



Clark County Department of Family Services

Support & Retention Workgroup

Minutes for May 18, 2017

Amanda Pearson, DFS Policy
Megan Yapi, DFS licensing
Berenice Blais-Jaurez, Foster Parent Champion
Mary Anne Thomas, Foster Parent Champion
Ali Caliendo, Foster Kinship, **co-lead**

Agenda

- Review of April Minutes
- Review of Workgroup Goals 2017
 - Subcommittee Updates for each goal
 - Goal 1- Heather, Mary Anne, Megan
 - Goal 2- Berenice, Ali, Mary Anne
 - Goal 3- Berenice, Kristen
 - Goal 4- Angelique, Amanda, Diana
- Foster Kinship update
- Foster Change update
- Next Meeting June 15, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Workgroup goals reviewed.

Goal 1- Megan said the group has not met yet but will be meeting soon to discuss.

Goal 2- Berenice and Mary Anne created list of commonly needed phone numbers for Foster Parents. It will be modified for Kin families as well. Ali will explore getting these made into magnets using budget from Foster Change. Once created, these can go out at placement and when foster parents sign their licenses. Ali will contact Oscar to find out if the goodie bags for new foster parents are being distributed at license signing. Ali and Kirsten will meet to look at the survey questions for kinship disruption and license closure to ensure questions get the data needed. Berenice will contact Denise P. to get log in info.

Goal 3- Group would like to create a list of resources for co-parenting that can be handed out and made available at visitation. The group needed more information- who is being selected for the new visitation model and how?

Goal 4- Amanda reported that the team discussed having the "Did You Know" sheet out at CFTs- a form to provide resources for foster parents, birth parents and caseworkers of

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resources that may make things easier. Benerice said that FPC used to go to CFTs and maybe once fully staffed could begin going again as support. Ali said that Foster Kinship family advocates could also be made available for CFTs involving kin- as support. The group discussed the need for birth parent advocates and resources. Ali will reach out to East Valley Family Services, who may have birth parent advocates. All agreed a birth parent should be involved with this group.

- Foster Kinship Update-
 - Now offering CPR/Car seat classes for kin at reduced rates
 - support groups (kin only) are held every second Tuesday of each month, dinner and child care are provided. June meeting in Henderson
 - 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 Update
 - 39 members
 - Recently created and sent the first newsletter to members with some member-only perks
 - Regular support meetings the 3rd Tues/month, feed back was to do them at individual houses (similar to the hub home idea). May meeting held in Northwest.
 - 2 hr and 3 hr trainings on prevent sex abuse training 1st Friday of each month.
 - 4- week nurturing parenting class starting June 5 6-8 PM with childcare.
 - They will begin offering CPR/First Aid at a discounted rate and highly discounted for Change members. Call for schedule.
 - **Wet N Wild event for 200 people will be offered with Through the Eyes of a Child on June 17th.**