



CDSS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

March 29, 2011

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-16-11

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY WELFARE FISCAL OFFICERS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: QUALITY PARENTING INITIATIVE CONVENING

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-83-09

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

The purpose of this ACIN is to invite counties to a convening for the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI). The purpose of the convening will be to review our approach to strengthening foster care through the existing QPI pilot counties and to identify strategies for additional counties to utilize the QPI to recruit and retain high quality foster caregivers.

The QPI began in 2009 as a collaborative effort with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and the Youth Law Center with support from the Stuart, Walter S. Johnson and David B. Gold Foundations. The goal of the QPI Initiative, formally known as the Caregiver Recruitment and Retention Pilot, is to develop a statewide approach to recruiting and retaining high quality caregivers to provide excellent care to children in California's child welfare system. Over the past year, nine California counties have begun to implement this approach.

The convening is an opportunity to learn more about the experiences of the nine county pilots and about QPI in general, and to determine how QPI could be implemented in your county. At the convening we will also discuss steps toward developing a statewide distance learning plan and a coordinated media campaign on the changing role of foster parents and other caregivers.

Convening Details:

We are asking each county to bring up to five persons to the convening. County attendees should include the County Director or Child Welfare Director, at least two foster parents, and may also include recruitment and case management staff, youth and birth parents. Limited financial support may be available to assist with travel costs if necessary. In addition, to facilitate broad participation, additional attendees will be able to participate in real time by webinar.

Counties may choose one date/location from below most convenient to their county team:

- Southern California Counties –
May 25, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sheraton Garden Grove
12221 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove, CA 92840
Main Phone Number: (714) 703-8400
- Northern California Counties-
June 2, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sheraton Grand
1230 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 447-1700

Counties interested in participating should contact: Monica Caprio, Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice, University of California, Davis at (530) 752-9726 or mcaprio@ucde.ucdavis.edu

The Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and QPI:

As you are aware, in 2008 the Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) of California's child welfare system. The final report found that California lacked a sufficient number of caregivers and foster homes. The report stated that the existing caregivers and foster homes did not reflect the racial/ethnic diversity of children in care. The CFSR also reported stakeholder concerns over lack of state leadership with regard to recruitment efforts. The CDSS has been afforded the opportunity to utilize QPI to satisfy some of the action steps in the PIP relating to recruitment and retention. The convening will afford

all counties the opportunity to participate in the QPI to promote best practices in local recruitment and retention, and county teams will have an opportunity to inform CDSS efforts in recruiting loving, high quality foster caregivers.

If you have any questions regarding the convening, please contact Karen Grace-Kaho, the California Foster Care Ombudsman, at (916) 653-4296. For additional information regarding the QPI, and the pilot sites, please review CDSS' 2009 ACIN at: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acin/2009/I-83_09.pdf , visit www.justbeginning.org, or contact Mamie Yee, at myee@ylc.org, who can direct you to further information.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: CWDA
California Probation Officers of California