



Clark County Department of Family Services

Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)

Community Partnerships Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2013 @ 10am - 12pm

Clark County Department of Family Services (DFS)
121 S. Martin Luther King Blvd. 89106

Workgroup Members Present

Chair Leslie Murdock, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Chair Mari Parlade, DFS
Ray Biggerstaff, Foster Connect
Alison Caliendo, Foster Kinship
Marde Closson, DFS
Shelia Parks, CASA
Sandra Hodgers, Maple Star

Handouts Distributed

- QPI Community Partnerships Workgroup Initiatives & Work Plan
- Minutes from September 11, 2013 QPI Community Partnerships Workgroup meeting
- Proposed DRAFT OF CAREGIVER SURVEY

Minutes

I. Welcome & Announcements

- Mari: QPI Implementation Team Meeting convened on **September 24th from 10am to 12:30pm**. The co-leads of each workgroup presented updates on their Workgroup Initiatives & Action Steps. Mari summarized the Workgroup Initiatives. In addition, an Intro to QPI Meeting convened on October 9 for Building Connections participants and interested persons.

II. Collaboration on the Caregiver Survey

Mari discussed the QPI Caregiver Survey (attached) and the QPI Community Partnership Workgroup's role in working with the QPI Retention & Support Workgroup on development of the Caregiver Survey.

Leslie discussed her efforts in working with NYCP (Nevada Youth Care Providers) to ascertain the greatest areas of need from caregivers. The following categories were identified:

1. Transportation
2. Long term care
3. Short term Carr
4. After school activities
5. Seasonal camps
6. Fun events
7. Volunteer jobs
8. Foster parent
9. Tutoritung
10. Hygiene personal care
11. Donations for holidays

Group discussion ensued on what format the survey should take: 1) Likert Scale of 1-5 for the top 5 categories, or 2) List the 11 categories in order of preference.

Mari shared that Co-Chair Shauna Davis expressed concern about the latter format because it would be difficult for the data analyst. Instead, Mari relayed that Shauna preferred that the top 5 preferences should just be listed. Ray indicated that it would be difficult to choose which categories to remove; however he also acknowledged that the survey overall is too long. Marde expressed support for the Likert scale (as set forth in the Draft Caregiver Survey). She further stated that the QPI Community Partnership Workgroup's Likert scale was preferable to the rest of the survey. Sandra also expressed support for the Likert Scale in the survey because it is simple. Ray suggested that the Survey state: Please indicate your top 5 needs of those listed above and rate those top 5 on the Likert Scale. Overall, the group agreed with Ray's suggestion.

Ali pointed out that ranking all 11 categories would give us a better idea of priorities, without having any of the suggestive language inherent in the Likert Scale. After much discussion, the group agreed that the better approach would be to randomly list the 11 categories, plus a fill-in-the-blank category, with instructions to rank them in order of preference. The qualifying language would include a blurb that: This QPI Workgroup is tasked with developing a partnership with community providers to provide support services and resources to caregivers. Please assist us in identifying the greatest need for caregivers by ranking the following categories in order of preference from greatest to least.

Shelia mentioned that there was a lot of overlap within the Surveys in general. Ray suggested that we consolidate the 2 surveys (Community Partnerships component and the general survey). Mari agreed that this was still a work in progress and that there would be further collaboration. Further discussion ensued on how long, impractical and cumbersome the survey may be.

Marde expressed the importance of including unpaid relative caregivers in the survey. Mari agreed that they would be included.

III. **Ambassador Program**

Leslie shared that this will be about identifying key partners who will serve as Ambassadors to solicit community partners from their groups. Discussion ensued on how this would be most effective. Shelia agreed that this ties into our public awareness and call to action. Shelia stated that there are agencies providing services to children in foster care now, we need to streamline the process and identify those groups so that we will know who provides what first. This is important so that foster parents know where to go for services.

The group agreed that there needs to be one central hub where foster parents can go to obtain information on services and resources in the community. Mari will obtain and provide a list of DFS providers to the group, so that this process can be initiated.

Leslie suggested that if we identify the top 3 areas of greatest need, we can start by identifying the providers that can fill those needs, so that at least caregivers will know where to go for resources.

Ali suggested that this be tied into the foster parent champion program so that if a caregiver calls, the foster parent champion will know where to refer the caregiver. Let's find out what exists so that we can get the info out.

Leslie mentioned that we have many people in this Committee, so we can divide the 11 categories between the Committee members. Group discussion ensued that this would serve as the BBB (Better Business Bureau) of child welfare providers wherein providers would receive accolades to recognize them as such. There would be categories of BBB accolades: Preferred provider would receive a plaque as a community partnership member of DFS if they provide a certain level of quality service. There would need to be an expectation that if you become a partner, you automatically provide this level of service, like the BBB. The Workgroup supported this idea.

Further discussion ensued on a Preferred Provider Network where the Ambassador would match the resources with the need. For example, Ali would be the Ambassador to the pool vendor because she would negotiate discounted pool fencing services with the vendor and then connect that vendor to the families that need pool fencing services.

Leslie suggested that we:

1. Identify what we are already receiving through DFS Provider list
2. Identify the need
3. Identify gaps in services

Action Steps

1. Mari will prepare the Minutes & obtain the DFS Provider List
2. Leslie will fine tune the Survey and disseminate the draft with the sign-up genie for the next Workgroup Meeting Date (after the Holidays)