



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

### Summary of Subcommittee Meeting

**Subcommittee:**

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES)	6:00 -7:30 pm
---	---------------

**Date:** Thursday, December 9, 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, Kim Giardina, 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 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. Sandy then turned it over to Simone who reviewed the goals of FAYCES.

**Final Recommendation from FAYCES on Career Pathways for Foster Youth**

Sandy opened the item congratulating FAYCES for the comprehensive proposal that was submitted. Sandy then turned it over to Simone who described the workgroups that were conducted to define and refine the final recommendations. Simone shared that the proposal was in response to \$5 million in funding for current and transition-age foster youth, ages 8-24 years old, regarding career pathways. The five overall categories of recommendations included: Exposure & Exploration (college tours/job shadowing/self-assessment tools), Experiential Opportunities (enrichment activities/relationship-building), Expertise Development (financial literacy/pre-employment training), Employment Acquisition & Retention (childcare/FAFSA workshops), and Financial Assistance.

- A participant stated that self-assessment tools should include in-depth coaching to better understand results.
- Several participants shared financial literacy is extremely important for lifelong financial success. Kim Giardina shared the following next steps:
  - The FAYCES proposal has been shared with CWS and CWS staff are creating a crosswalk of areas that already exists and areas that may need contract procurement.
  - The proposal may need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. If so, the proposal would go before the Board of Supervisors in April 2022.

### **SPA Proposal shared at the 12/7 Board of Supervisors Meeting**

Sandy shared that 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.

- A participant asked about the current contract with New Alternatives. Sandy stated that the New Alternatives contract will expire in June 2022.
- A participant requested that FAYCES remain involved in the future planning of SPA.
- Simone shared that SPA alumni would like to share what worked and what didn't work at SPA to assist in the reimagining of the SPA campus.
  - Sandy requested Simone provide feedback from alumni regarding their SPA experience.

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

Simone shared that an update on the survey developed would be provided at the January FAYCES meeting.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Sandy to work with County Counsel to allow for virtual meetings.
- Simone to provide feedback from alumni regarding their SPA experience to assist in the reimagining of SPA.
- Include the Story of SPA – Through the Lens of Alumni & Youth – Survey Development on next meeting agenda.

**Date of Next Meeting – January 20, 2022**