

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



QUALITY PARENTING INITIATIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

SPECIAL NOTICE #15-15

- ❖ Background of QPI
- ❖ Policy of Partnership Agreement
- ❖ Regionalization Plan
- ❖ Regional Ambassadors
- ❖ Quarterly Trainings
- ❖ Partnership Agreement Procedures



QPI REGIONAL AMBASSADOR



Ambassadors are Foster Parents and Agency staff

Duties consist of:

- ✓ Maintain visibility of QPI in their region
- ✓ Provide resources for foster parents and social workers
- ✓ Facilitate communication between team members & ensure information sharing is consistent
- ✓ Support placements and minimize disruptions



AMBASSADOR

Central

Region



QPI MISSION STATEMENT

Foster Parents in San Diego County make an enduring, emotional commitment to each child and provide excellent parenting in a safe nurturing family. They are volunteers who are **valued, respected, skilled members of a professional team** that works collaboratively to meet the needs of the individual child. They nurture and support connections with the child's family, community and culture. They give children a sense of stability and safety so that children can reach their potential and live healthy, productive lives.

NEW LOCATION!
CENTRAL REGION
4305 University Avenue
San Diego CA, 92105

Meet your QPI
Ambassadors



A resource for BOTH Foster Parents and Social Workers

- Have a question about your placement?
- Need information about additional trainings?
- Need Information about resources in your neighborhood?
- Questions about QPI?
- Not sure who to call?

QPI Ambassadors are available to answer general questions, facilitate communication between team members on cases, and provide resources.

The Ambassadors work with QPI programs leaders to coordinate regional QPI activities that strengthen relationships and teamwork between social workers and foster parents through meet and greets, joint training, QPI Quarterlies, etc.



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Placement Worker
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Lorraine Mattox
Foster Parent
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Angelina Thomas
Placement Worker
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QUARTERLY TRAININGS



These conjoint trainings are for foster parents and agency staff, presented by a foster parent and agency staff. The same topic is trained countywide every quarter with the goal of facilitating communication and building relationships.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



The Partnership Agreement articulates a common understanding between Child Welfare Services (CWS) staff and caregivers about the values, principles, expectations and relationships for children in out-of-home care.

Four Core Areas

- Caregivers and Agency Staff Work Together as *Respected Partners*
- Nurturing Children and Youth
- Supporting Families
- Strengthening Communities

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT DOCUMENT



County of San Diego Partnership Agreement

Children need normal childhoods as well as loving and skillful parenting that honor their loyalty to their biological family and their need to develop and maintain permanent lifelong connections.



AGENCY STAFF EXPECTATIONS

Caregivers and Agency Staff Work Together as Respected Partners

- Agency staff will conduct themselves in a professional manner and will work together with caregivers as a respected partner.
- Agency staff will share all relevant information regarding the child and family within the County established guidelines.
- Agency staff will support and facilitate caregiver participation in all team meetings and court hearings.
- Agency staff will provide timely notification to the caregiver for team meetings and court hearings.
- Agency staff will provide an alternative way for caregivers to participate in all team meetings if the caregiver cannot be present.

Nurturing Children and Youth

- Agency staff will provide caregivers with the services and support they need to be excellent parents.
- Agency staff will support caregivers in overcoming barriers to full participation in family life and activities.
- Agency staff will participate and adhere to the child's transition plan developed by team members.
- Agency staff is expected to remain current on trauma informed practice.
- Agency staff will support the child's connections to culture & ethnicity.

Supporting Families

- Agency staff will support caregivers by working together as a team by communicating the family's reunification plan.
- Agency staff will support a smooth transition plan for the child by sharing information about him/her, and support contact between the child and initial foster family.
- Agency staff will provide caregivers with information, guidance and support necessary to fulfill their responsibility.

Strengthening Communities

- Agency staff will support the caregiver's role as an advocate and respect their input.
- Agency staff will share with caregiver's information about the child's health and well being.
- Agency staff will support and facilitate the caregivers participation with all of the child's educational needs.
- Agency staff will support caregiver's decisions that meet the prudent parent standards.
- Agency staff will work with caregivers in facilitating appropriate opportunities to allow children and youth to learn and practice life skills and have hands-on experiences in preparation for transition to adulthood.

County of San Diego Partnership Agreement

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FOSTER PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Caregivers and Agency Staff Work Together as Respected Partners

- Caregivers will conduct themselves in a professional manner and will work together with Agency staff as a respected partner.
- Caregivers will share all relevant information and will provide input for the child's case plan.
- Caregivers will respect the privacy & confidentiality of all information related to the child & family.
- Caregivers will participate in all team meetings and court hearings.
- Caregivers will obtain and maintain records that are important and relevant to the child's well-being.

Nurturing Children and Youth

- Caregivers will provide excellent parenting by being trauma informed.
- Caregivers must be willing and able to learn about child's culture & ethnicity to support the child's connections.
- Caregivers will fully incorporate the child into their family activities, including vacations.
- Caregiver will not give notice to remove child unless the removal is demonstrated to be in the best interest of the child or poses a safety risk to the child, caregivers or others in the home.
- Caregiver will participate and adhere to the child's transition plan developed by team members.
- Caregivers are expected to take advantage of all trainings they need to improve their skills as excellent parents.

Supporting Families

- Caregivers will facilitate continuity for the child, with biological family by encouraging participation in medical related care, school, and other important activities.
- Caregivers will facilitate a smooth transition to another placement by sharing information about the needs of the child.
- Caregivers will respect and support the child's ties to family (parents, siblings, extended family members), and other significant relationships, and will assist the child in maintaining these relationships through facilitating appropriate visitation and other forms of communication in accordance with the case plan.

Strengthening Communities

- Caregivers will advocate for children with the Agency, the court, and community agencies.
- Caregivers will support the child's school success; including: participating in IEP meetings, attending school events, school conferences assisting with school assignments and advocate/support tutoring.
- Caregivers will provide developmentally appropriate opportunities to allow children and youth to learn and practice life skills and have hands-on experiences in preparation for transition to adulthood.

X
ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT, *Agency Staff*

Date: _____

X
ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT, *Caregiver*

Date: _____