



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Child and Family Strengthening
Advisory Board
Minutes of July 09, 2021

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS
First District
JOEL ANDERSON
Second District
TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Third District
NATHAN FLETCHER
Fourth District
JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

Members Present:

Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Nora Vargas, County Board of Supervisors
Alethea Arguilez, First 5 San Diego
Crystal Irving, Child Welfare Services, Protective Services
Carolyn Griesemer, Children's Legal Services of San Diego
Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc.
Jessica Heldman, Polinsky Children's Center
Cheryl Rode, San Diego Center for Children
Kimberly Giardina, Child Welfare Services
Nick Macchione, County Health and Human Service Agency
Maddy Kilkenny, District 5 Appointee
Simone Hidds-Monroe, San Pasqual Academy
Patty Boles, Straight from the Heart, Inc.
Adam Reed, Dependency Legal Services
Sade Burrell, Former Foster Youth
Joy Singleton, District 3 Appointee
Jeff Wiemann, Foster Family Agency
Mara Madrigal-Weiss, San Diego County Office of Education
Sandy Mueller, Children's Health Care Professional
Scott Huizar, County Probation Department

Members Not Present:

Melissa Villagomez, Former Foster Youth
Judge Ana España, Juvenile Court

Staff Present:

Stephanie Gioia, Supervisor Nathan Fletcher's Office
Ruth Martin, Supervisor Nora Vargas' Office
Kyle Sand, County Counsel
Sandra McBrayer, The Children's Initiative
Jocelyn Nuñez, County Health and Human Services Agency
Jesse Greenfield, County Health and Human Services Agency

1) Welcome and Introduction

- Supervisor Fletcher brought the meeting to order at 9:00 am and Jocelyn Nunez conducted roll call for the Advisory Board.

2) Public Comment

- Supervisor Fletcher asked if any of the public members wished to address the Advisory Board.
 - There were no members of the public that wished to address the board on non-agenda items.

3) Approval for the Statement of Proceeding/Minutes for the meeting of March 12, 2021, April 29, 2021, and May 14, 2021.

- Supervisor Fletcher made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the suggested amendment from Cheryl Rode and a second from Stephen Moore.
- The motion passed with all members voting Aye and one abstention.

4) San Pasqual Academy (SPA)

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Kimberly Giardina to provide an update.
 - The County of San Diego signed the agreement with the California Department of Social Services and is following the new guidelines provided by the extension.
 - New guidelines provided by the extension:
 1. No new placements can be made

2. Child and Family Team meetings for youth will need to continue for placement planning
 3. A third-party independent evaluator will need to assess the needs of the youth and stakeholders
 4. The County of San Diego will need to report updates to the California Department of Social Services every two weeks.
 - The County of San Diego will be working with the Children's Initiative and Harder+Company to conduct the stakeholder meetings.
- Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
 - The members of the public shared their concerns about the ongoing trauma this brings to the children at SPA.
 - Supervisor Fletcher requested any other comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - Several members of the Advisory Board asked for clarification on several items discussed by Kim.
 - Sandra McBrayer stated there were no more comments and concluded item 3.

5) Update on the Foster Youth Subcommittee – June 10, 2021

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item asked Simone Hidds-Monroe to provide an update.
 - Simone shared on the items the workgroup is currently working on.
 - Mission and Vision
 - Survey for current and alumni of SPA
- Supervisor Fletcher called for any public comment on this item.
 - No public comments were requested.
- Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - There were no member comments.

6) Approval of Recommendations from Subcommittees

- Sandra McBrayer introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Kim Giardina. Kim presented on the remaining workgroup recommendations, currently 76 of the 88 recommendations are completed.
 - Workforce Development Recommendations
 - Completed – Ongoing: Enhance education and training to create better experiences of CWS improving the lives of children and families that can influence the public's consciousness
 - Completed: Establish stronger guidelines for continuing education that address individual areas of need and improvement for caseworkers and supervisors
 - Completed: Explore peer support and mentorship models to create internal support systems and enhance caseworker and supervisor skills and abilities.
 - Organizational Structure Recommendations
 - Completed-Ongoing: Actively involve children, youth, families and providers to create plans and implement policies that change experiences and result in greater positive impact.
 - Completed-Ongoing: Make all CWS policies publicly available
 - Completed-Ongoing: Evaluate the operationalization of the SET practice framework across agency culture, practices, and policies.
 - Completed-Ongoing: CWS to track and assess the overall impact to children's well-being by examining initial scores in relation to follow-up scores of the children over time.
 - Completed-Ongoing: Continue to conduct an annual caregiver satisfaction survey, sharing results with stakeholders.
 - Completed: The County must immediately leverage both internal and external technology resources to adopt/develop an RFA Applicant Management System

- Supervisor Fletcher called for any public comment on this item.
 - No public comments were requested.
- Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - Several members of the advisory board discussed evaluating the recommendations to ensure efficacy.
- Supervisor Fletcher made a motion to approve the recommendations. It was seconded by Jeff Wiemann.
 - Motion passed with all members voting Aye.

7) COVID-19 Update

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and began the update.
 - Supervisor Fletcher provided the below updates:
 - Assessing the viability of having in-person or hybrid meeting as we continue the Child and Family Advisory board meetings.
 - Current County of San Diego vaccine rates

8) Child Welfare Services, Director's Report

- Supervisor Fletcher asked Kim Giardina to provide a Director's Report.
 - Kim gave the below updates:
 - Shared CWS organizational chart
 - CWS data from 2020
 - CWS Operational Plan
- Supervisor Fletcher called for any public comment on this item.
 - No public comments were requested.
- Supervisor Fletcher requested comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - One member of the advisory board asked for clarification on the FURS process.

9) Advisory Board Member Updates

- Supervisor Fletcher opened the floor to members with updates.
 - Several members of the advisory board shared updates.

10) Adjournment

- Supervisor Fletcher closed the meeting and reminded attendees the next meeting will be on Friday, September 10th from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Next Meeting:

- September 10, 2021

Distributed:

- Meeting Agenda
- Family Support Liaison Program Presentation

Meeting minutes were submitted by Jocelyn Nunez. Please call Jocelyn Nunez at (619) 550-8815 if you have corrections or suggested revisions. She may also be contacted for agenda items or general information.

