



Division/Section – Child Welfare
Chapter - Memorandum
Part No./Name – 2018
Section No. – Quality Parenting Initiative Update and Practice Guidance
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The Quality Parenting Initiative was officially launched in Louisiana August 2016 with a statewide kickoff in Baton Rouge, LA. In the months preceding that launch, Covington and Lafayette DCFS regions piloted QPI, guiding the state in planning and the implementation going forward. Since that time, all regions have been engaged in collaborating with birth parents, foster parents, relative caregivers, community partners and stakeholders in identifying strategies to improve the quality of care for children within our child welfare system. Many regions have demonstrated significant progress in engaging staff and stakeholders resulting in new court processes, community and faith based partner supports and services, improved foster and birth parent relationships, and greater foster and birth parent involvement in case planning. In regions where each of these has been implemented, a positive impact on the care children receive and on staff and stakeholder satisfaction has been reported.

Year 2 training was held between February and May 2018 in all regions with over 1000 staff, foster parents, birth parents and community partners participating. The training focused on initial core concepts and standards of practice being implemented within DCFS. These best practice standards include Initial Calls, Icebreaker Meetings and Planful Transitions. Detailed information and instruction was provided on the use of Initial Calls and Icebreakers and staff advised to begin implementation of these quality standards of practice. Information was also provided on the importance of developing Planful Transitions for each child who must move, regardless if it is an initial placement, foster care replacement, or move to achieve permanency.

Practice Guides were developed with the input of field staff on each of the above practice standards, along with a guide focusing on incorporating QPI philosophy and practice into Initial Removals. These guides are attached for your use and review and will be posted on the DCFS website within the QPI section. Also attached is the Confidentiality Practice Guide which was unofficially released in 2017 and is now being incorporated into the QPI Practice Guide forms section.

Each of the 3 core standards of practice (Initial Call, Icebreaker Meetings, Transition Planning) are to be implemented no later than September 1, 2018, recognizing many regions have already implemented some, if not all. Each supervisor should review the attached practice guides with each member of their staff prior to September 1. Documentation of Initial Calls and Icebreakers should be made within each individual case files, along with copies of the All About Me form or any other information gathering forms used. Documentation of engaging birth parents, foster parents, and child in development of transition plans should also be included in the child's case file along with a copy of the plan. As QPI is a philosophical approach and practice across all of child welfare and not a stand-alone procedure, policy will continue to be updated embedding QPI philosophies and practice standards within each area of child welfare practice, rather than as a separate section.

For additional information on QPI practices and on line training opportunities, please refer to the DCFS website, www.QP4kids.org or www.LCWTA.org or contact DCFSfostercare.dcf@la.gov.