

YOUTH LAW CENTER

Quality Parenting Initiative Newsletter



Happy New Year to all of our QPI partners! We are so excited to begin a new year with all of you and to support your leadership in innovation to improve outcomes for children.



Many QPI sites have identified challenges to caregiver participation as equal, valued, respected partners in Court. Ensuring caregivers are educated about the Court process, and participating in court as required

by the Adoption Safe Families Act is a goal for many sites. QPI Philadelphia, together with the Department of Human Services, has created an informational handout for caregivers called "What About Court Participation? What Foster Parents Should Know." that can be a model for other sites. Additionally, they have improved a court notification letter for caregivers that further explains their rights under the law, and made it easier for caregivers to submit a report to the court on how the child is doing. We hope other QPI sites will model their great work. Contact Cecilia Rivas on SLACK or at Cecilia.Rivas@phila.gov with any questions.



The Division of Children and Family Services in Cuyahoga County is working to improve the supports to caregivers of LGBTQ youth in foster care. DCFS is creating the Pride Caregiver Network, a program aimed at supporting caregivers to help

LGBTQ youth avoid certain dangers such as substance abuse, mental health issues, suicide and homelessness. While these are issues for all teens, LGBTQ youth are particularly at risk. Cuyahoga County is one of just four locations in the country now training current and future foster parents on action they can take to ensure LGBTQ youth thrive. Check out Cuyahoga County's new "Cuyahoga PRIDE" page on their QPI website! It provides information about their program as well as other print and video resources. www.QPICuyahoga.org.



We now have more than 75 QPI sites nationwide and our website needs some updating! Check out this link to see if your site is on the map and that we have the correct contact information:

<http://www.qpi4kids.org/pages/siteleaders.html>. If you have not already responded via SLACK, we need you to provide your correct QPI site, the current site leader(s) name and their email(s) to Celina Granato at cgranato@qpiylc.org. Thank you!



Our rural QPI sites face unique geographic and resource challenges in their work to transform foster care to prioritize excellent parenting. QPI Nevada is meeting the challenges of ensuring their rural regions are included, engaged and making progress in QPI. Check out the NV DCFS Rural Region's incredible QPI work to support birth and foster parent relationships such as rolling out Co-Parenting Agreements, Icebreakers and Comfort Calls, online at: <http://www.qpinevada.org/ruralregion/pages/documents.html>.

Check SLACK for more information on a new national QPI call to support and enhance the QPI work being done in rural communities.



Mark your calendars for the upcoming QPI National Conference, April 29th—May 1st in Philadelphia. Early registration cost is \$395/person. Online registration is now available at <http://bit.ly/QPINational2019>

We look forward to everyone participating in another exciting opportunity to learn from one another and to make this the most successful QPI National event yet!