



Clark County Department of Family Services

Training Workgroup Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2014, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Attendees: Richard Egan – NV Health & Human Services, Denise Parker – QPI Coordinator, Lauren Wagner – DFS Training, Anne Marie Abruscato – Mojave, Matt Gyger – UNLV-NPT, Sonji Green – Kids Peace, Susan Miller – Oasis

1. Welcome
 2. Review Meeting Minutes from September Meeting
 3. Update from Focus Group
 4. Training for Caregivers Regarding Legal Issues
 5. Training or Support for Grief Issues
 6. Other
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Minutes

Review Meeting Minutes from September Meeting

There were no questions or concerns related to the September minutes.

Update from Focus Group

- Lauren stated they had their first focus group for the Pre-licensure Training Workgroup a few weeks ago, and it went well. The session was more of a brainstorming session instead of us having a discussion on exactly where we are going to go. It will take a while to go through the different programs and identify the different roles and training objectives in each one of the different areas.
 - There was a good mix of people; they had Caregivers who had one placement, some who had been licensed for a year and Caregivers who took PRIDE.
 - They talked about what was missing when you get a child and what was missing from their training that will give them a real life experience. Topics included:
 - Court: Caregivers need to understand that going to court is important and understanding what happens in court.
 - Medical Appointments: Caregivers also need to know what to do when you have a child that needs medical attention. They had 30 hours of training and now months later they have the kids and they sometimes don't remember what to do.



- Mentors: Having a mentor is important, where Caregivers can say let me call my mentor and get help and the answers to their questions.
- The Foster Parent Champion program has been a huge help so far in answering those questions and in contacting the parents when they get new placements, but we need this as part of the training.
- There appears to be a need for more practical information to be included in the pre-license training.
 - There are concerns/complaints about the strengths and needs in the TIPS-MAPP training. Each week you have to list your strengths and needs and there needs to be another way to assess this otherwise you are repeating the same things over and over again.
- The next Focus Group meeting is on October 27th. It will be another brainstorming meeting. There will be a lot of things that will impact training in relationship to the Caregivers.
 - Lauren would like to know what percentage of our Caregivers are new parents. She feels we have been getting a lot of new parents. It's not just having a child in your home, its working with the court system, working with the department, having case managers in your home taking pictures and dealing with the discipline issues. Understanding trauma is another piece to add for support services. There are trainings currently regarding trauma, which are advertised in the calendar, however many caregivers do not participate in the trainings.
 - Sonji asked about PS-MAPP and TIPs-MAPP, whether trainers could deviate from this structured curriculum.
 - Lauren stated there is no evidence based curriculum for pre-licensure of Caregivers.
 - There are trends related to what's going on and these curriculums can be rewritten to accommodate what works best for the Caregivers.
 - There is constant realigning of the training program. The evaluation process will take a while to see if it's working and whether it will help with the retention rates for Caregivers.

Training for Caregivers Regarding Legal Issues

- Lauren leads a Caregiver support group once a month.
 - The two things that came up in the training were training for Caregivers and addressing legal issues.
 - Who can explain the legal process to the Caregivers? The reality is that Caregivers are not parties to the case. If they need advice or have questions about something legal relating to fostering whom can they go to? In an



investigation with CPS involvement, there is no one for the Caregivers to turn to. Caregivers have a lot of liability and need legal resources.

- Caregivers want to know if they disrupt because of trauma in the home due to a child, will they lose their license.
- This applies to adoptive cases as well, especially if it does not work out with the child.
- Lauren and Denise will ask Legal Aid to find out if they can help. We also need to educate families of the responsibilities in becoming Caregivers and/or adoptive parents.
- We need someone to join the workgroup who works for DFS and who is familiar with foster care issues and legal issues.

- Post-Adoption Services :
- At times concerns arise because the child is not covered for any of the services that were offered before adoption and the parents insurance doesn't cover Wraparound, PSR or BST services that were previously given, though many children do receive Medicaid benefits.
- Denise stated we are recognizing that we need to explore supportive services post-adoption.

Training or Support for Grief Issues

- There is nothing related to parenting that is tailored to grief.
 - Transition issues
 - Child returning home
 - No EAP program for Caregivers

- There are limits even with the Caregiver Champions and what they can do.
 - Caregiver to Caregiver support to help other Caregivers in time of grief.
 - Reach out to training to address grief and loss.
 - Reaching out to TIPS to get assistance and help in facilitating grief and loss.
 - Caregiver Champions may be able to get training to help resolve grief issues.

- Not many Caregivers show up to workshops, support groups or training meetings
 - When Caregivers are educated and know their resources, they feel they don't need to reach out or go to a meeting.
 - Some Caregivers have amazing skills; we need to tap into these resources.

- Transitions are another concern related to grieving for children.



- Caregivers may have children in the home that were taken out and didn't say goodbye to friends at school or in the home.
- Transitions need to be planned better; there should be a natural transition when removing children from the home. Emergencies are different, it depends on what the focus is and the focus may shift from time to time.
- Children need to gather their belongings and not leave anything behind, as this adds to the grief of the child.
- Need transition team who can follow protocol and not have caseworkers just pull kids out of the home.
- Have to hold foster families accountable for disruptions, notice if there are patterns that cause disruptions.