

Southwest Quality Improvement Committee

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**02 March 2020**

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Mission Statement:** The South West Regional 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:** Kristy Pike, Ben Ashcraft, Kariann Atkin, Brittney Ward, LaVelle Prince, Jana Timmons, Suzi Abbott, Nickie Stocks & Jeff Owens

**Cedar City:** Amy Bates & Tina Lloyd

**Excused:** Diane Tyler, Mike Beacco, Kyle Garrett & Raye Ann Bennett

**\*Guests:** There are no guests today.

**\*Minutes:** Kariann made a motion to accept/approve the previous QIC meeting minutes. That motion was seconded. The meeting minutes from the February 2020 QIC meeting are approved.

**\*Utah Family Month:** LaVelle wanted to make everyone aware of an event on May 16<sup>th</sup> for Utah Family Month. It is a sponsored event between Mother's Day and Father's Day. It is tentatively scheduled at Legacy Elementary School from 9 am to 11 am. It will be great family fun!! The booths are free and they are reaching out to partners to occupy booth space. There were a lot of families who attended last year. More details will be forthcoming.

**\*Child Abuse Prevention Month/PCAU:** An open house will be held at the CJC on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm to 7 pm for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Prevent Child Abuse Utah has no presence in Southern Utah and our children deserve the same advocacy as the Wasatch Front children do. Some members of the QIC have received training on their specific model but training every classroom of children would be very difficult. The Family Support Center was providing that same training in Cedar City. Why isn't PCAU coming down to do the trainings any longer? Their main office is located in St. George. Turnover has been a struggle for them as of late. If PCAU can provide the training materials can we develop a coalition to provide the training as we can? The expenses for the materials would need to be paid for by PCAU. There is a lot that goes into this training and some involve puppets, etc. IHC has funding for education of health and wellness and maybe we can tap into that funding. We may also need to recruit volunteers to help provide this training. There are 30 schools in Washington County alone and classroom by classroom trainings will be difficult. PCAU needs to pick this ball back up and get it rolling. There is some free online training but it is only for parents.

**\*DOVE Center Gala:** The DOVE Center Gala will be this upcoming weekend!! The event didn't sell out this year but it expected to be a great fund raiser. This is an annual fund raiser for the DOVE Center with dancing, food and fun. This will be held in the Sun River Ballroom.

**\*DCFS Staff Appreciation:** The selected dates were reviewed by the QIC and the final selection is: April 14<sup>th</sup> in Cedar City; April 15<sup>th</sup> in St. George and April 27<sup>th</sup> for the Color Country area. LaVelle and Connie will work on the gift bags for DCFS staff. Tina will get the numbers of DCFS staff for the lunches and gift bags. Raye Ann will follow up on the lunches for St. George. The QIC can spend approximately \$4 to \$5 per person. Nickie may be able to get a \$100 donation toward the luncheon as well. Tina will confirm if the QIC money rolls over or "goes away" at the end of the fiscal year (June 30<sup>th</sup>). What happens with the donations? The Exchange Club has donated before and may do so again. The Assistance League may be a good avenue for help as well. We could make taco salads or subway sandwiches. Jimmy John's has boxed lunches for \$5. Costco and/or Walmart may donate some money to go toward this as well. Harmon's has given \$50 in the past and may be willing to do so again. Tina will look at what catering options we have in each of the areas of the DCFS region. Do we want to invite local officials to this luncheon? If anyone has information on donations or supplies that can be used for the lunches (tablecloths, etc.), please coordinate that with Tina.

**\*QIC Attendees/List:** This item has been tabled for a future QIC meeting.

**\*Trauma Informed Care Presentation:** Brittney Ward gave the QIC a presentation today on trauma informed care. All children in foster care experience some sort of trauma. Trauma lingers long after the traumatic event has happened. Children who witness DV are the ones who act out most often. Sometimes they just need patience, understanding and not being punished for their behaviors. The behavior is how the abuse at home displays itself. Brittney sees a lot of ADD/ADHD behaviors and she helps to minimize trauma where she can. Jeff is seeing multi-generational problems. Same behaviors...same family...different generation. Jeff feels that the multi-generational dysfunction is maternally driven. One third of his cases are child protection cases. Approximately 70% of the cases at the Blue Butterfly House involve substance abuse and abuse by the mother. Compassion is important. There is a good pod cast about poly victimization that is educational. Teachers are key to keeping children safe and watching for concerns. A sense of purpose is important for children as well. One safe person can change a child's life. Handouts from the DOVE Center were distributed to the QIC. Therapists must look at what the child is presenting not what the child is specifically doing. We all seem to have some sort of personal trauma and triggers and we bring that into our work unconsciously. How do we manage those triggers for ourselves? The DOVE Center offers counseling for their staff (limited for support) to help their staff navigate their own trauma and get their jobs done.

We do not want to cause more harm to a client than they've already experienced. Schools often have a "wellness room" that can be used when someone needs a strategic time out, but it does come with the stigma of going to the "wellness room." Some people don't want to be identified as "needing help" or being "messed up." Is this tied to Title IX in the school system (Federal statute of sexual assault, etc.)? Sometimes victims are treated worse than the perpetrators. Title IX mandates that a plan be put in place to maintain the safety of children and schools must figure out how to do that. We never want to victimize a victim. Brittney has to be invited to do this trainings for teachers and students. Brittney will talk to her coordinator about the Title IX issues we are seeing. Any violations of Title IX must be reported, but is there push back for doing that? "Hunting Ground" is worth watching. Some college girls were assaulted on campus, and when their college did nothing about that, they used Title IX to get the sexual harassment/sexual assault prosecuted. Title IX is now mainly used for sports. Some schools are slower at getting trained and being trauma informed. Some school counselors didn't know what "mandated reporting" was and that is a HUGE concern. There was a "protective order legislation" this session that had great things in it and it appears that it will now be stopped. Tammy Curtis is over wellness and is invested in trauma informed care. She could be a good community contact for more information, etc.

**\*Teresa Willie Invite:** Teresa Willie will be invited to a future QIC meeting to discuss suicide prevention measures in our local communities.

**DISMISS: 1:00 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:**

**May 4, 2020**

**June 2, 2020 (TBD)**

**No July Meeting**

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

QIC Website: QIC website at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>. --Carol Miller

Report Child Abuse

24-Hour Reporting Hotline

1-855-323-3237