



Quality Parenting Initiative – Minnesota

UPDATES AND INVITATIONS

Quality Parenting Initiative – Minnesota is made possible by the countless people who have brought their passion, personal experiences and expertise, hope and hard work to help shape and realize a QPI-MN vision for our children, youth and families. Thank you for your role in creating and sustaining 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 qpi@aspiremn.org.

FROM THE NATIONAL QPI MOVEMENT: the five core values of QPI are –

- Excellent parenting is the most important service we can provide to children and youth in care. Children need families, not beds.
- Child development and trauma research indicates that children need constant, consistent, effective parenting to grow and reach their full potential.
- Each community must define excellent parenting for itself.
- Policy and practice must be changed to align with that definition.
- Participants in the system are in the best position to recommend and implement that change.

SNAPSHOTS of QPI-MN SUCCESS – Grounded in Relationships, a foster parent's reflection:



Permanence, tranquility, solidity, stability, being grounded, strength. All these things I will wish for mom when we meet today. It isn't very common for bio parents to be included in placement meetings, especially the first one, but because the agency I am licensed through is so in tune with the importance of connectedness, bio parent involvement, and making sure reunification remains at the forefront of this thing called foster care, bio mom accepted the invitation.

I picked this rock up today to give to mom so that she can find strength, stability, and tranquility in her journey and also as a symbol of my dedication to her and her son along the way.

INVITATION – JOIN A NEW ACTION WORK GROUP

Action Work Groups are where the work of QPI-MN is taking the greatest shape. In September, the QPI-MN Steering Committee named and launched the following new Action Work Groups. The goal is for each Action Work Group to complete its work within 8-10 months, and then a new Action Work Group is designed based on the desires and needs of those seeing the work of QPI take shape. This second round of Action Work Groups is ready to launch into action with their first meetings taking place in the coming weeks. **Please send your interest to participate in an Action Work Group to**

gpi@aspiremn.org. Co-chairs strive to have meeting times and locations (all are accessible via web-based meeting or phone) meet the needs of Action Work Group members so all can participate.

Action Work Groups – launching October 2018:

- **Administrative** – website development, evaluation, email list management, communications and other QPI-MN administrative tasks will benefit from the discussions and direction set within this group.
- **Connections** – preparing for family reunification and permanency placements for children and youth is the phase two focus of this Action Work Group, along with the interests of those who participate and shape the ongoing work of this vital part of the QPI-MN mission and design for children and families.
- **Kinship** – assuring timely information, resources and training for kin as they welcome the placement of a child in their family is the important work that will carry forward and be further defined by all those who participate in this Action Work Group.
- **Youth Voice** – a prominent QPI-MN 2018 goal is to assure youth voice is sought in all junctures of the processes children and youth go through as they are removed, placed, and supported on their journey to their permanent home. This Action Work Group will propose approaches to assure child and youth voice is sought, heard, and responded to throughout their journey.
- **Foster Parent Voice** – as the stakeholders with some of deepest perspective and insight, foster parents are gathering to develop and share key points of view and recommendations for QPI-MN consideration and implementation.

Again, please share your interest by sending your contact information and the name of the Action Work Group you would like to join to gpi@aspiremn.org. Thank you!

QPI-MN IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCE GROUP

This group was established to push forward implementation of QPI-MN priorities by creating opportunities for collaboration, shared learning and mutual support for leaders and sites seeking to implement QPI-MN priorities, and, those seeking to learn more about implementation. In discussions over time the group will identify progress and barriers to implementation, capture learnings and share feedback on implementation topics with the wider QPI-MN community. QPI-MN priorities being piloted and discussed at the Implementation Resource Group are the:

- Out of Home Placement Contact Form
- Initial Child Youth Information Form
- Comfort Call
- Circle of Support Meetings

The next meeting is Oct. 26, 9-10, please RSVP to Kate Rickord at krickord@stdavidscenter.org.

RESOURCES

- A new power point overview of QPI-MN was developed for presentation at the MSSA Metro Conference this month and is posted on the [QPI MN page](#) also available at www.aspiremn.org/gpi. This updated presentation outlines the QPI MN story to date, and, the direction this important work is heading. Please review and share the content as is useful to you.

NEXT MEETINGS

- **Implementation Resource Group**, October 26 at 9-10am, at Family Alternatives, please RSVP to Kate Rickord at krickord@stdavidscenter.org

- **QPI MN Steering Committee** November 16, 10-12
- **Carole Shauffer to speak at MACSSA** on November 7 to share with MN Counties about QPI learning from the national QPI network and shape the vision for how QPI-MN can grow and impact children, youth and families.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

KINSHIP FAMILY CAREGIVER CONFERENCE & RESOURCE FAIR - What?

Are you raising a relative's child? We want to help! Find educational, financial, legal, and social support at the Kinship Resource Fair. Presentations, workshops, and a wide range of community agencies ready to answer questions and help you find support. Free event, refreshments and limited childcare available with registration. **Who?** Kinship caregivers and professionals who support kinship caregivers. **When?**

Saturday, November 3, 10:45-3:15 at the Center for Changing Lives at 2400 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, 55404. [Learn more here.](#)



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 qpi@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](#).