



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Subcommittee Meeting

Ad-hoc Committee:

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES)	6:00 -7:30 pm
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Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitator: Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Kayla Iliff, Sarah Rafi Slade

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee Summary:

30 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Simone Hidds-Monroe, Carolyn Griesemer, Melissa Villagomez, Jessica Heldman, Sade Burrell, Stephen Moore

Sandra McBrayer opened the meeting and recapped for attendees that the meeting was a subcommittee of the larger Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board. Sandy turned it over to Simone who reviewed the goals of FAYCES. Sandy then reviewed how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and provided attendees multiple ways to ask questions during the meeting. Sandy encouraged participation via the chat and raise your hand feature. She also reminded current foster youth to turn off their camera for confidentiality purposes.

SPA Update

Sandra opened the item and turned it over to Valesha Bullock who shared that SPA would operate until June 30, 2022, and that as of October 26, 2021, 44 youth are placed at SPA. Sandra shared that key stakeholder focus groups were convened to provide suggestions on the future use of SPA. The focus groups included: former foster youth, relative and resource families, SPA partners, community partners, and CWS staff. The key take away was the recommendation to continue to serve foster youth on the SPA campus. Valesha described the multipurpose campus options and other populations that could be supported at the campus.

Valesha shared next steps include requesting the Board of Supervisors on December 7, 2022 to determine the course of action for the SPA campus. Valesha outlined the purpose of the meeting is to provide the Board with recommendations where we can move forward with augmenting the SPA campus that are in line with the Family First Prevent Act. Valesha shared that CWS will continue to engage the community in the various planning phases for the vision for the SPA campus.

- A participant asked if the lawsuit to keep SPA open is successful, how it would impact changes to SPA. Valesha replied that she would inquire with County Counsel for more information.
- A participant asked how the new contractor to manage the campus would be chosen as they

would not want the current contractor chosen. Sandra shared that prior to a new provider being chosen, in-depth focus groups would occur to learn what is needed at the campus.

- A participant shared their concern that an umbrella-type center would be too generic to work.
- A participant shared she supported the campus serving youth victims/at-risk of sex trafficking.

Career Pathways for Foster Youth Update

Simone shared that this includes 5 million for foster youth to provide education and career exploration. Danielle Fettes, a research professor at UCSD, described the process for obtaining community feedback. The question posed was, “What education/career resources, opportunities and experiences should current and/or former foster youth be able to access?” Consensus recommendations included: college/career tours, enrichment activities, pre-employment training, self-assessment tools and having navigators with lived experience. Simone shared that FAYCES will submit final recommendations to CWS on November 30, 2021.

- A participant asked if this proposal would go before the Board of Supervisors. Valesha replied that she does not believe this item would go before the Board prior to going out as a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit vendors/contractors to provide the services.
- A participant recommended staff overseeing this program include staff with lived experience.

Story of SPA – Through the Lens of Alumni & Youth - Survey Development

Simone shared that the survey is in the testing process and is planned to go live in 2022.

- A participant asked if it is possible to obtain a list of former foster youth. Valesha replied that there is currently no list of names available.

2022 Future Meetings Days and Times

Simone Hidds-Monroe requested meetings occur on the third Thursday beginning in 2022. Sandra asked participants to share in the chat if they agree and if they agree to continue conducting meetings virtually. All chat responses indicated agreement with the new date and to keep the meeting virtual.

Next Steps:

- Review SPA Proposal Shared at the 12/7 Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Final Recommendation from FAYCES on Career Pathways for Foster Youth
- Story of SPA – Through the Lens of Alumni & Youth - Survey Development

Date of Next Meeting – December 9, 2021