

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 8th, 2016
5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Amanda Amabile, Melissa Brooks, Miriam Curiel, Wendy Curiel, Breanna Davila, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Sharon Ippolito, Brenda Jones, Nikki Kelsay, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Diana Macis, Maria Martinez, Mike Palomino, Twila Perucci, Jacquie Pusateri, Patricia Olvera, Veronica Sarabia, Marilynn Sproat, Debbie Stolz, Mirtha Valadez, Barbara Wojtach, Troy Rippengale, Katie Olson

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

San Diego Foster Parent Association (SDFPA) – Debbie Stolz

- Request for the Foster Parent roster to assist association with Toys 4 Tots, mentoring, scholarships, and verify licensing.
- Received 10 boxes of school supplies from Sleep Train; bicycles and other resources are available for kids.

IV. Presentation:

Foster Care Services – Nicole Kelsay

- The presentation is to explain the purpose of committee and voting members.

Purpose of FCS committee: To advise Health and Human Services on issues, procedures, and polices affecting foster parents and placements. We meet to discuss what it is we need in terms of services for caregivers and changes that we can make.

Brown Act meeting: Meaning it governs procedures for open meetings to local government bodies and requires for meeting to be recorded.

Agenda: The agenda is posted to the public 72 hours prior to each meeting. The agenda is posted in the lobby of the building at Levant Street. The meeting is opened to the public.

Website: The meeting materials are posted publically on the Clerk of the Board website every month. All the meeting minutes are posted on the website for reference. Corrections on minutes are amended after initial posting.

Standing: 2nd Thursday of the month, from 12-2:00 PM, held at this location.

Duties and Responsibilities: To improve communication and teamwork between service providers, HHS staff, and foster parents. It makes available recommendations and issues presented to the Health and Human Services Agency. Last year, there was a need for child care and we are working to address those barriers at the government level.

Voting Members: Voting members will have an (*) by their name on sign-in sheet. Members consist of (7) Foster Parent association, representation, representatives, or foster parents; (5) people representing HHS; and (5) people representing community based organizations. There are a total of 17 voting members, including Foster Parent Association presidents, foster parents, CWS workers, public health and mental health, foster parent education and training program, K-12 education, and community based organizations. Voting members serve a term of 4 years, no more than 2 terms, or 10 years. The committee will select voter membership. The positions are currently served by Brenda Jones as Vice Chair, and Twila Perucci as Chair.

Forum: The majority of currently appointed voting members need to be present at meetings to vote. There are vacancies among voting members because of resignation, absences, change of positions, or by choice. Voting members get to vote who fills in positions. If voting members are absent for more than 1/3 of regularly scheduled meetings, members will consider a different person to fill in. Members need to be present at meetings.

- All members will be presented with an Orientation, given by Nicole Kelsay
- Voting members will be voted in on the month of September
- Voting members will submit an online training that talks about being a committee member and sign a form that states you have no common of interest to be in committee. This is the state mandated Ethics Training.
- Membership by-laws are assigned to meeting, the committee needs to meet once annually, for the sub-committee membership group to determine members of committee. And meant to fill-in positions that are vacant. There is a by-law sub-committee who reviews the by-laws and recommendations, if necessary. The voting members contribute to that, in looking at by-laws.

Not sure who asked?? – *For people who are not voting members, but attend meetings, is this information online?*

- Information of meeting is on the Clerk of the Board website. I will review the voting member packet to present for non-voting members

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

- Alice is not present due to new role of acting Assistant Director
- Cathi Palatella has filled in for Debra Zanders-Willis; Cathi, is the acting Director of CWS
- Deputy Director, Valesha Bullock, now oversees Residential program

HHSA, San Diego Adoptions – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- 6 new staff effective tomorrow
- On September 17th, FARFS and Adoptions will partner for Taking Care of Business (TCB) day. In making sure that we continue to work through the in-progress home studies that are in Adoptions and adding Adoptions specialty class. The adult Adopting Panel will be present.
- Adoption staff is currently working on completing in-progress home studies, with RFA coming in January 2017. For foster parents who are currently in-progress of continuing your home studies to work with you applicant staff to make sure all the requirements are met and documents are submitted, to ensure the home studies is approved.

HHSA, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) – Diana Macis

- Provided QPI meeting regional info flyer with Ambassadors, meeting dates, locations and times. The current QPI training topic is on Transitions.
- Transition trainings have been completed in 3 regions, with 3 more to come. Dates and times are listed on the Transition training flyer with info about who to contact to register for the 2 hour training. A certificate of training credit is given.
- National QPI convening will be held at end of this month in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Steering committee to meet in October with discussion of what the plans are for 2017.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri

- The “We Can’t Wait” conference for every child in mental health. Jacquie and clinicians will have a breakout workshop, a panel discussion of social workers, former foster youth, and foster parents regarding the many aspects of foster care and working together.

- Waitlist of 2 weeks for both English and Spanish speaking children, since school started.
- Services for CASS and Polinsky out-patient program are going to be up for bid. The County has scheduled industry days to get the input from stakeholders. If interested, flyers are provided: CASS is on 9/20 and Polinsky is on 9/23.

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

- Working on regional project to continue updating medical and dental records. They are going well and we rely on our foster parents to submit information.
- Flu season has started. Everyone should get their flu shot, especially children and elderly.

Debbie Stolz – Is the T-DAP for whooping cough, if you are around infants under 1 year old?

- Depending on what you already had, it may be a booster, T-Dap. I would recommend seeing your doctor, but yes, I would get it for any age babies.

Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Katie Olson

- Katie Olson will be attending this meeting on behalf of DSEP. Katie is transitioning out of her role in our program.
- DSEP provides developmental and behavior screening for all children with open CWS cases.
- Program changes: To be in line with the Pathways to Wellbeing model, re-screenings will be made for children with open cases every 12 months. Behavioral screenings will be completed over the phone with children who are living out of county but have a case open in San Diego.
- DSEP is currently hiring.
- They are backlogged in screening child within 30 days and coordinating with parents for meetings.
- Provide infant massage training to foster parents, relatives, and birth parents, for birth to 6 months babies.
- For priority screening, please call Katie

Debbie Stolz – Can there be a self referral to Kids Start or does that come through DSEP?

- There have been self referrals through the Kids Start program. Sometimes kids do meet the criteria for Kids Start, but DSEP wants to be in the loop for the screening process.
- The criteria have changed for the Kids Start program. They did funding cuts through First 5. The child has to have attempted to have a lower level of services.

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

- New pink booklet is out for Fall/Winter.
- New classes: On page 27, Psychotropic Medications: decreasing misuse and exploring alternatives. The trainer is named Sarah Pauter, an executive youth partner for family and youth round table and former foster youth. Anybody is welcome to attend, the first training will be on September 27, and it is 3 hour training at the foster parent association. Then again in North County in October. San Diego Youth Services (SDYS) co-sponsors training by Ernie Mendes, who will talk about increasing emotional intelligence and mindfulness of children. It is a 5 hour training with lunch provided. Adoption workers are encouraged to attend. Debbie will do training with Peggy Combs-Way, president of Southern California NOFAS. She is a parent with a child with fetal alcohol syndrome. It should be a really great training, it is on October 4th. Overview of Addition, 101, in October. Hired Mary Hubbard, who is a licensed alcohol and drug counselor with experience in foster care; Debbie and Robin Thompson are doing a training based on the little video clip, “Removed,” and will do a full 8 hour training. Hopefully you will attend or refer people to attend.
- If you need pink books, FAKCE can provide them to you.

HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile

- End of the month, there is a Housing 101 Workshop for any 17-18 year olds who wither are in extended foster care or are former foster youth. This will provide them with housing options when they turn 18.

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

- Foster Family Picnic, Sunday, October 9th, 11-2:00 p.m.
- New voting members were unanimously approved. New members are: Mary Jo Meer, Katie Olson, and Miriam Curiel; information will be provided for official membership. Claire will be added a regular member, at this time she is alternate for Anita Secor.
- Flyer for SET program sent out explaining the Agency's practice framework, mission, and goals.

Maxim Respite Care – Mike Palomino

- Busy Labor Day weekend for respite.
- Foster Parents are calling stating that they did not know about the program and if they did know about Maxim, they would have used the respite hours more. More education will be provided. Maxim will be at the foster parent picnic. We would like to be more involved in support groups, getting more information out, making more phone calls, just so more people know about the respite program, how to use respite, and also how to sign up as a provider.
- To be provider, apply online, one does not need to come to the office the first time. We will still need copies of ID to run background checks and other things.
- Mike consulted with the Compliance Department about the training. The training talks about children and adults as a whole, as respite care providers need to be able to report any abuse to adults or children. Per government requirements, the training cannot be modified. They review HIPPA, privacy practices for names and addresses, grievances, incidents, how to properly fill out a time sheet, fraud, and by these trainings, they hold everybody accountable of knowing what is right, what is wrong, and how to properly report. Mike was unable to reduce the amount of time required of trainings, but the provider gets paid to for time spent on trainings. Maxim does not hire unless they have childcare experience with references. The compliance training is focused on the basic things to know to do their job properly.

Nikki Kelsay – Has respite for foster parents going on vacation been reviewed?

- It is a State policy that you cannot use respite for vacations, is that correct?

Veronica Sarabia – I found the WIC codes, and there is ACIN that talks about respite care to be used for child abuse and neglect prevention strategy. The way the WIC codes reads, 16501 (b) As used in this chapter, "respite care" means temporary care for periods not to exceed 72 hours, and, in order to preserve the placement, may be extended up to 14 days in any one month pending the development of policies and regulations in consultation with county placing agencies and stakeholders.

Nikki Kelsay – They are looking at increasing the number of respite hours allowable, for CCR. The Continuum of Care Reform, they are looking to increasing hours up to 14 days, but we are not clear on what that looks like.

Debbie Stolz – It is the County that says you cannot use it to go to work or vacation.

- There is a gray area with that, in the sense that if somebody is in need of respite care, which is rest and relaxation break. They do not state what "break" means to someone.

Debbie Stolz – It seems the County has the discretion to change that to make it work.

Veronica Sarabia – In terms of vacation, that is something that needs to be looked at. But under respite care itself, it is just saying to give foster parents a break. There is another ACIN that talks about Normalcy and it breaks down when you can use an alternative caregiver, respite care, and when

you have to have someone cleared. They have it as a means, to provide normalcy, and so caregivers have other options besides respite care.

Marilynn Sproat – *For medically fragile kids with severe medical issues, the provider has to be trained, because you cannot leave child with a caregiver who is not trained to care for the medical condition specific to the child. Can medically fragile kids be looked considered for this?*

- There is a nursing commission and they do get paid more for kids that need special care. We are looking at hours and so forth.

HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All Regions

South Region –Patricia Olvera

- 5-6 kids in PCC

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

- For foster parents who are on Voluntary Hold and would like to open up, we would like to increase our vacancy list. This will help us to get kids out of PCC.

Debbie Stolz – *There are parents that are not taking in placements but are active in other things that help our children.*

HHSA, CWS Policy & Program Support Division – Veronica Sarabia

- Working on Project KEEP. It is a parenting program for foster parents and relative caregivers. This is not in resource policy manual, so it is in the process of being added to the manual by end of the month. Distribution of flyer and referral form.
- The program is a 16 week group based program, parenting education, to help caregivers with challenging behaviors with support. Eligibility requirements are that they reside in San Diego County and that they are either a foster parent or caregiver to a dependent child. There are incentives; they receive a \$20.00 to Wal-mart, to offset the transportation. If a session is missed, facilitators will work with caregivers to make up session.

HHSA, Polinsky Children Center – Marilynn Sproat

- Population at 23

HHSA, Foster Care Eligibility – Maria Martinez

- In process of issuing clothing allowance, they have until end of September
- CNI increases are almost complete
- Rates will depend on needs of child
- Special Care Rates will not be going away
- New process might change AAP

YMCA Kinship Support Services – Melissa Brooks

- Averaging 30-50 navigator referrals every month
- Waitlist on services, but are having four MSW interns from Cal State San Marcos, who will be starting on Monday. This will help caseload size for our informal families.
- Administer a Crisis Fund, for our child welfare families. We are receiving referrals from social workers that need items for children being placed with relative caregivers. On an average, we spend about \$2,500.00 for the crises fund every month. Looking into increasing funds.
- Deal has been made with all YMCA branches in issuing vouchers for Kinship families. If they would like a membership, it is not free. It is \$10.00 a month for a family of one membership,

which is one adult plus all the kids in the home. Or \$15.00 a month for 2 adults and all kids in home. The vouchers are limited.

- Will be updating information due to RFA.

Roundtable

V. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, October 13, 2016

12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.

5469 Kearny Villa Road

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 1:53 p.m.