



Clark County Department of Family Services

Training Workgroup Meeting

August 20th, 2014 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Attendees: S. Kern; Mohave Mental Health, Denise Parker; DFS, Lauren Wagner; DFS

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 2. Meeting Minutes from July 21st, 2014
 3. Training proposal – completed and ready to present at the Implementation Meeting –
Final Review by Team
 4. Training Workgroup Description update
 5. Pre-service Training – Focus Group
 - a. Set a date –October start date?
 - b. Develop questions for discussion, maybe a survey to have them fill out at the end of the focus group?
 6. Foster Parent to Foster Parent Training – would like to start a series of trainings where foster parents work in collaboration with DFS to Train. (How do we go about recruiting for this?)
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MINUTES

TRAINING PROPOSAL

We are writing a training proposal to increase training for the foster parents. We are one of the highest paying states for foster parenting and we are the lowest for required training hours, we require four hours every year which is really low. We wrote a proposal to increase annual training hours for licensed caregivers and we also have specific training that we would like caregivers to attend. We have been working on this since last December. This proposal is completed and our next step is to present it at our Implementation meeting next week, Tuesday, 8/26/14 @ 10:00 AM – Room 3, Clark County Government Center.

TRAINING WORKGROUP DESCRIPTION UPDATE

Support and retention will rewrite their description for the QPI Workgroup. Training collaborates with community partners for multiple trainings online and in person. Lauren will add support to equip them with knowledge and skills to support children in their home. Lauren wants Denise to remind her about the training hour attachments; Denise needs the attachments by this evening.

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING – FOCUS GROUP

TIPS-MAPP, our pre-service training model does not seem to be meeting the needs of our foster parents. It is lacking the reality based training. We are going to start a focus group that will include three foster parents: one who has been licensed within 6 months, one within the last year; and then a long-time licensed caregiver that has gone thru PS-MAPP.

It was mentioned that someone from UNLV should be in the workgroup to help guide us. It would be good to also get a case worker since case workers have information that would be valuable. It would be an added advantage if we also get someone from licensing and someone who teaches PS-MAPP, especially if they are a foster parent. Ms. Kern, from Mojave agreed that it would be good to sit in on the workgroup since they get a lot of our kids. We will have to structure this group. Once a date is set, Carol S. would like to come and help guide the group. Denise will also continue to sit in on this workgroup.



FOSTER PARENT TO FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

This focus group will be ongoing (long term) as this seems to be the direction we are heading. If the meeting goes on for too long and if things aren't making sense, then we can get curriculum writers in to lead the group. Amy Kauampuer is a curriculum writer; she is the one that did it in Florida.

Denise reiterated that this will be a long term group, and there may be some folks that we pull in at different times. An example of this is when you start to talk about the court training (like the scavenger hunt), we would want to bring in experts from the Court. Denise feels that going to court should be part of the pre-service curriculum. We can partner with the Training Unit and the pre-service training folks, which include the case workers, so that when new caseworkers go to court to observe, the foster parents would go with them.

Child and Family Team (CFT) staffing is also important for foster parents to attend and observe. This is currently done in PS-MAPP Session 9 or 10. When the Foster parents went into a CFT to sit and observe, the Confidentiality Statement was already signed. Lauren stated that she runs a Foster Parent Support Group and she met a foster parent that said in her entire class she was the only one that graduated and got her license. Lauren wanted to know how she can track how many people get licensed after taking the pre-service classes. Denise stated there seems to be a tracking mechanism that is being finalized right now. DFS is going back to January and putting all the information in so we can see how long it will take to get from Point A to Point B and see how many people drop off and what the attrition rate is.

We could probably use the Caregiver Courier to reach out to Foster Parents to find their strengths. If we have families out there that have strengths in different areas, let's find out what those strengths are so we can offer those services to other families. An example is Michael who used to do programming for the government, it was suggested that we could possibly use him for computer related help. Lauren could have people contact her and she and Denise will sit down and start developing a plan for how the expertise of the foster parents can be better utilized. If we are going to do training, let's find out what our foster families strengths are. Denise stated that it's not always about transitioning out, it's also about transitioning into the home. Lauren will write an article about this for the next Caregiver Courier.



NORMALCY

What is normalcy? Sometimes our families are afraid to take teens because of “normalcy” concerns, but what is normal for our kids? Why can’t foster kids stay over at someone else’s house? This is normal for teens, and this is what they do, but this is not allowed for foster parents/foster children. Foster parents are aware there is a lot of liability in regard to this. As a foster parent what would you do if it was your kids who wanted to stay over at other children’s homes who are not foster children? What is “normal”? This is being looked at in a Statewide QPI Workgroup on “Normalcy”.