Circuit 12 Foster Parent Taskforce

NOTES

March 1st, 2019

* Welcome & Introductions:
  + A VERY Special Thanks to Oasis Church for hosting us and providing breakfast! The location is fairly central for our Circuit but is still a little piece for those in South Sarasota County. Oasis as offered to host with advanced notice AND is willing to provide childcare! The intention continues to be to travel in order to allow for more robust participation.
* Follow Up from Previous Meeting:
  + Integrating Foster Parents in Process Changes: Myreida discussed the intention to add a foster parent representative to Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM)
  + Nathan posed question to group would Task Force be an appropriate venue to incorporate trainings for foster parents for the continuing training requirement. The overwhelming consensus of foster parents’ present voted no as they felt this is a problem solving venue.
* Group Discussion / Brainstorm:
  + Case Management should provide better notice of home visits out of respect for foster parent’s time and schedules. This is with the understanding that an unannounced home visit is required every 90 days. Foster parents are not expected to drop everything to accommodate potential poor planning by the case manager or guardian ad litem volunteer. The next scheduled home visit should be discussed while in the home.
  + YFA in Manatee now has a Client Concern Line: 941-721-7670 Ext. 230. Foster Parents are encouraged to call this line as needed.
  + Foster Parents should have in hand both the JRSSR and the GAL Report timely, i.e. at least 72 hours before the court hearing. This allows for review by the foster parent(s). A specific piece of feedback included creating a flow chart for foster parents on what to expect throughout the life of a typical case, i.e. when to expect the reports, when to submit the caregiver feedback form, etc.
  + It was discussed that foster parents have the right to be heard at the Judicial Review over and above their right to complete the Caregiver Feedback Form.
  + There continues to be an overarching theme of fear of retaliation (i.e. removing a child from the foster home) should foster parents voice concerns or criticisms.
  + There was some extensive anecdotal discussion regarding the Guardian ad Litem program including: GAL’s telling foster parents it is not their “job” to get attached to the children in their care, GAL’s being “swayed” by bio-families resulting in less focus on the child’s well-being and a request for a chain of command / organization chart.
  + Ongoing training for foster parents, GAL’s and case management and perhaps capturing these trainings electronically for review by those who could not attend in person. A specific piece of feedback was a brief refresher course for foster parents after 5 years.
* Action Steps:
  + Provide the GAL Organization Chart to foster parents
  + Add the Caregiver Feedback form to the SCC Website Frequently Used Documents
  + Continue to send SCC leadership chart to foster parents on a regular basis
  + Steve and David to conduct Foster Parent Rights trainings
  + SCC Staff and FAPA’s to encourage foster parents to attend staffings as frequently as possible
  + Nathan to work with Myreida to identify foster parent representative for TEAM
  + SCC case management to continue to be cognizant as to timely notification to foster parents of visitations, court hearings, staffings, appointments, etc. – “Foster Parents should not be the last to know what is happening in regards to the children in their care.”
* Next Meeting
  + Possible Agenda Item for discussion: Seasonal Residents being licensed for Emergency Placements and Respite
  + To Be Determined; had tentatively scheduled for April 12th however Nathan will not be available to facilitate.