

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 9th, 2015

6950 Levant St, San Diego

12:00 – 2:00

Present: Bernice Briggs, Patricia Coleman, Wendy Curiel, Claire Dwight, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Margo Fudge, Sharon Ippolito, Shannon Jimenez, Brenda Jones, Nicole Kelsay, Alice Kennedy, Diana Macis, Keila Martinez, Susan Moreno, Katie Olson, Twila Perucci, Dionne Puckett, Jacquie Pusateri, Jenny Franquez-Rodriguez, Veronica Sarabia, Dolores Scruggs, Anita Secor, Marilyn Sproat, Elaine Shelby, Debbie Stolz,

- I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** June 11th, 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion:**

Foster Care Education Services – Twila Perucci

- Kudos to Licensing for providing assistance/education to foster parents.
- Funding of transportation for foster kids has gone away due to the excessive increased need.
- Grossmont College is putting together the fall schedule.

San Diego Foster Parent Association – Pam Sokol

- Pam Sokol gave Kudos to Foster Home Licensing, because that department provided a foster parent with education and did not place a hold on a family. Ms. Sokol was appreciative of this approach.
- Discussed the 8 additional hours of training in the form of support groups as recommended by the QPI steering committee.
- The Association is off for the summer but they received a shipment from Sleep Train of school supplies that will be distributed to foster families.

San Diego County Adoptions and Quality Parenting Initiative – Margo Fudge

- QPI steering committee has recommended 8 additional training hours for foster parents each year in the form of attendance of support groups. However, RFA will be addressing training so we would like to fold this issue into the policy being created for RFA. This will require that the Foster Care Services Committee vote on the issue. However, at this time there are not enough voting members present to vote; voting requires 9 voting members be present.

HHSA & Child Welfare Services – Alice Kennedy

- There are 24 new social workers that graduated last month (June), and a new group is scheduled to start training this month. Hiring will continue, as will training and integration of staff into various programs.
- Our Core training curriculum for Social Workers is changing. Training will be conducted in intermittent fashion, requiring the workers to complete programs as well as formal training classes, then go on to the regional program, and then return to do more classes. This will allow the workers to apply what they are learning, as well as the simulation of opportunities for new hires; to prepare them for future interactions with caregivers, children and foster parents; etc. Advancement in criteria will also support our new staff and trainees as they will go out to the regions and homes of the caregivers much more confident and prepared.

- Fran Cooper is no longer the Deputy Director at Polinsky Children’s Center, and has moved on to Behavioral Health. Ed Cadena will be returning to the county temporarily and will be covering Foster Home Licensing, PCC, and Eligibility in Fran’s place.

HHS&A & Foster Resource Family Services Operations – Diana Macis

- QPI is continuing to work on the “roll out plan” for regionalization of QPI. Policy is working on a special notice in regards to the QPI partnership plan that has been developed specifically for San Diego County. The updated policy has been modified from the original five page document to a one page, two-sided document- one side for social workers, and the other side for foster parents. It is anticipated to come out in the fall. Special notice with follow up training in the pink flyer will be tied into the quarterly meetings with regions being responsible for part of the regionalization plan. Training will be set up for these individuals to get the partnership plan going.
- On a state level, the state convening will be taking place in September, in Ventura County.
- The webcast that took place two weeks ago focused on investigations, providing feedback and questions on how licensing investigations are being conducted, and will provide feedback from foster parents. The direction that licensing will be taking includes efforts to become more clear on the process of investigations being conducted and what information can and cannot be disclosed to the foster parent(s) during the investigation process.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri

- CASS team – Pathways had a unit meet and greet to see not only the Pathways liaisons, but Child Welfare liaisons as well.
- CASS plans on attending the Options picnic and will have a booth there.
- There is currently a wait list that is roughly about a month out for Spanish speaking families.

Child Health Disability Prevention – Anita Secor

- Introduced Claire, the new nurse for the foster care program who works with Anita on the Admin side.
- Reminder for caregivers to get immunizations and well-child exams completed prior to school resuming. Submit necessary paperwork and medical reports to the social worker and/or the public health nurse.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program – Katie Olson

- There is a big shift starting July 1st. First 5 no longer funds this program. Child Welfare Services has stepped in and is now funding this program. DSEP is in the process of figuring out, planning, and being creative with the statement of work and finalizing the contract.
- The biggest change is the public population is expanding dramatically. In the past, DSEP only worked with children that are dependents, not with their biological parents. Now they can serve all children that have CWS cases, those placed at Polinsky Children’s Center or children that are in voluntary placement. Therefore, the population they serve is expanding.
- There is a need for more specialists. Part of the new contract is to provide initial Child Family Teams (CFTs), based on DSEP screenings for young kids, who are identified on the screenings as appropriate for Pathways to Wellbeing. Essentially getting everyone together before making a decision, referral or recommendation for mental health is made. This will include the parents and foster parents or anyone involved in the child’s case. CFT meetings will be starting in the next few months, and voluntary cases will be starting October 1st.
- DSEP will be conducting screenings 30 days after a child’s discharge from PCC in the child’s residence. Screenings will no longer be done at Polinsky Children’s Center, because they can get a better picture of the child’s developmental level when they are in a home environment.

Foster Care Education Services — Twila Perucci

- It is the end of the Fiscal year and Grossmont is currently working on reports that go to the County and the State.
- The Fall schedule is almost up and ready to go on the website.
- They are gathering information for the pink flyer for fall.

Foster Home Licensing — Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- Foster Home Licensing is continuing to reach out to the community and ensuring sure that outstanding customer service is being received, and have been receiving positive feedback. Holding internal meetings for those issues with the managers, supervisors and staff. Also, receiving positive feedback from those informal meetings, and will continue to utilize those when problems arise.

Foster and Adoptive Resources Family Services Operations – Nikki Kelsay

- Discussed the by-laws for this meeting, and would like to discuss the meeting procedures at the next meeting in August; what they are and how they should look like. The by-laws and membership subcommittees need to meet annually. In order to be an active voting member, it is required that 1/3 of the meetings will need to be attended in a 12 month period by a voting member.
- On July 22nd (Wednesday) the Options Foster Parent picnic will be held from 9:00 am-2:00 pm.
- We are in the process of planning a Foster Parent Picnic on September 27th (tentatively).

Maxim Respite Care –Keila Martinez

- All foster families receive 25 hours of care annually and this year ends on September 30th. They have been getting a lot of referrals.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All South –Jenny Rodriguez

- Busy with many of the relatives, because South is down a worker.
- Kudos to ESCU for completing an emergency home assessment, enabling South to work with our resources at Polinsky Children's Center.
- Kinship has been helping with numerous emergency placements.
- Thanked Kinship for the four bunk beds received.
- Working to update payments to all Relative Caregivers in alignment with ARC.
- Options has been helping with emergency placements of infants.
- ARC project is working fairly well; funding for relative caregivers who were not eligible for funding through foster care monies. If they were receiving CALWORKS, they are now eligible to receive the same amount of money as foster parents.

East -Shannon Jimenez

- East region ARC is almost done with Retro payments.
- East is rolling out QPI.
- Restructuring East Region due to staffing changes. Changes are being made, but not sure yet on rather or not any of this will affect placements.

Policy and Program Support - Wendy Curiel

- Starting June 1st, the first caregivers that were receiving CALWORKS money are now receiving ARC money. This allows all relative caregivers to receive the same amount of financial support as foster parents. There is a new referral /application form that the family fills out, and no longer requires them to do the face to face meetings with CALWORKS; everything is done with our county, relatives and placement units.
- PPS is currently in the process of finalizing the hold policy that will be brought to FCSC next month for voting.
- Wendy is moving on to the RFA policy analyst position; and will not be attending meetings as often, however Veronica Sarabia is the new Placement Policy analyst and will be attending FCSC in Wendy's place.

Placement Coordinator's Office - Bernice Briggs:

- The focus with PCO is to reduce the number of holds, currently focusing on training holds by making rooms available to facilitate trainings.
- Taking Care of Business was held last month.
- Tonight is Orientation and we are working to get the wait list down for Orientations.

Polinsky Children's Center – Marilynn Sproat

- 37 kids are currently at PCC and in immediate need of homes, most of those are children and toddlers.
- Co-worker Charisma requested recruitment of homes for LGBT youth. Charisma is willing to conduct in-service trainings for agencies working with LGBT and CSEC youth.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, August 13th, 2015

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

6950 Levant Street, Room 1 A/B

San Diego, CA 92111

v. ADJOURNMENT: 1:05 pm