



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, February 17, 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, Judge Espana, Joy Singleton, Carolyn Griesemer.

Sandra McBrayer opened the meeting and recapped that the meeting is 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. 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.

SPA Update

Sandy opened the item and turned it over to CWS’s Valesha Bullock. Valesha discussed that CWS shared recommendations regarding the future of SPA to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on 1/25/22. The recommendations included:

- Obtain authorization to reimagine the SPA campus
- Support the transition of SPA to become a multipurpose campus
- Authorize the County to issue a competitive solicitation regarding Resource Family homes and a Group Home at the campus
- Authorization to issue a competitive solicitation for specialty mental health for the Group Home at the Campus.
- Continue to allow CWS to develop the reimaged SPA campus to and to continue to explore options for a mixed-use campus for a combination of youth populations to include youth in foster care, youth at risk of entering foster care, unaccompanied minors and youth interacting with the juvenile justice system; and to develop a plan for implementation.
- Valesha shared that CWS recently had a Q&A with students at the campus and new candidates for SPA are being informed of future changes to SPA.
 - One participant asked about other populations being considered for SPA. Valesha shared that

CWS is looking at crisis care, short-term residential treatment, and resource families. Foster youth remain the priority for these proposed services.

- One participant asked how youth would interact with one another at the new campus. Valesha shared the goal is to provide community support to keep the integrity of the campus.
- One participant asked why another location is not being explored. Sandra shared that the SPA campus is owned by the County and other locations are not currently viable.

Review of County Contract Procurement Process

Sandy opened the item and turned it over to Maggie Ramsberger to share the County of San Diego's contracting process. Maggie provided an overview of the contracting process, that includes planning, solicitation, and award. She emphasized the confidential and competitive nature of the process. Maggie stated that sometimes organizations come together as a collaboration and apply collectively. Maggie also reviewed the confidentiality expectations as well as the conflict of interest document.

- Several participants shared that the current 20-year contract is too long. One participant shared that a contract needs to be long enough so staff can build relationships with youth.
- One participant asked if alumni would lose their housing at SPA. Sandy replied that the County has shared that they are interested in providing housing to alumni.
- Several participants asked when the request for proposal will open. Sandy shared that the date is not known at this time.

FAYCES Recommendations for SPA Scope of Work

Sandy opened the item and turned it over to Simone Hidds-Monroe. Simone described the 10 recommendations that were developed by FAYCES members:

- Establish a permanent youth and alumni advisory board
- Youth input – SPA youth contribute their knowledge and expertise
- Cultural shift to raising children and youth
- Youth safety – zero tolerance for misconduct, provide neutral ombudsman
- Education assessments
- School of Origin – Honor the School of Origin Law
- Trades & Certificates – expand pathways and guide individual success plans
- Independent Living Skills (ILS) – enhance ILS to make them more practical and individualized
- Mental and emotional wellness
- Track and measure: Satisfaction, outcomes and impacts

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

Simone Hidds-Monroe opened the item and turned it over to James Hidds-Monroe. James shared that the survey is an opportunity for SPA youth and alumni to provide input regarding their experiences at SPA. James shared that the survey will be available from March 1-31. The survey is anonymous, and result will be shared at a stakeholder meeting on May 19, 2022.

Date of Next Meeting – March 17, 2022