

**South West Regional DCFS Child Welfare
Quality Improvement Committee
Meeting Minutes
04 April 2016
12:00 1:00 p.m.**

Mission Statement:

The SouthWest Region Quality Improvement Committee (QIC), working in partnership with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), advocate for the client well-being by identifying areas of Improvement and promoting changes within the child welfare system

Attending: ST. George – Ben Ashcraft, Kelly Stapley, Martha Beacco, Mike Beacco, Vickie Schouten, Jana Timmons, Karen Goff, Lori Short, Mike Carr, Tami Fullerton, Tere Iverson, Craig Bunnell
Cedar City – Robert Johnson, Lori Orton, Bruce Zylkes, Dave Rabacci, Amy Bates, Ashley Whiting, Jodi Simmons

Excused: Gloria Schow

Visitors: Tere Iverson: Tere was hired to be the Supervisor for a new program with DJJS as the “New Hope” Program. The program will be a 5 bed program for youth who are waiting for a program that will fit their needs. Youth 12 and older. The Program will hire staff and have a ratio of 3 Staff to 5 Children. This program will assist youth who have behavioral issues, self-harm, destructive behaviors etc....

Battery dead on recorder.

Introductions/News/Announcements:

Washington Co. Substance Abuse Conference, 04/21/2016 @ DSU 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Cost \$20.00 lunch included

Register at: <http://www.evenbrite.com/e/2016-washington-county-substance-abuse-conference-tickets-2393854772>

Troubled Youth Conference, Snow Bird, 12&13th May
<http://www.troubledyouthconference.com/>

Review and Approval of Previous March Meeting Minutes:

Committee Member Reports:

- A. CJC:
- B. C.A.S.A.: Introducing
- C. Utah Foster Care:
- D. DJJS:
- E. School District:
- F. **Community Members:** 4th Annual Indian Child Welfare Conference
Date: 06 May 2016
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Where: Cedar City – Live stream at Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (lunch provided)
- G. DCFS:

AGENDA:

QIC Appreciation Luncheon:

- Kelly Stapley is looking into the possibility to fund QIC recognition for So. West Region
- Approximately \$300.00
- Tentative Date: Wednesday 4 May 2016
- Involve ALL of So. West Region (115)

Presenters: Ashley Whiting Cedar City Iron County School District,
Mike Carr ST. George Washington County School District

Joint video session, dark/no sound for presentations

Notes: QIC – 04 April 2016 ST. George Session –
Mike Carr, Washington County School District Child Services Coordinator
Phone: (435) 673-3553 Ext 5167

mike.carr@washk12.org

Key Points:

High Schools in Washington County (7) 22 ---- they usually have 3-4 or more per school

Water Canyon is a PreK-12th grade school and has 2 counselors, one for K-6 and one for 7-12

Desert Hills High School,	Dixie High School,
Enterprise High School,	Hurricane High School,
Millcreek High School,	Pine View High School,
Snow Canyon High School,	

Middle Schools in Washington County (7) 13 counselors---- they usually have 2-3 per school

Utah Online School	Dixie Middle School
Hurricane Middle School	Pine View Middle School
Snow Canyon Middle School	Desert Hills Middle School
Utah Online School	

Intermediate Schools in Washington County (6) 11 counselors---they usually have 2 per school

Fossil Ridge Intermediate School	Hurricane Intermediate School
Lava Ridge Intermediate School	Sunrise Ridge Intermediate School
Tonaquint Intermediate School	Utah Online School

Elementary Schools in Washington County (24) 18 counselors—most are FT but split between 2 schools, some are PT at 1 school, and we have one that has 3 schools

Arrowhead Elementary School	Bloomington Hills Elementary School
Bloomington Elementary School	Coral Canyon Elementary
Coral Cliffs Elementary School	Diamond Valley Elementary School
Dixie Sun Elementary School	East Elementary School
Enterprise Elementary School	Heritage Elementary School (formerly West Elementary)
Horizon Elementary School	Hurricane Elementary School
LaVerkin Elementary School	Little Valley Elementary School
Panorama Elementary School	Red Mountain Elementary School
Riverside Elementary School	Sandstone Elementary School
Santa Clara Elementary School	Springdale Elementary School
Sunset Elementary School	Three Falls Elementary School
Washington Elementary School	Water Canyon School
Utah Online School	

There are approximately 29,716 Students

- Teacher expectations are high
- It is difficult to know if children are working with DCFS
- Children who are in Foster Care are tracked through YIC
Vickie Schouten works with the Elementary School Counselors and Foster Care Youth
- Communication are as expected – There are school personnel that don't realize the parameters that DCFS have to work with on our end.
- Counselors or other appropriate representatives of the school district participate in CFTM. Court Sessions and through appropriate communications when needed

Concerns/Issues:

- Confidentiality is a barrier and an issue - Yes there are barriers. We always want to know what happens to a case after it is reported. Again, most people don't know DCFS's rules and what can and can't be said or do.
- School Teacher's feel if they were aware or had knowledge of a child who was struggling at home they could be more understanding to a child's situation.
- Voluntary case are an issue (Parents do not want the Schools to know DCFS may or may not be involved with their Family)
- The School's see children every day. CW or CASA do not.
- What does the Mental Health part look like for Schools with Therapists can and is that happening in the Schools or is it problematic? Schedule driven, short sessions. SWBH is supportive at different levels at different schools. Most schools have their help on a consulting basis only. Some of the others (mostly elementary schools) get a visit every other week for a morning or an afternoon. There are some schools that get a counselor weekly, but the time is very limited and not ideal (maybe one day per week). The school counselors at the elementary level spend more time actually helping kids with personal or emotional issues and the time spent with counselors goes down as the kids go up in grades and schools.
- GAL may have some information on School contact with opened cases

Agency Action:

- As an agency we are trying to preserve the family and keeping children in the home and working on a good system
- If there is NO Educational Neglect it's difficult for the Agency to monitor those families
- DCFS contact person is Cecelia Simmons

School Action:

- Mike Carr will be the contact person for CFTM notifications
- Mike will contact appropriate Counselor's and Teachers
- If Counselor's or Teachers cannot attend then they will provide information for meetings

Notes: QIC – 04/04/2016 Cedar City Session

Cedar City Guest: Ashley Whitting, Cedar MS Counselor, Representing Iron County School District. Ms. Whitting spoke from notes in a conversational manner, allowing a very good exchange through participation with QIC members. She was able to make her points and the QIC attendees asked questions or offered extensions making the presentation more collaborative.

Key Points:

- Iron County Middle School consists of about 950-1000 children representing grades 6,7 & 8
- The District and DCFS interface, working relations are good
- In home and Foster Care are commonly experienced
- Communications are as expected

- Counselors or other appropriate representatives of the school district participate in CFTM. Court Sessions and through appropriate communications
- Confidentiality is not a barrier or issue

Concerns/Issues:

- Mental Health issues are addressed through adaptive process: Therapist may review the clients at school
- Effective use of therapist time in these at school session may be problematic: schedule driven, resulting in short sessions

Needs:

- More mental Health Resources (fit needs)
- Health Care resources (Medicaid?)
- **Think** improved mental health resources for the entire Iron County community

Follow Up:

- Add Ashley to the QIC roster
- ID potential QIC follow-up from this presentation

Next Agenda Expectation:

- QIC members submit potential improvement ideas or recommendations from this presentation for the QIC data base of possible recommendation to QIC. Please submit prior to the 05/02 meeting.
- QIC needs: Validate these notes and combine with meeting minutes from QIC session at St George on 04/04
- Input of potential items for future recommendations by QIC members form each geographic session. Start the recommendation date base.

Next meeting: Work recognition event and discuss, set planning for future guest speakers.

Side Note: These notes are for incorporation with the ST G QIC minutes. Please feel free to obtain details, corrections or added item from Cedar attendees of page.

Restore Joint Session:

DISMISS: 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: 02 May 2016

Public Comments (brief mention of items that may be included on future agenda's)

QIC Website: QIC website at <http://www.utahqic.utah.gov/>. --Carol Miller

Report Child Abuse

24-Hour Reporting Hotline
1-855-323-3237