

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 8th, 2015

6950 Levant St, San Diego

12:00 – 2:00

Present: Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Carolyn Brockington, Denise Degree, Michelle Cerda Flores, Jorge DeLaToba, Claire Dwight, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Jenny Franquez-Rodriguez, Margo Fudge, Sharon Ippolito, Lucia Garcia, Shannon Jimenez, Brenda Jones, Monica Juarez, Nicole Kelsay, Diana Macis, Gino Montessi, Violeta Mora, Mike Palomino, Danica Perez, Dionne Puckett, Jacquie Pusateri, Veronica Sarabia, Dolores Scruggs, Anita Secor, Elaine Shelby, Marilyn Sproat, Stephanie Tesh, Debbie Stolz, Mirtha Valadez, Patty Wells, Barbara Wojtach, Danielle Zuniga

- I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** September 10th, 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion:**

North County Foster Parent Association– Patty Boles

- Communication issues; the Association will be purchasing a program that will enable the e-mails to be sent, as they are currently being identified as Spam.
- \$6,000 worth of gift cards will be issued in \$40 denominations for the purchase of pajamas, shoes, socks and underwear.
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- Christmas list is due by October 30th.
- Tuscany in the Hills fundraiser was a successful event and was attended by Dave Roberts.
- Safely surrendered babies need placement papers, medical authorization and educational rights because the baby has multiple medical needs and specialized needs that should be elevated.
- Thanked the County for sending her to the QPI and RFA Conferences.

San Diego Foster Parent Association – Mary Jo Meer

- Will be doing a costume give away following the CSEC training; costumes were donated by the Girl Scouts. There will also be a school supply give away and \$25 gift cards given to foster parents that attend the CSEC training.
- Received \$4,200 in gift cards for clothing (Mary Jo will confirm).
- Needs to get updated e-mails for members currently only has 22 members with active emails.

San Diego County Adoptions – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- Continuing to streamline quality customer service.
 - There will be a mass court finalization October 30th.
 - There will be a Court party for finalizations on the 20th of November
- Continuing the “Telling Takedowns” this Saturday, in efforts to gain permanency for kids. The “Telling Takedown” occurs once a month and workers complete the “telling” of a child’s history which will later be presented to adoptive parents.,

Quality Parenting Initiative – Diana Macis

- Attended the QPI state convening last month and was able to see the changes being implemented.
- There are new bills sitting with the Governor right now that will be making changes for foster parents.
- We are continuing to roll out the regionalization of QPI. Each region has identified their social worker and foster parent ambassadors. They are starting their own steering committees. East Region has scheduled their first quarterly at the end of this month, and Central region is currently working on a date. Meetings will be scheduled around the first of the month so that social workers can attend the trainings.
- The first quarterly training will be on the Partnership Plan. The special notice will provide direction for the partnership plan and how it will roll out. The state directive is a five page document, and has been synthesized to a one page document for the County. The goal is to have it ready by the first quarterly, and will train on the plan and encourage foster parents and social workers to attend the training together.
- The next steering committee meeting will be held on the October 21st.

HHS & Child Welfare Services – Alice Kennedy

- Thanked everyone who participated in the QPI conference; 17 members from San Diego County, Grossmont, Foster Care and all of the regions attended the conference.
- Update to hiring workforce within Child Welfare. In the last two years we have been hiring consistently and have plans to continue to hire from now until next March. The current class has 30 new social workers, and we have an additional class this year and another one in the first quarter of next year in an effort to keep ahead of attrition.
- El Cajon's Singing Hills Lions Club reached out to Supervisor Dave Roberts for a free Halloween event for foster youth which will be held on October 24th. We will forward the flyer as soon as it is received.
- Foster parent survey was sent out this summer to those that were in the database and those that we have e-mail for. Hardcopies were sent to the support groups and families without an email address. Our contractor is compiling the results, and we should have the results by the middle of the month. Our plan with Debra Zanders-Willis is to schedule forums, hopefully by the end of this month, however that has not been confirmed yet.. There are a couple of things that we would like to do:
 1. Inform our foster parents, community and supporters of the results of the survey findings.
 2. We would like to use the opportunity to improve relations along the lines of QPI, and develop strategies to retain and recruit quality foster parents. We want feedback on what we can offer or provide to maintain a good pool of foster families available for our older and the harder to place children.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri

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- There is a three week waitlist for referrals
- CASS program director Charlotte Moore retired October 1st. Currently Ali Freeman is filling in as Program Director..
- We are trying to hire an on-call clinician for CASS to keep service running smoothly when it is busy or people are on leave.
- Clarified that we cannot have wraparound and CASS at the same time, because wraparound program is staffed by a Care Coordinator that is also a clinician. Even though they do not provide therapy, they do have that capacity, so it is considered to be a duplication of

service. CASS is more behavioral and is short term (3-4 months), whereas wraparound is slower paced (1 year).

Child Health Disability Prevention – Claire Dwight

- Flu shot reminder: The locations and schedule are on the county website: www.SDID.org

Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program – Barbara Wojtach

- In full swing with the fall education calendar, and there are pink flyers to pass out if anyone needs them.
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Awareness and Identification (CSEC) meeting tonight (October 8th), 18 people have registered for the training. In December there will be another CSEC training held at Patty's place, and training is open to everyone.
- There will be training that was requested by the county on "Visit Coaching" with Mary Beyer on October 13th there will be an evening training session and October 15th there will be three daytime training sessions.
- Starting to work on the upcoming spring schedule; there will be new classes and fresh material for Foster and Kinship parents.

CWS Foster Home Licensing – Lucia Garcia

- The 3rd quarter of orientations is scheduled for October and November and TCB will be held in December.
- Foster Home Licensing Academy in November for the new staff. Two new supervisors will be attending next month (November).

HHSA Independent Living Skills – Rhonda Sarmiento

- There have been some staff changes and hope to fill those positions soon; in the process of reassigning cases.
- Upcoming events are:
 - Housing 101 workshop in East County on October 15th for older children 17 and up that are interested in learning about the process of moving out.
 - Independent city meets with 16 to 21 years old on November 7th (9:00 a.m.) at the County Office of Education to visit different classrooms and enroll in budget courses and world café.

Foster and Adoptive Resources Family Services Operations – Nikki Kelsay

- Thanked the Foster Care Picnic participants (September 27th).
- The Charger calendar will be distributed by the end of November.
- Upcoming events are:
 - Computer giveaway with the Futures Foundation some time during the first week in December.
 - Foster parent forums will begin taking place at the end of October and again in November for foster parents to provide feedback.
 - The Court finalization party will be in November; approximately 20 families will be finalizing their adoptions. This function is not opened to the public, specific families will be invited to attend the finalization party.

Concerns about medication for children if they are being removed from a home and are taking psychotropic meds; the medication will need to go with the child. The child should continue to take their medication as prescribed.

Placement Coordinator's Office - Bernice Briggs:

The director of YMCA subsidized child care said that the availability process is the same for parents and foster parents. The social worker will have to fill out the referral in order to receive

priority. You can also go to the website and call, as well as apply online. The income for a foster child is \$1 or zero.

Maxim Respite Care –Mike Palomino

- Thank you for the picnic and volunteers who helped put on the event.
- Michelle is the contact for excess hours. Foster parents will need to petition to their social workers for excess hours. An emergency hardship request can be made to petition for excess hours; this may or may not be immediately granted depending on the circumstances.

Central Region Placement- Donna Alexander

- Thank you for allowing her to attend the QPI conference.
- Central region has a need for additional foster homes; Central has 11 children currently in need of placement.
- There is an issue with foster homes returning calls.
- Mary Jo volunteered to be the point of contact, she will send out an e-mail and post information on Facebook for foster homes.

PPS CWS- Leesa Rosenberg for Veronica Sarabia

- A special notice for QPI will be published once approved. Will follow up with Veronica. With the QPI special notice there are some changes to the placement needs and services plan. The Partnership Agreement was reviewed with caregivers and there are some small changes. ***Questions can be e-mailed to Veronica or Nikki**
- RFA steering committee started 3 sub- committees, Communication Subcommittee meets tomorrow. Next week Data Subcommittee will meet.
- The 3rd workgroup is the ESC workgroup to revitalize our look at emergency shelter care. They are different from way stations.

There is a change at the Polinsky Center. AB403 was passed that goes into effect January 2017, making Polinsky a 10-day assessment center.

Foster Parent Association – Debbie Stoltz

- Evaluating the use of regular foster homes versus group home placement. Group homes will still be available to those that meet the criteria, as there is a new rate structure.;

Polinsky Children's Center – Michelle Rodriguez

- Population at PCC today is 46 and has been close to this number since school started. There are approximately 46 children at PCC daily, and every day there has been an intake of teens.
- There is a law enforcement diversion program with a hotline that officers call. A worker is sent out to see if the child needs protection and ESCU will divert the child immediately.
- The boys' latency and teen cottages are the most used because of the number of teenage boys that are being dropped off. Kids that are pending or have active 602 charges are not eligible for placement at Polinsky.
- There are 5 new interns that will act as a welcoming group to greet children when intake occurs.

Kinship Support Services –Danielle Zuniga

- We are going to be moving our support groups starting in October and hopefully will be meeting weekly in December.
- Hiring two more full time Kinship navigators to help facilitate kinship support groups. There will be 8 support groups a week.

- We received additional funds to help those families in need when emergencies arise for kids in their care.
- Received support from Aging Independent Services (AIS) for \$30,000 for informal kinship caregivers as crisis funds as well.
- Received a Federal grant for a family group funding project and finished the first funding cycle about a year ago and were awarded one of three in the country.
- Still getting referrals, 50 to 55 referrals for new caregivers to get kinship services or work with MSW interns through USC.
- South Region Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) event will be held on October 17th. GRG is doing a Respite night in the Central region on November 7th 3:00p.m.-7:00p.m. at the Mission Valley YMCA for ages 3-17 years old. Early November a flyer will be sent out.
- Planning future events for GRG, 1 event per region a year, and planning a GRG event in early November, and will send the flyer as the details are still being finalized.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, November 12th, 2015

12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.

5469 Kearny Villa Road

San Diego, CA 92123 (Seville Plaza Bldg. 5469, Ste. 3700)

ADJOURNMENT: 1: 35 pm