

Recruiter's Meeting

Date: 04/21/2020

Time: 11am – 12:30pm

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. COVID-19: Discuss Challenges and Strategies
 - a. Challenge: Technology:
 - i. Discussed challenges associated with moving to virtual visits, virtual health and safety visits, and interviews for applicants
 - b. Katie, from Fostering Family, provided an update on challenges discussed in Fostering Family Partner Meeting:
 1. Not being able to see our kiddos and families face-to-face
 2. Engagement challenges: volunteer engagement, donor engagement, etc.
 3. Internet Speed issues, technology challenges, access to technology
 4. Struggle for families to have basic needs met (food, diapers, etc.)
 5. Visitation: navigating technology needs
 6. Success: Foster parents are really stepping up for kids, and older youth are adjusting/responding well to online
 - c. Challenge: Keeping youth busy and feeling supported, helping youth understand the importance of social distancing
 - d. Challenge: FPs who have lost their jobs, added burden of financial stress and uncertainty
 - e. Success: Amara has had great turn-out to their virtual information meetings!
3. FCFC/WACF Updates: Shawn, from FoY, provided updates from the 4/2/20 WACF meeting
 - a. A survey was completed for Jill May on technology needs for our families
 - b. Discussed family time contract
 - c. Discussed visitation challenges – success is that there seems to be less push-back/everyone seems more onboard with not having in-person visits
 - d. Challenge: not getting a ton of guidance from DCYF on virtual health and safety visits
 - e. Discussed placement disruption due to challenges from COVID-19
 - f. Discussed CPA contract
4. RDS Updates:
 - a. Many RDS meetings are canceled, and those that are meeting virtually are not currently sharing data, but data should be shared across the board for when we return to in-person meetings (from our understanding)
 - b. RDS is currently being restructured – LD to take more of a leadership role – especially around data usage – these changes should be implemented in a few months
 - i. There is a new retention contract – working to have a better idea of how RDS will operate/what this will look like
5. Agency Updates
 - a. Fostering Together:

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- i. Twice a week virtual training options are going really well! Approximately 50-75 people in attendance – TBRI training has about 100 people in attendance every week
 - ii. New informal virtual support groups offered during the day – about 5-8 people in attendance on average
 - iii. Also offering virtual sessions for application assistance and Q&A sessions – about 10 people in attendance on average
 - iv. All trainings/support through May are on the FT website and Facebook page
 - v. FT partnered with United Indians for All Tribes Foundation to provide 30 minute virtual Day Break Cultural Connections for youth and families! You can learn more on their website or Facebook
- b. Friends of Youth:
 - i. Continuing to do Foster Friday social posts – working with a marketing firm – their goal is to do short videos for folks to learn more and take action
 - ii. Every year they send thank you post cards to their families and will be doing that soon
 - iii. Licensing: 18 homes currently licensed, 4 in process
 - iv. Retention: recording and translating trainings in Spanish for their Spanish-speaking families – Izzie offered to share these recordings for folks interested
- c. CCS:
 - i. Licensed a few new homes during this time
 - ii. A few applications are in process and about 8 folks are pre-application
 - iii. LD instructed them to withdraw some applications for folks who are unable to get the medical report completed due to COVID-19 challenges with medical providers/offices
 - iv. Providing online zoom support groups for their families and online orientation
- d. Amara:
 - i. Update from Kari:
 - 1. Still doing virtual information meetings and having great success! Their attendance numbers are the same or higher in comparison to past in-person sessions
 - 2. Amara is not currently assigning new Social Workers or doing home studies at this time, so Kari is working to keep folks engaged until the shelter-in-place is lifted
 - 3. Have had a couple licenses come through this month
 - 4. Clinical team is continuing to support families during this time
 - ii. Amara is piloting a virtual activity program for sanctuary staff and volunteers, providing individual and group sessions for kiddos in Amara homes to keep kids engaged in activities and retain families – if this goes well, they may open this up to other families not licensed with Amara
 - iii. Fostering Family Update:
 - 1. Update on Fostering Family Partner Meeting: working on developing a united communication front for supporting youth and families experiencing foster care
 - 2. Working on social media toolkit for partners
 - 3. Postponing their sound transit educational ad campaign from April to July - are also doing an online campaign to educate the community and connect them with ways to get involved
- e. YMCA:
 - i. 53 families currently licensed – licensed 10 families in the last quarter
 - ii. 23 families in the licensing process at different stages

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- iii. Continuing to focus on how best to support our families and kiddos during this time – supporting virtual visits, dropping off supplies and activities for kids, etc.
- iv. The YMCA of Greater Seattle is offering childcare at our closed facilities for first responders/essential workers
- v. Kymber is working on a COVID-19 Resource Spreadsheet – will share with the group

6. Ideas:

- a. Mapping out our service areas and areas of expertise
 - i. Everyone is onboard with creating an internal document to track what areas we all serve to help us in making referrals to each other
 - ii. Fostering Together is applying for the retention contract and are hoping to update their website with a tool where folks can input their zip code and see what agencies serve their area and what services they provide! 😊
 - iii. Kymber will create a template in google docs and send to the group
- b. Other ideas?

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday 5/19/20 11am-12:30pm

8. Closing & Last Thoughts