

PRESS RELEASE

The Department of Human Services
Monday, April 29, 2019

Contact:

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**Mayor Jim Kenney and Department of Human Services (DHS)
Commissioner Cynthia Figueroa to speak at Quality Parenting
Initiative National Conference**

EVENT: 2019 Quality Parenting Initiative National Conference

DATE: Tuesday, April 30, 2019

TIME: Opening Plenary Session 9am to 9:45am

Press encouraged to attend: 9am— (Mayor and Commissioner scheduled to speak at 9am)

PLACE: Loews Philadelphia Hotel, Millennium Hall, 2nd Floor, 1200 Market St.

Philadelphia, PA – On Tuesday, April 30, 2019 Mayor Jim Kenney and DHS Commissioner Cynthia Figueroa will deliver opening remarks at the 2019 Quality Parenting Initiative National Conference being held in Philadelphia. The 6th annual national conference will bring together over 300 youth, birth parents, kin, foster parents, child welfare agency staff and community partners from around the country to share policies and practices to transform the child welfare system.

All children and youth need excellent parenting to thrive. Child development and trauma research indicates that children need constant, consistent, effective parenting to grow and reach their full potential. With this knowledge, The Youth Law Center (YLC) of California, developed and implemented QPI: an approach to strengthening foster care, refocusing on excellent parenting for all children in the child welfare system.

QPI is creating a movement to transform foster care through a network of families, youth, agency leaders, judicial leaders, agency staff, and community organizations committed to developing and sharing results-based solutions, advocating for and implementing policy and practice changes, and changing the culture of child welfare. The commitment of local and state leaders, philanthropy and the community has moved the field to address some of the most serious adversity identified by children in the system. Initially adopted by three pilot sites in 2008, QPI now has a presence in 10 states and 70 sites across the country, including Philadelphia, PA.

2019 conference co-hosts, Philadelphia QPI, led by Philadelphia DHS, brings together a diverse group of stakeholders, including resource and natural parents, child welfare practitioners, child advocates, parent lawyers, and older youth. Together, they work as a team to support foster parents and strengthen the foster care system by developing policies and practices that are based on current child research to support skilled, loving parenting.

Since taking office, Mayor Kenney has prioritized improving outcomes for Philadelphia's most vulnerable populations, including children, youth, and families and has funded bold anti-poverty initiatives to make progress for every neighborhood.

"We are honored that Philadelphia was chosen to host the QPI national conference this year and believe it is the perfect location due to our commitment to strengthening families and increasing opportunities for children and youth," says Mayor Kenney. "When you have strong families you also have less crime, stronger schools, and thriving communities."

"We embrace QPI's vision of excellent parenting for all children. We are working hard to engage families of origin and resource parents collectively to ensure that children grow up loved and safe. DHS is committed to continuing its leadership of positive system changes initiated by Philadelphia QPI." said Cynthia Figueroa, DHS Commissioner.

About Us

The Philadelphia Department of Human Services is the county child welfare agency. We lead, support, coordinate and implement services to prevent and address child abuse and neglect; and operate juvenile justice programs for Philadelphia. www.phila.gov/dhs

If you have a question, complaint, concern, or suggestion about DHS and its operations call the Commissioner's Action Response Office (CARO) at 215-683-6000 or or dhscaro@phila.gov.

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