

# YOUTH LAW CENTER

## Quality Parenting Initiative Newsletter



One of the most rewarding aspects of working with our QPI partners is to learn from all of the creative, thoughtful innovations that you are developing and implementing across the nation. Your work offers inspiration and hope to the field that we can transform foster care to prioritize love and relationships.

opportunities for faith based communities and local businesses to offer support and resources so recruitment and retention can be a community effort. To learn more, visit QPI Minnesota's new website at: [www.qpimn.org](http://www.qpimn.org).



The Just Beginning Fatherhood program was co-developed by YLC and Georgetown University to build and strengthen the relationship between incarcerated teen parents and their children, particularly fathers. We're excited that the JB program has now been recognized by the federal government as a promising practice! Learn more here: <https://youth.gov/#pager> or <https://youth.gov/collaboration-profiles/just-beginning>.

AZ, FL, NV, MN, and LA QPI leaders shared their QPI work and best practices with child welfare national partners at a CHAMPS and Brookings Institution event in January. The event brought together leaders in the field to share ideas and examples of best practice in foster parent recruitment, retention and support. In March, CHAMPS will issue a toolkit on recruitment and retention that incorporates the great ideas exchanged at the convening. The toolkit will be a resource for agencies and stakeholders as they develop their state "diligent recruitment" plans, which are due in June. Check out the CHAMPS site at: <http://fosteringchamps.org/>



Many of our QPI sites have built community partnerships to ensure youth in foster care have access to the extracurricular activities that research tells us provide critical family supports and meaningful educational, social, and developmental supports. YLC has issued a new policy/practice brief to support our sites' efforts laying out the steps systems can take to overcome barriers to access. Please visit <https://ylc.org/news/ylc-publishes-policy-brief-on-importance-of-extracurriculars/> and share.



Families First Network, of NW Florida is leading the way in supporting trauma based care in their QPI work. FFN has developed a specialized CARES team

that works toward reducing the trauma inflicted on children and families at the time of removal. The CARES team will assist birth and foster families in developing co-parenting relationships through comfort calls and ice breaker meetings. The team will continue to serve families for approximately 2-3 weeks after the children have been placed to ensure that the immediate needs of the family and children are being met.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to serving children and families!



QPI Minnesota has just launched Connected Kids Initiative to engage the community in recruiting and supporting families in foster care. CKI provides