

## **FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, October 9, 2014**

6950 Levant St, San Diego

**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Patty Boles, Sandra Boelter, Wendy Curiel, Walfredo Don, Ann Fox, Lucia Garcia, Stephani Gutierrez, Sharon Ippolito, Shannon Jimenez, Suzette Johnston, Diana Macis, Melinda Meeken, Katie Olson, Mike Palomino, Twila Perucci, Dionne Puckett, Jacquie Pusateri, Alicia Rogers, Jenny Rodriguez, Leesa Rosenberg, Pam Sokol, Marilyn Sproat, Barbara Wojtach, Leah Van Lingen

- I. **Twila Perucci called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. **Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** September 11, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. **Presentation: Extended Foster Care (Foster Care to 21)—Walfredo Don**

The Extended Foster Care program provides opportunities for foster youth up to age 21 to develop life skills that will prepare them for self-sufficiency. About 20 foster parents have cared for non-minor dependents (NMDs) to date. Financial support and services are available up to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Foster youth who meet one of the following requirements are eligible: 1) in process of completing high school or equivalent; 2) enrolled in college, community college, or trade program; 3) employed at least 80 hours a month; 4) participating in a program or activity designed to improve job skills; 5) unable to fulfill any of the preceding requirements due to medical condition.

- Non-minor dependents do count in a foster home's capacity.
- Foster parents are not required to have non-minor dependents fingerprinted until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

#### **IV. Discussion:**

##### **San Diego Foster Parent Association—Pam Sokol**

- The Association will not receive Halloween costumes this year.
- Backpacks and school supplies are available.
- The Association will attend the State Foster Parent Association Conference October 16-18.
- The Association is concerned that foster parents are waiting to be heard by the Placement Quality Review Board.
  - Ann Fox: PQRB is being scheduled for November.
- The Association is concerned about allegations and complaint investigations. Without being told the allegation, foster parents have little due process.
- The Association does not agree that Emergency Shelter Care and Special Care Rates cannot be paid simultaneously.
- The Association is concerned that Back to School Clothing Allowance has not been paid; it should be paid automatically. Foster parents still have not received school clothing allowance for last year.
  - Leesa Rosenberg: Both ESC and SCR are part of the Special Care Increment Plan, so cannot be paid simultaneously. The CWS Budget Manager will attend the November meeting to address financial issues.

### **North County Foster Parent Association—Patty Boles**

- San Elijo Women’s Club held a benefit for Straight From the Heart in September. The event sold out, and benefited the Association with \$15,000.
- Inaccurate information about the Association and has been reported on Fox News, ESPN, and on an editorial blog. Straight from the Heart in California has no connection with Straight from the Heart Ministries in Maryland.
- North County adoption and 388 hearings are being delayed. Some foster parents received adoptive placement papers in August, but will not finalize until January due to the court calendar being full.
  - Leesa Rosenberg: Court Department 10 at Meadowlark is closing. Downtown court will open full time. This should not affect North County Dept. 9. Leesa will look into this.

### **Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program—Maribel Luna**

- DSEP will train CWS social workers at unit meetings in November.
- DSEP staff attended the We Can’t Wait Conference in September.
- DSEP performed 96 screenings in September; 36 from regional CWS; 54 from Polinsky.
- DSEP is working with Voices for Children to develop a system for sharing care plans with CASAs.

### **Foster, Adoptive & Kinship Care Education Program—Barbara Wojtach**

- Fall classes are currently underway.
- Working with Licensing to create a “Know the Regulations” class.
- Currently working on the spring pink flyer (January-April). New classes will include:
  - Internet Safety
  - Partnering to Serve Emerging Adults
  - Cultural Considerations for Ethnic Hair and Skin Care
  - LGTBQ Cultural Competency
  - Colors of Grief - From Colors of Grief: Understanding a Child's Journey Through Loss From Birth to Adulthood (free book –by Janis A. Di Ciacco, Ph.D.)

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

- Robert McMonigle is retiring October 16, 2014.
- Changes have been made to Orientation and the application processes to expedite licensure.
  - Orientations will be offered three times per month; twice in English (25 people each); once in Spanish (30 people each).
  - Application packets will not be completed at Orientation; applicants will complete the application at home and return completed packets during their Live Scan appointment.
  - Taking Care of Business (TCB) will be held every third month. Applicants who completed Orientation during a prior month can attend TCB to complete Live Scan, First Aid/CPR, TB testing, and work with Licensing social workers to complete and submit the application packet. Orientation will not be held at TCB.
  - The goal is to license quality homes with people who are truly interested in foster parenting. Currently, only 50% of people attending Orientation turn in the application. Out of those, only 25% complete the licensing process.
- A Live Scan machine will be installed at the Mission Valley Licensing office and will be available during some extended hours.
- Licensing has a new phone line that applicants and foster parents can call with questions and concerns: (619) 767-5411.

### **Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services Operations—Ann Fox**

- The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Foster Family Picnic will be held on October 12 at Admiral Baker Park. Many community partners will participate.
- November is National Adoption Month; the Court Adoption Party will be held on November 21.
- Charger Calendars will be distributed at the Charger Blood Drive on November 25 and at the Charger game on December 7 at Qualcomm Stadium.
- The Computers for Foster Families distribution event will be held December 4 & 5. In collaboration with San Diego Futures Foundation, 150 computers will be distributed to foster families at this event.
- The State Foster Parent Association Conference will be held October 16-18. Child Welfare Services is contributing \$500 towards Foster Parent Association member attendance. CWS staff will also attend.
- Toys-for-Tots: Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services will assist by mailing letters to foster parents and assisting the Foster Parent Associations to pick up toys.
- The December Foster Care Services Committee Meeting will be canceled due to the holidays.

### **Maxim Respite Care—Mike Palomino**

- Foster parent respite providers who hold current driver's license and proof of insurance are now able to transport foster children in their own vehicles.
- Maxim staff will participate in the Foster Family Picnic on October 12.

### **HHSA- Placement Specialists**

- East – Shannon Jimenez: East Region has experienced challenges in placing sibling sets, and has been working closely with ESCU and the PCO to find foster home placements.
- South- Jenny Rodriguez: South Region is also looking for families to care for sibling sets. South region will hold its annual Foster Parent Respite Night on October 24.

### **Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support—Wendy Curiel & Leesa Rosenberg**

- Program Guide revisions for the Placement Quality Review Board were distributed by email to the Committee. The due date for feedback is extended to October 23.
- Distributed a summary of legislative bills that will go into effect January 1, 2015, and will impact foster home licensing and foster care, including legislation regarding civil penalties, criminal history exemptions, commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC), sibling visits, and criminal records.
- Resource Family Approvals (RFAs): Put Melding into statute; will require one process for both relative and foster parent approvals.
- HR4980 eliminates the permanent plan of APLA (Another Planned Living Arrangement) for children under age 16.
- New non-smoking regulations: A letter to caretakers from the CWS Director explaining the new policy will be mailed to caretakers.

### **Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) – Marilyn Sproat**

- The population at PCC is currently in the 60s, with many children under age six.

### **San Diego County Adoptions—Diana Macis**

- The Adoption Orientation has been revised to emphasize the type of children waiting for adoption; school aged children, sibling groups, and medically fragile children.

**Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services—Jacquie Pusateri**

- CASS staff attended the We Can't Wait Conference in September.
- CASS currently has a no wait list.
- CASS will participate in the upcoming Foster Family Picnic.

**Child Health Disability Prevention—Anita Secor**

- CHDP would like to remind foster parents to always keep health at the forefront.

**V. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, November 13, 2014  
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm  
6950 Levant Street, Room 1 A/B  
San Diego, CA 92111**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT: 2:10 pm**