

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 9th, 2016

5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Jorge Aguilar, Amanda Amabile, Melissa Brooks, Miriam Curiel, Cristina Duroiu, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Nicole Kelsay, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Katie Penninga, Twila Perucci, Jacquie Pusateri, Elaine Shelby, Debbie Stolz, Mirtha Valadez, Barbara Wojtach, Wendy Curiel, Breanna Davila, Barbara Pike, Laura Hattaway, Dany Wilson, Shlyn Guarian, Eileen O'Malley, Pam Sokol

- I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The April 2016 was unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion:**

Health & Human Services Agency (HHS), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Nikki Kelsay on behalf of Deputy Director – Alice Kennedy

- The Foster Parent Survey results were posted to the Clerk of the Board website, which was sent as a link in an email to the committee. Not everyone had reviewed the survey and no one currently had comments. Agreed to have a discussion on the agenda for next month.
- A special retirement announcement for Pam Sokol.

Pam Sokol – I will be stepping down as president to the San Diego Foster Parent Association. Debbie Stolz will be the new president, but will continue working with Grossmont and volunteer for the Association.

Nikki Kelsay – Thank you Pam for your years of service.

- Debra Zanders-Wills is back from leave. Monday, May 23, was the date of her return.

San Diego Foster Parent Association (SDFPA) – Debbie Stolz & Mary Jo Meer

- There are concerns if Grossmont will change training due to new 2017 laws.
- There are reports regarding children coming from Polinsky with Vaseline in their hair. There are issues with foster families in getting the substance out the child's hair and causing stress to child. Discussion centered around this being a non-medical way to treat lice. PHN Claire Dwight will follow up.

Loving Arms Foster Family Network – Elaine Shelby

- No plan set for July picnic.
- Will need list of foster parents in area.

Nikki Kelsay – Will follow up in providing list of foster parents in the North Central area.

Y.M.C.A., Kinship Support Services – Melissa Brooks

- Recently received permanent connections contract and have the Family Group Conferencing Project that is federally funded. Danielle Zuniga has promoted to an associate Executive Director role and Melissa Brooks promoted to Program Director role for Kinship.

HHS, San Diego Adoptions – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- Working closely with Applicant Workers planning for Resource Family Approval (RFA) and evaluating case loads of home studies in order to have them approved before January 2017.

- Taking Care of Business (TCB) on June 25, normally relatives and non-relative extended family member (NREFM) are not included in trainings and testing. Looking to include relatives and NREFM's.
- Connecting with Barbara Wojtach at Grossmont to have adoption specialty classes for waiting families & relatives still in need of classes to complete the home study process.
- Adoptions did meet finalization goal of 444+ kids finalizing this fiscal year ending in June.
- Staff continue to work on Tellings Takedown every month for children that are close to finalization, so that needing a Telling completed does not hold up the case. The next Telling Takedown for staff is this month to get as many completed as possible, before the fiscal year ends.

HHSA, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) – Nikki Kelsay on behalf of Diana Macis

- Bringing QPI Trainings to regions on “Confidentiality.” Central and South regions have completed trainings. The third quarter training, starting next month, will be on “Transitions.”
- QPI leaders came to San Diego in May to observe how we have regionalized QPI, so they can share our model in other large counties, like L.A. The QPI founders were impressed with the steering committee in East Region, where the discussion of children in wheelchairs and other issues causing challenges to placement came up. QPI leaders also attended training on confidentiality conducted in South region.
- Training on “Transitions” is an area of concern to foster parents. We will be working on how we can improve and make the messaging the same for social workers and foster parents.
- The last quarterly training will be on Resource Family Approval (RFA) starting in October.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri

- Cass has a one week waitlist; less for English speaking.
- New psychiatrist on board, Jana Larson. She has experience from North County Lifeline and Vista Hill.

HHSA, Public Health Nurse (PHN) – Claire Lynch-Dwight

- Reminder to caregivers to contact Claire, Anita or a foster care nurse, for any questions about immunization, new regulations, health concerns, or any questions about records.
- Reporting numbers for medical and dental being up-to-date for our children: currently at 87% for dental and 96% for medical compliance.

Mary Jo Meer – Is there an updated list for dentist who take Medi-Cal?

- Claire will look into providing an updated list of dentists that take Medi-Cal.

Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Katie Penninga

- Continuing with Child & Family Team (CFT) meetings and foster parents are becoming more experienced involving birth parents.
- Call Katie or the main line with any questions regarding DSEP CFT process, because there have been many changes in this process for foster parents. Foster Parent Associations have helped to communicate to foster parents through support groups and Pathways to Wellbeing meetings to further explain the process.
- Most common question from foster parents is: “Is there a need of a CFT for a child that is under 6 months?” The mandate for Pathways for Katie A. is that any child that has a positive behavior screening needs to have a CFT.

Debbie Stolz – A huge part in that is to educate the caregivers to help the child and keep the placement stable. It helps caregivers to know what is going on and how to deal with challenges. The goal is to provide caregivers with the tools, skills, and education of how to best care for our children.

Pam Sokol – Caregivers understand the trauma and issues that bring children into care, the bottom line is to have strategies to manage behaviors in order to keep the child in that home. Those are the discussions that are presented at the CFT's to help address concerns and have everyone on board.

Debbie Stolz – There is a push to keep birth parents engaged, but remember that there's confidentiality. In setting up meetings, there is a process that has to go through court before releasing caregiver's address, if the meetings are held at foster parents' home, it does not allow foster parents to maintain their confidentiality.

Pam Sokol – There is a procedure to be followed to release a foster parent's address that everyone has to be aware of. A form authorizing the release of the address needs to go through the workers. DSEP is cognizant about the foster parent address being confidential and can use CWS offices and other locations, particularly for CFT's meetings.

- Introduction of Dany Wilson, new behavior specialist, who will also attend meetings.

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

- Held training for trainers to help them develop new skills.
- Supporting families with LGBTQ youth, taught by two trainers from RISE located in Los Angeles.
- Super Saturday training with 163 people registered, collaborating with the County's Intergenerational group, Community Health Action Team (CHAT), in providing childcare for big events for families. There are 72 children coming to childcare, which allows many kinship providers to attend. Super Saturday is held at the Handery, with breakfast and lunch provided. All of the classes have giveaways. Classes are on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), Navigating the Transitions in Foster Care, The Whole Brain Inside Out, both in English and Spanish. Lunch time training is going to be on resources, taught by Debbie Stolz and Patty Boles.
- Additional classes are; Positive Discipline, Fun & Healthy Eating with Kids, Introduction to a new discipline class called "No Drama Discipline," Teens and Teen Issues, Helping Children Heal and Connect through Songs & Movies.
- Next week training called, Promoting Healthy Sexual Development in Teens. Trainer is coming from San Bernardino. Able to take 50-60 people, currently 15 people registered. It is from 6-9:00 p.m. and a dessert buffet will be provided. Foster parents, kinship parents, and staff are invited.
- Training that was developed in partnership with the County called "Working Better Together with Partners to Achieve Best Outcomes." Training designed to help foster parents and social workers in working together. Peter Dahlin is the trainer.
- Pink booklets are provided. Currently planning fall trainings, if any particular training needs, email Barbara Wojtach.

HHSA, Foster Home Licensing (FHL) – Wendy Curiel

- Started drafting letter to foster parents regarding RFA that should be coming out soon. Letting foster parents know about RFA, giving them resources, and more information on the "grandfathering in" process. The RFA process is not concrete and can change.

HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile

- June 29th from 4-7:00 p.m., will be the ILS graduation held at the waterfront. If you have any youth graduating, currently 50 verifications are missing, please check with your protective service worker (PSW) to make sure they are sent in.
- The new ILS class schedule will be coming out soon. New classes begin in July.
- State mandate where the County will provide ILS services to youth ages 14 and 15. Introducing independence skills to youth this age.

HHSA, Foster and Adoptive Resources Family Services (FARFS) – Nikki Kelsay

- Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet went well, with about 360 attendees.
- San Diego County Fair booth at the Exhibit Hall, same location as last year. Staff will be there through July 4th.
- Options Foster Parent Picnic, on July 20th.

Maxim Respite Care – Breanna Davila

- Staff change, Breanna Davila is replacing Keila Martinez.
- Addressing with caregivers that everybody must be fingerprinted to be registered in California. This is a California state requirement, not Maxim's requirement.

Debbie Stolz – What is the training that has to be done at the end of the month?

- There are several; blood borne Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) test needs to be done every year on the date of hire. This season is compliance season, from May 1st to June 30th. The compliances that need to be completed every year are as follows:
 - general compliance, clinical compliance, and the code of conduct with it.
- New Hires are fingerprinted before working with clients. Everyone providing respite, exception to those specifically working with Regional Center, needs to Live Scan, including the foster care program.

HHSA, Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services –Miriam Curiel

- Taking Care of Business (TCB) will be held at Levant St. office on Saturday, June 25th, from 8-3:00 p.m. Everyone needs to register through the KIDSline at 1-877-792-5437. Fingerprints, TB testing, and CPR/First Aid will be conducted. Relatives may attend CPR/ First Aid classes, but are not required to participate. The goal is to help support the approval of home studies.

HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All Regions

Central Region –Shlyn Guarian

- Announcement of new placement supervisor, Alina Knox.

South Region –Nikki Kelsay on behalf of Jenny Rodriguez

- Successful turnout for 2nd quarter QPI training last month.
- Reconstructed steering committee in order to have a well balance representation from all programs from South.
- Placement continues to present updates at program integrity meetings as it relates to QPI.
- Thank you to Mary Jo Meer, who presented at Emergency Response program integrity meeting, providing San Diego Foster Parent Association brochure.
- Working with foster parents to arrange transportation for kids to school of origin with transportation grants. Thank you to all the foster parents and educational liaisons who've helped support this.

CWS, Policy and Program Support – Nikki Kelsay on behalf of Veronica Sarabia

- Provided a brochure on Foster Youth Mental Health Bill of Rights.
- Foster Children’s Personal Rights forms have a section where the youth 14 years old and over will sign. Form number 10-5. Further information on when the documents are presented to youth for signature.
- Case practicing considerations for transgender children for social workers to use. Also LGBTQ cultural competency guide for foster parents and social workers that was added to the resource guide, as well as solution focus questions for LGBTQ youth. We are being sensitive to the needs of our LGBTQ youth, getting to be competent and be the best at supporting youth in this population.

Fred Finch, Polinsky Behavioral Health Program – Eileen O’Malley

- Population has risen at Polinsky and it has been busy.
- Expansion to services in PCC includes psychiatric services. The program evolved with the mandate that PCC become a 10-day assessment center, having to transition children out more quickly. If there are high level needs, services are now transitioned out to the community.
- Phone number for Eileen O’Malley is 619-787-6320

Roundtable

HHSA, Foster Care Eligibility – Laura Hattaway

- Will have representation every month for any issues regarding payments.

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

- Grossmont coordinates the Foster Parent Mentor Program. If you are transitioning children into foster homes, please remind caregivers of this resource, especially for a child with a lot of needs. There are 8 mentors that can assist. Call 1-800-200-1222 for more information.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 14, 2016

12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.

5469 Kearny Villa Road

San Diego CA 92123 (Seville Plaza Building, Suite 3700)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:46 p.m.