

**Division of Child and Family Services  
Rural Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)  
Monthly Meeting Agenda  
July 20, 2022, 11:00 am to Noon (Meeting held via Teams)**

**In Attendance:**

**Rebecca Burt  
Sedina Escobar  
Veronica Hagen  
Ashley Hall  
Aimee Herbert  
Rose Jaime  
Mia Kuzens  
Kelly McKiddie  
Lori Nichols  
Kevin Quint  
Shelby Riley  
Shelly Roering  
Shana Rogers  
Tawney Simpson  
Kimberly Schmeling  
Megan Tingle**

1. Welcome and Introductions  
**Kevin welcomed everyone**
2. Recap of the June meeting  
**The recap of the June meeting was distributed prior to the meeting**
3. Announcements & quick stuff
  - a. Caregiver Courier: **Shelby provided an update. The next edition of the Caregiver Courier will come out in August. Shelby asked for any training announcements, events, etc. for the newsletter. Lori suggested an “employee of the month” highlight be included. Kevin suggested the same for a foster parent. Ashley suggested that the TBRI website be highlighted. Shelby asked her for that information. At some point we can add something in the newsletter about QPI Champions.**
  - b. Binti updates: **Lori provided an update on Binti. Shelby is learning how to assign applicants in Binti. Staff is still learning how to use Binti in the licensing process. Lori said there is a project starting on getting Binti and UNITY to “talk” to each other. There are now 400 applicants in Binti. This includes family foster care, ICPC, and relative and fictive kin. Tawney asked if the Adoption Unit can utilize Binti. Lori will talk with Veronica.**
4. Who else would we like to ask to join us?  
**The group brainstormed a list that consisted of the following: CASA, Foster Kinship Navigators, Raise the Future, the courts, churches, and more. It was suggested that**

**we invite one group or person a month to join the meeting and briefly share. It was suggested that we advertise the need and the desire for more participants in the committee.**

5. How have you QPI'd in the last month?

**Kevin asked people to share about how they practiced QPI principles in the recent past. He led off:**

**Kevin –He shared how a staff member showed consideration to a long time foster home by including her in an important conversation and paying attention to the need for properly transitioning a child from her home to another. This involves the foster parent and treats that person like a partner in helping the child. This kind of transition also helps the child have a smoother, less traumatic experience when moving.**

**Shelby – She shared about how answering hard questions from foster parents in a straightforward and respectful manner is helpful.**

**Veronica – She was struggling with a “head strong” home. Veronica took the perspective of providing services to help the home learn, wrap around services, for the Division to be better support. We shouldn't come in as if the foster parents are doing something wrong and, in fact, we should allow them to teach us.**

**Mia – A foster parent was struggling with managing child who was born substance exposed. Mia suggested QPI trainings and websites and were able to tell her what they learned and how it helped.**

**Shana – A newly licensed home had a sibling group placed in an emergency. The kids were transitioned to the new home. The home the children were moved from called Shana to ask if they could reach out to new home to introduce themselves and give support. The previous home invited the new home and kids to the water park. This was a much better transition plan for the children.**

**Kelly – She shared the plan to add birth parents into pre-service training. Three speakers are lined up with birth parents successfully reunified.**

6. Meet Karissa Lemme from QPI and the Youth Law Center

**Karissa was not able to attend.**

7. Discussion on who will attend the QPI Champions meeting in Reno in September

**The National QPI Champions Meeting will be in Reno on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have two slots and three volunteers. Kevin will talk with those that volunteered and get them set up to attend the conference. Kevin asked that whoever goes will come back and provide a full picture of the Champions Program and make recommendations on moving forward with it or not. Kevin asked that whoever goes 1) be committed to go & stay whole time and 2) come back & share what we can do to make this happen and make recommendations. Shelby yes, Kevin will check with the other two volunteers.**

8. Report out from the working group on defining and refining goals for the group  
**Kevin presented several goals that the group has developed. There are too many goals to take on at one time so the group will need to prioritize. He asked everyone to pick their top two goals in the chat feature of Teams. Once that was collated, the top two goals that the group agreed upon are:**

1. **Decrease trauma and disruptions through improved transition planning**
2. **Improved relationships between birth parents and foster parents youth through co-parenting**

**Other goals considered are:**

- **Shorten the length of time it takes to get licensed**
- **Increase foster home retention**
- **Increase engagement of foster parents, birth parents, youth and community partners in QPI and other aspects of the work of the division**
- **Increase reunification of foster children with their birth family**

**At our next meeting we will begin to match the “to do” list with the goals.**

9. Rural QPI Projects: **This will be discussed at the next meeting**
  - a. Parent Support Group
  - b. Comfort Calls
  - c. Development of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
  - d. Role Cards
  - e. Other

10. Set next meeting  
**August 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am**

11. Adjourn  
**Meeting adjourned at noon**

“Research on child, youth, and brain development and the effects of trauma not only demonstrates the importance of parenting and positive relationships but also provides guidance on how best to support them. Agency policy and practice should be informed by research..”– *QPI Principle 2*

Next meeting 8/10/22