



## Clark County Department of Family Services

### Child Welfare Services Workgroup

January 26, 2016

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#### Present

Mark Fitzgerald, DFS Lead  
Denise Parker, DFS QPI  
Heather Richardson, DFS  
Caleb Orton, DFS P & Ps  
Lisa Martinez, DFS  
Jennifer Bevacqua, Eagle Quest  
Karen Atlantic, DFS  
Dahlia Espeut-McLean, DFS P & Ps  
Heather Richardson, DFS Special Projects  
Shuuannidy Alvarez, DFS Permanency  
Brigid Duff, Chief DA  
Anita Stephens, Adoptive Parent

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#### Agenda

- Transitions
- Information Sharing - update
- Partnership Plan – updates
- 360 Reviews
- Visitation
- Post Adoption Support

## **Transitions:**

- F/P Champions and DA Duffy report receiving t/c's about situations where there has been no transition, with both relatives and foster parents
- General discussion around the absence of "policies/procedures" around the transitioning of children from foster to foster, foster to relative, foster to home (reunification) and/or foster to adoption.
- Heather and Mark agreed that how a transition occurs is supervisor driven and varies widely.
- Denise advised that the next Webinar with Dr. Zeanah will continue to explore "transitions."

Next steps: 1. Denise suggested beginning to think about "guidelines" to include in any policies and procedures developed around transitions and to discuss further in the March 2016 meeting.

## **Information Sharing:**

- Brigid and Caleb had previous dialogue around the evolution of the "Information Sharing" pamphlet and the group discussed several changes.
- Brigid and Caleb sought more clarification on what foster parents can know about the birth parents.
- Discussion around what Hearings foster parents can be invited to by statute and it was "Reviews." The pamphlet will reflect this.
- Denise asked that there be recognition that foster parents may be confused if children are to attend every Hearing (per the Blue Ribbon Commission for Kids) and the foster parents transport them but can't themselves attend the particular Hearing.
- The group agreed that the pamphlet will be amended to reflect that foster parents receive copies of the "objectives" of the child's case plan, not the actual case plan as there would be assessment information related to the birth parents therein

Next steps: 1. Denise and Caleb will prepare another draft incorporating the Workgroup's agreed up changes

2. Brigid will review the pamphlet for approval
3. The pamphlet will be re-routed to the DFS Management Team
4. Following approval, P &Ps will be written around "Information Sharing" and the pamphlet will be shared in the Caregiver Courier and provided to Foster Associations and the agencies

### **Partnership Plan:**

- The Workgroup is waiting for the Partnership Plan video. Denise will keep Mark and the group informed as to the prospective date for release
- Denise informed that she introduced the Partnership Plan to every field Unit within the Department and highlighted the Passport to Partnership community event where it was further introduced.

Next steps: 1. Denise is scheduled to meet with DFS Executive Management as to the status of completion of the Partnership Plan video.  
2. Denise will keep the Workgroup informed as to the status of prospective delivery of the training video

### **360 Reviews:**

- Denise is working on reducing the length of the surveys by incorporating the Child Trends information

Next steps: (1) Denise will finalize the caregiver and caseworker surveys  
(2) Workgroup approval of the versions of the survey as final  
(3) Executive Management approval of the final versions  
(4) Workgroup will brainstorm “guidelines” detailing the purpose, collection, increasing rate of return, documentation, and use of the surveys  
(5) Mark and Denise will meet with the DFS Labor Management Committee for further discussion around the use of the surveys

### **Visitation:**

- Denise indicated that Judge Sullivan is chairing a subcommittee through the Blue Ribbon Committee for Kids focused on visitation. The first is scheduled for 2/1/16.
- Denise indicated that the Blue Ribbon Commission for Kids is interested in the ABC Visitation Program

Next steps: 1 The Workgroup agreed to defer further discussion pending input from Denise as to the work of the subcommittee so as not to be duplicative.

### **Post Adoption Support:**

- The Workgroup recognizes the need for Post Adoption Support and that the data provided to date supports the need.

- Denise will work with IT on gaining further understanding of the data gathered at the request of this Workgroup.
- Brigid indicated that at the legislature, legislators were inquiring about post-adoption support.
- Denise suggested that the Workgroup explore three questions (1) What is the Right Thing? (2) What do we need and (3) What Exists now.
- Denise indicated that all of the Foster Support Associations were getting together on 1/29/16.

Next steps:

1. Denise will work on getting an understanding of what the numbers mean for the reports IT ran for this Workgroup
2. Lisa/Veronica will explore “differences” / “changes” in Medicaid services available to adoptive vs. foster children
3. Workgroup members are asked to explore what might already exist in terms of “post adoption support” in the community

**The next meeting of the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup will be on Tuesday February 23, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m in the Lincoln Room at the DFS Office located at 121 S. Martin Luther King Blvd.**