



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Ad-hoc Committee Meeting

Ad-hoc Committee:

Race & Equity	1:00 - 2:30 pm
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Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitators: Stephanie Heying

Meeting Staff: Emily Lay, D'Andre Brooks

Race & Equity Ad-hoc Committee Summary: 40 attendees took part in the Ad-hoc Committee.

Advisory Members Participating: Jessica Heldman, Stephen Moore

Stephanie provided a brief overview of the agenda and the purpose of the Ad-hoc committee. Stephanie then explained how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and provided attendees multiple ways to ask questions during the meeting. Lastly, Stephanie encouraged participation from all attendees.

Data Review

Stephanie opened the agenda item and turned it over to Dr. Balambal Bharti to present on the agenda item.

- Dr. Bharti gave an overview of mothers who have lost their parental rights.
 - Termination of parental rights (TPR) increased in 2020-21, mostly likely due to the pandemic.
 - TPR decreased in 2021-22, from 301 terminations in 2020-21 to 159 terminations in 2021-22.
 - Overall, the distribution of TPR across ethnicities has not changed over the last three years.
- Questions:
 - Babbi Winegarden asked for clarification on if the TPR information is inclusive of different groups. Dr. Bharti clarified that the data is pulled from Child Welfare Services (CWS) and is based only on CWS data.
 - Jessica Heldman requested data that show how many families, broken down by ethnicity, who are involved with CWS result in TPRs.
- Dr. Bharti then gave an overview on hotline calls not referred for investigation.
 - There were no major differences between the reporter type for hotline calls not referred for investigation and hotline calls referred for investigation.
 - Dr. Bharti clarified that hotline referrals can include multiple children with different ethnicities.
 - Of the 18,073 children not assigned for investigation, 46% were Hispanic, 27% were White, and 10% were African American.

- Overall, there were no major differences in ethnicity between hotline calls referred and not referred for investigation.

Targeted Recruitment and Retention Plan

Stephanie opened the agenda item and turned it over to Diana Macias to present on the agenda item.

- Diana gave an overview of the Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS), focusing on recruitment and retention.
 - Recruitment:
 - Goals of Recruitment for Resource Family's and for specific children.
 - Examples of recruitment methods include, but are not limited to:
 - Attendance at community booths/events such as PRIDE events, Juneteenth, Special Needs Foundation events, etc.
 - Social media ads
 - Keeping the Heart Gallery up to date
 - Retention:
 - There are a wide variety of support services for Resource Families, including, but not limited to:
 - Respite care
 - Medical and dental insurance for children and youth
 - YMCA Services
 - In-home based services for children, youth, and resource parents

Faith in Motion Presentation

Stephanie opened the agenda item and turned it over to Diana Macias to present on the agenda item.

- Diana gave an overview of Faith in Motion, a collaboration between CWS and faith-based organizations in the community.
 - The goal of Faith in Motion is to support and enhance permanency for children and youth in foster care, support placement stability in resource homes, and to remove barriers that may preclude youth from being placed in family settings.
 - There are approximately 30 faith-based organizations currently involved, with regional meetings held bi-monthly with faith-based leaders.
 - In November 2022, CWS will attend the Faith and Foster Care Conference to highlight Faith in Motion and the contributions faith-based organizations have made to the community.
 - CarePortal, a platform that connects faith-based organizations with foster and resource parents in need, is set to launch in early 2023.

Setting Goals for Recruitment of more Families of Color

Stephanie opened the agenda item and opened the item up for discussion.

- A participant asked where in the community CWS is going to recruit more families of color. Diana Macias responded CWS tries to attend all community events, such as Juneteenth and visiting the Martin Luther King library. The participant asked if CWS is partnering with African American owned or run organizations to reach more families. Diana replied that the pandemic minimized many partnerships with organizations, but CWS is currently working to reestablish those partnerships. She mentioned CWS is always welcome to suggestions and would appreciate any additional information members can provide.
- Stephen Moore asked if there was a brief overview of how resource family recruitment is progressing (are we in need of more families overall, are there gaps in coverage of resource families, or are there enough resource families to cover the children in the system). Lillian Asoera commented there has been a drop in resource families willing to care for children with complex

needs. Diana Macias commented CWS is transparent about what the needs of these children are, but that individual's applying to become a resource parent are not always looking for care for a child or children with complex needs.

- Stephen Moore asked if the new Assembly and State bills have impacted the number of individuals applying to become resource families/parents. Lillian commented that she has seen an increase in waivers need for individuals who were not previously eligible to become resource parents.

Goal for Ad-Hoc Committee – Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in CWS – Moving forward

Agenda item was moved to the December meeting.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2022, 1:00 pm

Stephanie concluded the meeting by reviewing agenda items for the December meeting.

- Setting goals for recruitment of more families of color.
- Eliminate disproportionality with a targeted goal.
- Data on families within CWS resulting in TPR