



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Subcommittee Meeting

Subcommittee:

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES)	6:00 -7:30 pm
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Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitator: Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Kayla Iliff, Sarah Rafi Slade

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee Summary:

30 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Simone Hidds-Monroe, Stephen Moore, Carolyn Griesemer, Adam Reed, Mara Madrigal-Weiss, Judge Espana.

Sandra McBrayer opened the meeting and recapped for attendees that the meeting was a subcommittee of the larger Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board. Sandy reviewed how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and provided attendees multiple ways to ask questions during the meeting. Sandy encouraged participation via the chat and raise your hand feature. She also reminded current foster youth to turn off their camera for confidentially purposes. Sandy then turned it over to Simone Hidds-Monroe, who reviewed the goals of FAYCES.

FAYCES Evolution

Simone described FAYCES and shared that they are committed to being a permanent partner in the foster care arena. She shared that FAYCES members conducted a retreat in January to define its vision and shared FAYCES’s vision.

- FAYCES’s Vision: All individuals with lived experience in foster care have ownership of the definitions, discourse, and decisions that impact their lives.
- Several FAYCES members shared their commitment to ensure their lived experiences are foundational in foster care/foster youth policies and strategies.

SPA Update

Sandy opened the item and turned it over to CWS’s Valesha Bullock to provide an update on the SPA Proposal to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Valesha shared that the proposal is scheduled to be heard at the January 25th BOS meeting. The goal is to provide the BOS recommendations of how to move forward long-term with the SPA campus that aligns with Family First Act requirements. She shared that litigation on SPA licensing is still pending. Valesha shared that SPA currently has 41 youth on campus.

- A participant asked if SPA is still able to take in youth. Sandy and Valesha confirmed SPA is still able to admit new youth who wish to attend SPA.
- A participant asked how FAYCES can be involved in how the new SPA contract will be shaped.

Sandy shared that FAYCES will help recommend the elements of the scope of work that will be included in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

- A participant asked when the current provider contract expires and the length of the contract. Valesha shared that the contract would end 7/31/22 and it was for twenty years.
- Several participants shared that communication is vital to ensure SPA students receive accurate, up to date information. Simone is requesting to hold a meeting at SPA to provide information and updates as well as a letter with updates.
- A participant asked how contractors can be better monitored. Sandy shared that the new contract could include regular check-ins with stakeholders and require the contractor to make necessary changes.
- A participant asked for an overview of the County contracting process. Sandy shared that the next FAYCES meeting will include a presentation on the County's contracting process.
- A participant asked who would select the new SPA contractor. Sandy replied that a fair and competitive contracting process would include a confidential selection committee comprised of non-interested parties who would select the next contractor.
- A participant shared that contract oversight was missing during their time at SPA.
- A participant shared that current SPA students may be hesitant to share negative experiences regarding the current SPA contractor.
- A participant asked how FAYCES can connect with foster youth regarding their experiences at SPA. Carolyn Griesemer shared that there are laws that protect confidentiality of foster youth; therefore, current youth would have to decide if they wished to be identified and have their personal information shared.
- A participant asked about the status of the pending lawsuit as well as the direction from the BOS. Sandy shared that there are several issues pending, and that the direction of SPA will be clearer once the BOS hears the proposal.
- A participant recommended more communication with SPA youth. Sandy shared that CASAs and attorneys are checking in with SPA youth and shared it is difficult as decisions about SPA have not yet been made.

Story of SPA – Through the Lens of Alumni & Youth - Survey Development

- Simone shared that the survey is still in the development process and the goal is to provide a draft to key stakeholders for approval on 2/1/2022.

Child and Family Well-Being – Broadening Vision

Due to the robust discussion in a previous agenda item, this item was moved to the 2/17/2022 meeting.

Next Steps:

- Next meeting to include an overview of the County's contracting process.
- Conduct informational meetings at SPA.
- Gather key recommendations to be considered for the new SPA provider contract scope of work.

Date of Next Meeting – March 17, 2022