

MINUTES

SLVR Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

August 13, 2019 @ 11:30am - 1:00pm

Members in Attendance: Angela Abd (DWS), Heather Allen (CASA), Keeley Beirwolf (VOA), Amy Duvall (Human Services), Danielle Mecham (DDI Vantage), Carolyn Hansen (Youth Services), Krissee Prestwich (Foster/Adoptive Parent), Emily Harris (Valley Behavioral Health), Annette Jan (Attorney General's Office), Tara Gailey (Utah Foster Care Foundation), Christine McAtee (Headstart), Arn Stolp (Community Member), Ann Jones (Youth in Care), Darcie Peterson (DCFS), Lisia Santini (Children's Service Society)

DCFS Liaisons: Ray Harris (DCFS) Kerri Burns (DCFS)

Members Excused: Cortney Bramlette (Prevent Child Abuse Utah), Hailey Archer (VOA), Justin Boardman (Boardman & Training Consulting), Karen Ellsworth (DWS), Melanie Hansen (Fostering Healthy Children), Cydnie LaCour (Volunteers of America-Utah), Patty Biedermann (Lokken & Associates), Howard Griffith (Jordan School District), Emily Horton (The Road Home), Andrea Miller (Granite School District), Shawn Mower (Jordan Child Developmental Center), Sherrie Pace (Utah Poison Control/Health Educator)

Facilitator: Krissee Prestwich

Minutes: Hollie Willis

Acceptance and approval of June 18, 2019 meeting minutes by committee

Krissee Prestwich

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome and introductions

Thoughts on suicide prevention

PRESENTATIONS-

Youth in Care Coordinator over Granite School District

Ann Jones

Mentors role with DCFS -grades K-12, not serving preschool at this time. Working on how to get into charter schools. Those students have a right to services as well.

Mentoring services an asset working with kids in custody. Model used is Check & Connect. Most effective ways of keeping kids in school. Program is not restrictive so can modify with each child

Four components to Check & Connect Program

1. Given a Mentor- Individualized per child and their needs
2. Check Component-Collect data on all kids served. Track 3 main items: attendance, behavior and class performance.
3. Connect -Track relationships- help them connect to teachers, students and after care programs. Students who feel they belong, their scores go up significantly.
4. Family Inclusion-More layers of opportunity creates harder ability to navigate system. YIC builds community around students to help them be successful after graduation.

Students with YIC average 71 days. Not a lot of time. The Check & Connect Program is state wide. When students transfer to other districts, YIC relates information to the new district.

DCFS has an obligation to register children with YIC. Each district has ample mentors to help with children and their education.

YIC is part of team meetings to help bridge the gap between education and relationships

YIC is early warning system- good at crisis intervention, advocate for students, teach advocacy skills so they can advocate for themselves.

YIC intervention collects data to give to people who can actually do something with it and help students

Each mentor has 10-15 schools each- one high school with feeder schools that go into that.
Program is funded through grants

Youth in Care & Court Reports

Darcie Peterson

- Looks at providing educational stability with kids
- Every move a child puts a child back 3-6 months in school. 1 in 4 won't graduate high school that age out of foster care.
- State Board of Education and Human Services created-Best Interest Determination Sheet-how school transfers will impact a child. Factors to look at: safety first; if it is best interest to stay in school, look at students attachment to school and meaningful relationships, timing in their life as if it is end of school year, where do their siblings attend etc.
- The least factor looked at but most common is transportation. The school board is more understanding to keep kids in district after this Best Interest Determination Sheet.
- Keeping track of how kids are doing in school.
- The Juvenile Board of Judges, along with the Board of Education and Human Services, came up with a Juvenile Education Court report to better look at issues of keeping kids in school.
- Some questions on report to make judges aware when making decisions for children: Has students changed schools, what is the reason, attendance, if missing a period what is going on in their life, IEP, what is exactly on IEP, what extra curricular activities involved in, greatest strengths, recommendations.
- Working on getting the word out, what questions are appropriate, how to better roll out. New report is making judges aware and what to ask as well as asking the children more about their education. Judges appreciate, value information and agree it is important.
- Children in custody already have a challenge with family dynamics, want to make school life better

Q-Is there funding for transportation for foster parents to get students to schools?

A: Yes, DCFS offers mileage reimbursements for transportation to schools, however most of our older youth are in proctor care and there is nothing in the contract set up for transportation. Sometimes, Special Ed can help. A lot is mindset to proctor parent in the time it takes. They don't understand the impact it is having on the child.

Q-Are there funds available for students' extra-curricular activity?

A-YIC funds cover normal school fees, but as far as extra activities such as football, there are special needs funds with DCFS and UTFIC for those types of activities

Q: Are those funds available on InHome cases?

A: Unfortunately not, they are only available on SCF cases. Families would have to look more into community programs for that assistance

Q: The issue with proctor homes and transportation, as a committee, is there something we can do to help with that?

A: With proctor homes, we are contracted to reimburse 60 miles round trip. With school transportation that wouldn't qualify. All contracts go through DHS. Committee would have to approach them and probably would take an amendment to change it and get providers to agree to it.

Q: Maybe a contract with someone such as Uber and Lyft to transport kids?

A: Used to have something similar to take kids to treatment but that is long gone now.

Comments

Ray-will reach out to one of our analysts with OQD after the committee approves the educational letter. Express concerns and see what options are.

Kerri-an option is to write a formal letter from committee and submit to DHS

Another option is have had schools issue a bus pass in the past if child is responsible enough. Problem is having kid responsible enough to be able to utilize it

Need to look at barriers and see what options are to help transport kids.

FOLLOW UP ITEM-

Darcie to write a draft letter on transportation on behalf of the committee to see how they can help. Sending to Heather Allen to have QIC vote next meeting Sept 10th.

Hollie gather info on recruitment meeting for QIC new members

Krisse resigning-vote for Co-chair in September

RECAP & FUTURE FOCUS-

September-recruitment of new members who would be a good asset to the committee. Discussion of QIC's purpose and goals.

Dates to Remember

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| Sept 10, 2019 | 11:30 am -1:00 pm | Next QIC Meeting |
| Oct 8, 2019 | 11:30 am -1:00 pm | Next QIC Meeting |
