



Clark County Department of Family Services

Name of Workgroup

January 27, 2015

Present

Mark Fitzgerald, DFS Co-Lead
Denise Parker, DFS QPI
Dianne Brooks, Foster Parent
Patricia Nordstrom, DFS Foster Parent Liaison
Brenda Herbstman, DFS
Barbara Straight, DFS Fiscal

Agenda

- Transition Survey
- Information Sharing
- Respite
- Normalcy
- Partnership Plan
- Visitation
- Transitions

Minutes

The QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup welcomed Annette Jordan, DFS Training Team.

1. Transition Survey

- Patricia stated that she was unfamiliar with the form, had a recent transition and the form wasn't used nor was there a transition to support the child(ren)
- The group discussed that this "transition" happened foster parent to foster parent absent the Placement Team. Discussed a reminder to Permanency/CPS about the transition survey and importance of same.

Next steps:

- Mark also queried the group regarding their thoughts on Child Haven completing a transition survey on children who have been in their care for several days. Mark will reach out to Child Haven regarding same.
- Mark will follow up with Placement Team regarding the transition survey and its use.

2. Information Sharing

- Denise stated that the “white paper” developed by the Team has now been adopted by Washoe County. It will be the subject of a future statewide meeting prior to dissemination.

Next steps:

- Denise will continue to update this Team as to the status of the “white paper” and its future dissemination

3. Respite

- Denise offered that as of this date Child Haven had gone 24 weeks with no children being placed on campus as a result of an unmet need for “respite.”
- The respite policy is with Executive Management pending distribution to DFS staff and foster parents

4. Normalcy

- Denise provided an update. She is reconvening the subgroup to get back with the draft. Washoe County is looking at it. This will likely be a statewide initiative.

5. Partnership Plan

- Denise has been taking it out with her to each individual unit meeting she has attended as that has been an overarching goal this year is to make QPI and what it represents more known.
- The plan is to have several “meet and greet” sessions in May 2014 at which it will be introduced.
- Mark discussed the previous meeting with Annette Jordan, DFS Training Team, and plans to create a Power Point presentation.

- The group in attendance felt that providing it as an on-line training and posting it to the QPI website will be the best forum for reaching DFS staff and caregivers.

Next steps: (1) Mark will discuss with DFS Training Team making it “mandatory” for DFS staff and for foster caregivers
 (2) Mark and Annette will begin work on a Power Point presentation (Mark will research what is already available on QPI websites)

The Workgroup then discussed two additional initiatives:

6. Visitation

- Denise advised the Workgroup of excellent upcoming training on “Understanding Stages of Development Implications for Child Welfare Practices with an Emphasis on Visitation with Birth Families and Transitions” by Dr. Charles Zeanah, a recognized international expert.
- Denise briefly introduced the group to ABC Visitation which involves the foster parent directly as a mentor/support in the success of the birth parents’ visitation.
- There was brief discussion around the DFS Visitation Center not always being able to accommodate visits on a day, time, and frequency that works well for the caregivers.

Next steps: (1) The Child Welfare Services Workgroup decided to adopt “Visitation” as a new area of emphasis to address

7. Transitions

- Denise referenced Dr. Zeanah’s work in this area as well.
- Diana and Patricia stated that they have not consistently experienced child focused transitions
- Mark brought up that at the QPI National Conference he attended a session on “Transitions” The focus was that the transition MUST be child, not adult, driven and emphasized how HUGE it is for children. The speaker indicated that they have a Power Point presentation on the QPI website, that there is a video from a developmental psychiatrist describing the transition process with preverbal children, and San Luis Obispo has a P &P around transition planning. The trainer also indicated that they provide grief counseling for foster parents post-transition through a grant.

Next steps: (1) The Child Welfare Services Workgroup decided to adopt “Transitions” as a new area of emphasis to address.

The next meeting of the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup will be on February 24, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at DFS Central Site, 121 S. Martin Luther King Blvd.

