



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Subcommittee Meeting

Subcommittee Committee:

Child and Family Services	11:00 - 12:30 pm
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Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitator: Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Jocelyn Núñez, Kayla Illif

Child and Family Services Subcommittee Summary: 46 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Alethea Arguilez, Carolyn Griesemer, Cheryl Rode, Jeff Wiemann, Jessica Heldman, Patty Boles, Sade Burrell, Sandra Mueller, Scott Huizar, Stephen Moore

Sandra McBrayer opened the meeting and conducted roll call. Jocelyn then described the meeting materials. Sandra provided a brief overview of the agenda and explained how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and encouraged participation.

San Pasqual Academy Updates

Sandra opened the agenda item on passed it to Valesha Bullock to provide the bellow update.

- CWS was going to present SPA recommendations to the Board of Supervisors during the December meeting but is was postponed until the January meeting due to a ruling by finding by the court.
- During the January presentation to the Board of Supervisors six recommendations were presented:
 - Re-envision SPA
 - Continue to support the congregate care component at SPA
 - Authorization to do a competitive solicitation for resource family homes and group homes on the campus
 - Authorization to do a competitive solicitation for mental health type services on the campus
 - Start developing a plan to help serve the foster youth in general
 - Continue to use the campus for mixed usages
- CWS has been approved to start making referrals to SPA.
- Currently there are 41 youth at SPA and 8 referrals submitted with 11 youth slated to graduate in June.

CWS Data

Sandra opened the agenda item and turned it over to Balambal Bharti to present on the requested CWS data.

The below data was presented:

- First entries to Foster Care for 8 days or more for children ages 0-17 years of age.
 - There were not questions from the public on this data.
- First entries to Foster Care for 8 days or more for children ages 0-17 years of age broken down by race.
 - One member of the Advisory Board asked if individuals could identify as multiple race/ethnicities. Balambal stated there is currently no option to select multiple races but will take it back to the state CWS CMS reporting.
- Point in time count of children in Foster Care broken down by age.
 - One member of the Advisory Board asked for a breakdown of allegations and substantiation by race and ethnicity. Valesha stated that due to the system that is used by the state they are not able to export that data.

Update on Workgroup Recommendations

Sandra opened the item and turned it over to Elly Chung of Child Welfare Services, to provide an update on the recommendations.

- Recommendation #15 (Completed- Ongoing): Require the Ombudsman office to regularly provide a summary report to the CAPCC regarding the number, type, final resolution, and/or current status of complaints.
 - A Program Specialist position under the Agency Compliance Office was approved in budget build
 - Job duties include:
 - Conduct an independent review of concerns/complaints elevated regarding CWS policies or practices by the customers, members of the public, community organizations or CWS related agencies
 - Participate in high level case review meetings to identify practice and policy areas of strengths and needing improvement, and to determine next action steps
 - Prepare executive level correspondence, investigative reports, and other related material.
 - Prepare a quarterly report for the CFSAB
 - A regular report will be provided to the CFSAB on the outcomes from these complaints
 - A candidate has been selected and is in the background process
 - Once the background process is completed, we will start to transition
 - We hope for the Program Specialist to start within next month or so
 - We recognize that this is the first step in developing a community trusted process
 - We will be evaluating the function of this role, receiving client feedback to help inform the structure and function of this role over time
- Questions and Comments on recommendation #15:
 - No questions were asked on this recommendation.
- Recommendation #8 (Completed- Ongoing): Consult with outside experts, such as the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI), and Kempe Center, to conduct a workload analysis and determine best practices to achieve optimal caseloads and staffing levels.
 - Conduct an independent review of concerns/complaints elevated regarding CWS policies or practices by the customers, members of the public, community organizations or CWS related agencies
 - Participate in high level case review meetings to identify practice and policy areas of strengths and needing improvement, and to determine next action steps

- Prepare executive level correspondence, investigative reports, and other related material.
- Prepare a quarterly report for the CFSAB
- Questions and Comments on recommendation #8:
 - How does the data align with turnover? Turnover is calculated by looking at CWS rosters and comparing the difference. Currently, that turn over data does not account for individuals that move to another position.
- Recommendation #4 (In Progress- Ongoing): Create public recognition for staff at all levels whose work personifies these values.
 - HEART (Helpfulness, Expertise, Attentiveness, Respect, and Timeliness) recognition internally for coworkers to recognize each other
 - Staff newsletters
 - QPI provides resource parents with an opportunity to recognize social workers
 - Social Worker Appreciation events annually
 - Annual Report
 - Partnered with UCSD to conduct staff engagement surveys and other ways to streamline work
- Questions and Comments on recommendation #4:
 - No questions were asked on this recommendation.
- Recommendation #29 (Complete- Ongoing): Develop a comprehensive and unified approach for the recruitment of resource families in partnership with Probation, the philanthropic community, and FFAs. To include data and demographic analysis to conduct targeted campaigns specific to geographic location, skill, and experience.
 - Meetings with Probation regarding FFAs
 - FFA and CWS partnership
 - Channel 8, digital streaming services for recruitment
 - Utilization of a marketing company to expand media platform in 2022
 - Unified SDCares4Kids website
 - Targeted community recruitment events
 - Emergency RFA Orientation video to be uploaded to BINTI
- Questions and Comments on recommendation #29:
 - No questions were asked on this recommendation.

Sandra concluded the meeting by proposing to the subcommittee a schedule for reviewing previous on-going recommendations, which will be divided into three categories: Placement, Practice Improvements, Staff Development. The proposed schedule is as follows for the remainder of the year:

- April – Placement Recommendations
- June – Practice Improvements Recommendations
- August – Staff Development Recommendations
- October – Placement Recommendations
- December - Practice Improvements Recommendations

Sandra then reminded everyone of upcoming meetings:

- Full Advisory Board Meeting: Friday, March 11th 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Next Meeting: April 28, 2022, 11:00 am