

# Rural Nevada Caregiver Courier

**May 2019** - This edition is the first in a series on the Court Process as well as information on who manages the Rural Offices and Structure of DCFS. If you have anything that you would like to see featured in our Courier, please email me at [KathyMcHanQPI@gmail.com](mailto:KathyMcHanQPI@gmail.com)



## The Court Process- Investigation to Protective Custody Hearing (72 Hour Hearing)

Child welfare agencies are required by law to assess reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. The goal of CPS is to protect children from harm, risk of harm and make sure that children are safe in their homes. DCFS must make efforts to assist families to overcome safety barriers while children remain in the home, but sometimes children need to be removed to ensure their safety.

Any legal action taken by DCFS takes place in Family Court and is a civil matter, not criminal. The police may investigate child abuse and neglect, but that is a separate process from DCFS. Police and District Attorneys make decisions on criminal charges.

When Children are removed from their home, parents are asked to participate in a case plan to address issues that made it unsafe for children to remain in their home.

The goal for each child coming into care is to be reunified with their family. If parents are unable or unwilling to achieve the objectives of the case plan, the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requires DCFS to find a permanency plan about 12 months after removal. This could be achieved through guardianship or adoption.

When a child is placed in protective custody by DCFS there is a protective custody hearing within 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) of the removal. The case manager will explain to the court why the child was placed in protective custody and give any relevant information learned during the investigation. The Parent has a right to talk to the judge and question the case manager. Based on the facts, a judge decides if the child will remain in protective custody or be released to the parent.

If the child is to remain in protective custody, the judge will issue a protective custody order that lasts for 10 days.

If the presenting problems can be taken care of within 10 days, the child may return to their parents' custody.

The next hearing is an Adjudicatory Hearing or Admit/Deny Hearing.

### National Foster Parent Association Conference

June 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>

Navigating the Future in  
Anaheim California



## What is QPI?

In order to thrive, all children and youth need excellent parenting. When parents can't care for their children, the foster or relative family must be able to provide the loving, committed, skilled care that the child needs, in partnership with the system, to ensure children and youth thrive. Both the caregiver's parenting skills and the system's policies and practices should be based on child development research, information and tools. QPI is based on five core principles:

1. Excellent parenting is the most important service we can provide to children and youth in care. Children need families, not beds;
2. Child development and trauma research indicates that children need constant, consistent, effective parenting to grow and reach their full potential;
3. Each community must define excellent parenting for itself;
4. Policy and practice must be changed to align with that definition; and
5. Participants in the system are in the best position to recommend and implement that change.

QPI is an approach, a philosophy and a network of sites that share information and ideas about how to improve parenting as well as recruit and retain excellent families. It is an effort to rebrand foster care, not simply by changing a logo or an advertisement, but by changing the expectations of and support for caregivers. The child welfare system commits to fully supporting excellent parenting by putting the needs of the child first. The key elements of the approach are:

1. Defining the expectations of caregivers,
2. Clearly communicating expectations (the Brand Statement) to staff, caregivers and other stakeholders, and
3. Aligning system policy and practice with those expectations.

When QPI is successful, caregivers have a voice. They work as a team with agency staff to support children and youth. Caregivers receive the support and training they need to work with children and families, understand what is expected of them, and know what to expect from the system. Systems are then able to select and retain enough excellent caregivers to meet the needs of each child for a home and family. When these changes are accomplished, outcomes for children, youth and families will improve.



### *Webinar- Equipping Foster Parents to Actively Support Reunification*

Adopt US Kids and Mikie Franklin from Washoe County Human Services Agency are presenting this webinar to Child welfare agencies and Foster Parents across the United States on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon. To register for this please check your email from Dixie Jeffers that was sent out to all Foster Parents in the Rural Region.

### *New Rural Region Manager*

Laurie Jackson is the Social Services Manager supervising and managing Rural Regions 2 (Carson City) and 4 (Pahrump) as well as the Advanced Foster Care Unit and the Foster Care Licensing Unit.

### ***Pride Training***

*Fallon- June 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>*

*Elko- June 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>*

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