



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, December 16, 2021

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitator: Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Jocelyn Núñez, Kayla Illif

Child and Family Services Subcommittee Summary: 33 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Scott Huizar, Carolyn Griesemer, Alethea Arguilez, Simone Hidds-Monroe, Adam Reed, Jeff Wiemann, Jessica Heldman, Sade Burrell

Sandra McBrayer opened the meeting and conducted roll call. Jocelyn then described the meeting materials. Sandra provided a brief overview of the agenda and explained how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and encouraged participation.

Sandra then explained the purpose of the subcommittee. The next full Advisory Board meeting in January will be focused on how to broaden the scope of the full Advisory Board and the subcommittees to look at how we prioritize prevention services and help families before there are in crisis of entering our system of care.

San Pasqual Academy Updates

Sandra opened the agenda item on San Pasqual Academy.

- Harder + Company completed their stakeholder feedback of SPA and CWS had planned to present their findings with recommendations for SPA in a board letter to the Board of Supervisors in early December. The board letter has been pulled from the Board of Supervisors meeting as a preliminary ruling in a section of the lawsuit was released. The judge made a preliminary ruling on New Alternatives keeping their group home license. The Board of Supervisors are working with County Counsel to determine how that impacts the future of SPA. We hope a new board letter will be presented in January.

Sandra opened the item up for questions.

- A member of the Advisory Board asked, “What does this means for the youth at SPA?”
 - Valesha stated CWS is at a standstill, we are waiting to see what the attorneys will decide. As of right now there are two types of plans that CWS is preparing for. CWS is working on a transition plan and or a recruitment plan for the youth left at SPA.
 - Currently there are 43 youth at SPA. Approximately 15 youth will graduate in June 2022.

Update on Workgroup Recommendations

Sandra opened the item and turned it over to Laura Krzywicki and Lillian Nguyen of Child Welfare Services, to provide an update on the recommendations.

- Train educational rights holders regarding the rights that children must stay in their school of origin and how critical school stability is to successful educational outcomes (17) - In Progress
 - The Educational Rights policies and brochure highlighting the importance of educational stability and explaining educational rights responsibilities were sent to staff for review and input in August 2021.
 - A meeting was held on 12/01/21 including members of the CFSAB for input on the policy and brochure. In addition, feedback was provided on how to ensure training and support are provided to educational rights holders.
 - The updated policy and brochure will be published in early 2022
- Questions and Comments on recommendation #17:
 - A member of the Advisory Board asked if the final document can be sent to the CFSAB members when the document is finalized and published.
- The County should also explore the provision of court-appointed legal services to children as well as parents who are being diverted to the Probate Court. (23) - In Progress
 - Currently CWS is working with Children's Legal Services to pilot the use of pre-prevention legal advocacy with Non-Minor Dependents (NMD) who are parenting, in order to reduce the generational experience of foster care intervention.
 - As part of this pilot, parents involved in a CWS investigation could be assigned an attorney to counsel them during the investigation process, potentially preventing the need for foster care intervention.
 - Another use for pre-petition legal advocacy could be helpful if families want to go through Probate Court to establish guardianship with a relative. Having an attorney for the parents will ensure that parents fully understand the guardianship process.
 - We would like to utilize \$300,000 to develop a scope of work and procurement for pre-petition legal advocacy services for families
 - Special Notice outlining the policy requirements for the pilot with youth in EFC was reviewed by partners (CLS and internal staff)
 - The pilot will begin in early 2022
- Questions and Comments on recommendation #23:
 - A member of the Advisory Board brought up that there is legislation currently being pushed at the state level to allow for County dollars to be matched. If this legislation goes thru the County could receive a 50% match on the \$300,000 dollars. The match will assist with expanding our scope and impact.
 - Another member of the advisory board asked if the \$300,000 will be used for the pilot program. Laura stated the pilot program has a separate allotment of funding.
- Require the Ombudsman office to regularly provide a summary report to the CAPCC regarding the number, type, final resolution, and/or current status of complaints. (15) - In Progress
 - A Program Specialist position under the Agency Compliance Office was approved.
 - This position will provide an outside review of complaints from families to determine if CWS is following policies, procedures, and best practice.
 - A regular report will be provided to the CFSAB on the outcomes from these complaints.
 - Recruitment for this position has closed and candidates who meet the qualifications will be invited to interview for the position in January 2022.

- This position should be filled in early 2022.
- Questions and Comments on recommendation #15:
 - A member of the Advisory Board asked if this is the Ombudsman position or would they support the Ombudsman. Laura stated they are two different positions. Alfredo stated they can come back and provide further clarification on this position.
 - Valesha stated there are several internal Ombudsman representatives within HHSA – CWS. If someone has an issue with CWS as a whole, they will then work with the external Ombudsman within the Agency Compliance Office.
 - A member of the Advisory Board asked who outside of CWS is working on the hiring for this position. Valesha stated the agency executive office will be handling the hiring for this position.
 - Another member of the Advisory Board asked for further clarification on the process reaching out to the new Ombudsman, such as a flow chart. Valesha stated she will send this back to the Agency Compliance Office.
 - Sandra stated we bring back this item back at the next meeting as there are still a lot of questions.
 - Valesha suggested that once the Agency Compliance Office has hired the Ombudsman, we bring them to the table to discuss the systems and process they have for this Ombudsman.
- Develop a comprehensive and unified approach for the recruitment of resource families. (29)
 - Due to time constraints the subcommittee did not review this recommendation.

Sandra concluded the meeting by providing a meeting review and discussed February agenda items.

- Follow-Up Items:
 - Recommendation #23: The County should also explore the provision of court-appointed legal services to children as well as parents who are being diverted to the Probate Court.
 - Look at Ombudsman job duties
 - Look at flow chart to understand roles and responsibilities of internal and external Ombudsman
 - Recommendation #29: Develop a comprehensive and unified approach for the recruitment of resource families.
 - CWS Data
 - Workload Analysis
 - Caseload Data and National Standards for Caseloads
 - Employee Recognition Recommendation
 - How do we measure staff satisfaction?
 - Comprehensive and unified approach for recruitment of resource families
 - Full Advisory Board Meeting: Friday, January 14th 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: February 24, 2021, 11:00 am