



QUARTER 3

PIP 1.2.2

RURAL

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Rural DCFS will implement a pilot project of facilitated family meetings in an identified District for all emergency removals to identify alternative actions.

FACILITATED FAMILY MEETINGS PILOT PROJECT FOR RURAL NEVADA

TARGET: PAHRUMP DISTRICT OFFICE

The purpose of facilitated family meetings is to develop respectful partnerships with families while helping them to plan for the immediate needs of their children; and, to prevent children from coming into foster care. The meetings are ideally scheduled within 72 hours of the children being taken into protective custody. The family-driven process of decision-making supports the family in developing a plan of action while continued family assessment is completed. The process can include family, extended family, fictive kin, and both formal and informal supports. The outcome of the meeting supports child and family safety and stability. Pahrump has conducted two of these thus far and will continue to conduct a pilot within this region:

Family #1: Facilitated family meeting on 4/15/11. Child was placed in protective custody after findings of domestic violence and marijuana plants in the home. The parents, maternal grandparents, paternal grandparents, paternal grandparents' attorney, social worker attended the facilitated meeting. The meeting lasted for several hours assuring that all parties had a voice. All parties agreed that both sets of grandparents had adequate protective capacities and would share the physical custody of the child while the parents completed the assessment conditions of the case plan.

Family #2: Facilitated family meeting on 6/29/11. Paternal extended family traveled from California to meet with DCFS along with the mother of the children and a neighbor family identified as fictive kin. The family meeting was scheduled after the death of the 9 year old daughter in Pahrump. The mother appeared to have diminished protective capacities and was still actively grieving the recent death of her spouse. All children had been in the previous protective custody of DCFS. The paternal family appeared to be ready to develop a plan to take the 3 older children and place them within their homes in California. The family and neighbor/fictive kin were both supportive and gently confrontive with the mother. All parties agreed that the 3 older siblings were to be placed with the paternal family in California; however, they could not develop sufficient resources to care for the infant. All parties agreed that the neighbor/fictive kin would care for the infant. All parties agreed to frequent communication and sharing of information.