



Clark County Department of Family Services

Name of Workgroup

September 30, 2014

Present

Mark Fitzgerald, DFS Co-Lead
Virgil Clark, DFS
Brenda Herbstman, DFS
Denise Parker, DFS, QPI Coordinator
Mike Pochowski, Foster Parent
Barbara Straight, DFS

Sarah Catherine Williams, Child Trends
Kerry Devoght, Child Trends

Agenda

- Respite Care Policy
 - Normalcy/Prudent Parenting
 - Partnership Plan
 - 10 Day Notices
 - Child Transition Survey
 - Information Sharing (White Paper)
 - 360 Degree Evaluations
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Minutes

1 Welcome and introductions:

- ❖ The group welcomed Virgil Clark, DFS, and Sarah Catherine Williams and Kerry Devoght, Child Trends to the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup.
- ❖ The QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup has begun many initiatives, many of which have now been adopted and embraced by DFS who have run with them, creating policies and Procedures, Instructional Memorandums, and planning Town Hall Meetings/Meet and Greet for the introduction of the Partnership Plan. The QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup has done much good work in advancing QPI for the benefit of children and their caregivers. Each of you are greatly appreciated and valued for your contribution.

2. Respite Care Policy

- ❖ Denise indicated that the policy is at Stage P4, being formalized with the P & P Unit at DFS. Discussion around the “custody letter” which will include permission to travel. Discussion that this could include “out of country” travel under certain conditions being fulfilled (getting a passport, DFS permission, etc.)
- ❖ Discussed next month’s Courier article entitled “Where You Go I Go...” Reinforcing the expectation that foster children accompany their foster family on “family” vacations.
- ❖ Denise indicated that in 8 weeks there have been no children who came to Child Haven campus due to unfulfilled respite care requests.
- ❖ Denise stated “roll out” of the Respite Care Policy is slated for December 2014 coinciding with Supervisors meeting.

Next steps:

- (1) Denise is presenting the “Respite Care Policy,” including travel letter, etc. at the EMG (Executive Management Group)
- (2) Discussion by the Child Welfare Services workgroup about further distribution of and education around the “Respite Care Policy.”

3. Normalcy/Prudent Parenting



- ❖ There is a statewide draft of the normalcy policy and a Clark County subgroup which will report back to the Child Welfare Services Workgroup as to their progress
- ❖ Denise talked about HR 4980, the “Prevent Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act,” federal legislation in which there is embedded prudent parent standards throughout the United State. The law requires states to allow foster parents or “caregivers” to use prudent decisions in the determination to allow their children to participate in age or developmentally appropriate “activities or items that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity based upon cognitive, emotional, physical and behavioral capacities, extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities.
- ❖ Denise stated that we need to make sure it aligns with DFS legislative recommendations.
- ❖ State legislation will need to be drafted which it is anticipated would include language around “foster parents as part of the team.”

Next steps:

1. Denise and the Normalcy/Prudent Parenting Subgroup will report back their work to the Child Welfare Services Workgroup for further review, discussion, and action.
4. Partnership Plan
 - ❖ DFS Executive Management is looking at introducing the Partnership Plan in Town Hall Meetings at various locations in Clark County to include an audience of DFS staff, caregivers/foster parents, and community stakeholders. This is currently being planned for three dates during the week of January 2015. Denise advised that her plan is to break up into small groups at tables to engage in dialogue around portions of the Partnership Plan.



Next Steps:

- (1) Membership of the DFS QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup to discuss and provide further input around introduction, support and sustainability of this initiative
- (2) 10 Day Notices
 - ❖ Denise indicated that there is a threefold strategy to address concerns regarding 10 day notices. Education will be provided to the foster parents, Licensing will become involved and assess, and information around the harmfulness of disruptions (10 day notices) for children will be a part of a PS MAPP Training
- (3) Child Transition Survey
 - ❖ Denise discussed that the DFS Instructional Memorandum is being created and should be released soon.
 - ❖ Barbara had questions regarding staff understanding of where the “Child Transition Survey” would go such that it doesn’t become lost in the file or sent to 360 Imaging

Next Steps:

- (1) Mark will check up on status of the IM and how the Child Transition Survey will be introduced to foster parents/caregivers (discussion around the Courier, DFS QPI website, etc.)
- (2) The QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup will continue with discussions around supporting the intentions behind this form and its utility, distribution of this form, and supporting its sustainability
- (3) .“Information Sharing with Caregivers” (White Paper)
 - ❖ Discussion around HIPPA requirements as related to birth parent information.
 - ❖ Denise provided an update that a policy number needs to be created and Denise will be working with the DFS P & P Team



Next steps:

(1) Further discussion in the Child Welfare Services Workgroup about sharing of the document and rationale supporting same with DFS All Staff, caregivers/foster parents/relative and fictive kin caregivers, and with community stakeholders

8. 360 Reviews

- ❖ Child Trends joined the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup and had many suggestions regarding the 360 Reviews as did Workgroup members
- ❖ Discussion around the “Child Exit Interview” Discussion around who would be administering it to the child? What if the child isn’t engaged with their permanency specialist for the purpose of completing (particularly younger children who need assistance/support)? Also, what about questions that seem to reflect also on caseworker behavior, e.g. “Did you have visits with your brothers and sisters?” and “Were you able to call your caseworker when you asked?”
- ❖ Further discussion around the “Child Exit Interview.” Does the rating scale match with the questions for the children? Discussion around using visual prompts, e.g. happy and sad faces, e.g. for younger children in their “Exit Interviews.”
- ❖ Discussion around what youth feedback was received? Are the questions perceived as too leading? Could they be asked in different words? What else would you have liked to be asked? Should there be a question about “what did you like best about this foster home” and “what did you like least about this foster home?” Discussion around Jennifer Erbes reaching out to her agency’s foster children, possibly reaching out to FAAYT (Foster and Adopted Youth Together)
- ❖ The QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup determined the Caregiver Review of Case Manager might only be utilized in licensed foster homes (relative and non-relative). Mark will ask for Ali’s input on this.
- ❖ Discussion around the purposes of the 360 Reviews, i.e. feedback to caregivers and staff and determining any trends involving caregivers and staff.



- ❖ Discussion around the possibility of changing the titles of one of the 360 Reviews and “Case Manager Review of Caregiver” and “Caregiver Review of Case Manager” both start with the letter “C” and it might be confusing.

Next steps;

- (1) Explore incorporation of these great ideas. Denise and/or Brenda with her experiences working on a similar task previously would be invaluable.
- (2) Work on finalizing all three reviews (with the understanding the “Child Exit Interview” will likely be last to be developed and distributed.
- (3) Discussion around implementation – how to prepare staff and foster parents for this change, how to introduce it and gain support for it. Discussion around Denise going to DFS Labor Management at some point.

The next meeting of the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup will be 10/28/14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Lincoln Room, 121 S. Martin Luther King Blvd.



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