

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 10, 2014
6950 Levant St, San Diego
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Sandra Boelter, Bernice Briggs, Elizabeth Cuevas, Wendy Curiel, Ann Fox, Kim Giardina, Sharon Ippolito, Suzette Johnston, Maribel Luna, Diana Macis, Mary Jo Meer, Twila Perucci, Jacquie Pusateri, Alicia Rogers, Anita Secor, Elaine Shelby, Marilyn Sproat, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach

- I. **Sandra Boelter called the meeting to order.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. **Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The June 12th minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. **Presentation:**

Pathways to Well Being—Kim Giardina

Pathways to Well Being is a Child Welfare Services and Behavioral Health Services joint implementation of the Core Practice Model provided by the State of California that resulted from the settlement of the Katie A lawsuit in 2011. Pathways will provide better mental health services to foster youth and coordinate services between CWS and Behavioral Health.

Pathways to Well Being will ensure all foster children with open cases will obtain mental health screening and assessment. Children/youth identified with mental health concerns will be teamed together with family members, social workers, behavior specialists, and other service professionals. The team will meet at 90 days for reassessment. The criteria for enhanced mental health services include Medi-Cal eligibility, in or at risk of placement in a longtime group home, or have had three or more placements in the last 24 months.

The roll-out of Pathways to Well Being started with Residential Services and then with Polinsky. Planning for implementing with the CWS regions is underway. Trainings for social workers will begin in the fall. All foster parents and care givers are encouraged to participate in these trainings. More information will be available at a later date.

IV. **Discussion:**

San Diego Foster Parent Association—Mary Jo Meer

- Funds are still available for extracurricular or enrichment activities, outings such as Disneyland/SeaWorld, or special toys for special needs children @ \$100 per foster child courtesy of Sleep Train.
- Full and twin beds are available for foster children courtesy of Sleep Train. Please call the office for more information.
- The Association will be giving away clothes courtesy of Sleep Train. Foster parents should watch for an email that will be sent out soon with the exact date and time.
- San Diego Futures Foundation will repair and upgrade computers for \$50.
- Association meetings are cancelled during the summer and will resume in September.

Loving Arms Foster Parent Association—Elaine Shelby

- Working on developing a new Board for Loving Arms Foster Parent Association.

Foster & Adoptive Family Resource Services Operations—Ann Fox

- **Annual Review** of all County Advisory Boards is being conducted.
- Foster Care Services is a County Advisory Board, and must adhere to the Brown Act and County Policy A-74, *Citizen Participation in County Boards, Commissions and Committees*.
- **Voting Members:** The Committee must nominate and vote to recommend replacements for four voting members who have left the Committee. Those recommendations will be submitted to the Health and Human Services Agency Director who will appoint the voting members.
 - The Committee nominated and voted to recommend the following Committee members as new Voting Members:
 - Maribel Luna - DESEP
 - Jacquie Pusateri - CASS
 - Barbara Wojtach - Grossmont FAKCE
 - Relative Care Representative - To be determined
 - **Ethics Training:** Voting members must complete 2-hour ethics training every two years. Instructions and link to the training website were distributed at last month's meeting and were emailed today to current voting members. Voting members please complete Ethics training by August 31 and submit your certificate to Ann Fox.
 - **Statement of Incompatible Activities:** This form was distributed at last month's meeting and was emailed today to current voting members. Voting members please complete this form and submit it to Ann Fox by August 31.
 - **Photographs of Voting Members:** The Health and Human Services Agency will post names and photos of voting members of all advisory boards on the respective Advisory Board websites. Photos will be taken by CWS staff after today's meeting, and also after the August meeting. Members may also submit a photo before September 30. Photos must be close up; head and shoulders only.
- Back to school clothing allowances will be issued between September and October. Most dependent children are eligible for either Replacement Clothing Allowance or the Back to School funding. The only dependent children who are **not** eligible are:
 - Non-Minor Dependents
 - Children with initial placement after August 1
 - Children placed out of county or state are issued funds according to clothing policy of the county/state in which they are placed.
- Camp Connect will be held August 7-10. This is a camp opportunity for siblings in foster care who are placed apart. Approximately 100 children will be able to attend. Caregivers must contact the child's social worker to register. Flyer distributed.
- The Options Picnic will be held Wednesday, August 13 at De Anza Cove.
- The 29th Annual Foster Family Picnic will be held in October; exact date not yet finalized.

Sandra Boelter requested that a Committee member volunteer to take her place as the Foster Care Services Committee representative on the Healthy San Diego Consumer Advisory Committee. **Anita Secor** volunteered to be the replacement.

Sandra Boelter inquired about the term limits for the Committee Co-Chairperson, and she suggested that someone replace her as the Co-Chairperson sometime in the future.

Ann Fox will review Committee by-laws related to term limits.

Foster & Adoptive Family Resource Services Operations – Bernice Briggs

- Bernice Briggs is now the Foster/Adoptive Resource Family Ombudsman. She is available to resolve conflicts and concerns regarding placement and transitions.

- Bernice will attend foster parent support groups to inform caretakers of her new role and offer support and guidance on issues caretakers may have.
- Bernice will also continue as supervisor of the Placement Coordinator's Office, Special Care Rates, and the Retention Unit.
- Bernice Briggs can be reached through the KIDSline @ 1-877-792-KIDS (5437).

Maxim respite Care—Elizabeth Cuevas

- Two new respite providers have been hired for the North County; they are located in Vista and Escondido.
- Orientations have been held at Straight from the Heart in order to better serve prospective respite providers who live in North County.
- The new quarter for respite care hours began in July.

Policy – Wendy Curiel

- No new business.

Polinsky Children's Center—Marilyn Sproat

- The population at Polinsky is currently down to 25 children.

San Diego County Adoptions—Diana Macis

- The Exceptional Families for Exceptional Children recruitment booth at the San Diego Fair was very successful. Seventy-six people requested to be contacted with further information.
- Charger Calendar photo sessions will be held in August.
- Adopt 8 segments will incorporate stories featuring the CASA and Mentor programs in addition to children's profiles and success stories.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services—Jacquie Pusateri

- A bilingual clinician has been hired.
- Debbie Stolz is leaving the CASS program; CASS is looking for an experienced foster parent to fill her vacancy.

Child Health Disability Prevention—Anita Secor

- CHDP would like to remind caregivers to send in medical information forms.
- Questions and/or concerns should be directed to one of the CHDP foster care nurses.

Foster Care Education—Barbara Wojtach

- Super Saturday on June 21 went very well! More trainings of this type will be planned in the future.
- Expert Week will be held July 12-17.
 - Jody Johnston Pawel, author of *The Parents Toolshop*, will present *Preventing and Responding Helpfully to Sibling Conflicts* and *Why Children Lie/How to Teach Truth*.
 - UCSD will provide training on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Foster Home Licensing—Alicia Rogers

- Foster Home Licensing has moved to Mission Valley with Residential Services. An email with contact information will be sent to foster parents.
- Myrna Murillo has been hired as a new license investigator.

V. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, August 14, 2014

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

6950 Levant Street, Room 1 A/B

San Diego, CA 92111

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 1:20 pm