



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
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Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitator: Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Kayla Iliff, Jocelyn Nunez, Sarah Rafi Slade

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee Summary:

20 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Simone Hidds-Monroe, Stephen Moore, Carolyn Griesemer.

Sandra McBrayer opened the meeting and recapped that the meeting is 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. Sandy encouraged participation via the chat and raise your hand feature. She also reminded current foster youth to turn off their camera for confidentially purposes. Sandy then turned it over to Simone Hidds-Monroe, who reviewed the goals of FAYCES.

Child Welfare Services Sibling Placement Strategies

Sandy opened the item and turned it over to Sarah Glass and Tim Harris from Child Welfare Services . They described the new centralized placement structure that resulted from the Workgroup Recommendations. They shared examples of how the current structure is working to better place sibling sets. Sarah shared that relative placement increased from 32% to 39% from February 2021-February 2022 and that sibling placement increased from 55% to 60% (placed with all siblings) during the same time. Sarah shared that CWS recently made a change to require manager approval to separate siblings.

- A participant asked for the numbers behind the percentages (data on slides).
- Stephen Moore asked for clarification on the purchase of beds for foster youth. Sandy replied that many times faith-based organizations purchase bed for families in their communities but that CWS has a budget for beds.
- A participant asked for information on SB 354, the now enacted law changes relative placement legal exemptions. Sarah replied that CWS reviews applicants to determine if they now qualify for placement due to the passing of SB 354.
- Stephen Moore asked for the percentage of youth that have spent time at Polinsky Children’s Center (PCC), the percentage of siblings sets that do not go to PCC and percentage of CWS diversions. Sarah shared that CWS will need time to obtain these figures.

Update on Career Pathways for Foster Youth

Sandy opened the item and turned it over to CWS's Valesha Bullock. Valesha shared that CWS is finalizing the components of the program and plan to take a proposal to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in August.

- Simone asked what components of FAYCES' recommendations were included in the final proposal. Valesha shared that once the proposal is approved by the BOS, FAYCES will be involved in supporting this program. Sandy added that Workforce Partnership will be invited to attend the FAYCES meeting in August. Participants asked Valesha to provide the BOS meeting date so it can be emailed out to the list-serve.

Update on SPA

Sandy opened the item and turned it over to CWS's Valesha Bullock. Sandy shared that Valesha would only be able to share basic information due to this being an active procurement. Valesha shared the current population at SPA is 40 youth. Valesha stated that the RFP process has begun, and applicant must complete applications by June 24. She added that New Alternatives will stay on campus if a new contractor is brought forward, the goal is a seamless transition.

- A participant asked about the New Alternatives contract extension and staff posted the Board Letter in the chat.
- Simone asked what outcomes/metrics can be shared from the current contract (anticipated outcomes). Sandy stated that she would inquiry with County Counsel on what can be shared.

Update on SPA Student Experience Survey

Simone shared that the survey is in the revision process. James shared feedback from those that tested the survey, and the feedback will be further evaluated, and changes will be made as needed. James shared that the edits would be completed in two weeks and Judge Espana requested to see the survey prior to it going out. Sandy shared that she would work with CWS for gift cards for those that take the survey.

Date of Next Meeting – June 16, 2022 (to be rescheduled due to Board of Supervisors Budget Hearing)