



# Clark County Department of Family Services

## Support and Retention Workgroup

April 20, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Lincoln Room

### ATTENDEES

Department of Family Services – Denise Parker, Shannon Rooney, Ashleigh Henry

Foster Kinship – Ali Caliendo

Foster Parent – Audrey Rosenstein

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### AGENDA

1. Welcome / Introductions
2. Support and Retention Workgroup Initiatives Work Plan
3. Retention Activities
  - a. Spring Egg Hunt – Recap
  - b. Spring Celebration and Foster Connection – Recap
  - c. Night at the Museum – April 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - d. Foster Parent Appreciation Month Activities
    - i. Springs Preserve Ice Cream Social/Drawing
    - ii. Video Thank You from Management
    - iii. Certificates
    - iv. Pins
  - e. Denise Goodman Partnership Symposium
  - f. National Foster Parent Association Conference in LV – June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>
  - g. Other Upcoming Events
4. Foster Kinship Update
5. Relative/Fictive Kin Disruption Activities
6. Foster Parent Associations Update
7. Grievance Policy Update

## MINUTES

### 1. Support and Retention Workgroup Initiatives Work Plan

- Shannon Rooney distributed the Support & Retention Initiatives Work Plan to review and approve
  - The Team revised the wording on a few of the bulleted initiatives
  - The Initiative Work Plan is ready for Shannon to submit to Heather Richardson & Denise Parker for uploading to the QPI website

### 2. Retention Activities

- **Retention Event Sub-Committee** has been formed to work on retention activities
  - Sub-committee meets weekly on Thursdays from 1:30 – 3:00pm @ DFS Central in the Elko Room
  - Audrey will be invited to participate on the workgroup so as to have foster parent participation – Shannon will send the appointment invitation
  - Sub-committee report out will become an agenda item to this committee
- **Spring Egg Hunt** – Denise reported that this event was a success with over 350 children attending. The remaining baskets were given to Ali @ Foster Kinship to distribute to kinship families
- **Spring Celebration and Foster Connection** – Denise reported that approximately 10K people attended the event this year. Some challenges to consider for next year include: DFS vendors were separated from other vendors and therefore there was less foot traffic than in previous years (would like to “mix-in” with City vendors for future events); Need additional tents; Not many people early/late in the day; Possibly not have a separate time for foster families; Christie with the City of LV was scheduling a debriefing – Jocelyn to follow-up
- **Night at the Museum** – Denise reported that we currently only have 132 people registered for the event that is taking place this Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>; DFS is working with CASA regarding contracting/rental agreement with the DISCOVERY Museum; Audrey mentioned that we should be sensitive to holidays in the future when scheduling events (Passover is the weekend of this event)
- **Foster Parent Appreciation Month Activities** – Denise reported that there are several activities/ideas for Foster Parent Appreciation Month
  - Springs Preserve Ice Cream Social on May 27<sup>th</sup> - DFS is purchasing tickets to provide to foster parents to participate in; Booth at the Springs Preserve; Drawing will take place; Thank You cookies will be provided; Notice will be given in the May Caregiver Courier
  - Thank You Video from Management will be in the May Caregiver Courier
  - Certificates & Pins will be mailed out to Foster Parents
  - Thank you cards will be given to DFS Staff

- **Denise Goodman Partnership Symposium** – Looking to have this National Foster Parent speaker come to Las Vegas in late June during Reunification Month to do a symposium on partnership with birthparents
- **National Foster Parent Association Conference in LV** – Conference is in coordination with Kinship families; there will be a number of good speakers at the conference; QPI will be doing the Opening Plenary Session as well as other presentations; Conference is June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

### 3. Foster Kinship Update

- Ali reported that attendance has dropped in the Foster Kinship Information Sessions over the last couple sessions – Ali and staff will be making calls to those who were registered and did not attend to find out why and determine if a new course of action needs to take place to enhance attendance

### 4. Relative/Fictive Kin Disruption Activities

- Shannon discussed that the Foster Parent Champions are now making Relative/Fictive Kin Disruption Survey calls out to families that disrupt and distributed the most recent reports/data. The group discussed that this is good information to have and is excited to see what this looks like as we move forward and have more data to track/trend
- Denise let the group know that there is a new Disruption sub-committee meeting on Thursdays to discuss disruptions. Ali and Shannon asked to participate in this group
  - Shannon will send Ali the meeting invitation

### 5. Foster Parent Associations Update

- Audrey reported that they are moving forward with the umbrella group to bring together all of the Foster Parent Associations for the betterment of the community. They have a meeting with Management on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

### 6. Grievance Policy

- Denise requested that Ashleigh complete a “search and rescue” to see what is in current DFS policy and procedure around complaints and grievances so that the policy that this group has been working on can be integrated/incorporated with what is in place
- Ashleigh informed Denise that she needs to submit a Request for Assistance to the Policy & Procedures Unit in order for her proceed, but once this is submitted and approved she can assist with this

### 7. Other

- **Workgroup Membership** – All members are going to submit any suggestions of Case Managers & Case Manager Supervisors that they feel would be good additions to the Support and Retention workgroup to Denise as we are in need of Case Manager/Case Management Supervisor participation in this workgroup