



Clark County Department of Family Services

Support & Retention Workgroup

Minutes for April 20, 2017

Amanda Pearson, DFS Policy
Kirsten DiNicola, DFS Training, **Co-lead**
Denise Parker, QPI
Heather Brockway, Safy
Megan Yapi, DFS licensing
Berenice Blais-Jaurez, Foster Parent Champion
Mary Anne Thomas, Foster Parent Champion
Diane Espinoza, DFS perm
Angelique Grey, DFS Perm

Agenda

- Welcome/New Members
- Passed out minutes from March
- Recap on Easter Retention Activity
- Foster Kinship update
- Foster Change update
- Review of 2017 Goals

Meeting Minutes

- Welcome- New members from perm, foster parent championship
- April's Retention Activity for Easter was a huge success, 397 kids came. Next event will be for Foster Parent Appreciation at the Springs Preserve. It is an Ice Cream Social 5/20/17. Foster parents and household members will have tickets purchased for them so that they may attend.
 - Free respite event coming up on 4/29 at Grace Point church, baby sitting for 3 hours.

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- Kinship
 - support groups (kin only) are held every second Tuesday of each month, dinner and child care are provided.
 - 2x month kinship is offering info sessions for new kinship caregivers in the child welfare system
 - 5-week “caring for our own class” starts 4x each month, contact a licensing worker to get enrolled.

- Foster Change
 - “Ladies night out” was a success, attended by 8 members.
 - 16 new members at the Easter Retention event
 - Regular support meetings the 3rd Thurs/month, feedback was to do them at individual houses (similar to the hub home idea) Foster Change is currently working on a plan that would offer something like that and other options to members
 - 2 hr and 3 hr trainings on prevent sex abuse training 1st Friday of each month.
 - Next 8 week parenting class they offer will begin in July.
 - They will begin offering CPR/First Aid at a discounted rate and highly discounted for Change members. They will be sending out the schedule once it is solidified.
 - Looking to get in front of DFS new foster parents while they are in pre-service training or to somehow incorporate the option for the support of Foster Change when new foster parents are receiving their license.
 - Members only clothing/resource exchange in partnership with Peggy’s Attic.
 - Working on members only database so they have other families to connect to within the area for support/play dates/babysitting
 - Current marketing is social media, Facebook
 - Looking to get talking to foster parent champions to possibly get the word out for foster change.

- Objectives for 2017 goals
 - Went over the 2017 goals and folks in the group chose goals they would like to create objectives for
 - Goal 1- Heather B, Mary Anne, Megan
 - Goal 2- Berenice,
 - Goal 3- Berneice, Kirsten
 - Goal 4- Angelique, Amanda, Diana
 - Misty, Ali, Lauren, Audrey, Carrie, Heather K and any others will need to look at goals and choose which one to work on.
 - SMART objective/goal worksheets passed out and advised to be used for creating objectives to reach goal
 - Ideas for several various objectives to be worked into sheets to reach goals:
 - Working with AECF
 - cards
 - “Did You Know” flyers- what agencies provide, can be helpful for caregivers and case managers

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- Giving bulletin boards a “facelift” and getting info out on them consistently
 - Utilizing text messages/technology as communication
 - Resource lists, on call numbers
 - Magnets with oncall info
 - Getting intouch with Visitation Program pilot
- Discussed reaching out and asking questions in other workgroups/to Denise to see if objectives may be going on in other workgroups that can help tackle S &R goals.