



Clark County Department of Family Services
Community Partnerships Workgroup
Minutes for June 21, 2016

Present

Audrey Rosenstein, FSN/Foster Change
Denise Parker, QPI
Leslie Murdock, DFS/ELM Consulting
Caleb Orton, DFS
Caitlin Brillhart, Olive Crest
Elizabeth Ham, CASA Foundation
Samantha Charles, DFS
Shelia Parks, CASA
Shannon Rooney, DFS

Agenda for 6/21/16

Welcome/Introductions
Review of minutes from 5/17/16
Educational Supports
*Tutoring
*Transition of personal belongings
Survey Review
Workgroup goal review
Workgroup membership
Other Discussion

Meeting minutes from 6/21/16

Review of minutes from last meeting

- The meeting minutes from 5/17/16 were approved without changes.

New Co-lead

- Denise Parker introduced DFS Public Information Administrator Samantha Charles as the new co-lead for the Community Partnership and Engagement QPI workgroup.

Educational Supports

- The committee had a lengthy discussion about tutoring services for children in care:
 - Elizabeth enlightened the group as to how foster parents can apply for semi private tutoring by applying online for the services and subsequently signing a tutoring agreement. The tutoring program provides four to six hours of services each week. However, funding is a challenge for the CASA Foundation. It costs approximately \$200,000 year to provide tutoring services. Presently, tutoring is not offered to youth 14 years and younger.
 - Audrey explained that she often meets teenagers who are willing to volunteer their time to tutor children in care. She also knows quite a few people from her Temple who may be able and interested in tutoring as well. We discussed her looking into the aforementioned opportunities as we discuss this topic further.
 - Leslie stated that she knows that there are schools in the district who offer tutoring services and she said she would look into this further. The committee agreed that first, children should go through their respective schools to seek tutoring supports. And, second, if that can't be accomplished, then perhaps retired teachers and be of assistance. Leslie and Elizabeth agreed to speak further offline to see where the CASA Foundation and CCSD may be able to partner on tutoring services.
 - Other tutoring related topics discussed included:
 - *Is there a mentorship program at CCSD?
 - *Are there grant opportunities?
 - *Does Boys and Girls Club offer tutoring services?
 - * We need as many partners at the table as possible to discuss the future of tutoring programs. Schools should (if they don't already) have liaisons who know what tutoring services their respective schools offer.
 - *Next steps: Leslie will speak to DFS leadership about the conversation our workgroup has had about tutoring services. Afterwards, she will report back to the committee.

Transition of Personal Belongings

- Quite a bit discussion was had as to how to convey to families, teachers and principals the importance of children retrieving their personal belongings from one place/school to another. We agree that it is critical that partners understand that a child's property is not disposable. Parents must be highly encouraged to ask to retrieve the belongings of their children when they are de-rolling them from school.

- Survey Results

The committee reviewed a recent survey that was distributed and designed to identify gaps in services for foster families. The group posed the question if we can highlight community partners who can assist DFS with the items listed under the categories of Support Services and Resources for Caregivers.

Other Discussion

*We talked about donations for special occasions and holidays. We agreed to all works towards identifying the proper way to pursue donations throughout the community.

*The committee inquired about the Foster Friends program, which is presently suspended. Denise and Samantha will report back with an update as soon as they find out from executive management if this program is something we can legally pursue.

Next Meeting – August 16, 2016

DFS Central located at 121 S. Martin Luther King Blvd