



# Clark County Department of Family Services

## Child Welfare Services Workgroup

October 27, 2015

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### Present

Mark Fitzgerald, DFS Lead  
Denise Parker, DFS QPI  
Diane Brooks, Foster Parent  
Karen Atlantic, DFS Licensing  
Regina Wyman, DFS Permanency  
Katrín Easter, DFS Permanency  
Nancy Doyle, DFS Permanency  
Kim Forgione, DFS Foster Parent Champion  
Anya Earl, SAFY  
Theresa Ball, Mile High FFA  
Jennifer Bevacqua, Eagle Quest  
Caleb Orton, DFS

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### Agenda

- Information Sharing - update
- Respite - success
- Partnership Plan – updates
- 360 Reviews
- Transition
- Visitation
- Post Adoption Support

## Minutes

The QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup was convened. Introductions were made.

### Information Sharing

- The “information sharing” brochure and attached white paper will be distributed at the scheduled All Supervisors Meeting on 12/9/15
- Supervisors will then discuss with their staff.

Next steps:

1. Denise and Mark will continue to provide updates to the Workgroup

### Partnership Plan

- Discussed that the Workgroup’s plan is for the DFS Training Team to create a video which will be available on-line for DFS staff and on the QPI Just in Time website for licensed caregivers
- Mark and Denise met with DFS Training Team to talk about the content of the video
- Discussed including an introduction to the Partnership Plan in the Caregiver Courier
- Discussed reminders at the time of Licensing/Re-Licensing about the Partnership Plan

#### ***Next steps:***

1. Denise and Mark will provide regular updates as to the status (Training Team is anticipating 12/1/15 completion)
2. Denise will get with Caleb regarding development of P &Ps around the implementation and use of the Partnership Plan by DFS
3. Include in the Caregiver Courier highlighting aspects of the Training

### 360 Reviews

- The Workgroup discussed the critical importance of the 360 Reviews
- The Workgroup discussed how the information gathered from the 360 reviews would be used
- The Workgroup discussed strategies to increase responsiveness to the surveys
- Denise will work on condensing the 360 Reviews to one page with the input received from Child Trends

- DFS Executive Management reviewed and approved the 360 Reviews. Michael Knight, Assistant Director, has been most interested in moving forward on this particular form and process.

***Next steps:***

1. Denise will incorporate the input from Child Trends into a briefer, one page format prior to the next meeting
2. Denise will work with Caleb on P &Ps
3. Denise and Mark will meet with DFS Labor-Management Team
4. Denise and Mark will report back to the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup and incorporate any final recommendations/changes
5. The 360 Reviews and process will be submitted to DFS Executive Management for review and consideration

**Post Adoption Support**

- The Workgroup discussed the need for, and benefits of,, post adoption support for children and families
- The Workgroup discussed the need to gathered statistical information as well as information around any post adoption support programs, grant funded or otherwise
- Anye stated that Rural Nevada DCFS has a contract with SAFY to provide post adoption support in the Rurals. To date, the Rural adoptive families have not indicated a need for same.

***Next Steps:***

1. Jessica will research with other Adoption Exchange sites regarding the state of post adoption support
2. Mark and Denise will meet with DFS QA/QI about what kind of statistical data can be pulled on October 28, 2015 (done)
3. Denise will connect with Donna Smith about possible legislative issues, particularly as it relates to Medicaid
4. Denise suggested this might become a “subcommittee” of the larger QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup at a future date
5. Mark will reach out to NACAC (North American Council on Adoptable Children) to gather information around post adoption support
6. Anye will reach out to Rural DCFS to gather more information around the source of funding for their post adoption support program
7. The QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup would like to invite Adoptions to the table for discussion around post adoption support

## Transitions

- Denise reinforced the magnitude of the issue of transitions for children in DFS, noting there are 100-112 disruptions per month, citing that a large number include failed reunifications
- Denise talked about the continued success of the partnership between the Courts (Judge Sullivan initiating) and Dr. Zeanah
- Denise talked about the next scheduled webinars
- The Workgroup talked about transitions needing to be thoughtful and focused on the child(ren)'s uniqueness
- Regina and Katrin talked about the elements/considerations making a transition plan successful. Diane spoke of the negative consequences (disruption) when transitions are not thoughtful, comprehensive, and planned
- Mark talked about ensuring that the message that staff is getting from SIPS, i.e. install a "safety" plan as soon as possible and return the child immediately if it can be accomplished safely, is balanced with the message around not losing focus on a child's need for transition
- Caleb stated that there is existing policy around "transitions," the focus being on "transitioning" children from their birth home to out of home care

### ***Next steps:***

1. The Workgroup will discuss developing Policies and Procedures around transitioning children from foster to foster including at 10 day notices, foster to adoption, foster to relative, and foster to home

## Visitation

- Dawn Sanchez, Program Manager, will be making a site visit to Reno to look at their ABC Visitation program and discuss how DFS can bring the program in locally
- DFS / QPI would work with Carol Schaffer and the Youth Law Center, in providing training locally if this is adopted

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