

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 11th, 2016
5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Amanda Amabile, Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Michelle Cerna Flores, Claire Dwight, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Lucia Garcia, Sharon Ippolito, Shannon Jimenez, Nicole Kelsay, Alice Kennedy, Diana Macis, Mary Jo Meer, Violeta Mora, Mike Palomino, Katie Penninga, Twila Perucci, Dionne Puckett, Jacquie Pusateri, Veronica Sarabia, Marilyn Sproat, Debbie Stolz, Mirtha Valadez, Barbara Wojtach, Yoly Dayrit, Jenny Rodriguez, Cristina Duroiu, Arthur Hom-Shaw, Patricia Coleman, Merle Liburd, Elana Slesnick, Jessica Morales

I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: February 11, 2016 minute corrections suggested are as follows:

- Correction on Agenda/Minutes: for Maxim Respite Care, Cerna Flores
- Correction on Minutes: for foster parent, Mary Jo Meer, “former foster parent old address”
- Correction on Minutes: for Adoptions, April 29 and add “to regular court calendar of that month”
- Correction on Minutes: for DSEP; add “equivalent to” in line 2

III. Discussion:

San Diego Foster Parent Association – Mary Jo Meer and Debbie Stolz

- Funds currently are available for scholarships.
- Bike giveaway for all foster families homes from Sheriffs department- call office for more information.
- Foster parents need information on rules and regulations regarding vacations and Prudent Parent Standards. Social workers are not providing consistent information to foster parents as a result of having a lot of new workers.
- Also Eligibility Workers are issuing Medi-Cal cards wrong, payments are not being issued timely, and these problems are difficult to fix.

Alice Kennedy – Will request to have staff from Foster Care Eligibility present at committee meeting to address eligibility issues

- New social workers are not informed and need clarification on Medi-Cal and Special Care Rates.

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- Straight from the Heart is offering Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy with students from the University of St. Augustine. During the last session they had over 20 infants and toddlers participate.
- In March, St. Augustine offers the OT days for family members to come and learn OT tools.
- Brought Rule of Court information regarding the process established before a foster parent releases their address to the birth parent. This should be taught to foster parents again. Foster parents are nervous about safety and the Association is recommending that they do not release their address. We need to reeducate everyone about this. The Partnership Agreement does not say we need to release foster parents’ addresses.

Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Deputy Director – Alice Kennedy

- County offices will have free blood pressure screening, Love Your Heart, for the next couple of days.
- Child and Family Service Reviews will be conducted, Georgette Wilburn spoke to the committee about these in November. In March, forums will be held for foster parents and community partners in different regions of county.
- Retirement announcements: East Region – Judy Benson, her replacement is Jennifer Sovay, beginning in March
North Region- Kathy Jackson, replacement is Mitsuru Ramirez and added additional manager Alfredo Guardado
Policy and Program Support – Roseann Myers, replacement to be determined and Leesa Rosenberg to retire June, her replacement is Elyce Hoene
FARFS- Bernice Briggs to retire in March
Licensing- Lucia Garcia to retire in March
Alice Kennedy thanked Lucia Garcia for her service to the agency. Foster parents present stated Lucia made tremendous efforts to hear out foster parents and improve customer service. They were grateful for the work she has done as the manager of Foster Home Licensing.

San Diego County of Education – Violeta Mora

- 20th Annual Easter Joys and Toys: Nonprofit Leadership student association will donate to foster children in kinship foster care. Educational liaisons will be working with families to have them be involved in programs.
- Tutor Connection, tutoring program for students, based out of Cal State San Marcos. This year will be partnering with San Diego State.
- College Connection held at Southwestern College, Friday, April 22. Future locations are Miramar for an event in April and Mira Costa College.

HHSA, San Diego Adoptions – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- Staff are preparing for RFA, which will bring many changes to the agency. Adoptions is trying to get current families through the home study process prior to RFA implementation in January 2017.
- Adoptions is identifying barriers in getting to children's cases to finalization timely.
- Staff are practicing H.E.A.R.T, the County's customer service initiative, in providing good internal and external customer service.
- Gloria thanked all of the families providing homes to children in Adoptions who were at Polinsky Children's Center.
- Mass finalization taking place on Friday, April 29, 2016.

HHSA, Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services – Diana Macis

- QPI – Next month (March) will be the end of the first quarter. North Region will hold the last Regional Quarterly Training regarding the Partnership Agreement and Needs and Services Plan.
- Next training topic will be on confidentiality.
- The Steering Committee met last month and is setting next year's goals.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri

- Currently no waitlist at CASS.
- Psychiatrist, Dr. Patel, leaving CASS beginning March 1st. Dr. John Aldice will provide coverage until the position is filled.

HHSA, Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care, Public Health Nurse (PHN) – Claire Dwight

- A law was recently passed that school-aged children need to be immunized for school admission.
- Looking for 100% compliance on medical and dental information on children in foster care.
- Immunization law is amended for foster children without updated records, they have a period of time to be immunized after entering school.

Alice Kennedy – Currently the agency is mapping the process of getting medical and dental records updated for foster children, to address challenges and barriers and make improvements to our system. Public health groups will be reaching out to kinship support groups to overcome barriers families are having. In addition, we will follow up on teens that refuse immunizations.

Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Katie Penninga

- Changes and fully rolling out for any child has a behavior issues are referred for family team meetings
- Foster Parents are asked and provided options in holding meetings with birth parents in foster home as part of team meetings

Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program (FAKCE) — Barbara Wojtach

- The pink book is out for distribution and provided to social workers through Diana Shreckengost, formally Cindy Jensen was sending this out. Barbara encouraged the agency to have social workers take the pink book out to home visits to refer caregivers to classes. Many foster parents will go to classes recommended by the social worker.
- Mentor Program brochures have been mailed to all licensed foster parents, because the Foster Parent Forums highlighted the need for more foster parents to know about this resource.
- Postcards have been sent to families in zip codes of support groups with low attendance.
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) training open to all, happening next week.
- Two classes are being offered in which children can attend:
 1. Keeping Children Safe
 2. Yoga basics and benefits
- Parenting Teens and Tweens with Complex Trauma and Loss training, on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 8:30- 3:00 PM. This event is in partnership with San Diego Youth Services (SDYS) and speaker Allison Davis Maxon will be present.
- Email blast will be sent for class on Parenting a Sexually Abused Child, taught by Mike Jones and Debbie Stolz, held on Saturday.
- East County – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, on March 19

HHSA, Foster Home Licensing (FHL) – Lucia Garcia

- Announces retirement in March

Twila Perucci- stated Lucia made such a change and difference to FHL. She appreciated that Lucia helped, supported, listened, and opened the door that many had closed.

Patty Boles- described Lucia as very respectful, she made families feel she has an open door, and Patty appreciated the team work she experienced with Lucia.

HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile

- Annual Mentor Mingle held on Saturday. Last year every child who attended was paired with a mentor.

- On Saturday, February 27, the Junior Achievement career experience for foster youth in high school.
- Housing 101 – dates TBD for March.

HHSA, Foster and Adoptive Resources Family Services– Nikki Kelsay

- Foster Parent Forums held breakout groups with foster parents with great feedback.
- Next Foster Parent Forums held: South Region in March, North Region in Escondido in April.
- Foster Parent Banquet date set for Friday, May 20th
- Free Legal Assistance for Non- Profits provided by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer program.

Maxim Respite Care – Mike Palomino

- Change in law for the state California, for anyone providing home care. Every care provider in the home will need to be registered with the state and provide Live Scan fingerprints.
- Foster Parents need to register with the state to provide respite. Maxim has until March 1st to register everyone with the state.

Alice Kennedy – What is the age range for “all persons in the home” in order to be registered as a care provider?

- To work for Maxim, you have to be 18 years old
- Name of the act is Home Care Consumer Services Protection Act
- The California Home Care Services Bureau, started January 1, 2016

Alice Kennedy – Follow up with Leesa Rosenberg in policy, and provide further information on the interpretation of new bill for CWS.

Nikki Kelsay – Reporting clarification on children having to be re-evaluated at Children’s Hospital versus going to local urgent care or emergency room. The outcome depends on the situation at time. Policy states, if a child has been seen by medical professional who is not considered a child abuse expert; the social worker will contact the on-call CPT physician, to discuss whether an assessment or examination by a child abuse expert is warranted. It also depends on the severity of the injury to the child. Will gather more information on the type of injuries that would be referred to a child abuse expert.

HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All

East Region – Shannon Jimenez

- First QPI steering committee meeting was well received, with success in having foster parents and social workers attend. Next QPI will be on Confidentiality.
- Trend of fetal alcohol syndrome and methadone births in the region.
- Need for more foster family homes for placement, as they are trying to keep children out of PCC.

South Region – Jenny Rodriguez

- Spreading the word out to social workers at unit meetings about upcoming QPI trainings and to get out the pink book. They are making sure all workers know about the Partnership Agreement and that they provide that with the Placement Needs and Services Plan to caregivers.
- The region is thankful to foster parents taking last minute placements and large sibling groups.

CWS Policy Analyst and Program Support –Veronica Sarabia

- In preparation for Family Resource Approval (RFA), PPS has 5 new subcommittees this month: Emergency Approval; Background and Exemption; Investigation and Complaint; Training; Recruitment and Retention. Policy is also reviewing AB 1217.

Polinsky Children’s Center (PCC) – Marilyn Sproat

- Population is currently 23, with 7 children under the age of 6.
- Need more homes taking children with diabetes and medical needs.

HHSA, Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services – Dionne Puckett

- First Foster Youth Intergenerational Games will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016, from 10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. at Point Loma Nazarene University.
- The focus will be on youth from Central and North Central Regions, and active older adults. Contact Selina Brollini for registration.

Roundtable

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 10th, 2016

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

5469 Kearny Villa Road

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

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:26 pm