



# Clark County Department of Family Services

## Training Workgroup Meeting

Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2014 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

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### Present

Richard Egan (Nevada Health and Human Services), Sonji Green (Kids Peace) and Melissa Webb (Red Rock Psychological Health)

DFS Staff – Sarah Beers, Denise Parker, Shannon Rooney

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### Agenda

- **Review the draft proposal; see comments below**
- **Renewal Requirements**
  - **12 hours a year**
    - **Why? We need to be clear on how it would positively impact licensed caregivers.**
  - **Trauma Informed Care**
    - **We need to create a list of current trainings already provided in the community.**
  - **Effective Discipline in developmental stages (Several members of the QPI Implementation Team didn't like the word discipline, however others thought it needed to be in there. Can we add to it?)**
    - **We need to create a list of current trainings already provided in the community.**

**Next Meeting: April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

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### Minutes

#### Meeting content

1. Greetings and introductions were made
2. The draft of the proposal to increase the required amount of training hours for renewal of foster care licenses was distributed and discussed
  - a. Denise Parker, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) Coordinator, tasked the attendees with reading through the proposal to indicate where revisions are needed

- b. Mentioned if we want the caregivers to be more comfortable with expanding their abilities, the word “prepare” in the scope paragraph should be changed to improving or enhancing
  - c. Discussed the fact that caregivers are finding challenges around behaviors that would be typical for children in the foster care system and they need more training on behaviors
  - d. Discussed the desire for caregivers to increase the variety of children they could take and the behaviors they can deal with
  - e. Ages and Stages and Crisis Management need to be separated in the proposal as they are two different courses
    - i. Last bullet on page two (2) should just read Crisis Management
  - f. Suggested the statistics regarding disruptions from 2013 be added rather than the 2012 information currently in the document
  - g. Discussed there needs to be a list of what classes are approved included under each specific type of training’s section of the proposal
  - h. Explained the manner in which the classes will be approved
  - i. Discussed the scope and general overview sections of the proposal
  - j. Discussed the language in B regarding convenience to the caregiver
    - i. Suggested removing it because the word convenient could be subjective and if not clearly defined could lead to confusion
  - k. Suggested removal of the language that discusses specialized homes
    - i. DFS does have some medical homes under DFS and requires them to have more training
    - ii. Agreed to leave the language in the proposal
  - l. Asked for clarification on the differences in training requirements for specialized agency homes versus DFS
    - i. Agencies can ask for more training than DFS requires but cannot require less training than DFS
    - ii. The proposal really only addresses non agency homes
  - m. Discussed that if the proposal gets adopted, it would be implemented later in the year rather than right away to allow us to inform all of the families
    - i. People need time to adjust and the available courses would be overloaded if implemented sooner
    - ii. The deadline for individual implementation would be within a year of the caregiver’s license renewal date
  - n. Attendees were tasked with reviewing the proposal further in their leisure and then submitting any suggested changes via emailed to Denise by April 7, 2014
    - i. Denise will make revisions and send it back out to the group
3. Discussed non-direct caregivers training requirements
- a. Non-direct caregivers training is not covered in the proposal discussed in this meeting but will be added to the agenda for a future meeting

4. Discussed the need to create a list of current trainings already provided in the community
  - a. Should be included on the Just In Time web site
  - b. Discussed making sure that the classes are advertised so everyone is aware of what is available and that there are enough classes to accommodate the proposed required hours of training
5. New training was added to the Just In Time website titled Trauma Informed Care in Spanish
  - a. Asked if this course is enough to cover the requirements
6. Discussed a new visitation system in Washoe that would demystify the visitation process for all participants
  - a. Washoe asks foster parents to be included in visitation to minimize the bad affects on the child and be present as an advocate and observer
7. Announced that the Permanence and Safety – Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (PS-MAPP) training will be changing to include Trauma Informed care (TIPS-MAPP)
8. Community partner, Red Rock Psychological Health, announced they have classes available that might meet some of DFS' needs and also have classes taught in different languages available
9. Discussed the upcoming Spring Celebration and Foster Connection event
  - a. Taking place on April 5, 2014 at Floyd Lamb Park
  - b. There will be fifty (50) booths for families and services
  - c. There will be rides and slides
  - d. This is the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) annual event
  - e. The hours of 10:00 am – 2:00 pm have been set aside just for foster families
  - f. Approximately twenty-five hundred (2500) people attended last year
  - g. Community partners who are interested in participating should contact Shannon Rooney for information
10. The workgroup is challenging families to get involved with fostering associations
  - a. Currently only ten percent (10%) of our families are being represented in the associations
  - b. Only about three hundred (300) families are taking part
  - c. With these low numbers, caregivers' voices are not being heard
  - d. Mentioned caregivers are still upset over the change in the DFS policy regarding pictures being taken and its implementation
    - i. Denise is working to help them see the pictures being taken through a QPI lens
    - ii. This speaks directly to the QPI messages as we want quality not quantity and what's best for our kids
    - iii. It is important that we see what is happening in each of these homes
11. Discussed the relationship between foster families and case managers
  - a. It is about building a partnership

- b. QPI is a cultural change and will require that case managers get on board
- c. Announced that on March 19, 2014 a training is being held for new hires of DFS
  - i. A panel will be there that will have people from different areas of fostering
  - ii. The panel will discuss the partnership and expectations between case managers and foster parents

12. Discussed the Just in Time trainings and website

- a. New trainings added all the time
- b. Associations' events list will be posted to the site by the Communications workgroup
- c. Discussed the review of the trainings
  - i. The review has a rating system
  - ii. Lists the length of the training
  - iii. Lists total hours of credits achievable
- d. Having the trainings on line makes it possible for more caregivers to take a variety of trainings
- e. Asked for an update on the removal of videos that aren't of good quality
  - i. We don't want to have the caregivers turned off by taking a bad training
- f. We can customize the site
- g. Asked how the number of credit hours was determined
  - i. Credit hours don't match the number of training hours
  - ii. When Clark County purchased the trainings from Florida, the number of credit hours was already assigned to the trainings

13. Discussed gun safety training

- a. Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) met with Richard Eagan to discuss firearm safety training
- b. Nevada is looking at revising the law regarding requirements for gun safety in foster homes
- c. There are different levels of firearms ownership in homes
  - i. Sport use
  - ii. Professions that require a person to have a gun
  - iii. Home defense
- d. There are different security levels for each type of gun ownership
- e. Richard helped DCFS to understand the different levels of security available for each type of gun ownership
- f. Differing security levels need to be understood by firearm owners
- g. Knowing what the law says and what the rules are doesn't mean that they are fully understood
- h. A Florida gun owner, who was an National Rifle Association (NRA) member, felt his rights were being violated by the state requiring him to secure the weapon sued the state and caused the law there to be changed

- i. Nevada is looking to be pro-active in regard to changing the law here
    - i. You have a right to have a firearm you don't have a right to be a foster parent
      - i. Becoming a foster parent is a privilege not a right
    - j. There are four (4) statewide QPI workgroups being formed
      - i. They will be working on
        1. Normalcy
        2. Information sharing and confidentiality
        3. Creation of a partnership agreement between DFS and foster families
        4. Creation of a foster parent handbook
      - ii. Denise feels that gun safety training might be a fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) workgroup that is needed
      - iii. These will be short term meetings and will be shared throughout the state
      - iv. There will be lots of trainings created around the work done in these statewide workgroups
    - k. Rural areas will have different needs in regard to the firearms
    - l. Firearms and alcohol need to be kept out of the reach of children
      - i. Discussed what does that mean
    - m. A child who has never seen a gun before is more likely to misuse a weapon
    - n. We have to be careful that when the laws change it does not create a financial disparity for foster families by requiring them to purchase expensive security methods or items
      - i. There are lots of options out there
      - ii. We need to define the approved gun cabinet(s)
    - o. Before we start forming procedures we may have to wait to see how, specifically, the law is going to be changed
14. Next meeting April 21, 2014, DFS Central Washoe Room