

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 10th, 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, Barbara Wojtach,

- I. Barbara Wojtach called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** August 13th, 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion:**

Neighborhood House Association – Stephanie Tesh & Denise Degree

- Neighborhood House Association delivers resources for all of the Early Head Start and Head Start programs within San Diego County. More information on these programs can be obtained by going to www.neighborhoodhouse.org
- The Neighborhood House Association program serves Central region, South Bay, East County, and three other agencies within the county that provide early Head Start services; MAAC (North County), CACSLO and Easter Seals for the North part of the county.
- Early Head Start is a federally funded program that is located throughout the county. Early Head Start and Head Start are comprehensive early child education or family support programs. They offer full and half day sessions and operate the same hours as regular school. They also provide a Home Visiting Program for those families facing transportation problems and Family Child Care which are independently licensed child care providers.
- The Neighborhood House Association provides early childhood education and comprehensive family support services, such as screening and assessments.
- Neighborhood House Association offers services to pregnant women, as well as expecting foster teens, and provides home visiting services and psychosocial educational groups. They will follow the women up to 8 visits after the child is born.
- Head Start is an inclusion program, assisting children with learning disabilities, IEPs, and IFSPs and is mandated to provide services to 10% of children with these educational needs.
- Although Head Start is not a “therapeutic preschool”, they have an inclusion program, which can provide speech and language therapists, behavioral support in the classroom, and emotional and social skills support for children with behavioral problems.
- Enrollment: A county form can be accessed by county workers through their forms repository, (Form 04-99). The form lists all of the Head Starts in the county, what ages are served, and the addresses. The forms are received via the Central Enrollment Contact. Please remember workers need to access and print these forms ‘as needed’ since they are updated regularly.
- The 04-100 form is the county’s referral form and ensures accuracy and all information needed by Head Start. It is critical that the information provided on the 04-100 form is completed in its entirety and is accurate to ensure placements are made accordingly. Once an appointment is set up the family must bring the 04-100 to their appointment, as it gives priority to each family.
- The prioritization list changes continuously based on the needs of each family as they are enrolled; it is no longer first come first served.

- Transportation to Head Start is not provided; however if the family plans on attending Head Start within their school district then the schools can provide transportation or bus routes.
- Head Start is provided to those families who are either working full time or attending school.
- Head Start is a State Preschool with two parts: Child Development Centers (CDC) for San Diego Unified with sliding scale fees and SPK (preschool) for foster families at no fee.
- There are counselors that work in all of the preschool classrooms and they come in to support the teachers and the families with any behavioral concerns.
- Neighborhood House Association works with the community agencies throughout the county, to be successful; such as QPI, the quality pre-school initiatives, coaching for the teachers. Children with special needs will be deferred to their individualized education program, which is in the best interest of the child.

Loving Arms – Elaine Shelby

- Introduced Carol Brockington as the Vice President of Loving Arms.
- Requested a list of local foster parents. *Diana Macis will look into it.

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- Starting next Tuesday and for the next three Tuesdays, from 10:00a.m. to 11:30a.m., University of St. Augustine will have 20 occupational therapy students providing therapy for children and toddlers. The program is through Regional Center. This gives an opportunity to those on waiting lists due to Medi-Cal to take advantage of this program. They are hoping to connect with Cal State San Marcos' speech therapy program, as well.
- Point Labs opportunity will be provided for kids to start PT1 and OT1, with an assessment of 8 students. Students will have a professor for 5 weeks, an assessment plan, and will be monitored to see how far the kids come during that time. All kids of all ages are welcome, but this is mainly for ages infant to toddler. This is starting next Tuesday from 10:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. at Straight from the Heart.
- San Elijo Women's Club is doing a "Tuscany in the Hills" fundraiser theme this year and will be doing approximately 100 raffles, with Disneyland tickets, timeshares, and there will be a live band. Visit San Elijo Women's Club website for more information. The event is being held September 26th at 6:00p.m. and costs \$50. Some of the proceeds from the auctions go to foster care through donations.
- The Association is making its 3rd pick up from Sleep Train. Next Monday they will be picking up another donation. Straight from the Heart will pay \$160 for the transportation of the donated items. The giveaway items are available to adoptive and foster families. A \$40 giveaway is available from Sleep Train for clothing and shoes. There is a drive going on for extracurricular funds, last time they received \$2600. It's anticipated that a check should be coming in November for the Holidays.
- A question arose regarding a foster mother picking up a child from Polinsky Children's Center (PCC). The child was taking psychotropic medication. Patty inquired what is the policy of continuing psych meds for children at removal. JV220 should come into effect, *Nikki Kelsay to follow up on policy/procedure.

HHSA & Child Welfare Services-Nicole Kelsay on behalf of Alice Kennedy

- The Agency is aware of the need for child care. Through RFA and CCR, the state will be issuing money to all of the counties to implement RFA and CCR. Maybe some of that money can go towards child care. We will continue to bring that issue to the table. More information to come and this will be a standing agenda item. *Nikki will try and get more information and resources for the next meeting.

YMCA Kinship Support Program – Gino Montessi

- Announced the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) event happening October 17th. This is also open to other relative caregivers and will take place in South Bay. Gino passed out a flyer. Lunch and childcare will be provided.
- Recently held the North County GRG event. 60 volunteers served 98 caregivers, 25 community organizations participated, and three separate workshops were held: Parenting Skills, Café Connect (computer skills for elderly relative caregivers), and a college preparation event. Positive feedback was received regarding the event.
- Respite program has no hours available until November. If a packet has already been turned in, the caregiver should be contacted by a respite coordinator. If a packet has not been turned in, respite hours will not be available until November.
- Two new interns started this week, one is starting next week, and one more is starting on September 25th.
- YMCA received 40 more referrals in the month of August.

San Diego County Office of Education – Violeta Mora

- This summer they held soft skills trainings, pre-employment preparation, and trained individuals in foster care ages 13 to 15 years on attendance and work appearance. There were 22 students that were placed for employment. There will be a recognition ceremony on September 29th at the county office at 6:00p.m.
- Transitional kindergarten entry date has changed from December 2nd to September 2nd (all day program). This applies to any elementary school with a kindergarten.
- The tutoring program is still in need of referrals. Currently six spots are open around the San Diego State area and a tutoring spot is available in the San Marcos area. Michelle Bealo is the manager and point of contact.

San Diego County Adoptions – Margo Fudge

- Introduced Gloria Escamilla-Huidor and Jorge De La Toba as new managers to Adoptions.
- IAdoptU website should be up and running by next week and will now include the Spanish version.
- Two mass finalization dates are coming up on 10/30/2015 and one will be in November during “Adoptions Awareness Month. Between those two months we are hoping to finalize close to 50 families.
- Adoptions is still working on “Telling Takedowns”. The Tellings encompass the history of a child’s life as known by the Agency and are needed to complete finalizations.

Quality Parenting Initiative – Diana Macis

- There will be a state convening coming up at the end of the month in Ventura.
- QPI is being regionalized. Each region has their own QPI Ambassadors, one is a foster parent and one is a worker. They are working on doing their quarterlies; the quarterlies are going to be joint trainings. The first one will be about the partnership plan and the needs and service plan. Invitations will be sent out quarterly to each region.
- The goal is to increase Agency collaboration with foster parents that are unable to attend the steering committees within their perspective regions.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri

- Wait list for English speaking families is down to one to two weeks.
- There is currently not a waiting list for Spanish speaking; requested referrals if there are any.

Child Health Disability Prevention – Anita Secor

- Flu season is coming, flu shots recommended for everyone over 6 months.
- Reminder for caregivers as school has started to get shot records updated for the school nurse.

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

- The fall pink flyer is out and is also available online. Currently working with the state Chancellor's Office to create training on CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children). This is a huge issue as San Diego is 8th highest in the country in dealing with this issue. This is coming from the Federal government to the state level and to the county level. It is important that foster parents and care providers become educated to this issue. This current training is really about awareness and identification.
- There will be two CSEC trainings this Fall, one on October 8th and one on December 8th. There will also be more trainings in the Spring. The training flyer was passed out. Training is free to those that wish to attend.

HHSA Foster Home License – Lucia Garcia

- Foster Home Licensing is now fully staffed.
- They are continuing to work closely with QPI and Adoptions.
- QPI has a group working with the state about investigations and opening up lines of communications with foster parents.

Foster and Adoptive Resources Family Services– Nikki Kelsay

- Discussed by-laws and voting members. The new members will start their term in October of this year and will be valid for four years. A hand out was passed out of new proposed voting members.
- Vote on voting members. All concur; starting October they will be the voting members for the next term. Discussed absenteeism; if a member is absent from four consecutive meetings, the members representation will be reviewed. The voting members will be posted on the Clerk of the Board. *Voting members must identify alternates to Nikki.
- Foster Parent Picnic September 27th, at 11:00a.m. – 2:30p.m. at Admiral Baker Field.
- Taking Care of Business (TCB) day September 19th, 9:00a.m. at Levant Street. Families can get several tasks completed at one time to become placement ready.

Maxim Respite Care –Mike Palomino

- Introduced Michelle Flores; the new program coordinator for respite for their office. She is available to assist for setting up individuals for respite care.
- We are at the end of the 3rd quarter. Respite care hours do not roll over. If respite care is being requested, please contact Maxim. Beginning October 1st, respite care will start with 25 hours per family, not per child. There is no payment required for a sleeping child. This can be used for placement, school, or stress relief. Special circumstances will be handled on a case by case basis.
- For those wishing to hire a family friend, that can be done, but requires the individual be fingerprinted. Unless they already have a foster home license, in which case they would need to show proof of a license, updated CPR card, and TB test.
- All foster families receive 25 hours of care every calendar quarter.

East Region – Shannon Jimenez

- Excited for the first QPI Regionalized meeting on September 30th. They are working on getting a data pull to get e-mails for East region foster parents. Flyers will go out in the mail.
- East Region will be attending the QPI conference on September 24th.
- Shannon will be the QPI Ambassador for East Region.

South Region – Jenny Franquez-Rodriguez

- Working on placement stability and Kin placements.
- Rolling out QPI, still working on the specifics. South has not established a date yet to hold their steering committee.
- School supply and back pack handout was a success.
- Working on exploration of ideas. The program is growing, so they are hiring and training new people. Trying to get input from workers on what they are experiencing.

Placement Coordinator’s Office - Bernice Briggs:

- Orientation schedule is posted on the website. There are four trainings over the next two months, and is on a first come first serve basis.
- Disaster preparedness; in times of disaster, foster parents can always call the Kidsline and leave a message providing a phone number and address of whereabouts when displaced.

Policy and Program Support - Veronica Sarabia

- Having monthly iFoster collaborative meetings and would like for foster parents to participate. Veronica is the point of contact.
- QPI – the special notice has been shared and is still in draft. Because this is a working document, the notice should be modified if there are any changes. Passed out the draft of the special notice. The notice outlines the expectations of the foster parents as well as the expectation of the workers. Questions and feedback should be directed to Veronica.
- Updating the Hold Policy terminology and definitions, which will also be revised and presented at Foster Care Services Committee.

Polinsky Children’s Center – Marilynn Sproat

- Population is currently between 46 and 50. PCC has 17 boys (6-13 years old) as of yesterday with serious behavioral issues. North County does not have as many placements.
- Patty Boles offered to send out an email for urgent placement alert.

*** Nikki reminded everyone of the new meeting location on Kearny Villa Road next month.**

*** Follow ups**

- *Diana Macis will look into it a list of local foster parents for Loving Arms.
- *Nikki to follow up on policy/procedure for PCC kids/foster parents and psych meds.
- *Nikki will try and get more information and resources for the next meeting regarding the need for child care.
- *Your alternates for Voting Members need to be given to Nikki.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

**Thursday, October 8th, 2015
12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.
5469 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123 (Seville Plaza Bldg. 5469, Ste. 3700)**

v. ADJOURNMENT: 1:25 pm