

Rural Nevada Caregiver Courier

January 2019 - This first edition of our courier is full of information on new policies and procedures that DCFS is implementing. For more details and continued updates please check the QPI Nevada webpage under the Rural Region.



Comfort Calls

Rural Nevada has initiated comfort calls, being piloted in Region 1 (Elko/Winnemucca/Ely) and Region 3 (Fallon/Fernley)! These facilitated phone calls will be made as soon as possible when children are placed in out-of-home care; in Family Foster Care, with Relatives, and Fictive-Kin. Children of all ages will be able to speak with and hear from their parents. Parents will be able to know that their children are safe. Foster Parents will be able to fill gaps in the Child Health/ Social History form, and

initiate a relationship of co-parenting. These calls can be made in a few different ways.

- From the caseworker's work cell phone at the foster home
- a three-way call from the caseworker's office (to the foster and birth parents) (if not being completed at placement)
- if the foster parent is comfortable with it, from the foster parent's phone
- through Google Voice

Comfort calls set the stage for ongoing focus on the child, reinforce that the birth parent is the expert on their child, and provides for smoother transition into foster homes by allowing foster parents to ask about specific information pertinent to their home environment and routines.

They provide the birth parents the opportunity to convey, in their own words, information they feel is critical for care of their child. This is a big change for many, but it is a step toward building relationships.

Licensing or Regulation Questions?

Have you ever wondered if you could get a concealed carry permit as a foster parent? Do you wonder who can watch your kids while you go on a date? When do you need to ask permission of a social worker and when you can use the prudent parenting standard? We will be covering these topics and more in upcoming editions. If you have questions you want featured, a Foster Family you want to nominate as Foster Family of the Year or ideas for future issues please email Kathy at KathyMcHanQPI@gmail.com



QPI National Conference

April 29th-May 1st

Loews Philadelphia Hotel

Building a Relationship Based System: Techniques for Transformation.

Icebreakers

An icebreaker meeting is a facilitated, child- focused meeting held shortly after a child is placed in out-of-home care. It provides an opportunity for birth parents and foster parents (or other caregivers) to meet each other and to share information about the birth family, foster family, and most importantly, the needs of the child. This meeting is the beginning of establishing communication and building a relationship between the child's parents and caregivers.

There is a video training on the QPI Website in the Rural Region Documents section called, Icebreaker Meetings: Tools for Connecting Birth and Foster Parents. It is only 18 minutes long and will really help you understand Icebreakers, and the reasons behind them. There is also a Meet Our Family form on the QPI site that it would be helpful to familiarize yourself with. When a child is placed in your home, from their home of origin and sometimes from another foster home, there will be an Icebreaker meeting to initiate contact between you and the birth parents. When these happen please take this as an opportunity to build a relationship that will help the child adjust to the changes in their life and support reunification whenever possible. Because this pilot is not state wide and it only impacts new cases, there will be situations where there will not be an Icebreaker. Whenever possible please continue doing your best to create positive relationships with all members of the children's team.

Icebreakers are being piloted alongside the comfort calls in Rural Region 1 (Elko/Winnemucca/Ely) and Rural Region 3 (Fallon/Fernley) to work out any kinks.

Pride Training

Ely- January 25th -27th

*Fallon - February 10th,
16th-17th*

*Lori Nichols
lnichols@dcfs.nv.gov*



Communication

Communication is often a point of friction in the world of foster care. If you haven't already, share your preferred contact method with your child's social worker and vice versa.

Advanced Foster Care

Have you considered becoming an Advanced Foster Care home? You get extra training, extra support and help preserve children in placements. For more information, contact Kevin Quint.

kevin.quint@dcfs.nv.gov

