



WHAT MAKES A QPI SITE SUCCESSFUL?

1. Elements of QPI

- a. Commitment to parenting that meets the individual developmental needs of each child in the foster care system in view of his or her unique characteristics and circumstance including his or her history of trauma and separation
- b. Commitment to making this parenting a priority
- c. Commitment to recruiting and retaining excellent parents rather than having vague or low standards for ability, commitment and performance (foster, kinship, unrelated kin)
- d. Agreement to involve the people who do the work in policy and practice change
- e. Agreement to involve all parts of the child welfare community in establishing and implementing standards
- f. Agreement on the empirical elements of excellent parenting: What is expected of foster parents and what should foster parents expect in return
- g. Agreement on a brand statement
- h. Identification and elimination of barriers to and development of policies and practices that support excellence in all parts of the system

2. Qualities of successful sites

- a. Functional System
- b. Ability to coordinate QPI with other initiatives rather than running multiple side by side projects
- c. Leadership with a strong commitment to and understanding of the principles and process of QPI demonstrated by:
 - i. Ensuring that key staff, foster parents, kin, etc., attend through personal invitation, attendance at initial session, etc.
 - ii. Allocation of resources staff time and financial if necessary
 - iii. Meeting regularly with QPI staff and local coordinator to discuss, address and resolve challenges
 - iv. Willingness to making changes that the QPI steering committee recommends to the extent possible
 - v. Openness to criticism, new ideas and change as well as to input from all levels of the organization/community
 - vi. Coordinating of all parts of the system to implement recommended changes

- d. A QPI coordinator who has the necessary time, expertise, influence, creativity and authority to ensure participation and effect policy and practice change
- e. Consistent participation by those directly involved with parenting (CPS, licensing, foster parents, kin, birth parents, youth) and who have influence with their peers as well as key managers demonstrated by:
 - i. Attendance at all introductory sessions
 - ii. Participation in work groups
 - iii. Participation in QPI steering committees
- f. Participation in activities with other sites
 - i. Monthly calls
 - ii. Conferences
 - iii. Webcasts and emails to share best practices
- g. Willingness and ability to develop an evaluation system including monitoring of policy and practice change as well as outcomes