

QUALITY PARENTING INITIATIVE-CUYAHOGA
STEERING COMMITTEE (*Implementation Team*)

MINUTES– 3/22/16

1 - Welcome and Introduction

- Introduced our Youth Law Center Guests: Carole Shauffer, Terri Herrick, and Phyllis Stevens
- Kathleen Sullivan recapped our QPI efforts here at the Agency
- Since October have met many times and as a group fleshed out our Brand Statement (see attached)
 - In January identified what practices needed to change or be added in order to come closer to realizing the brand.
 - Broke up into Task Forces to work on top 5 items

2 - Task Force Report Outs

- **Connections/Relationships (birthparent/caregiver) Karin Austin & Lauren Woods**
 - See attached handout
 - Comfort Calls – call to birthparent immediately after removal
 - Conversation centered on who would do these
 - *Decision made and approved by CW that START to take this on as a pilot*
 - All About Me (AAM) meeting at 7 days
 - To be facilitated by a neutral party
 - *To be piloted by START unit at same time as comfort calls*
 - *Facilitation to be done by supervisor or other staff member not related to case*
 - Education
 - Relationship building, empathy, advocacy, rights
 - To be trained: all agency social workers, collaborative staff, all caregivers licensed or unlicensed
 - Would be beneficial for DCSF staff to train alongside caregivers
 - *Lauren has an early childhood training she does which is geared towards both sets of competencies*
 - *Identify slots for SW's at upcoming Foster Parent Conference*
- **SAR's/Other Meetings – Lisa Stevens-Cutner/Jen Rogers**
 - Did informal survey of foster parents
 - Found that they do not feel there are too many meetings
 - That they do not feel supported in the meetings
 - That they find the meeting times to be inconvenient
 - They do not always have enough notice

- SAR Notices are sent out 2 weeks in advance
 - *Decision was made to change that to 3 week notice*
 - SAR Scheduling – once meeting scheduled difficult to change, however *can schedule next meeting while at current meeting and have input as to time/date etc. Make sure everyone is aware*
 - Agency foster parents sometimes feel intimidated at SAR because they are there alone. Network homes usually have a network worker that go with them. Agency RM don't regularly go to the meetings.
 - *Decision made that it will be a best practice requirement for RM's to attend all SAR's and disruption staffings. RM's to get added to each child's case to facilitate being able to know when the meetings are occurring. Kathleen will roll-out in her department.*
 - Development of agency meeting that is caregiver and child focused. Proposed the agency re-evaluate the use of the 90 day SAR and make it an All About Me meeting part 2. Also move it up to 45 days.
 - *Pilot already in planning at Old Brooklyn Building for 90 day SAR to be focused on placement, visitation and services. Also TOP form will be utilized and normalcy will be discussed. This meeting can not occur as early as 60 days depending on the trigger but this can not be changed.*
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- **Preplacement Meetings and Connections – Shawn Green-Moore/Ehlithia Ellerbe**

See attached handouts

 - Need better matches between youth and caregivers
 - Ideas: Child Profile written by youth/child
 - Caregiver Profile written by caregiver
 - *Jackie McCray to see if new placement software has the capability for caregiver profiles*
 - *Also idea floated to put caregiver profiles on a shared drive so SW's have access- Kathleen to check this out*
 - Have them accessible and shared prior to placement when possible
 - Can we get a private network to pilot? *Clavin Boyd to take it back to Catholic Charities and to provider meeting*
- **Information Sharing – Stephen Flannery/Amy Carson**
 - Need more participation by FP's at AAM meetings
 - More training for caregivers on what to expect from all meetings
 - Use Technology when FP can not make it to meeting (Skype)
 - Skype could help bio family stay in touch with children

More information to come
- **I am not a foster child/Normalcy – Yvonne Billingsly/Desmond Wilson**
 - **See handout for many more details**
 - Policy - by 10/31/16
 - Value driven

- Research other policies
- Training on normalcy
 - All staff need to take training, even support staff
 - *Professional Development Dept is adding more sections for this training*
 - *Will build capacity by 12/31/16*
 - *Make it a best practice requirement*
- Solicited buy-in from Senior Leadership
 - Yvonne met with Director and then with Leadership Team
- Public Awareness Campaign
 - Flyers/Bathroom Readers – see attachment
 - News You Can Use
 - Kick off event
 - Marketing Plan

3 - Next Steps

- Task Forces to keep working
- Arrange meetings with decision makers
- Come back in 90 days to report out again to Steering Committee

NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 29TH, 9:30, at the Jane Edna Hunter Building room 343E.