



Clark County Department of Family Services

Child Welfare Services Workgroup

July 26, 2016

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Present

Mark Fitzgerald, DFS Lead
Denise Parker, DFS QPI
Heather Richardson, DFS
Caleb Orton, DFS P & Ps
Karen Atlantic, DFS Foster Parent Licensing

Agenda

- Partnership Plan Update
- Normalcy Update
- Transitions
- PRIME Update
- Visitation Update
- Post Adoption Support

With the DFS Lead, Mark Fitzgerald's, scheduled Retirement, Denise indicated that DFS Permanency Supervisor, Jennifer Erbes, will assume the DFS Co-Lead/Lead role. Mark will attempt to remain on as Foster/Adoptive Parent Co-Lead depending on childcare.

Partnership Plan

- Mark and Denise met with DFS Training Team as to status of the Training video. The actors, one a caregiver and one a DFS staff.

- Discussion around how long the Workgroup has been awaiting the filming and production of the video and obstacles to completion (staff changes, etc)

Next steps: (1) Heather agreed to follow-up with Training regarding prospective time frame

Normalcy

- The policy is written, training is written
- Denise has delivered one training sessions to CAPS which is a concern as it cannot be fully implemented through DFS as of yet. Additionally, individual licensed caregivers would have to complete the training before consideration of “normalcy” for the children in their home
- Training for initial Licensing is scheduled for 7/26/16
- 7/27/16 meeting scheduled with QPI Communications Workgroup regarding the development of a strategic plan of delivery (consider webinar)
- Denise is looking for a birth parent for the video. Heather stated she might have someone and Mark suggested some one contact Alicia Davidson at East Valley Services.
- Denise is projecting September for delivery of the webinar

Next steps: (1) Denise to provide ongoing updates

Transitions

- Denise suggested connected this initiative, as it ties in nicely, with the existing Disruptions Group
- Discussed additional members/roles needed including representatives of the Court, a foster parent, CAP, CASA, caseworker, and DFS P &Ps
- Mark discussed the importance of this being a DFS initiative as DFS should lead in highlighting the importance of and creating Policies and Procedures around transition
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Next steps: (1) Denise to address at the Disruption Workgroup
(2) Begin to enlist membership

PRIME

- Foster families will be shown how to use PRIME during the Back to School Event
- The demonstration will be placed on QPI Just in Time for foster parents who don't attend the event

Next steps; (1) Denise will continue to provide Updates

Visitation

- A Workgroup around Visitation evolved from a recommendation from The Blue Ribbon Commission for Kids
- There are currently 2 DFS members to the Workgroup
- Changes in the DFS Visitation Program are scheduled for October 2016 roll-out
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Next steps: (1) Denise will continue to provide updates

Post Adoption Support

- Mark and Denise reported out on a meeting with Lisa Martinez, DFS, held on 7/22/16.
- Denise reported there are consistently about 6 children placed at Child Haven on campus who are in care due to disrupted adoptions
- Denise stated that “Foster Change” will be the new overarching foster/adoption/kinship support group which DFS will interact with. There are 8 associations under this which are members and will each keep their individual association guidelines as well. It is planned that Foster Change will be a 501 (c) 3 non-profit.
- We discussed what is needed, per literature and our Workgroup’s assessment, for a vital Post Adoption Support program which includes a pot of money for emergencies (subsidy was stolen, etc.), a point of contact person for adoptive parents with questions or who are struggling, (see February 23, 2016 meeting minutes)
- Successful Post Adoption Support Programs generally components of case management support/referral/advocacy (point of contact), a robust foster/adoptive support group, and respite care.
- Mark checked back with Lisa Martinez and she tentatively has two MSW students identified who role would be to identify and pull together what services are currently available in the community for post-adoption support and create a brochure, etc. to share this with adoptive parents. Danielle McCowen, MSW, Adoptions, agreed to be their preceptor.
- Mark checked back with Lisa Martinez who indicated that Adoption Exchange is currently re-evaluating their services due to funding

Next steps: (1) Ongoing coordination/dialogue with Lisa Martinez and UNLV MSW Student(s) in identifying resources available and needed

The next meeting of the QPI Child Welfare Services Workgroup will be on Tuesday August 23, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m in the Lincoln Room at the DFS Office located at 121 S. Martin Luther King Blvd.

