

Rural Region Quality Parenting Initiative Committee (QPI)
Monthly Meeting Agenda
June 21, 2023; 11:00 am to Noon (Meeting held via Teams)

Attending:

Ashley Smith	Bristol Hantzsche	Brittany Best	Chelsea Heath
Jessica Carstens	Jhoanna Presswood	Kandee Mortenson	Kelly McKiddie
Kevin Quint	Kyle Crutcher	Lauren Karp	Lori Nichols
Meagan Soracco	Megan Tingle	Melanie Jones-Bluford	Rebecca Burt
Shana Rogers	Shelby Riley	Sunshine Perry	Tawney Simpson

Tim Baran (FPO)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Recap of the May meeting
3. Announcements & quick stuff
 - a. Caregiver Courier
 - i. **Went out a few weeks ago: if you did not get it, please let us know so that we can get it fixed.**
 - ii. **Scheduled to happen in July- it should be coming through Constant Contact. It won't be a "fancy" format, but it should be more navigable. If you have resources, please reach out to Shelby and let her know so that she can share them through the Courier.**
 - iii. **Maybe next month's topic: Support System? The meetings have been touch and go, but there would be some interest there as a lot of people want to help. Our parents are very busy.**
 - b. Foster care licensing updates and the next Pre-Service Training
 - i. **We do have a few foster homes ready to be licensed, a few in Carson and a few in Fernley. It's not a done deal until the check is in the bank but we are working hard!**
 - ii. **32 families signed up for our training next month. Our recruiting is working on some level, so we can be proud!**
 - c. QPI June Newsletter
 - i. **Kevin emailed this to everyone with the meeting invite.**
 - d. June is National Reunification Month
 - i. **This is a big deal in child welfare, as children getting back to their families. Please take a look at the quote at the bottom of the agenda or at the QPI Website. There are a lot of material on the QPI Website about Reunification that will go away at the end of the month, so please take a look at it now before it goes!**
4. QPI Themed Conversation and Sharing: What attracts you to QPI? How do you share that with others?
 - a. **Kelly- I am always looking for something that is relevant, either for a manager or for a foster parent to help.**
 - b. **Shelby- it brought out the humanness in child welfare. It helps with peer safety and relationships. It focuses on the core values of our jobs, not just the surface level.**

5. QPI Champions
 - a. Conference in San Diego in September: We can send two people
 - i. **Kevin asked if anyone is interested in attending the QPI National Champions Conference. We are funded for two slots. Attendance at the conference will help deepen the Divisions commitment to QPI. The Conference is a gathering of a multitude of QPI Champions from all over the nation to share their knowledge and to collaborate.**
 - b. Discussion on becoming a Champions site (see handout)
 - i. **Kevin has talked with Laurie Jackson about DCFS becoming a QPI Champion's site. The cost is \$14,000 a year and includes several benefits, including being part of a nationwide network of Champions sites that can share information and resources.**
 - ii. **The Champions Training is a six month commitment for six hours per month and helps immerse participants in the QPI philosophy and work. The training costs \$2,500 per person. The next cycle starts in July and then again in the fall. Kevin asked for volunteers to participate.**

6. Discussion on what new foster homes need to be effective
 - a. R&M and lessons learned

Kevin described a couple in Fernley (almost licensed). We placed two children with them, and it did not work out very well. An already licensed foster mom spoke with them, and they are continuing

 - i. **How do we best equip new homes for children that have higher needs?**
 - ii. **Washoe has a program that has a mentor program- where new foster homes are able to gain experience and wisdom from "older" foster homes.**
 - iii. **We talked about a way to have communication through the foster parents. Working with the homes, in the first month, who can they call? What are the answers? Explain a bit more in the first month and having a list of people to call in the first month. When they don't have clarity on protocol (can you oversee a visitation [what does that look like?]) they have no idea what they can refuse, what are their roles, they didn't feel like they could ask until later. We should clarify roles.**
 - iv. **Making sure that the expectations of the child from the parents and the expectations from the parents of the worker need to be known at the beginning.**
 - v. **What if we did some training with them while they are being licensed? It's not just a one and done training (think of athletes and soldiers, they get constant training)**
 - vi. **Should we utilize our foster homes for some support?**
 1. **Should we have more panels of seasoned foster parents/homes in the training to help support our new fosters?**

7. Update on discussion on engaging birth parents-Melanie McCormick, Carson City CASA Director
 - a. **Did not Discuss**
8. Workgroup updates

- a. Funding Workgroup
 - i. **Did not Discuss**
 - b. QPI Facebook Page Subcommittee report
 - i. **Slow on traffic- if you have any resources or new, literally ANYTHING, please send it to Shelby Riley! Constant Contact does have all of our homes (all regions) on email so that we can share our news.**
 - ii. **Shelby Riley, Warren Melhorn, Rebeca Stoffel are the ones running the page**
 - c. Caregiver Corner Subcommittee report- sponsored by Rural Region QPI Committee
 - i. **July 5th- this is for the foster parents and staff are absolutely welcome to share. It is for the parents though. We are really trying to get people to show up at this point, but we eventually want people as guest speakers (social workers, therapists, etc.)**
9. Transition Planning (*QPI Committee goal: "Decrease trauma and disruptions through improved transition planning"*)
- a. What can we do to plan and make healthy, positive transitions?
 - i. **Please take a look at the document sent out last month to try and update it. It hasn't been updated in several years.**
10. Update on Comfort Calls and Ice Breakers
- a. **QPI is offering to set us up with someone from rural Louisiana to share with comfort calls. A comparison and round robin.**
 - b. **It would be a great way to share resources and learn how to best implement**
 - c. **Shelby thinks that Louisiana has a birth-parent mentoring program**
 - d. **Could we set it up so that people from multiple departments (Permanency, Intake, CPS, etc.) could attend? Everybody could be able to attend so that they could be able to experience this. Potentially a webinar- a recording of this from QA for academy.**
11. Set next meeting
- a. **July 19, 2023**

If there is anyone reaching out wanting interviews or media for the training, please contact Chelsea Heath before doing anything so that this will be painless for everyone! Thanks!

12. Adjourn

June is National Reunification Month! Celebrated in June each year and recognizes the people and efforts around the country that help families to stay together. We want to recognize the vital role that you, as a foster parent, play in helping to reunify, strengthen and support families. The best work is done by kinship and foster parents who also support the birth parents in achieving reunification with their child and helped a family get back on track. Let's celebrate the accomplishments of families who have overcome an array of changes to reunify safely and successfully.