

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 12, 2015

6950 Levant St, San Diego

12:00 – 2:00

Present: Sandra Boelter, Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Barbie Caldwell, Fran Cooper, Wendy Curiel, Robyn Erickson, Ann Fox, Margo Fudge, Sharon Ippolito, Alice Kennedy, Diana Macis, Keila Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Katie Olson, Mike Palomino, Twila Perucci, Jacquie Pusateri, Jenny Rodriguez, Cristine Rosas-DiMaggio, Dolores Scruggs, Elaine Shelby, Marilyn Sprout, Barbara Wojtach,

- I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** February 12, 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Presentation: N/A**
- IV. Discussion:**

San Diego County Foster Parent Association - Mary Jo Meer

- Scholarships from Sleep Train are available for foster children and AB 12 youth; may be used for extracurricular activities.
- Sleep Train is not currently donating mattresses to the Association.

Loving Arms Foster Family Network—Elaine Shelby

- Association is developing programs for the summer.
- Working on increasing Association membership.

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- SFTH was robbed in December; have now installed a comprehensive security system.
- Received \$100,000 in Sleep Train donations of clothes, shoes, and pajamas for foster children.
 - Due to Sleep Train eligibility requirements, relative caretakers and NREFMs are not eligible to receive Sleep Train donations.
- Neighborhood Reinvestment money was used to purchase 88 new car seats and \$6,114 in gift cards for families.
 - Gift cards are available in \$40 increments. Foster parents and relative caretakers must go to SFTH to obtain gift cards. Unfortunately, guardians do not qualify for the gift cards.
- Straight from the Heart phone number is (760) 744-2240.
- Holiday toy distribution went very well; received items through Toys for Tots, Sleep Train and Hunter Industries.
- Holiday Party at Green Oaks was well attended and lots of fun!
- Baby shower for preemies was sponsored by the San Elijo Women's Club on February 10.
- Eagle Scouts will make and donate 100 baby blankets to SFTH.
- An anonymous donor gave \$700 to SFTH.

HHSA & Child Welfare Services – Alice Kennedy

- 26 new social workers are currently in SWIT training and are simultaneously completing on the job training in regions. CWS plans to hire on a quarterly basis to keep up with attrition.
- Parent Summit sponsored by the Child Abuse Coordinating Council and County of San Diego will be held on April 11 from 8:30am – 2pm at the Jacobs Center. It will highlight prevention and resources.
- San Diego is now a Title IV-E Waiver county. This allows more flexibility in how funds are spent. Safety Organized Practice coaching will be more prevalent and available to staff, as will emphasis on prevention, diversion, and reducing re-entry into the CWS system.
- **Live Well San Diego** Executive Summary is now posted on the County website. It provides information on community safety, health and well being, county-wide initiatives, and community partners.
- 7th Annual California Foster Care Education Summit will be held in Pasadena on March 23rd & 24th. Keynote speaker is Dr. Arlene Strauss from the State Board of Education, who created a Foster Youth Program for K-12. Former foster youth, Charlene Daniels, will also speak.

Quality Parenting Initiative –Diana Macis / Margo Fudge

- QPI National Convening was held in San Diego January 20-22; provided good information and networking opportunities; received good feedback!
- QPI is moving forward on both a state and federal level.
- Will participate in a webcam meeting next week to develop QPI workgroups at the state level.
- Introduction of the California QPI website, *qpicalifornia.org*, which contains training videos and resources for caretakers and social workers. Working with Grossmont FAKCE to modify the San Diego section of the website.
- QPI Ambassador Program involves partnering a foster parent and a placement social worker in each region; goal is for that team to be a resource for foster parents and social workers. QPI Ambassador Program is being piloted by Central region, with Lorrain Mattox as the QPI Ambassador foster parent.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri

- The CASS program is now fully staffed.
- Currently no waiting list for CASS.
- CASS staff are attending regional program integrity meetings to educate CWS staff about the CASS program.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program – Katie Olson

- DSEP staff completed over 100 developmental screenings at Polinsky and within the regions.
- If caretakers or social workers have concerns about child's development, DSEP is able to re-screen children.

Foster Care Education – Barbara Wojtach

- FAKCE Advisory Committee meeting was held with County staff and community partners; discussed summer training plan and future planning for the FAKCE program.
- Super Saturday will be held in June at the Handlery Hotel. This a conference-style program with different training sessions offered throughout the day. Key note speaker is Sade Burrell, former foster youth and graduate of USC. The first training of the day will be on Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). There will be two afternoon sessions with a variety of topics. Attendees will receive eight hours of training credit for the day.
- New Facebook Page: Grossmont College FAKCE. Please visit us on Facebook and “Like” us”!

Foster Home Licensing — Fran Cooper

- Foster Home Licensing has increased the number of Orientation sessions to serve more prospective foster/adoptive parents.
- Discussion:
 - TIPS attendance has been low; two North County Spanish TIPS classes were cancelled due to lack of enrollment; added a North County Spanish TIPS class for next semester; Balboa Spanish TIPS classes had low enrollment.
 - Prospective foster/adoptive parents may attend TIPS prior to attending Orientation.

Maxim Respite Care—Mike Palomino

- Maxim moved to the new office with larger orientation rooms.
- Hired many new respite providers in January!
- All respite requests have been filled rapidly.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists - All

- **South – Jenny Rodriguez:** South Region Placement staff has been busy with relative home assessments and working to move children out of Polinsky. Staff sometimes travel out of county to El Centro and Victorville to assess relatives.
- **East – Robyn Erickson:** East Region Placement staff are very busy with placements. Need more concurrent homes for infants. Working with PPAU to identify best first placement and avoid multiple moves.
- **North Central - Bernice Briggs:** Challenged to identify available homes for children under six years old. Currently looking for homes to care for medically fragile children.

Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services Operations—Ann Fox

- Foster Care Services Committee Voting Members are required to complete 2-hour ethics training every two years. Training is online. Emails will be sent with screen shot directions. Certificates will need to be printed and submitted.
- Enhanced KIDSline: Improvements to the KIDSline consist of prompts that connect the caller to the Special Care Rate Coordinator, Placement Coordinator's Office, Orientation information, Resource information, and the Foster Care Ombudsman (Bernice Briggs). Information and prompts are recorded in both English and Spanish.
 - KIDSline number is: 1-877-792-KIDS (5437)
- Will host a recruitment booth at Kuumba Fest in Horton Plaza on February 14 and 15.
- 54th Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet will be held on May 22 – Save the date!

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support Division – Wendy Curiel

- Resource Family Approval (RFA) is being implemented by the State of California. RFA involves having only one assessment standard and one process to assess and approve all caregivers for placement, including foster parents, relatives, and NREFMs.
 - San Diego CWS staff will travel to San Luis Obispo in February to learn how that county is piloting this new program. Orange County staff will also attend.
 - Santa Clara will implement RFA within the next six months.

Kinship Support Services – Ann Fox for Danielle Zuniga

- East Region Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) event will be held on March 28.
- Central Region Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) event will be held on May 16.
 - Flyers were distributed and will be forwarded via e-mail as well.
- Currently updating the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren handbook; anticipate distribution by the end March.
- Started a South Region English support group. Flyer distributed.

Polinsky Children’s Center – Marilyn Sprout

- Polinsky population is in the 40’s.

San Diego County Adoptions – Margo Fudge

- Ten additional staff are currently in Social Worker training, and will come to the Adoptions program in March. Additional staff will assist with Telling and will help move children towards permanency.
- In process of creating an electronic survey to help assess and improve the Adoptions process.
- Currently outsourcing adoption home studies to outside adoption agencies to expedite the home study process for more families.

Taking Care of Business - Bernice Briggs

- TCB will be held on March 28. Prospective foster/adoptive parents can submit their application, complete CPR/First Aid, obtain TB test, and get fingerprinted all in one day! This day of “one stop shopping” is a great way for families to complete many aspects of the licensing process all in one day.

V. NEXT MEETING:

**Thursday, March 12, 2015
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
6950 Levant Street, Room 1 A/B
San Diego, CA 92111**

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 1:05 pm