

**Division of Child and Family Services**  
**Rural Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) Monthly Meeting RECAP**  
**May 18, 2022, 11:00 am to Noon (Meeting held via Teams)**

**In Attendance:**

<b>Rebecca Burt</b>	<b>Lori Nichols</b>
<b>Faye Cavender</b>	<b>Kevin Quint</b>
<b>Veronica Hagen</b>	<b>Shelby Riley</b>
<b>Ashley Hall</b>	<b>Shana Rogers</b>
<b>Rose Jaime</b>	<b>Tawney Simpson</b>
<b>Benael John-Rose</b>	<b>Megan Tingle</b>
<b>Kelly McKiddie</b>	<b>Jenna Willford</b>

1. Welcome and Introductions  
**Kevin welcomed everyone.**
2. Recap of the April meeting  
**This was not covered.**
3. Announcements, updates, and reminders
  - a. Changes in “who’s doing what” with the Rural QPI Committee  
**Kevin announced that, due to a heavy workload, Liz Stetson has stepped down from facilitating this meeting. Kevin is in that role for now. He thanked Liz for all of the great work she has done to keeping this group going in a productive direction.**  
  
**Kevin mentioned that, for now, his suggestion is that we do business by consensus as much as possible. If any votes need to be taken, we’ll figure out that process when it comes up. The group agreed with this suggestion. Kevin also suggested that the group take on a “committee” structure in that small groups of participants can volunteer to take on a specific project such as goal setting or following up on a specific QPI strategy to develop in the Division.**
  - b. QPI Conference in May  
**The QPI National Conference is scheduled for May 24-26 (next week). A number of people from the Division, including some foster parents are signed up to attend. There will be an agenda item on the June meeting to discuss the conference and how it went.**
  - c. Caregiver Courier (DCFS QPI newsletter)  
**Liz has been putting together the Caregiver Courier but now Shelby Riley will be taking on that task. Shelby put together the Courier for May. Everyone agreed that the format looks appealing and the content is solid. Again, many thanks to Liz for a job well done as “Editor and Chief” of the Caregiver Courier over the last year plus.**
  - d. Binti updates

**Kevin and Lori provided a brief update on Binti and how it is being used to help make the foster home licensing process more efficient.**

**e. Champions**

**Champions is a QPI program designed to train advocates in QPI values, theory, and techniques. The program is not up and running in DCFS but these QPI Champions could include DCFS staff, foster parents, birth parents, and youth. They work together to help form a strong team and work together to “champion” and disseminate QPI in their communities and the Rural Region. DCFS is not part of the Champions program but has been invited to a national meeting to be held in Reno on September 22-23, 2022. Kevin has been told that we can send one or two people to observe that meeting and to learn more about Champions. The idea would be to recommend to this group whether or not DCFS should pursue the Champions program. Rose, Shelby and Jenna all volunteered to attend. Since the meeting is not for a few months, there is time to decide who will attend.**

- 4. Discussion on goals for 2022: Kevin reviewed the four general goals below and suggested that the strategies in item #5 are tied as much as possible to one or more goals. Everyone agreed that the goals are a positive and realistic direction. They need to be refined and quantified. A subcommittee could be developed to further develop the goals.**

**GOALS**

- a. Shorten the length of time it takes to get licensed by 25%**
- b. Increase foster home retention by xx%**
- c. Decrease placement disruptions by xx%**
- d. Increase engagement of foster parents, birth parents, youth, and community partners in QPI and other aspects of the work of the Division**
- e. Others (list): The group brainstormed additional goals**
  - i. Find ways to distribute information uniformly to homes across and the various District Offices. (Lori)**
  - ii. Increase involvement in and appreciation of QPI. (Shelby)**
  - iii. Become a more cohesive agency and mitigate negative feelings/hostility and increase accountability. Increase morale.**

**Work on goals will continue as the group moves forward.**

- 5. Rural QPI Projects: Brainstorm and discussion on our top priorities for 2022: Kevin reiterated the idea that the following strategies be tied to one or more of the goals above. Each idea below was on the list from previous meetings.**

- a. Statewide Transition Policy**
- b. Handbooks (foster parent, relative/fictive kin, caseworkers, etc.)**
- c. Training and other efforts to reduce disruptions and increase foster home retention**
- d. Explore/develop foster parent support system**
  - i. Support groups through Foster Kinship**

- ii. **Foster parents mentoring new foster families (Parents Supporting Parents or PSP in Washoe-funded through the Casey Family Fund)**
- e. **Comfort Calls and Ice Breakers: Rural Region wide training for staff and foster parents**
- f. **Develop partnerships with various community groups such as Foster the Future, Foster the City, Foster Kinship, CASA, etc.**
- g. **Others (make a list): The group brainstormed other projects**
  - i. **Fund emergency access to certain needed services through working with a charity or other funding source (Shelby)**
  - ii. **Invite the community to an in-person open house for QPI**
  - iii. **Develop ideas to support foster families, including family foster homes, fictive, relative and unlicensed (Lori)**
  - iv. **Have a contact person for homes that have questions or need to connect with information. This could be someone like an administrative assistant (Rebecca)**
  - v. **Create greater efficiencies of time in what we already have such as Binti, DCFS website, etc. (Ben)**
  - vi. **Find out what worked for those that have been long time foster parents. For example, Shelby asked Sheila Allred in White Pine County has kept her and her husband going for so many years as foster parents and she said, “Lots of family and supports.” (Shelby)**

**Kevin asked various members to state why they want to be part of the QPI Committee and the larger QPI movement. Here are some to the responses:**

- **“I’m here because we are removed from the rest of the Division and staff have to do it all. QPI will help staff be more supportive of homes.”**
- **“I want to support homes in the context of my job.”**
- **“I want to support foster parents any way we can. They often leave because of how they are treated. They need relationships and gratitude.”**
- **“It’s good to incorporate QPI principles in what we do.”**

6. Set next meeting

**Next meeting will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am via Teams**

7. Adjourn

**Meeting adjourned at noon.**

**We must change practice and policy so that everything we do reflects our mission to provide quality care and a better life for children and youth in the foster care and juvenile justice system.— Carole Shauffer, QPI**