

## **FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, April 9, 2015**  
6950 Levant St, San Diego  
**12:00 – 2:00**

**Present:** Sandra Boelter, Bernice Briggs, Fran Cooper, Patricia Coleman , Wendy Curiel, Margo Fudge, Lucia Garcia, Alice Kennedy, Nicole LoCoco, Diana Macis, Dorothy Martin, Keila Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Dionne Puckett, Jenny Rodriguez, Arleth Rubio, Dolores Scruggs, Anita Secor, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach

- I. Sandra Boelter called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** March 12, 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion:**

### **HHSA & Child Welfare Services – Alice Kennedy**

- Free camp sponsored by the Lions Club at Camp Oliver called Camp Jack, Diana will send out an e-mail with the information. No cost designed for foster & at risk youth (ages 9-12 years old), with 72 available slots for each session. Youth may be referred by law enforcement and social workers. Dates for the sessions are July 26<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>; August 2<sup>nd</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The parenting summit will be held on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Jacobs Center; 8:30 am – 2:00 pm with resources and break-out sessions, free to the public and lunch/child care provided by Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council.
- The Annual Live Well 5k event will be held at Liberty Station, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Sign-ups can be done online until midnight on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Nick Hardwick (former San Diego Charger) will also be participating, who is a strong advocate for foster youth and families. Proceeds will go to Polinsky Center Trust Fund and children in foster care. The race will begin at 8:00 am and chip timing will be offered. There will also be a kid's zone, Charger autograph booth and much more. Awards will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- There is a reading program for beginning readers through San Diego State for four and five year olds and is offered on a sliding pay scale.
- There are 24 new social workers that have just started training and are scheduled to graduate in June.
- Due to Ann Fox's retirement in March, Margo Fudge will be covering her responsibilities for Foster Care; Bernice and Diana will also be available to assist should issues arise in the program. Lynn Amabile retired in March as well, and Valesha Bullock is covering as the Hotline manager in addition to North Central Region.
- Efforts are currently being made to examine the foster home vacancies and why many homes are not taking placements.
- A Foster Parent survey will be going out within the next two months in order to obtain feedback on the Foster Care program.

### **San Diego County Foster Parent Association –Mary Jo Meer**

- More money is coming in for pajamas, toys, and a scholarship fund for Disneyland from Sleep Train
- Pajamas will be given out to those attending the Grossmont CSEC class tonight.

- Registration/scholarships can be provided up to \$100 for any enrichment activities for the children. i.e.-camps, dance lessons, registration for sport leagues etc
- Promises2kids funding is also available to help support extracurricular activities for children in foster care. Foster parents can request these funds. Are SCIAP funds available to be used for extracurricular funding such as: camp, football, softball and prom? Mary Jo will verify.
- Concerns expressed regarding the orientations being full and individuals being turned away.

### **County Adoptions – Margo Fudge**

- Looking at ways to improve the adoption finalization process without delays, currently on track to meet the goal of finalization since there has been an increase since last year.
- Online application program for adoptive parents is currently in the vetting process in an electronic version that people can use. Additional info to follow next month.
- New orientation video on the “IADOPTU website”, currently up to 450 views. Those that are interested in adoption should view the website, as it is a preview of the process.
- Camp Connect is coming up August 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. The camp is designed for siblings that have been separated due to their placement in foster care. There are usually 100 spots available for children ages 5–21 years old. Eligibility is based on at least one child active to dependency. For siblings in guardianship or adoption, there is a waiver that the responsible adult can fill out allowing the child to participate. More information will follow.
- We are looking at adding additional orientations to address wait list.

### **Quality Parenting Initiative –Diana Macis / Margo Fudge**

- QPI Ambassador Program involves partnering a foster parent and a placement social worker in each region; goal is for that team to act as a resource and bridge the gap for communication between foster parents and social workers.
- Identifying goals for the upcoming year.

### **Child Health Disability Prevention – Anita Secor**

- Foster care nurses in the region are available as resources.
- Reminder to submit medical or dental reports to the public health nurses, when taking children to a doctor, dentist or other specialist.
- Still in the process of changing the records system across the state. Looking at 2017 as date of completion.

### **Foster Care Education – Barbara Wojtach**

- Pink Flyer is being printed. Changes have been made and will be sent out mid-April or mid-May.
- Grossmont events planned for the summer:
- June 13<sup>th</sup> Super Saturday (conference style day) it is open to all foster parents and kinship care givers. Foster Care of Kinship parents that attend will receive eight training hours.
- The first session for English speakers will be regarding Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Two additional sessions will be held in the afternoon.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> event is taking place on Spring Valley drive (at the elementary school) in collaboration with San Diego Youth Services (Healing Trauma). Focuses on caretakers and their ability to care for themselves as well as the children in their home. Is similar to what SDYS does through the adoption program. This will be a six hour training.
- In collaboration with the County, we will be offering a three-part class on early childhood development taught by Kim Giardina and Maryann Paschal on early infant development. The two hour training will take place on the first Wednesday of each month in July, August and September, with two hour trainings each night and is a curriculum that was established by the

Casey foundation. For foster parents and social workers, so that they may work together in trainings.

### **Foster Home Licensing — Lucia Garcia**

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) English and Spanish flyers for Foster Home Licensing are being completed. These are FAQs asked by foster parents in San Diego County. The flyer contains information on resources for foster parents support groups and associations. Flyers were distributed to those foster parents that attended the mentoring session. Lucia will send out soft copy of the flyers.
- Foster Home Licensing main number to call for customer service is (858) 767-5411, which is available Mon-Fri 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

### **Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services Operations—Bernice Briggs**

- 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet will be held on May 22, at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Valley. The theme is “A Night out with the Stars”. Registration will begin at 6:00 p.m., and dinner will start at 6:30 p.m.
- The regions have submitted names for each region in the county and the selection process for the Above and Beyond awards is underway.
- Recruitment event will be held at the San Diego County Fair. The theme for this year is “a Fair to remember”, a celebration of world fairs and Balboa Park. Opening day for the fair starts June 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.
- Enhancing the KIDSline to work towards more customer service oriented program, and offer quality support foster parents. The KIDSline is manned Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. You can sign up for orientations on the KIDSline, have questions answered, as well as connect with the Foster/Adoptive Parent Ombudsman.
- There is an immediate need for foster homes for babies and children under 5 years old.

### **Maxim Respite Care—Keila Martinez**

- Maxim has had a great turnout for the CPR and First Aid classes.
- Respite Care is getting ready for summer.

### **Polinsky Children’s Center – Marilyn Sprout**

- 67 kids are currently at Polinsky in immediate need of homes, most of those are toddlers and babies. Part of the issue is that the baby homes are full. More specifically the under two and siblings.

### **Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists - All South – Jenny Rodriguez:**

- South has been diverting kids from Polinsky to various placement options.
- There is an increased need of foster homes for babies.
- There have been obstacles with placement for sibling groups, matching licensed foster homes with the needs of children; many of the available foster homes are Spanish speaking with English speaking children, issues with transportation for school of origin.
- Specifically, the South Region area has been experiencing a larger number of sibling sets and placement issues, more children are being placed in Kinship care.
- Currently putting treat bags together and will be packing them next week. Will ask the Kinship and foster parent caregivers to hand out the treat bags containing school supplies.

### **Kinship Support Services –Wendy Curiel for Danielle Zuniga**

- Central Region Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) event will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Jacobs center. Relatives and grandparents can register by calling 211.
- Emergency Kinship fund received an additional \$20,000 to help support relative care.
- Support services is currently touring the kinship support groups to see how they are going and see if they require additional services.
- San Diego is opting in to the approved relative caregiver funding program, hopefully by May 1<sup>st</sup>, orientation can be held June 1<sup>st</sup> if this occurs. This program allows all relatives to receive the same amount of funding as foster care.
- Resources for furniture through a “Hope to Dream” from Ashley Furniture HomeStore; for mattresses. More information will be provided at the next meeting. Also, looking to contract with Jerome’s Furniture.

#### **IV. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, June 11, 2015**

**12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

**6950 Levant Street, Room 1 A/B**

**San Diego, CA 92111**

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:05 pm**