



Clark County Department of Family Services
Community Partnerships Workgroup
Minutes for 16 June, 2015

Present

Jocelyn Bluitt-Fisher, DFS
Denise Parker, QPI
Denise Tenata-Ashby, CAA
Greg Holloway, DFS
Barbara Kaltenbach, DFS
Allie Lakey, Open Doors
Cindy Lubiartz, Care Meridian

Agenda for 7/21/15

Education Update
Back to School Drive and Event
Apple Camp
Camp To Belong
Diligent Recruitment Project
Step Up for Kids Conference

Meeting Minutes from 6/16/15

Foster Friends Update

- CPE presented the idea of using this meeting to inform the committee of all DFS community engagement activities in addition to keeping the participants informed of all the progress of the Foster Friends Program.
- The Contracts team has created a draft of the Foster Friends MOU. The draft is being reviewed by CPE.
- A Foster parent handbook will be drafted and complete by the end of this year.
- QPI recruitment has voted on ID cards for foster parent agencies, fictive kin, and relative caregivers that are licensed. The ID cards will assist metro and other agencies with identifying the foster parents.

Sush Machida mural at Child Haven

- Nationally renowned artist Sush Machida has been commissioned to create a mural at child haven. A press event was held to announce the creation of this mural. The mural is funded by Clark County Public Art Program.

Together We Rise Bike Giveaway- June 17

- Together We Rise, California based non-profit organization, partnered with Advent Technologies during their annual convention to giveaway 150 bikes to foster children here in Las Vegas. DFS received 58 bikes for the children at Child Haven.

Reunification Dinner- June 25 at Three Square

- The dinner is an annual event to recognize all of the community partners and resources that work together to strengthen and reunify families in our community. This is the 4th year of the event. DFS will honor four families during the year's dinner. Community partners have been asked to provide donated gifts for the families that will be honored.

Back To School Drive and Fair- August 13

- DFS is hosting a Back to School Fair to provide children in care with school supplies and to connect parents to community resources. The event will be Aug. 13 in the Juvenile Justice Gymnasium. County employees and community partners are being asked to donate school supplies for this event. CPE will place boxes at various county locations to collect donations. Parents must R.S.V.P. to participate in this event.

Focus on the Family- February 2016

- Focus on the Family will be hosting "Wait No More" event in Las Vegas to recruit parents for adoptions. It will be held in Feb. 2016. Focus on the Family will be sending out invites to churches and pastors to invite local churches to participate in the event. DFS will assist any interested churches in connecting with Focus on the Family to participate in the event.

Next Steps

- 2nd annual Step Up For Kids is slated for September 2015. The event will feature a keynote speaker (TBD) and breakout sessions for businesses, faith based organizations, and non-profit partners. The conference will focus on how community partners can support foster families and children in care. Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy will be coordinating with us at this conference. Contacts at the Nevada Institute for Children are Amanda Haboush or Tara Phebus.
- CPE has met with Wet-n-Wild and the Springs Preserve to discuss their participation as a Foster Friendly business.

Foster Friends Speaking Points

The Foster Friends Program is an opportunity for businesses, the faith community, LGBT community, charitable organizations; etc. to support children in foster care - and their caregivers - in ways other than becoming a foster parent. Examples of support and partnerships include:

- Local businesses can provide discounts to foster parents and/or display foster parent recruitment materials
- Faith-based organizations can recruit members who may be interested in providing supervision of children at Foster Friendly events or other types of support to families
- Organizations or individuals can organize a donation drive

The opportunities are nearly limitless based upon what the partner has to offer. No idea is too small. If you are interested in learning more about the Foster Friends program, which will be rolled out in September, you are welcome to call 702-455-1196.

Next Meeting – July 21, 2015

DFS Central located at 121 S Martin Luther King Blvd

