

Rural Region Quality Parenting Initiative Committee (QPI)
Monthly Meeting Agenda
November 15. 2023, 2023; 11:00 am to Noon (Meeting held via Teams)

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In Attendance:

Ash Archibald	Anita Kelly	Ashley Smith
Brittany Best	Kelly McKiddie	Rebeca Stoffel
Jessica Carstens	Lori Nichols	Leslie Torres
Tracy Corwin	Dorothy Pomin	
Betsey Crumrine	Jhoanna Presswood	
Kyle Crutcher	Kevin Quint	
Sheila Guzzetta	Shelby Riley	
Terry Harrak	Shana Rogers	
Melanie Jones-Bluford	Tawney Simpson	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome Sheila Guzzetta & Terry Harrak – Terry is our QPI liaison.

Welcome to Ash Archibald (SOON TO BE licensed foster home)

Terry updated the group on upcoming QPI Events –

- Elevate and Celebrate (submit your nominations to highlight someone that has been doing amazing QPI work) Deadline 12/1
- Exploiting Greif and Loss – 11/16/2023
- Innovation in Child Welfare Shared Family Care – 1/18/2024
- If you are a Champion (or not but want to be involved) QPI Approach to Kinship Care 12/5/2023 @ 11 am Pacific

2. Recap of the October meeting-

The recap of the October meeting was made available prior to the meeting.

3. Announcements & quick stuff

a. Caregiver Courier

- Shelby talked about our monthly DCFS Newsletter, “Caregiver Courier.”
- She hopes to launch the “Respite Co-Op” list in the coming weeks. Currently we have 5 homes on the list. She will meet with Lori Nichols & Laurie Jackson to make sure we are following the correct protocol.
- Nominate your Champions the Excellent Parenting Champion Foster Parent, Champion Case Worker, Champion Community Partner, and Champion with Lived Experience - Deadline 12/9/2023.
- Next Training for Foster Pre-Service starts Jan 20, 2024, via Teams. Sweets with Santa is Sunday, 12/10/2023 12-4pm. This event is open to foster homes and partners of DCFS.
- Also, we will be doing a “Sweets with Santa” in Pahrump, date TBD. Rebeca mentioned it’s great for workers to attend “Sweets with Santa” as it provides

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**a great opportunity to network and it's fun for the kids. Elks Lodge
Christmas Party for Foster Families 12/9/2023 @ 11:30 – 2:00 pm.**

- b. Foster care licensing updates, new homes, and Pre-Service Training
Lori reported that there are 7 new homes since September 2023. We have the 4 of homes in the process for General Foster Care. Licensing is going through a redesign.
 - c. QPI Website
Kevin announced that the “Just in Time” site where we have much of our training material and other resources is changing platforms by mid-December. He wants everyone to know that when anyone signs in after December 15th that person will need to set up an account. There is a five minute video on the home page that explains what to do. Setting up an account is easy, it's free, and no one asks for a payment method!
 - d. Update on Foster Home Retention Project-
Dorothy Pomin is a contractor with DCFS who is the Foster Liaison. She is spearheading a Foster Retention project in the Fernley and Fallon District Offices. She said, “I want to interact with the foster parents to see what makes them want to foster and what issues they may have and how we can work hand-to-hand with the foster parents.” More on this great project later.
 - e. Trainings for foster parents and for case worker-
Kelly announced the upcoming training on 12/11/2023 & 12/14/2023- Interrupting the Conflict Cycle. She and Sunshine Perry will be co-presenting on Teams.
4. QPI Themed Conversation and Sharing: *“What are ways we can more effectively engage and involve birth parents?” and “What are barriers to doing so?” and “What are the opportunities we have to engage birth parents?” (This can include informal supports)*
- Dorothy: I was a foster parent for over 15 years. The more often I worked with parents, it was amazing. How the relationship was created with that birth parent. I saw many changes. It's scary and it helps. I really support it.**
- Rebeca: As case workers we do our best to have a relationship with parents and pull them in. Start where they are at. If there are barriers, figure it out and help the birth parent know how to navigate it.**
- Kelly: What stood out most in our birth parent panels in pre-service training is the birth parent sharing the power of connection with the foster parent. Being included in a meal. Seeing what normal meals or holidays look like. They (the birth parent panel) shared that they appreciate being held accountable is helpful. “If you are using (a substance) you can't see the kids today.”**
5. Discussion and action on engaging birth parents-*Melanie McCormick, CC CASA –*

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Tabled for another meeting as Melanie was not available.

6. Review and discussion on Rural Region QPI Committee brochure-*Shelby and Kevin*
Shelby previewed the new QPI brochure with everyone. Please send in all positive and negatives about the brochure to Kevin or Shelby. It's important that Foster Parents are getting this as well as our workers. Betsey Crumrine asked that Kevin take this to the Managers to see it. He said he would. The group approved by consensus the brochure with any edits that are still needed to go out to workers, staff, and community partners. Betsey said, "Make sure and get it out to people. We need to let workers know, as well."

Betsey went on to say, "I am astonished at how much we are doing in this group."

7. Update on Champions Training-*Rebeca*
Rebeca is attending the QPI Champion Training. They just wrapped this month's training today. One of the topics that was discussed is the 3 C's -Collaboration, Cooperation, and Continuity. In the training, she has the opportunity to learn about QPI and to also share ideas and learn from other sites and states.

Kevin announced that the next Champion Training will be next year. Birth parents or Foster Parents can attend trainings for free. For staff to attend it does cost money (the Division pays), but if interested in attending, let him know.

8. Follow up on Comfort Calls and Ice Breakers
 - a. Update on Pahrump Office efforts-*Sunshine*
Sunshine has worked with the Pahrump District Office to develop a system to do Comfort Calls. Kevin will be meeting with Liz Stetson from Quality Assurance collaborating on how to get comfort calls into other parts of the Division.
 - b. Workgroup update – **The Comfort Call/Ice Breaker Workgroup met last week and are working on strategies to get these strategies going..**
9. Respite Co-op-*Shelby*
Shelby talked about her efforts on this project. This would be a co-op that would not involve being paid for respite. Even though it will be informal, she wants the caseworker to be in the know. There needs to be communication so the worker knows where the kid is, especially if it's for a longer period of time. There was discussion about if its more than 3 nights in a respite home, then Shelby will let the caseworker know. Dorothy thinks it will become confusing as each caseworker is different. This will be discussed more later. Shelby asked what everyone's thoughts are about having a non-primary being on the Co-Op Respite list? There was no feedback given on that topic.
10. First Placement Support Program-*Kevin* – **Not discussed**
11. Workgroup updates – **Not discussed**
 - a. QPI Facebook Page Subcommittee report-*Shelby*

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- b. Caregiver Corner Subcommittee report-*Shelby and Kelly*
- 12. Transition Planning - **Not discussed**
 - a. Review of October 19th QPI webinar on Transitions. What were some of the takeaways?
 - b. Next steps
- 13. Set next meeting-
Kevin will keep everyone posted on the December meeting. We may cancel it for December and pick back up in January.
- 14. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm

Conference Participant: “This QPI Conference really inspired me!”
Conference Organizer: “Don’t just be inspired, do something!”