



Clark County Department of Family Services

Child Welfare Services Workgroup

April 26, 2016

Present

Mark Fitzgerald, DFS Lead
Denise Parker, DFS QPI
Caleb Orton, DFS P & Ps
Katrín Easter, DFS, Permanency
Regina Wyman, DFS, Permanency
Karen Atlantic, DFS, Licensing

Agenda

- Partnership Plan
- Information Sharing
- Transitions for Children
- 360 Reviews
- PRIME
- Post Adoption Support
- Visitation
- Disruptions

Partnership Plan:

- The Partnership Plan has been updated
- The Team reviewed the proposed Policies and Procedures and provided comments to Caleb
- DFS P&Ps sent an e-mail requesting input from “subject matter experts”

Next Steps: (1) Training and Policies and Procedures Units to roll out (checking for any anticipated time frame for delivery at this time)

Information Sharing:

- The “information sharing” brochure is currently with DFS Policies and Procedures
- The Policies and Procedures developed around “information sharing” brochures will be sent to DFS Executive Management for approval
- The Team discussed distribution to Caregivers
- The Team discussed multiple strategies for delivery of the “information sharing” brochure to Caregivers (e.g. by the permanency specialist assigned to children in the home, at the time of licensure/relicensure, via mail and/or electronic mail, inclusion in the Caregiver Courier, etc.)

Next steps: (1) DFS Executive Management / DFS Policies and Procedures Team to finalize the P &Ps and distribute/disseminate to DFS All Staff

(2) The QPI Communication Group is working on a plan for distribution/dissemination to caregivers

Transitions for Children:

- The final Dr. Zeanah “wrap up” presentation on “Transitions” is scheduled for 5/19/16
- Katrin spoke about a positive interaction with the Court around consideration for and implementation of a child friendly transition
- Denise referred the Team to the Florida QPI Website where there is a training module on “Transitions”
- The Team discussed a “targeted recruitment” of stakeholders to participate on a subcommittee around creating transition policy and procedure (e.g. reaching out to Barbara Buckley, Legal Aid Services, CAPs, representatives of the Court System, DFS , DFS P &Ps, caregivers, parents’ attorneys, etc.)

Next steps: (1) Discussion around the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup providing leadership towards creating a subcommittee focused on developing policies, procedures, and practice for transitions for children

360 Reviews:

- Decision made to table any further discussion/development until the beginning of 2017

PRIME (Placement Matching Engine):

- Denise introduced the Team to PRIME which represents a system to “match” the needs of children entering care with the knowledge, skills, and abilities of foster parents
- Placement Workers will be called Placement Preservation Workers
- Denise described “pages” (similar to Facebook) for foster parents and older children where information will be contained about each for consideration of matching
- PRIME will indicate percentages of match between the needs of the children and the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the foster caregiver , e.g. “90%” match, and send a message to the five top matches requesting they contact the placement preservation worker
- Denise stated that the biggest factor in disruptions is that the placement was not a “match”
- PRIME will also show deficits DFS has in foster homes for certain target populations to promote opportunities for targeted recruitment for those child(ren)
- The plan is for roll-out of PRIME by 7/1/16

Post Adoption Support:

- All of the local foster/adoptive/kinship associations met with DFS Director Tim Burch and the plan is for the creation of one umbrella association incorporating all of the local associations and that DFS will recognize, interact with, and support the umbrella association
- The umbrella association will provide quarterly trainings
- The umbrella association will be a 501 (c) 3, be a membership-based group, and receive some funding from DFS

Next steps: (1) Discussion around strategies to move forward with the development and implementation of Post Adoption Support Services in Clark County, Nevada

(2) Discussion around partnership with the association(s) and approaching DFS Executive Management around proposing the development of post adoption support services

Visitation:

- A Visitation Subcommittee born from the Blue Ribbon Commission for Kids participated in a conference call with Washoe County regarding the ABCV Visitation Program
- DFS Management has visited the ABCV Visitation Program in Washoe County
- Discussion around impending changes to the DFS Visitation Program which will include staff operating as “mentors” and incorporating foster caregivers into visitation. Foster caregivers would provide “follow the lead” opportunities for birth parents. The visits will be designed to focus on building relationships and building skills in the parents
- Discussion around each visit needing to have a “purpose.”
- Discussion around the 5 initial visits (or so) occurring at the Visitation Center and that, in most instances, the plan would be to move the visits out to the community thereafter.
- Katrin Easter has volunteered to participate on this Subcommittee

Next steps: (1) Subcommittee will provide regular reports to the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup

Disruptions:

- A subcommittee has been formed around disruptions and has met once
- The subcommittee is working to create 5 simple talking points for workers to speak with relatives around placement. There are, for example, concerns about relatives struggling with creating boundaries with the birth parents and the lack of financial support for unlicensed relative placements)
- Denise stated that DFS will be looking at policies/practices around conducting “Placement Preservation CFTs” including the caseworker, foster parent, placement preservation worker (placement workers)
- Denise stated that the subcommittee has talked about a cultural shift away from “pointing fingers” at a “bad” child or a “bad” foster parent and instead using language around the foster caregiver “not having the skill set to help the child.” This is a paradigm shift.

Next steps: (1) Workgroup members can express interest in participating on the Disruptions Subcommittee with Denise

(2) Denise will provide regular updates to the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup

The next meeting of the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup will be on Tuesday June 28, 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.