Shelia Parks, CASA
Greg Holloway, DFS
Robin Roberts, DFS

Agenda for 9/20/16

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Review of minutes from July 19, 2016
3. Feedback on July 2016 presentations (Core Academy, Girls Scouts, CCSD)
4. Tutoring and Mentoring Services: Update
 - a. Audrey
 - b. Jamie and Elizabeth
 - c. Greg
5. Volunteer Waiver(s)
6. Children's Personal Property: Tracking, Storage and Shipping. Effective July 27, 2015 (see handout)
7. Foster Friend Program

Meeting minutes from 9/20/16

Review of minutes from last meeting

- The meeting minutes from 7/19/16 were approved without changes.

Girl scouts

- The committee agreed that our July 2016 presentations were awesome and that we all learned about some wonderful programs. One of the presentations was delivered by the Girl Scouts of America. Denise informed the team that Foster Change (Audrey Rosenstein) intends to work closely with the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts to determine how our children in care can take advantage of these amazing programs designed to, among other things, increase a child's self-esteem and sense of self-worth.

Core Academy

- Denise suggested that a committee assist with the selection of specific children who would benefit greatly from Core Academy's services. The group agreed that we need to look closely at families who have children in the 7th and 10th grades who fit well into Core Academy's qualifications. Once those children have been identified, we can approach DFS management and have a discussion about securing funding. The CASA Foundation may be able to partner with DFS to secure some funding. Denise will look at children who fall in the age range of 7th and 10th graders who reside at Child Haven to see if any children are eligible to take advantage of Core Academy's programs. Denise and Shelia will work closely on this project.

Volunteer Waivers

- Presently, DFS does not have a departmental volunteer waiver. We all agreed that DFS should have one. Robin agreed to do some research on what we have used in the past. She will bring her findings to our next meeting so that we can discuss this topic further. Additionally, Shelia and Oliska kindly offered to bring us copies of what their respective agencies have drafted.

Tutoring and Mentoring Services

- Greg and his wife, who happens to be a CCSD principal, have drafted a proposal that is built on the premise of Positive Labels Make a Difference in a Child's Life. Designed to change how teachers communicate with all students, the Positive Labels model encourages children to understand the importance of treating each and every interaction they have with people as an actual interview! The idea is to train youth to maintain a state of mind that we never know who is listening and watching... and the difference it makes when we always put our best foot forward in our daily communications. After Greg's presentation, Denise asked the team to please bring a list of as many tutoring programs and mentoring services that we all know about.

Transition of Personal Belongings

- Quite a bit discussion was had as to how to convey to families, teachers and principals the importance of children retrieving their personal belongings from one place/school to another. We agree that it is critical that partners understand that a child's property is not disposable. Parents must be highly encouraged to ask to retrieve the belongings of their children when they are de-rolling them from school. We determined that Specialists must work closely with foster parents to ensure that children always travel with their much treasured belongings and keepsakes. Denise suggested that we invite a Specialist to one of our meetings to discuss this further.

- **Foster Friends Program**

The Foster Friends program is presently suspended due to confidentiality concerns. As a team, we decided that Foster Friends has the potential to serve as a wonderful resource to families. We agreed that it may be a great idea to invite someone from the district attorney's office to discuss this matter further.

Next Meeting – October 18, 2016

DFS Central located at 121 S. Martin Luther King Blvd (Lyon Conference Room)