

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 8th, 2017

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Amanda Amabile, Michelle Bailow, Patty Boles, Miriam Curiel, Heidi Blue, Breanna Davila, Yoly Dayrit, Laura Hattaway, Brenda Jones, Nicole Kelsay, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Mike Palomino, Jacquie Pusateri, Troy Rippengale, Lodia Ruiz, Debbie Stolz, Mirtha Valadez, Barbara Wojtach, Jennifer Villa, Mara Chacon, Michelle Pineda, Arleth Rubio, Jorge Zipaler, Ponalea Olen, Manurle Chaffey, Patricia Coleman, Sandra Boelter, Maria Galan, Karen Rojas, Holly Gutstein, Ali Freedman, Cassie Duffy

I. Brenda Jones called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: The April 2017 minutes was unanimously approved.

III. Head Start Presentation – Manuela Cafferty

- I came to bring recruitment flyers for staff. My name is Manuela Cafferty, Family and Community partnership, ERSEA coordinator for CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County.) We serve Borrego, Poway, and Ramona. Please take flyers. Please refer children 0-5 years old.

Ponaka Olin – Manuela has the North County sites. Similar sites are available in Clairemont and National City.

- If you have any questions, please take flyers and business cards. We will be happy to answer your questions.
- Currently recruiting for fall. Families who are interested, this is a good time to submit your application.
- We have other programs different than preschool. We also have senior adult care and HIV.
- We do have Home Base. We take them as young as 6 weeks old and as old as 5 years. They do not need to be potty trained. Each room is designed to have changing tables.

Jorge Zapata – The Early Head Start, the vacancies get filled right away because we do not have as many as 0-5. If you have any families really interested, it would be good to call, so we can start the intake process or application process.

- If you call us, we will provide you with the information for other centers in the South area.

Ponaka Olin – Our flyer has our 800 number depending your desired area, they will direct you to the office and location of the school.

Yoly Dayrit – *Do you prefer to receive referrals from social workers or is it ok to give a letter of support to caregivers?*

Manuela Cafferty – Either way is acceptable. I will be happy to answer an email if you send a referral to me. I am happy to follow up with either a foster parent or worker.

Jorge Zapata – Please take a business card of Jolene Torres. She works with CWS and can start the process. She will let us know and give us the parent's information and we contact them to complete application.

- Foster children have priority. They automatically get in program, if there are vacancies available. If not, they will be at the top of list when there is availability.

Ponaka Olin – Also, Early Head Start serves 18 months to 3 years of age. They are starting next month for the new fiscal year. If you have children who are age 18 months to 3 years, I recommend for you to encourage caregivers to call the center and apply now. They are enrolling for July.

Mara Chacon – The purpose of attending this meeting is to provide the background for eligibility purposes for foster children and answer any questions the parents may have.

- For any family coming in with foster children the requirement in order to receive childcare services are:
 - Need(s)
 - Income (possibly waived)

Depending on the requirement of the need, which means they have to be working or going to school 30 hours or more a week. We will need proof of that in order to offer full time services.

- There is no need to show requirement of 30 hours or more only for the pre-school program
- Evening care is no longer offered, due to budget cuts we are unable to accommodate that service.

IV. Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- Every semester we have the University of St. Augustine, which is a university that teaches occupational and physical therapists from San Marcos. The professor and students have 3 days of developmental services for our infants and toddlers. This is extremely popular with families. We just finished that wonderful program and it was a great service to our families.
It is useful for families who have a child waiting to get in Rady's to be assessed for services, because of Medi-Cal. We welcome them to come out and participate. More services in PT/OT days. They will do a series of 5 days with a child. The team assesses the child's needs and sets goals for them. They will assist on special projects and families can receive services sooner.
- We have fair tickets, thank you to Sandie, from Foster Lift, Inc. A fundraiser will be held for Foster Lift, Inc. Foster Lift funds different foster parent events, like the picnic and other appreciation events.
- We've had many relatives coming through asking for services. The experience has been positive.

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

- Norma Rincon has officially promoted to Deputy Director. She will oversee Residential Services, Extended Foster Care (EFC), and North Central Region
- LIVE WELL 5K coming up on Sunday, July 1st at the Waterfront. If you are interested, you can register at LIVEWELLSD.org
- Thank you for the participation at our first annual QPI Caregiver Appreciation event. The event took place last Friday in May, taking the place of the former banquet. This event included our Relative and NREFM caregivers. Foster Lift, Inc. helped coordinate the event. We had a lot of participation from Regions. Barbara Wojtach and family attended, community partners were present, thank you to regions for coordination. Over 300 guests in attendance.
- RFA Conversion information to come out in July. Then the Agency wants to ensure we will make every effort we can to get everyone converted. Conversion deadline is in 2019. A Special Notice to follow in July. We will start getting the information out as soon as we have it.

San Diego Foster Parent Association – Debbie Stolz

- Potluck event held at the beginning of month. Dinner and sand toys for summertime was provided.
- We have Mattress Firm/Sleep Train scholarship funding available.
- School supplies will be coming
- Book drive facilitated by YMCA, books are available for pick up.

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

- Twila Perucci Retirement announcement. A retirement event will be held on 8/1 at the Old Town Tequila Factory Restaurant. It is in Old Town, inside the Best Western Hotel. If interested, there is a link you click on and register. Fee will be collected ahead of time, in the amount of \$20. This will include a buffet lunch. Twila has been chairing this committee for many years and has been a foster parent for many years and worked with Grossmont. Next month, I can collect money or you can send it to our office.
- Super Saturday event held past weekend; attend by Foster and Kinship parents. Collaboration with the Intergenerational group, Kinship families received childcare services.
- Finishing up this year and to start in July with new classes. Next pink book will be out in the next couple of weeks. Classes in July and August are listed on website.

HHSA, Resource Family Approval/ Foster Home Licensing (RFA/FHL) – Nikki Kelsay for Wendy Curiel

- As of May, 22 RFA approved completely; Within 6 months, 22 families went through the process; 170 made it up to the Permanency Assessment portion of the process; Over 100 placements made through emergency units; Another 271 community applications we have received and are going through our Standard unit.
- A successful story that came out. We had someone providing care as a NREFM caregiver to a child. After receiving approval, they opened their home for 3 more children, non-related. We call that an RFA success. They have expanded themselves now to take in more children than just one child that was identified for them as a family.
- We are doing well compared to other counties, as some have not met the 90 day bench mark for completing a RFA. We are working hard with Eligibility to make sure payments are completed.

Laura Hattaway – They have been given the approval to pay at the Cal Works rate, during the interim time, until they are approved. There is a maximum amount of time of 180 days to receive that, but hopefully they will be getting though before 6 months.

Maria Martinez – We just sent out payments last week for families who have already started.

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

- Currently planning the annual foster parent picnic to take place in October. No set date.
- Options Picnic is currently being coordinated under supervisor, Miriam Curiel. Location is De Anza Cove in Mission Bay, on Wednesday, 7/19.
- QPI training for this quarter is going to be on “Complaints and Investigations.” The third quarter dates are July-September and the fourth quarter dates are October – December. The fourth quarter will be about CCR updates and “What’s New” in CWS. Included will be Level of Care, RFA changes, and Conversions.

HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile

- Foster Youth graduation is on 6/29th at the Waterfront from 4-7:00p.m. Reminder, that if you have a foster youth that are graduating, applications were pending verifications. We want to make sure youth receive services on graduation day.
- Housing 101 work shop on 6/20. If you have a 17 year old, this is the best one to come to learn housing options either EFC or after care.
- Grossmont summer institute program for kids getting ready to go to college. They have a really good support system, help setup financial aid; they get book vouchers, semester bus passes, unlimited meal cards, and matriculation support. Only 10 schools in California offer this program.
- Campus Liaisons for all the colleges in the area for foster youth seeking contact information.

Maxim Respite Care – Mike Palomino

- Many respite requests came through during the caregiver appreciation event. Thank you to Brenda Jones in letting everyone know they qualify for the respite care and Breanna for staffing every single request that came in. Awesome job.
- Reminder, every foster parent receives 50 hours of respite per calendar quarter. They have until the end of this month to use all hours. If you do not use them, you lose them for the quarter. Then you start with another 50 hours on July 1st, for the third quarter.
- This will be my last meeting. I will relocate to the Bay Area with the same company. I will be providing skilled nursing care, in that line of business.
- Breanna will take lead in office.

Breanna Davila –

- Trainings are due by the end of the month. If trainings are not completed, they will be terminated. We are working hard in making sure the process is smoother and you receive paid training.

Brenda Jones – Mike has been supportive to our families. With many changes, Mike has always made himself available. He has been present at events and you will be missed.

Nicole Kelsay – Mike has helped to advocate to change rules around respite care to make it better for our families. The state announced that they are working on making changes, nothing official yet.

HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All Regions

South Region – Javier Torres

- QPI training on Visitation Part II held on 6/1. Good feedback was received and there were 19 in attendance. Next training is scheduled on the 13th, next week.
- 9 minors in PCC

East Region – Yoly Dayrit

- QPI trainings on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 9-11:00a.m. in East Region.
- Region is busy with placements. March, April, May, and June are the busiest months of the year.
- Appreciation to Breanna for assisting our workers and families.
- Shout out to Kinship group for immediate approval on emergency Kinship requests.
- 4 children currently in PCC

YMCA Kinship Support Services – Michelle Pineda

- In the month of May, 55 referrals were received, waitlist is 18
- Support Group in Escondido for Spanish speakers at Palomar YMCA. This is held every Tuesday from 10:30a.m.-12:30p.m.

San Diego County Office of Education – Michelle Bailow

- Tutor Connection starts up in September. I will bring referrals in next meeting.
- Reminder, tutoring is not just for kids who are failing their classes. These are college students who can be role models and provide support to the foster parents by assisting in monitoring homework.
- Students start school at the end of August and I place them by the end of September. So if parents wait until progress reports come, no tutors will be available. So sign up right away. Need referrals in by mid September.

HHSA, Foster Care Eligibility – Maria Martinez

- Upcoming is the CNI (California Necessities Index), currently in draft form from state, not final. Hopefully, finalized by end of month. This is the COLA increase, the annual increase for foster care rates. It has gone up 3.84%, the largest increase the state has had, effective July 1st. The basic rate is \$923.00.
- Regular foster care placements are getting the regular \$889.00 rate. Guardianship & Adoptions do not get this rate, but they go by the age range rate.
- AAP and Guardianship rates will go up, but according to what they currently receive. 3.84% age base rate.
- No information on clothes allowance.
- The state is in discussion for Level of Care rates.
- NREFM payments through County funds had been approved at the Cal Works rate.
 - o Cal Works rate for 1 person = \$392.00
 - o Cal Works rate for 2 people = \$562.00
 - o We would pay by differential if more than one child, effective 4/25. This is for families who do not have an RFA approval. After approval they receive the foster care rate.
- ARC (Approved Relative Caregiver) program, effective June 2015, where relative not eligible for foster care can get up to the rate of foster care. Funding comes from part Cal Works and part ARC. Currently getting \$889. Payments get paid at the end of the month, starting July 1st. This program will be housed with foster care and we will be administering the program starting August 1st. Any new evaluations coming in July, we will keep and wait for FRC to send all cases they currently have of ours.

Laura Hattaway-

- ARC is made up of 2 funding streams, ARC and Cal Works. It has been administered through all the FRC's, since it was implemented in San Diego County. Payment structure is changing to retrospective. We are going to pay after the fact, instead of first of the month. On 6/1 the last check that was being paid

at the first of the month for the future month. And on August 1st, is the first retrospective payment received for July.

- This means all Relatives caregivers on the ARC program have a 60 day window where they will not receive funding.
- Because of changes that the program is now transferring under Foster Care Eligibility. We are transitioning that, and as of 8/1, we will be assuming all the cases that are in the FRC under Eligibility umbrella. But with new applications, we will be holding without referring to FRC. Requirement of this program is they have to an approved home to be eligible.
- Relatives will still be referred automatically when they have a placement to case workers for the Cal Works only evaluation. This is their interim funding until approval. We will help coordinate what program to place them in.
- We have been given the directive to only pay for the 180 days. We will make every effort under RFA to get those homes approved. If for some reason that does not happen, I can bring up issue of cases that over the 180 days, and look at what we need to do.
- We have made progress on getting Social Security cards for foster youth. We are working on the back log to have Social Security cards issued to families. And if you have any questions, please call me. If you have a relative placement, the relative has to go to Social Security office and fill out application. They need to show proof relationship to the child. Families need to connect with their social worker to assist in the process. Policy is being written for this.

HHSA, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) – Arleth Rubio

- Next quarterly trainings will be in South on 6/13 and also in North Central on 6/22.
- We are meeting with Complaint supervisors to add their input in training.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri

- We did receive news that Fred Finch CASS has lost their contract. An email was sent to all CWS managers that we will be closing doors on June 30th. New Alternatives will take over on July 3rd. We are triaging to make sure to meet family needs and making the best plan during this transition time.
- This will also be my last meeting in attendance.

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

- Currently compliance is at 96% in medical for our foster children and 91% for dental, which is an improvement.
- We are down a supervisor, currently interviewing for Anita Secor's position.
- We will be conducting support group training, starting in July. It is listed in pink book.

HHSA, Polinsky Children Center (PCC) – Heidi Blue

- The state's final version of the new regulation came out on 6/1. We will be submitting a transition plan to the state. PCC has been operating as a 10-day shelter since October 2015.
- We are tracking children's characteristics that are staying longer than 10 days to look for resources for these kids. We need to provide plan by July 17th.
- State is looking to fully have us as a 10-day assessment center by the end of July. What that means is if kids are there beyond 10 days, we have to ask the state for a waiver within 24 hours. And every 5 days after that and explain why this child does not have a placement.
- Average population has been 25.
- Received a NACCO award in success of transitioning into a 10-day shelter.
- NEST will launch on September 1st. For families who want be part of the pilot, call Robin Thompson, ESCU supervisor. Her phone number is 858-514-6701.
- We are finalizing the policy now and a letter to the foster parent community, talking about changes with ESCU and the implementation of NEST. There is criteria established like 1 year in parenting and specific training needed to become a NEST home.

HHSA, Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Miriam Curiel

- PCO is calling families and letting them know before their training expires to avoid a training hold.

Roundtable

FARFS – Nicole Kelsay

- With the new RFA version written directives, starting June 9th. They will no longer require a fire clearance to place a child with a wheelchair. Other requirements will be needed. We are creating county criteria for this.

Foster Parent – Brenda Jones

- Fancy Teen Girls summer session on 6/23-8/11, from 10-12:00p.m. Website is listed on flyer. They will have scholarships available.

Guests – Jennifer Villa

- We are here to share on Child Development services; we are a non-profit agency funded by the state. One of the programs to service children 0-12 years old. We reimburse childcare services and parents get to use the provider of their choice. We reimburse with state funds on services. The parents need to have a need for services. Children in care have priority. There are three centers at South Bay area, Chula Vista and National city for children 0-5 years old.

V. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 13, 2017

12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.

5469 Kearny Villa Road San Diego CA 92123

(Seville Plaza Building, Suite 3700)

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 1:35 p.m.