

Quality Parenting Initiative – Minnesota

UPDATES AND INVITATIONS

Thank you for your leadership and support for QPI-MN!

Beginning with the October, 2017 QPI-MN Kick-Off, the spirit of QPI has been positively influencing and impacting work with children, youth and families in care across the state. QPI-MN is made possible through an incredible array of partners, a group that continues to grow as people bring their insights and skills to the shared work of QPI-MN.

QPI-MN Updates and Invitations will be sent out regularly to the growing list of QPI-MN supporters. You are encouraged to share this update with people in your networks who would have an interest in being part of QPI-MN. Please encourage those interested in receiving the updates to submit their emails to gpi@aspiremn.org.

IMPLIMENTATION of QPI-MN – UPDATES

- Today DHS released the **Foster Sibling Bill of Rights Bulletin**, outlining legislation written by the MN Youth Leadership Council and supported by QPI-MN that passed into law during the 2018 legislative session.
- Carole Shauffer, Founder of Quality Parenting Initiative from the Youth Law Center in California trained over 100 QPI-MN participants on the national model of **Fostering Relationships: An Enhanced Visitation Model**, training outlined [HERE](#). Fostering Relationship principles were designed after the Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC) model by Dr. Mary Dozier, Ph.D., at the University of Delaware. Dr. Dozier and her lab developed ABC after studying the effects of early adversity on development in early childhood. The impact of Fostering Relationships at other QPI sites have included:
 - Strengthened communication and relationship between caregivers (foster parents/kin) and birth parents.
 - Birth families receive support that promotes positive and responsive interactions with their child.
 - Children experience greater consistency in caregiving.
 - Reunification is improved by the lasting connections developed with the child and foster/placement family.
- At the July QPI-MN meeting, Kate Rickord, Sr. Director with St. David's Center presented a Year in Review highlighting the foundational work of QPI-MN, established values and focus areas of the action work groups established. Her presentation is posted [HERE](#) and also available at the [QPI-MN website](#) to be shared with others.

SNAPSHOTS of QPI-MN SUCCESS – Connections that Endure

Embracing the QPI value of building relationships between birth and foster families has proven rewarding for everyone involved. For one family, the relationship developed between the foster family and birth mother had many positive impacts on the children, including sustained and frequent communication between the children and their birth mother. Due in part to the focus on increased calls and engagement with their birth mother, reunification took place much sooner than anticipated. A strong bond developed between the foster parents and the children, and between the birth mother and the foster parents. At reunification the foster parents were

both grieving the loss of the children, and, joyful to see the children positively reunified with their birth mother. In the end, the foster parents were asked to be god parents to the children and continue a relationship today. ~ Private foster care agency social worker

RESOURCES

The Action Work Groups that launched out of the October Kick-Off have designed many important plans and resources to support implementation of the [QPI-MN values and 2018 Goals](#):

1. A Comfort Call is placed to the birth parent within the first 24 hours of placement,
2. A Circle of Support meeting is held for the birth and foster families within the first weeks of placement, and
3. Youth Voice is sought throughout the placement process

Resources for implantation of the Comfort Call and the Circle of Support meeting are available on the [QPI-MN webpage](#), under the Resources heading.

INVITATIONS - new Action Work Groups

The QPI design includes clear timelines for all Action Work Groups (8-10 months in length). At the July QPI-MN meeting new Action Work Groups were established, some are refreshed, and charged to continue important work of past Action Work Groups.

The Action Work Groups are open to anyone interested in participating. Please consider signing up to participate in the group that reflects your area of interest. You can also consider sharing information about the Action Work Groups with others in your network you feel would have an interest in adding their expertise to the work of QPI-MN.

Please share your interest by sending your contact information and the title of the Action Work Group to gpi@aspiremn.org. Thank you!

New Action Work Groups

- Kinship Resources
- Foster Parent Voice
- Connections: implementing Comfort Call & Circle of Support
- Youth Voice
- QPI-MN administrative: resourcing communications and other back-end resource development for the initiative

NEXT MEETINGS

- **Implementation Call**, for all interested in mutual support and shared learning for implementing the Comfort Call and Circle of Support are meeting via conference call on August 24, 9-10 am – RSVP to Kate Rickord, krickord@stdavidscenter.org.
- **QPI-MN Steering Committee**, September 21, 1030-1230, at Family Alternatives in Minneapolis or via zoom/call-in.
- **November 7, Save the Date** – we anticipate a visit from Carole Shauffer, QPI Founder, details yet to be determined.

YOU ARE INVITED

- Please consider sharing this update with people in your networks who would be interested in QPI-MN. To be added to the QPI-MN list, please send your email to gpi@aspiremn.org.

- All QPI-MN supporters have a story. Our stories inspire us and others to get involved in the important work of QPI-MN. Please consider sharing your story with QPI-MN [HERE](#).