



Clark County Department of Family Services

Support and Retention Workgroup

Thursday, May 19th, 2016 – 9:30 to 11:00am

Lincoln Room

ATTENDEES

Department of Family Services – Denise Parker, Shannon Rooney, Ashleigh Henry, Alexa Walker

Foster Kinship – Ali Caliendo

AGENDA

1. Welcome / Introductions
2. Support and Retention Workgroup Initiatives Work Plan
3. Retention Activities
 - Foster Parent Appreciation Month Activities
 - Springs Preserve Ice Cream Social/Drawing
 - Video Thank You from Management
 - Certificates
 - Denise Goodman Partnership Symposium
 - National Foster Parent Association Conference in LV – June 22nd – 24th
 - Movie in the Park – June
 - Water/Pool Event – July
 - Back to School Event – August
4. Foster Kinship Update
5. Relative/Fictive Kin Disruption Activities
6. Foster Parent Associations Update
7. Grievance Policy Update

8. Next meeting

MINUTES

2. Support and Retention Workgroup Initiatives Work Plan

- This workgroup is actively looking to add increase numbers and add new members. Some ideas for potential new workgroup members include:
 - Case manager
 - Supervisor
 - Licensing representative
 - Agency representatives
 - Community partners
- Support and retention workgroup initiative for the upcoming year have been finalized and published with a new format to grab attention. These initiatives are:
 - Work with community partners and internal teams to support caregivers (relatives, fictive kin, DFS foster parents and agency foster parents) and decrease the number of disruptions to children and youth in care.
 - Utilize data, feedback and survey results to reduce foster parent attrition rates and increase the number of quality foster homes for children in care.
 - Collaborate with DFS management in the ongoing development of plans, decision making and policy development that affects the caregiver community.
 - Develop and implement an employee foster parent support group for DFS employees who are foster parents.
 - Develop a grievance/concern policy that will allow caregivers a process in which to resolve concerns in a proactive, consistent and timely manner.

3. Retention activities

- For National Foster Parent Appreciation Month, there will be an ice cream social and raffle drawing this Saturday, May 21st for licensed foster families.
- A video thank you from management is being worked on.
- Foster parent appreciation certificates have been mailed out.
- We are working out partnership contracts with Spring's Preserve and the Children's Discovery Museum/Smith Center for foster family events

- Denise Goodman Partnership Symposium - ?
- National Foster Parent Association Conference will be held at the Flamingo Casino here in Las Vegas, NV June 22nd-24th.
- We are anticipating hosting a movie in the park event for foster families in June - TBD.
- We are anticipating hosting a family swimming night for foster families in July – TBD.
- The back to school event will be held again in August. We need to begin efforts towards staffing this event ASAP.

4. Foster Kinship update

- Foster Parent champions have been sending out emails and making calls to reschedule with caregivers who missed the Foster Kinship information sessions they signed up for. This new system has shown some results thus far, as these caregivers have been attending the sessions they rescheduled for.

5. Relative/fictive kin disruption activities

- Foster parent champions have been continuing to make relative disruption survey calls and are gathering some valuable information from these surveys.
- We have slightly altered the survey questions to collect more relevant information.
- There were ZERO disruptions last week!!! This points to progress.

6. Foster parent association update

- Efforts toward an “umbrella” association of foster parent organization continue to move forward, headed by Ali Caliendo. An official start date is still yet to be determined.

7. Grievance policy update

- The grievance policy is still a work in progress. It has been brought to our attention that we need to do some further investigation into what procedures may already exist within the department for handling grievances.

8. Next meeting: Wednesday, June 15th from 9:30-11am at the DFS Central Office in the Lincoln Room