



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, October 27, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitator: Stephanie Heying

Meeting Staff: Emily Lay

Child and Family Services Subcommittee Summary: 45 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Adam Reed, Ana Espana, Cheryl Rode, Jeff Weimann, Joy Singleton, Sandra Mueller, Stephen Moore

I, II. Stephanie Heying opened the meeting and provided a brief overview of the agenda. She explained how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and encouraged participation.

III. Child Welfare Services System Improvement Plan (SIP)

Stephanie opened the agenda item and passed it on to Laura Kryzwicki of Child Welfare Services (CWS), who introduced Nikki Kelsay of CWS, Casey Mackereth of Harder and Company, and Delona King of San Diego Probation. Casey, Nikki, and Delona gave the following update:

- The Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and the California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR):
 - Overall goals of the CFSR:
 - Ensure conformity with legislation.
 - Determine what is happening to children and families.
 - Enhance capacity to improve outcomes and systems for children and families.
 - The ultimate goal of the C-CFSR is to have a plan that guides the county for the next 5 years.
 - The C-CFSR process:
 - Begins with the County Self-Assessment (CSA), which reviews outcome data on children and families collected by CWS and Probation and aims to understand some of the trends happening over time. This information is used to guide community engagement efforts.
 - Moves to the Peer Review, which reviews cases from CWS and Probation to identify areas of improvement and areas of success. These recommendations are included in the CSA.
 - CWS and Probation will then identify strategies to address the core concerns highlighted in the CSA. These strategies will become the SIP.
 - CSA and SIP Areas of Focus:

- Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care.
 - Service array and resource development.
 - CWS will focus on 4 strategies and Probation will focus on 2 strategies.
 - Feedback from the CSA and strategies for the SIP:
 - CWS:
 - Feedback includes but is not limited to:
 - Relationships with social workers are important.
 - Individualized services are needed.
 - Cultural awareness from service providers is needed.
 - Strategies include but are not limited to:
 - Improving parent-child interactions.
 - Strengthening social work engagement practice.
 - Increasing prevention services.
 - Probation:
 - Feedback includes but is not limited to:
 - Developing and connecting youth and families with community-based services is valuable.
 - Specialized services and supports for families are needed.
 - Strategies include:
 - Matching youth with the most appropriate services in a timely manner and reduce re-entry into foster care.
 - Ensuring youth are referred to services that are appropriate, trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and easily accessible.
- Questions and comments on the SIP presentation:
 - Laura Kryzwicki clarified that CWS and Probation are seeking feedback and input on the SIP strategies from the group because of their unique expertise.
 - Nikki Kelsay shared that the meeting materials give a snapshot of the SIP and can be helpful to understanding the process.
 - A participant asked for clarification on if the requested feedback should be specific to population each participant serves and how that tie into the SIP. Nikki clarified that they are requesting feedback on the SIP strategies, specifically focusing on the strategies that are currently being developed, through each participant's unique expertise. She suggested feedback should focus on: are the strategies applicable; should different strategies be developed to focus on a different action item; and are there any action steps that could be taken to accomplish these strategies.
 - A participant commented that there has been an increase in child abuse cases since the pandemic began, with many youth removals occurring without any intervention with the parents. She suggested a specialized training on divorced families and families with a parent who has a mental illness would be beneficial.
 - Jeff Wiemann commented that a barrier to improving visitation and the parent-child bond is how ready the parents and child are to participate in visitation. He suggested a way to avoid this barrier is to ensure the Protective Services Workers (PSWs) are clearly communicating with the parents of the child. He also suggested that Resource Families having open communication with the parents of the child would encourage and support the SIP strategies.
 - A participant commented that flexibility is important in increasing the success of visitation. Many parents must travel long distances and experience many unintended barriers, such as lack of gas/travel money, that minimize flexibility for the parents. She suggested providing resources, such as gas station gift cards, or services that help minimize those barriers.

- A participant commented that many resource parents do not provide visitation, making it difficult to improve the parent-child bond. She suggested finding ways to minimize this barrier would be beneficial to the child and the parents.
- Cheryl Rode shared that many referrals for wrap-around services are coming from CWS, whereas in the past most referrals came from Probation. She commented that referrals for wrap-around services early in each case can be beneficial in making parents and youth more comfortable.

IV. Workgroup Recommendations

The agenda item was moved to the December meeting.

Stephanie concluded the meeting by reviewing items that will be discussed during the December meeting.

- Family's First Update
- Breakdown of total children and youth at PCC with stays longer than 10 days
- Data of total children and youth at PCC with stays longer than 10 days from January-June 2022 for comparison
- Educational and Mental Health services at PCC
- Length between arrival at PCC and assessment of children and youth by Qualified Individuals (QIs)
- Workgroup Recommendations

Stephanie then reminded everyone of the upcoming full advisory board meeting occurring on Friday, November 18th at 9:00 am.

VII. Next Meeting: December 22, 2022, 11:00 am