



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Child and Family Strengthening
Advisory Board
Minutes of January 14, 2022

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
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
Jeff Wiemann, Foster Family Agency
Jessica Heldman, Polinsky Children's Center
Judge Ana España, Juvenile Court
Kimberly Giardina, Child Welfare Services
Khylan Bolden, Former Foster Youth
Maddy Kilkenny, District 5 Appointee
Melissa Villagomez, Former Foster Youth
Nick Macchione, County Health and Human Service Agency
Patty Boles, Straight from the Heart, Inc.
Simone Hidds-Monroe, San Pasqual Academy
Sade Burrell, Former Foster Youth
Sandy Mueller, Children's Health Care Professional
Scott Huizar, County Probation Department
Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc

Members Not Present:

Joy Singleton, District 3 Appointee
Mara Madrigal-Weiss, San Diego County Office of Education
Supervisor Nora Vargas, County Board of Supervisors

Staff Present:

Sandra McBrayer, The Children's Initiative
Kyle Sand, County Counsel
Jocelyn Nuñez, County Health and Human Services Agency
Kayla Iliff, County Department of Human Resources

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Supervisor Fletcher brought the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
- A quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

- Supervisor Fletcher asked if any members of the public wished to address the Advisory Board.
 - One member of the public addressed the board and brought up the issue of sober living homes. It is an issue in the county that there isn't enough sober living homes for mothers and their children, as well as home for fathers and their children.

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. Advisory Board members reconsidered the current State of Emergency as well as the ongoing recommendation from local officials to promote social distancing.
- A vote was conducted via role call by Sandra. The motion passed with all present members voting aye.

4. Subcommittee/Ad-hoc Updates

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Sandra McBrayer.
 - Race & Equity Ad-hoc Committee – December 8, 2021
 - Sandra shared that the group discussed several data points and how to increase or decrease these data points (ex: allegations, entries into foster care, children in out-of-home placement and reunification). The committee asked CWS to identify school districts and police departments with the highest number of unsubstantiated allegations to provide more education and training.
 - Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES) – December 9, 2021
 - Simone Hidds-Monroe shared that the committee discussed the Career Pathways for Foster Youth grant and developed a proposal that included recommendations for how the \$5 million could be best spent.
 - Child and Family Services Subcommittee – December 16, 2021
 - Sandra McBrayer shared that the committee has completed approximately 90% of the recommendations. The committee will be reviewing the last few recommendations and will share updates at the next advisory board meeting.
 - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - No comments were requested.
 - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
 - No comments were requested.

5. Update on Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Kim Giardina who welcomed staff from ICF who are assisting CWS with the implementation of FFPSA. ICF shared the goals of FFPSA, the proposed pathway for families in need of services and shared results from a readiness assessment.
 - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - Carolyn Griesemer asked if the ACES assessment will be included in the process.
 - Jessica Heldman asked if a standardized assessment would be used throughout the state.
 - Simone Hidds-Monroe asked how families would be prioritized.
 - Khylan Bolden asked how family-like placements will be defined.

- Patty Boles asked for ICF to listen to the voices of caregivers.
 - Jeff Wiemann encouraged mandated reporting to become mandated supporting.
- Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
 - One member of the public asked for a greater focus on disproportionality.
 - One member of the public suggested minimizing duplication of efforts.
 - Several members of the public requested more diversity among providers.

6. Update on Partners in Prevention

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Kim Giardina, who introduced Aimee Zeitz. Aimee provided an overview of Partners in Prevention and shared priorities for 2022 (improving partner engagement, increase equity/inclusion, increase capacity building, improve access to services, improve early childhood mental health consultations).
 - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - Judge España requested fetal alcohol syndrome support be included in services offered. Patty Boles agreed that early support is needed.
 - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
 - No comments were requested.

7. Child and Family Well-Being – Broadening Vision

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and shared the desire to shift the child welfare system to support families more efficiently, with a focus on prevention/early intervention through a lens of equity and racial justice. Supervisor Fletcher turned it over to Kim Giardina who created small breakout groups to discuss ways to better engage families and how we can move to a culture of mandated supporting. Recommendations were shared with the larger group and will be brought forth at the March meeting.
 - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - Jessica Heldman asked if an advisory board seat for a parent (CWS lived experience) is possible.
 - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
 - A participant liked the phrase ‘mandated supporter.’
 - A participant recommended neighbor-to-neighbor support.

8. Child Welfare Services, Director’s Report / SPA Update

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Kim Giardina. Kim provided an update on SPA and shared that children are currently still able to be placed at SPA and that CWS is developing recommendations for the Board of Supervisors for SPA, including a recommendation to keep a portion of SPA operating as a group home.
 - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - Jessica Heldman asked how long can SPA act as a group home. Kim shared that the current injunction is what is allowing SPA to continue to operate.
 - Simone Hidds-Monroe asked who the new SPA provider will be. Kim replied that CWS is requesting for a new contract procurement. Sandy shared that an overview of the County’s contracting process can be shared with FAYCES.
 - Stephen Moore recommended sharing accurate information with SPA youth.
 - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
 - No comments were requested.

9. Review of 2022 Advisory Board Calendar

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and Sandra shared that the 2022 calendar has been updated.

- Supervisor Fletcher requested comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - No comments were requested.
- Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
 - No comments were requested.

10. Advisory Board Member Updates

- Supervisor Fletcher opened the floor to Advisory Board members to share any updates.
 - No comments were requested.

11. Adjournment

- Supervisor Fletcher closed the meeting.

Next Meeting:

- March 11, 2022

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.