



# Clark County Department of Family Services

## Child Welfare Workgroup Meeting

May 27, 2014 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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### Present

Ali Caliendo, Foster Parent co-lead, Denise Parker, DFS, QPI Coordinator, Lani Aitken, DFS, Mike Pochowski, Foster Parent, Cheryl Shuberda, DFS, Dianne P. Brooks, Foster Parent, Angelic Thomas, Foster Parent, Tanya McClair, DFS.

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### Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Minutes from April
- Child Transition Survey from Implementation
- Information Sharing
- 10 Day Notices and “drop offs”
- Review of the Proposed Clark County Partnership Plan for Children in Out-of-Home Care
- Normalcy
- Respite
- 360 degree Reviews of Caseworkers and Caregivers

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### Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - New attendee Angelic Thomas who is a foster parent and also raising a relative (guardianship).
  - Dianne mentioned that she hears foster parents at visitation complaining about QPI. She tries to set record straight and directs foster parents to join a QPI workgroup to address misinformation. Dianne stated she challenges them to become involved in QPI.
2. Meeting Minutes from April
  - No questions or comments.

3. Review feedback from Child Transition Survey from Implementation
  - a. Update on pilot – Cheryl
  - b. Survey to PS2MAPP and Training
  - c. Lauren S to Spanish
  - Denise mentioned that executive management is pleased with the work coming out of this group and that the Child Transition Survey is being introduced at the all supervisors meeting on 5/28.
  - Group agreed with the proposed changes.
  - The group discussed that often placement specialists are tasked with explaining a disruption to the child. The group suggested that #19 be changed to Who has discussed this with the child and when?
  - Group wanted to change #18 to make it clearer: services/resources and elicit more info about caregivers knowledge/request of resources and the adequacy of services received.
  - Reword #20 to elicit a more broad range of responses.
  - Change #21 to strength based “what does the child need from the next placement to be successful?”
  - Denise will update and send to the group, then present at the All Supervisors meeting 5/28/14.
  - Denise will follow up with agenda items a-c on #3.
4. Information Sharing
  - The “Information Sharing with Caregivers document is still being reviewed by Carol, Christina, Mark and Bridget. Once Denise has feedback she will send to the group.
5. Update Partnership Plan
  - At the implementation meeting, Lisa suggested a change to #2 to allow for more information sharing. Denise is updating and will send out. Per discussion on Agenda Item #9, the group thought a part about the 360

reviews and non-retaliation could be added under Respected Partners as well.

6. Disruption “10 day notice and drop offs”

- a. NAC’s and DFS policy
- b. Discussion around our vision as to what should be done to make the process more children focused and friendly and how DFS should approach individual caregivers (mandating attendance at CFTs, mandating education around specific issues which contributed to 10 day.
  - Executive management has prioritized stopping the drop-offs immediately and then addressing the 10-day notices.
  - Workers need to be educated that they cannot just tell foster parents to drop the child off. Cheryl mentioned that some foster parents do give the 10-day notice but the worker is not putting it into the system, adding to the “drop off” numbers.
  - Lani suggested that foster parents needs to know what to do and how to do it with regards to 10 days. Suggested something on the QPI website- disruption specific training that includes the DFS policy of holding a CFT. It seems that 90% of the time the CFT is NOT happening, and that needs to change. Lani suggests looking at the barriers to a successful CFT. Perhaps it could be held at the caregiver’s home? Is there an opportunity to connect families with Foster Parent Champions? The group agreed there is no better support for a foster parent then another foster parent.

7. Normalcy

Still under review.

8. Respite

- a. Lauren S respite in NAC?
- b. Denise P respite policy
  - Lani will send respite and babysitting policy to Denise.

- Licensing will go back and look at homes that have open beds and help caregivers move to foster, respite, or adopt only (or re-assess fit for fostering).
- The NAC currently says that foster parents can “take a break.” It is suggested that there is more specific language around the duration of “break.”

#### 9. 360 Degree Accountability Review of Caseworkers and Caregivers

- a. Ali C – review of draft
  - Ali reviewed the format and the group gave ok to continue in similar format. Ali will send out all three 360 feedback forms to the group in the next two weeks to be reviewed. Comments/changes sent to Ali.
  - For implementation, the group discussed it will be important to outline where the feedback forms go and how they will be used. The group agreed that foster parents could fear retaliation and a PR strategy is needed. Ali suggested an addition to the Partnership Plan under Respected Partners that outlines the purpose of feedback and non-retaliation language.
  - Mike suggested this be an annual review as some children stay for more than a year.
  - Foster Parents may like to give feedback on others they come in contact with: licensing, placement/receiving, visitation/Child Haven, Peggy’s Attic. Not all interactions can be summed up in the caregiver review of case worker.
  - Side conversation: what are the other areas for Visitation? Mike mentioned that the Foster Parent Association has rooms available. Denise mentioned the Methodist Church Program. A suggestion was made to consolidate this info and have it in the next Caregiver Courier and on the to-be-made Bulletin Boards.

Next Meeting: The meeting is the fourth Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the DFS Main Office located at 121 S. Martin Luther King Blvd. For June 24, 2014 the meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Carson City Room.