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| Issue:  | Importance to QPI Practice  | Examples of Accomplishments |
| Improved Transitions: Changing policy and practice to minimize trauma to children and youth during transitions through partnership with child welfare agency staff and foster families | Foster families are equal, respected valued partners with child welfare agencyFoster families have information needed to provide excellent parenting to children and youth Child development reflected in child welfare practice  | Sonoma: Developed and implemented a transitions mission statement and guidelines to assist foster parents and social workers with creating thoughtful transitions between placements to meet the unique needs of each child or youth. Orange: Developed and implemented transition policy for all children entering or exiting a placement. Kings: Early stages of implementation on interview checklists for caregivers, birth families and youth to share information about child during transitions.Kings: Early implementation of youth exit interviewsShasta: Developed and implemented transitions policy |
| Increased Partnership: Changing policy and practice to systematically encourage partnerships between child welfare agency and foster families to improve lives and outcomes for children and youth | Foster families are equal respected, valued partners with child welfare agency, especially in case plan decisionsFoster families are supported by agency in providing excellent parenting to children and youth  | Stanislaus: Implementation of Team Decision Making Meetings with caregiversStanislaus: Implementation of Child Family Teams with caregiversMadera: Implementation of mandatory TDM on all placement moves with care providers always invited.San Diego: Established Foster/Adoptive Parent Ombudsman to provide assistance to caregivers experiencing placement or licensing challengesSan Diego:  Revised CWS Needs & Service Plan document based on Foster Parent inputSan Diego: Established QPI Ambassador Pilot Program to improve coordination of support and services between caregivers and CWSKings: Develop and maintain list of foster family “specialties” for placement purposesSF: Included Partnership Agreement in Licensing and NREFM Orientations. Included partnership agreement in RFA packets, attached to “Dear Caregiver” letter/packet. All RFA workers have knowledge of getting signature for this form.Sonoma: Implementation of Partnership Plan. Held several joint trainings of all foster families and social workersSan Diego: Developed San Diego County QPI Partnership Agreement to clarify roles and responsibilities between CWS and caregivers. Implementation in FY 15/16Glenn: Implemented partnership planKings: Partnership plan included in RFA Orientation, added to PRIDE training, and given to families at placement |
| Improved Information Sharing: Developing policy and practice to ensure foster families receive information necessary to provide excellent parenting children and work as partners with the child welfare agency.  | Foster families are equal, respected valued partners with child welfare agencyFoster families have information needed to provide excellent parenting to children and youth  | San Diego: Conducted CWS Policy Reviews of Confidentiality and Data Sharing to improve communication specific to child placements and transitionsGlenn: Developed policy on Medical Records-FFA social worker and families need to provide information; additional information will assist in obtaining and documenting psychotropic medication in a timely manner, pediatrician does quarterly training locally.Sonoma: County counsel worked with CDSS on information sharing policy and delivered trainings for caregivers and social workers.  |
| Improved Communication: Improve communication between child welfare agency and foster families  | Foster families are equal, respected valued partners with child welfare agencyFoster families have information needed to provide excellent parenting to children and youth  | SF: QPI staff attends monthly Foster Parent Association meetings to share information, get feedback and assistance in implementing any recommended changes. SF: Gathering and using emails to share information with care providers. This has resulted in an increase in attendance to all our events/trainingMadera: Creation of facebook page for foster familiesVentura: Developed bi-monthly newsletter for foster and relative caregivers to increase information sharingSan Diego: Implemented CWS Regional Meet & Greets between foster parents & social workers to enhance communication and relationshipsOrange: Updated Voice mail messages to ensure caregivers can reach worker immediately and know when they will receive call back. San Luis Obispo: Implemented annual resource family “customer feedback” surveySan Luis Obispo: Implemented Fall Foster Social Worker/Foster Parent annual conference where trained facilitators encourage conversation and sharingSan Luis Obispo: Created new website for DSS foster parents with resources, trainingSan Luis Obispo: Developed a Placement Review survey that is sent at 90 days post placement, and after placement ends to get information about how the placement went. |
| Partnership with Birth Families: Child welfare agency encourages and supports co-parenting, mentoring of birth families by caregivers.  | Developmentally appropriate child welfare practice: child’s relationship with birth family is maintained. Improvements in reunification and decrease in re-entries  | Madera, Sonoma, Orange, Shasta and Glenn: Implementation of IcebreakersKings: Implementation of “Purposeful Visitation” where Birth Parents are prepared for meaningful visitations with their child(ren), including partnering with foster families; and Care Providers preparing foster children for visitation with their parents to reduce trauma. |
| Increased Supports: Foster families receive the supports necessary to provide excellent parenting to children and youth | Foster families are supported by agency in providing excellent parenting to children and youth  | Sonoma: Developed a Foster Family Resources Closet to assist foster families with basic needs including toys and gifts, clothing, shoes, baby equipment, diapers, school supplies, books, and backpacks.Sonoma: Implemented support program for foster families of teens Ventura: increased respite care support for caregiversSan Diego: Established foster parent support group for caregivers with teens to increase support and to reduce recruitment and placement barriers Glenn: Hosted county wide weekend evening support meeting and provided childcare for families resulting in much greater attendance than last meeting.SF: Assisted caregivers with events for the foster parents and youth in their home such as: Annual Health Fair; Annual Holiday Party; Annual Foster Parent Appreciation, Foster Care Month Events, etc. San Luis Obispo: Developed Proposal to create a Resource Family and Foster Youth support unit and a Rapid Screening and Referral Team to ensure early screening of children and referral to appropriate post-placement supportsSan Luis Obispo: Created a Foster Youth Enrichment Program that provides a monthly group outing for foster youth such as: Sporting event, Theater shows, Sports clinics, Art lessons. Some events are also opened to the foster family in addition to the youth (very popular). Individual requests are also considered for families/youth with specific interests. San Luis Obispo: Designated a staff member who calls all foster parents within 48 hours of new placementsSanta Clara: Implemented caregiver mentoring program, looking for LGBQT mentors and other areas of concentration Sonoma: Drafted materials to begin caregiver mentoring programOrange and San Luis Obispo: Implemented foster parent mentoring programSan Luis Obispo: Created mentor training curricula manual and established monthly stipend for mentors.  |
| Improved Training: Improved training (content and method) to support foster families in providing excellent parenting to children and youth  | Foster families are supported by agency in providing excellent parenting to children and youth  | SF: Conducted focus groups with caregivers to get feedback on foster parent trainings provided by the county. Made adjustments to the training curriculum with input from caregivers and will roll out the new curriculum at the start of July/August Pre-Service training cycle . SF: Started Joint Trainings with CBO/County staff and CaregiversSF: Developed specialized trainings based on caregiver’s needs. San Francisco Foster Parent Association started quarterly meetings/trainings with the SF Deputy Director. Training topics include: AB 12/ sexually exploited foster youth, licensing updates, etc. Training topics are selected by the foster parents.Madera: Provision of childcare at all trainingsMadera: Offering online trainingsVentura: Developed and implemented QPI 21st century foster family training curriculumSan Diego: Expanded Community College Foster/Adoption curriculum to increase training of QPI related coursesSan Diego: Increased annual foster parent training by 8 hours additional hours of required attendance at Foster Parent Support group. Kings: Implemented training on QPI/RFAShasta: Enhanced pre-service and in-service curriculum with QPI contentHumboldt: Foster families have begun co-facilitation of PRIDE.San Luis Obispo: Implemented annual joint training of foster families and social workers to improve communication, build teamwork and build skills. Staff are invited to monthly foster parent Academy trainings (renamed the Child Welfare Academy)San Luis Obispo: Revised foster parent newsletter to include content on trauma informed parenting, needs of older youth and transition to adulthood, and the option of returning a short quiz to get one hour training credit. |
| Recruitment: Improving recruitment by better engaging foster families as key recruiters, aligning messages to highlight need for excellent parenting and QPI principles of partnership, working with birth families, and developmentally appropriate care.  | Ensuring recruitment efforts attract and encourage families willing and able to provide high quality care and meet responsibilities in partnership agreements | Ventura: Launched recruitment and retention focused website: [www.fostervckids.org](http://www.fostervckids.org/); launch of Homes with Heart recruitment campaign and overall Foster VC kids branding project;Orange: Launched Mission Possible-recruitment of foster homes for teensGlenn: Launched recruitment CampaignKings: Developed new recruitment campaign changing focus from rescuing children from unsafe environments to nurturing children & mentoring families.Shasta and Humboldt: Implemented “Fosterware” recruitment parties. Very successful in utilizing existing families to raise awareness and recruiting new familiesHumboldt: County has purchased business cards for existing foster families to utilize to assist them in their recruitment efforts. Humboldt: Redesigned county website, adding a FAQ for publicSanta Clara: Worked with foster families, youth, agency staff, social workers to develop support, engagement, and recruitment strategies for the countySF: Partnered with caregivers in recruitment effortsSan Luis Obispo: Implemented Foster Friendly businesses Program where 27 participating community businesses offer a small discount to foster families. In return they receive a window cling that identifies them as a “Foster Friendly business”. Our recruitment number is also on the window cling. Foster families are given an identification card for recruitment.  |