A.B. & JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER

TEMPORARY SHELTER CARE FACILITY

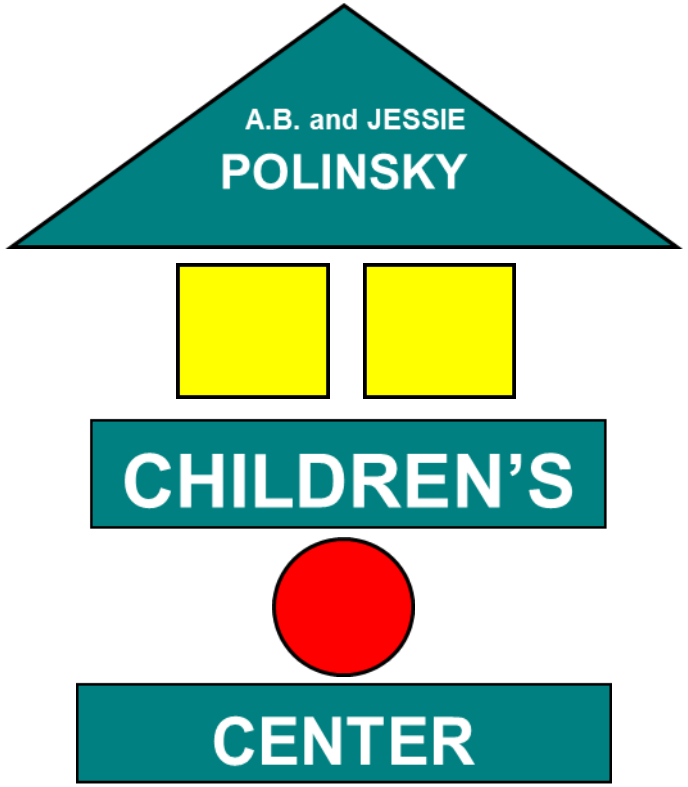
LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

A.B. & JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER

The County opened A.B. & Jessie Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) in 1994 after a collaborative public and private partnership with Promises2Kids. PCC serves as a 24 hour, 10-day Temporary Shelter Care Facility (TSCF) under the administration of Child Welfare Services (CWS). PCC provides services to children ages 0 to 17 years old who cannot safely remain with their family of origin due to abuse and/or neglect.

The PCC campus includes six residential cottages, an infant nursery, medical clinic, school, library, cafeteria, gymnasium, two swimming pools, two playgrounds and an athletic field.

PCC is licensed by the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing (CCL), Title 22 Regulations, division for children.



GOALS OF PCC

- Stabilize children experiencing a transition in their family by providing a friendly, healing, and supportive environment to cope, thrive, and have their immediate needs met.
- Provide quality and comprehensive assessment of children's needs and provide individualized, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive services.
- Collaborate with other CWS staff to locate a kinship caregiver or resource family within ten days, who can safely care for the child and provide a permanent connection if the child is unable to return to their family of origin.

CORE SERVICES

- Emergency Shelter Care Unit (ESCU)/ Intake
- Physical Health Clinic
- Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP)
- Behavioral Health Services

- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- EDUCATION

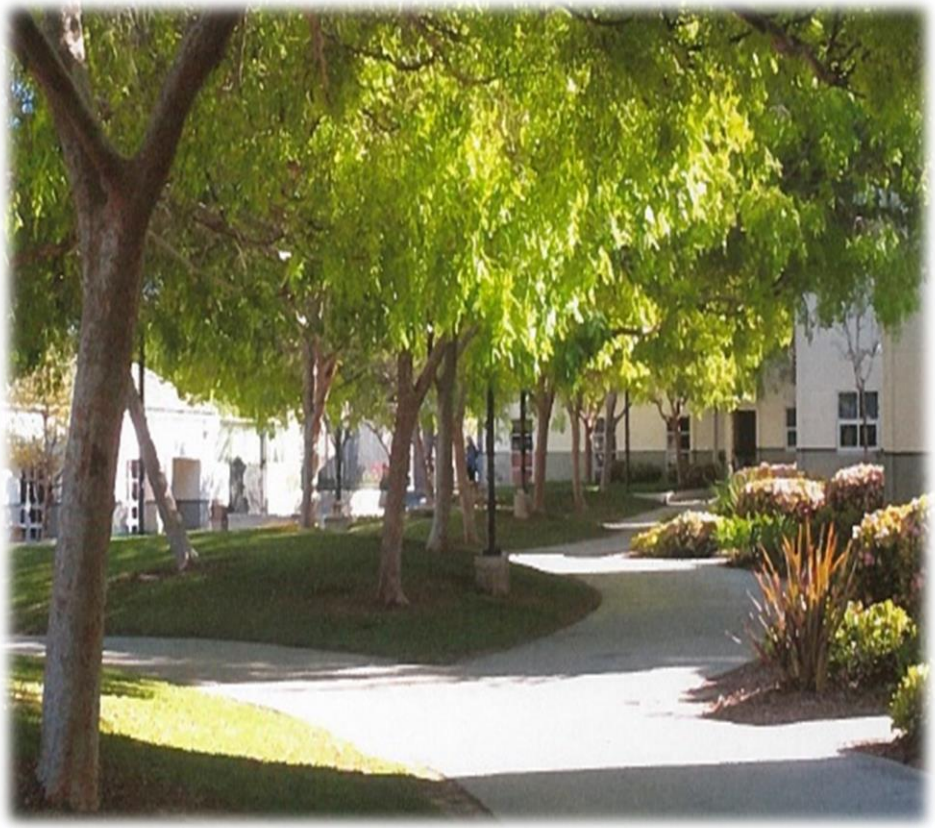
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

- New Alternatives, Inc. (NAI) offers a short-term assessment and outpatient clinical program services that closely align with the PCC's 10-Day TSCF model.
- Diagnostic and treatment services for children, adolescents and young adults (up to the age of 18) are provided.
- The array of behavioral health services include:
  - Crisis Intervention
  - Psychosocial Behavioral Health Assessments
  - Psychiatric Assessments
  - Medication Support Or Medication Management
  - Individual/Group/Family Therapy
  - Intensive Services: In Home Based Services (IHBS) and Intensive Care Coordination (ICC)
  - Rehabilitative Services
  - Telehealth After Care Services
- Mental health worker participates in multi-disciplinary meetings with PCC staff, nursing staff, and psychiatrist on a weekly basis to collaborate on effective trauma informed coordination of care, case planning, and interventions for individual children in the program.
- A Peer Partner also connects with the youth to build therapeutic relationships as a conduit to teach coping skills, replacement behaviors, prosocial and healthy communication skills, and support their therapy journey of working through childhood trauma.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFFING

NAI staffing at PCC includes:

- Program Director
- Program Coordinator
- Administrative Assistant
- 4 Clinicians
- Peer Partner
- Mental Health Worker



Clinic Hours:

- Monday-Friday: 10:30 am-7:00 pm
- Weekends & Holidays: 8:30 am-5:00 pm

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES HIGHLIGHT - COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

- Recreation/Music Therapist
- Pet Therapy
- Achievement Center
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Services
  - CSEC Response Team
  - ICARE

EDUCATION

San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) on site at PCC

- SDUSD provides an academic program and a learning environment to meet the students' needs.
- The school curriculum adheres to the California Common Core Standards.
- PCC school also adjusted to distance learning, ensuring continuity of education for students at PCC during.

- Provide various support personnel including, but not limited to:
  - Site Administrator
  - Special Education Teacher
  - School Nurse
  - School Counselor
  - School Psychologist
  - Speech And Language Specialist
  - Other designated instruction and services personnel as dictated by the individualized education plan

- Provide educational activities and services, including special education and tutoring.
- Provide an academic program for students enrolled in the on-site school grades K-12.
- Implement the individualized education plan (IEP) for students requiring special education services.

- Request educational records from prior schools.
- Provide instruction including, but not limited to literacy, mathematics, art, physical education, science, and computer instruction.
- Establish an educational team that meets regularly to collaborate regarding students that are having difficulty either academically or behaviorally.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS

PCC EDUCATIONAL LIAISON

- Employed by San Diego County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program as part of the School Success Contract with CWS.
- Helps promote school stability by ensuring and facilitating access to educational rights foster youth are entitled to under the law.
- Collaborates in CWS facilitated meetings and with medical and behavioral health teams to include attending school, CFTs, VATs, Barrier Buster, and Treatment Team meetings.
- Arranges school transportation, facilities enrollment, disenrollment, and online learning.
- Identifies and assists with appointing educational rights holders (providing schools with JV-535/JV535a)
- Helps youth with returning to their school of origin, and ensuring school records, credits, and grades are properly transferred.
- Provides training, education, and guidance to school district, CWS, PCC and foster youth.

Norma Rincon, Deputy Director

THANK YOU!