



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**  
*Child and Family Strengthening  
Advisory Board*  
**Minutes of November 5, 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  
Adam Reed, Dependency Legal Services  
Aimee Zeitz, District 2 Appointee  
Alethea Arguilez, First 5 San Diego  
Carolyn Griesemer, Children's Legal Services of San Diego  
Cheryl Rode, San Diego Center for Children  
Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc.  
Judge Ana España, Juvenile Court  
Kimberly Giardina, Child Welfare Services  
Nick Macchione, County Health and Human Service  
Agency  
Simone Hidds-Monroe, San Pasqual Academy  
Patty Boles, Straight from the Heart, Inc.  
Jeff Wiemann, Foster Family Agency  
Jessica Heldman, Polinsky Children's Center  
Melissa Villagomez, Former Foster Youth  
Sade Burrell, Former Foster Youth  
Scott Huizar, County Probation Department

**Members Not Present:**

Joy Singleton, District 3 Appointee  
Crystal Irving, Child Welfare Services, Protective Services  
Maddy Kilkenny, District 5 Appointee  
Mara Madrigal-Weiss, San Diego County Office of Education  
Sandy Mueller, Children's Health Care Professional  
Khylan Bolden, Former Foster Youth

**Staff Present:**

Kyle Sand, County Counsel  
Sandra McBrayer, The Children's Initiative  
Jesse Greenfield, County Health and Human Services  
Agency  
Kayla Iloff, County Department of Human Resources

## **1. Welcome and Introduction**

- Supervisor Fletcher brought the meeting to order at 2:01 pm and Sandra McBrayer conducted roll call for the Advisory Board.
- A quorum was present.
- Chair Fletcher stated that members would have two minutes to speak on agenda items.

## **2. Public Comment**

- Supervisor Fletcher asked if any members of the public wished to address the Advisory Board.
  - Three members of the public asked the Race & Equity Ad-hoc be moved from the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board to the Office of Equity and Racial Justice.
  - Chair Fletcher pointed out that the CFSAB does not have the authority to assign responsibility to any other County department.

## **3. Authorization of Teleconferencing Meeting Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Kyle Sand who provided a brief presentation.
- Supervisor Fletcher stated that the intention was to resume in person meetings for the January 2022 Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board meeting.
- Supervisor Fletcher made a motion to approve the recommendations and it was seconded by Adam Reed.
- Advisory Board members reconsidered the current State of Emergency as well as the ongoing recommendation from local officials to promote social distancing.
- Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
  - No public comments were requested.
- Supervisor Fletcher requested any other comments from members of the Advisory Board.
  - There were no member comments.
- Motion passes with all present board members voting aye.

## **4. Next Steps for Child and Family Well-Being**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and asked the members to reflect on next steps. Supervisor Fletcher recommended the Advisory Board set a goal to develop 10-12 guiding principles to drive the vision forward of child and family well-being with a focus on mental health.
- Supervisor Fletcher requested any other comments from members of the Advisory Board.
  - A member of the Advisory Board emphasized that continuum of care for families is important as well as determining how effective the 88 recommendations are in practice.
  - A member of the Advisory Board asked Kim Giardina if there would be an opportunity to report out in January 2022 on what was learned from the Community Needs Assessment for Family First Services and Prevention act.
    - Kim stated findings would be shared at the January 2022 meeting.
- Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
  - No public comments were requested.

## **5. Approval for the Statement of Proceeding/Minutes for the meeting of July 9, 2021 and September 10, 2021**

- Supervisor Vargas made a motion to approve the recommendations. Seconded by Jeff Wiemann.
- Motion passed with 12 voting aye for the July minutes and 11 voting aye for the September minutes.

- Amiee Zeitz abstained from the July minutes.
- Adam Reed and Jessica Heldman abstained from the September minutes.

**6. Update on the Foster Youth Subcommittee – September 9, 2021**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item turned it over to Sandra McBrayer and Kim Giardina.
  - Sandra and Kim presented on the operational status of SPA, focus group feedback, and next steps.
- Supervisor Fletcher requested comments from members of the Advisory Board.
  - A member of the Advisory Board asked Kim if there was a need to find a temporary care shelter as Polinsky Children’s Center is running under capacity. Kim stated that Polinsky is not at capacity.
    - Sandra mentioned San Diego is still struggling with dual youth when their placement is no longer available, and they are being returned to Juvenile Hall while a new STRTP is found.
    - A member suggested that consider unaccompanied minors regarding a multi-use campus.
- Supervisor Fletcher called for any public comment on this item.
  - A member of the public said that a goal of FAYCES is to distribute a survey to current and former SPA students, but a list of names does not exist. The member of the public asked the Advisory Board to provide a list of names if available.

**7. Race and Equity Subcommittee Update- October 13, 2021**

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Sandy McBrayer and Kim Giardina.
  - Sandy shared that data was provided at the last meeting and was reviewed by the ad-hoc committee.
  - There was a request for additional data about allegations and what were the pressing issues of those allegations.
  - A member requested the number of African American youth placed in non-English speaking homes
  - Additional data was requested in relation to if youth are placed in the same region/zip code they came from.
- Supervisor Vargas called for any public comment on this item.
  - One member of the public was concerned about approximately 60 youths that are not placed with relatives.
  - One member of the public requested that the intention of the Ad-hoc committee be reiterated because they feel there is a lack of trust and don’t believe everyone is working toward the same goal.

**8. Approval of Recommendation from Child and Family Services Subcommittees**

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Kim Giardina to review the recommendations.
- Workforce Development Recommendations
  - In progress- conduct a workload analysis and determine best practices to achieve optimal caseloads and staffing levels.
    - Policy and Program Support collaborated with regional leaders to develop a consistent template for workload tracking.
- Organizational Structure Recommendations
  - In Progress-Ongoing - Create public recognition for staff at all levels whose work personifies these values HEART Recognition internally for all coworkers to recognize each other, staff newsletters, Annual Report.
  - Recruitment of resource families: Completed-Ongoing- Targeted community recruitment

- events, FFA And CWS partnership, Unified SDCares4Kids website,
- Jeff Wiemann made a motion to approve the recommendations. Seconded by Melissa Villagomez.
    - Motion passed with all members voting aye except Simone Hidds-Monroe who abstained.

#### **9. Update on the Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES)– October 14, 2021**

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item asked Simone Hidds-Monroe to provide an update.
  - Simone provided a brief update on the status of the Reimaging SPA Survey.
- Supervisor Vargas called for any public comment on this item.
  - One member of the public stated that they can help get the word out about the SPA survey.
- Supervisor Vargas requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
  - There were no member comments.

#### **10. Child Welfare Services, Director's Report**

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and asked Kim Giardina to provide a Director's Report.
  - Kim shared there was a Sunset Review for Out of Home Placement. Changes were made to the policy regarding the language of the document based on legislation.
  - Kim discussed the Indian Health Council/Southern Indian Health Council contract and would like to keep the programs in place.
- Supervisor Vargas called for any public comment on this item.
  - There were no public comments.
- Supervisor Vargas requested comments from members of the Advisory Board.
  - There were no member comments.

#### **11. Advisory Board Member Updates**

- Supervisor Vargas opened the floor to Advisory Board members to share any updates.
  - Patty Boles shared details about her organization's upcoming toy drive.

#### **12. Adjournment**

- Supervisor Vargas closed the meeting.

#### **Next Meeting:**

- January 14, 2022

#### **Distributed:**

- Meeting Agenda
- Board Policy E-12
- Recommendations of Subcommittees
- Re-envisioning San Pasqual Academy Report
- Services to Native American Communities Board Letter
- SPA Options

Meeting minutes were submitted by Kayla Iliff. Please call Kayla Iliff at (619) 531-5123 if you have corrections or suggested revisions. She may also be contacted for agenda items or general information.