



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## *Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board*

### Minutes of March 11, 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  
Supervisor Nora Vargas, 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  
Joy Singleton, District 3 Appointee  
Judge Ana España, Juvenile Court  
Kimberly Giardina, Child Welfare Services  
Khylan Bolden, Former Foster Youth  
Maddy Kilkenny, District 5 Appointee  
Mara Madrigal-Weiss, San Diego County Office of Education  
Melissa Villagomez, Former Foster Youth  
Nick Macchione, County Health and Human Service Agency  
Patty Boles, Straight from the Heart, Inc.  
Sade Burrell, Former Foster Youth  
Sandy Mueller, Children's Health Care Professional  
Simone Hidds-Monroe, San Pasqual Academy  
Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc

#### Members Not Present:

Scott Huizar, County Probation Department

#### 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.
  - No members wished to address to Advisory Board.

**3. Authorization of Teleconferencing Meeting Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and 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 roll call by Sandra McBrayer in conjunction with the roll call. The motion passed with all present members voting aye.

**4. Approval for the Statement of Proceeding/Minutes for the meeting of November 5, 2021 and January 14, 2022**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Sandra McBrayer who conducted a vote via roll call. The motion passed with all present members voting aye.

**5. Subcommittee/Ad-hoc Updates**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Sandra McBrayer.
  - Race & Equity Ad-hoc Committee – February 9, 2022
    - Sandra shared 9 children were placed in homes that did not speak the child's primary language and that CWS is addressing this issue. Participants requested CWS to research what zip codes children are removed from and if they are placed in the same zip. Participants discussed a pending bill that aims to eliminate restrictions to relative caregivers.
  - Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES) – January 20, 2022 and February 17, 2022
    - Simone Higgs-Monroe shared the subcommittee developed a San Pasqual Academy (SPA) student survey and are working to distribute it. FAYCES presented recommendations to CWS regarding the contract procurement for SPA and shared the Request for Proposal contract process with stakeholders.
  - Child and Family Services Subcommittee – February 24, 2022
    - Kim Giardina shared the last five recommendations to be approved. Sandra shared that the subcommittees would begin reviewing completed/ongoing recommendations by practice area to ensure tracking of positive outcomes.
      - Hired a position under the Agency Compliance Office to help families better understand the role of the Ombudsman Office.
      - Updated School of Origin and Education Transportation policies.
      - Updated Educational Rights policies.
      - Piloting with Non-Minor Dependents (NMD) in Extended Foster Care (EFC) and procuring pre-petition legal advocacy services.
      - Resource Family Recruitment includes community, media, and placement integration efforts.
  - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - Joy Singleton asked for more information on the Ombudsman Office and what reports will be generated.
  - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.

- One member of the public shared community involvement is needed to address disproportionality and requested the Ad-hoc committee be moved to a Subcommittee.

## 6. Children's Trust Fund

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Kim Giardina.
  - Kim shared CWS will go before the Board of Supervisors to request approval of the 2022-2023 expenditure plan which includes an additional \$300,000 for pre-petition legal advocacy.
  - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - Simone Hidds-Monroe requested funding for the SPA student survey.
    - Jeff Wiemann requested data and outcomes be shared at a future meeting concerning services funded through the Trust Fund. Carolyn Griesemer asked that when the Trust Fund is next on the agenda for CWS to also share how many people would be served with the funding, and what the goals are.
  - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
    - One member of the public requested more funding to address disproportionality.

## 7. Update on Child and Family Well-Being – Broadening Vision

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the item and turned it over to Sandra McBrayer. Sandra shared the following priority areas in moving to early prevention and intervention support: pre-petition advocacy, helpline for families, work with schools to refer families for supportive services, conduct forums with those involved with CWS, develop community-based resource centers, and destigmatize getting help.
  - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - Several Advisory Board members recommended working with community members to design future services.
    - Joy Singleton recommended using Youth Law Center resources.
    - Patty Boles shared waitlists are a barrier to obtaining services.
  - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
    - Two members of the public requested early prevention support for families.
    - Two members of the public requested money be spent in areas experiencing poverty and another requested providers assist with decreasing waitlists.

## 8. Child Welfare Services, Director's Report

- a) San Pasqual Academy (SPA)
  - Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Kim Giardina. Kim provided an update on SPA and shared that there are 41 youth on campus. Kim shared several Board Letters will be going before the Board of Supervisors in April: acceptance of gifts and donations, continuing several contracts and a series of contract procurements.
  - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - No comments were requested.
  - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
    - One member of the public offered services to SPA students transitioning to college and another shared lack of housing should not be a reason to deny family reunification.
    - One member of the public request reunification rates of Foster Family Agencies and those of foster homes.

## 9. Advisory Board Member Updates

- Supervisor Fletcher opened the floor to Advisory Board members to share any updates.
  - Several Advisory Board members shared updates regarding the great need for resource families for children 0-5 years and regarding a MTS/SANDAG no-cost

transportation pilot program for youth under 18 years old.

**10. Adjournment**

- Supervisor Fletcher closed the meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

- May 13, 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.



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**  
*Child and Family Strengthening*  
*Advisory Board*  
**Minutes of May 13, 2022**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

NORA VARGAS  
First District

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Simone Hidds-Monroe, San Pasqual Academy  
Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc

**Members Not Present:**

Khylan Bolden, Former Foster Youth

**Staff Present:**

Sandra McBrayer, The Children's Initiative  
Jocelyn Nuñez, County Health and Human Services Agency  
Sarah Rafi Slade, County Department of Human Resources  
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 shared safety concerns regarding the child welfare.
  - One member of the public shared more supportive services are needed for resource families.

**3. Authorization of Teleconferencing Meeting Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and 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 roll call by Sandra McBrayer in conjunction with the roll call. The motion passed with all present members voting aye.

**4. County of San Diego 2022-23 Operational Plan**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Ardee Apostle from the Health and Human Services Agency who provided an overview of the 2022-23 Operational Plan. Ardee shared economic updates, described the Recommended Budget and shared upcoming budget events.
- Supervisor Vargas requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
  - Several members requested a deep dive on the County budget to ensure it meets the goals of this Advisory Board in regard to clients receiving needed services. Nick Macchione Director of the Health and Human Services Agency shared that the Director of Behavioral Health could share more about the budget at the next CFSAB meeting.
  - Joy Singleton requested the Advisory Board spend time discussing Polinsky Children's Center. Sandy McBrayer shared that with the members that the Polinsky Children's Center has an oversight Advisory Board and encouraged interested parties to attend their public meetings also.
  - Carolyn Griesemer asked if there has been a budget adjustment for the increase in fentanyl use (babies have a long waitlist to get treatment). Nick Macchione shared that more information could be shared at the next meeting.
  - Melissa Villagomez asked if there could be funding to support transition-age-youth.
  - Patty Boles shared that more services are needed to retain resource families.
- Supervisor Vargas opened the item to public comment.
  - One member of the public asked for a regional/ethnic breakdown in the unemployment index figures, Ardee Apostle stated he would look for this data. They asked the County to address the issue of poverty and wanted to confirm if budget input from the public will be heard and acted on.

**5. New County Department of Child and Family Well-Being**

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and turned it over to CWS Director, Kim Giardina. Kim shared the goal of focusing more on child and family-wellbeing and that CWS will be gathering community input on how services can be better integrated to serve children and families.
  - Supervisor Vargas requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - No members wished to address to Advisory Board.
  - Supervisor Vargas opened the item to public comment.
    - No members of the public wished to address to Advisory Board.

## 6. Family First Prevention Services (FFPSA) Plan Update

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and turned it over to CWS Director, Kim Giardina. Kim introduced James Coloma who shared how CWS plans to implement FFPSA.
  - Supervisor Vargas requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - Jessica Heldman asked for eligibility criteria, James shared it's being developed.
    - Jeff Wiemann requested continuous improvement and feedback collection be included in the process. He shared community trust in this system is needed.
    - Simone Hidds-Monroe asked when it will launch, James stated it is set to launch by the end of the calendar year.
    - Aimee Zeitz shared support for input sessions to build trust in the community.
    - Several members shared current families encounter long waitlists for services. Sandra McBrayer shared the next agenda will include a waitlist review.
  - Supervisor Vargas opened the item to public comment.
    - One member of the public shared youth needing immediate services should call the Access and Crisis Line and they will be treated.

## 7. Subcommittee/Ad-hoc Updates

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Sandra McBrayer who shared updates from the Race & Equity Ad-hoc Committee that took place on April 13, 2022 and the Child and Family Services Subcommittee from April 28, 2022 and shared that minutes for both meetings were included in the meeting materials.
  - Supervisor Vargas requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - No members wished to address to Advisory Board.
  - Supervisor Vargas opened the item to public comment.
    - No members of the public wished to address to Advisory Board.

## 8. Child Welfare Services, Director's Report

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and turned it over to, Kim Giardina. Kim shared an update on the external Office of the Ombudsman that reports to the Agency Compliance Office. Next, Kim gave an update on several Board Letters: April 26 – Approved Extension of Contracts Related to SPA and May 10 – Authorized Agreement with the San Diego Association of Governments for Youth Transportation. Three Board Letters are slated for August 16.
  - Authorize Single Source Procurement for Contract with YMCA of San Diego for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Children in Foster Care
  - Authorize Competitive Solicitation for Child Care Shared Services Alliance Grant Program
  - Authorize Competitive Solicitation for Child Care Workforce Investment
  - Supervisor Vargas requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - Jessica Heldman requested adding how long investigations take as a data point.
    - Supervisor Vargas shared since the transit pass has been provided to foster youth ridership has increased.
  - Supervisor Vargas opened the item to public comment.
    - No members of the public wished to address to Advisory Board.

## 9. Advisory Board Member Updates

- Supervisor Vargas opened the floor to Advisory Board members to share any updates.
  - No members wished to address to Advisory Board.
  - Sandra McBrayer shared items that would be included in the next agenda:
    - Deep dive in the County budget as it relates to Behavioral Health Services and CWS
    - Update on Polinsky Children's Center
    - Services for children under the age of 5
    - Avenue for older youth to share concerns
    - Review waitlists in clients receiving behavioral health services

## **10. Adjournment**

- Supervisor Vargas closed the meeting.

**Next Meeting:** July 8, 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.





# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES OVERVIEW

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Presentation to the Child Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Luke Bergmann, PhD, Director, Behavioral Health Services

July 8, 2022



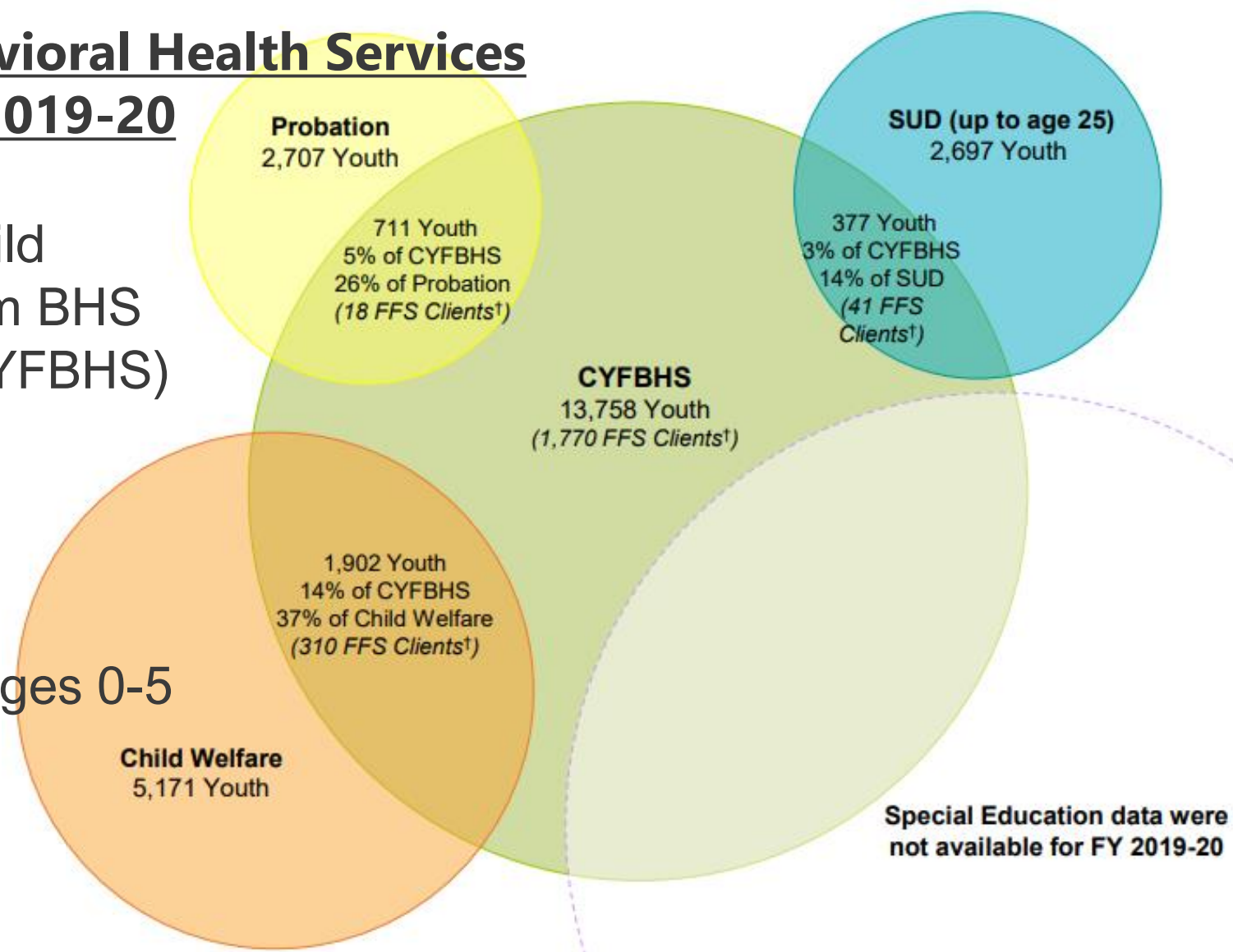
# CHILDREN SERVED BY BHS & CWS



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO

## Children, Youth & Families Behavioral Health Services Systemwide Annual Report, FY 2019-20

- **37%** of children served by Child Welfare received services from BHS Children, Youth & Families (CYFBHS)
- Nearly half of children in Child Welfare are **under age 5**
- **26%** of Child Welfare clients ages 0-5 also received services from CYFBHS

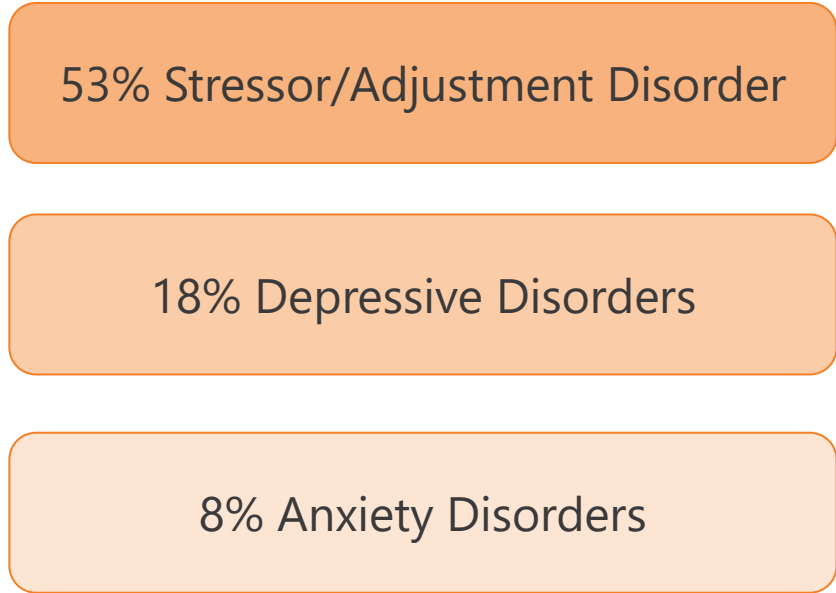


# CHILDREN SERVED BY BHS & CWS

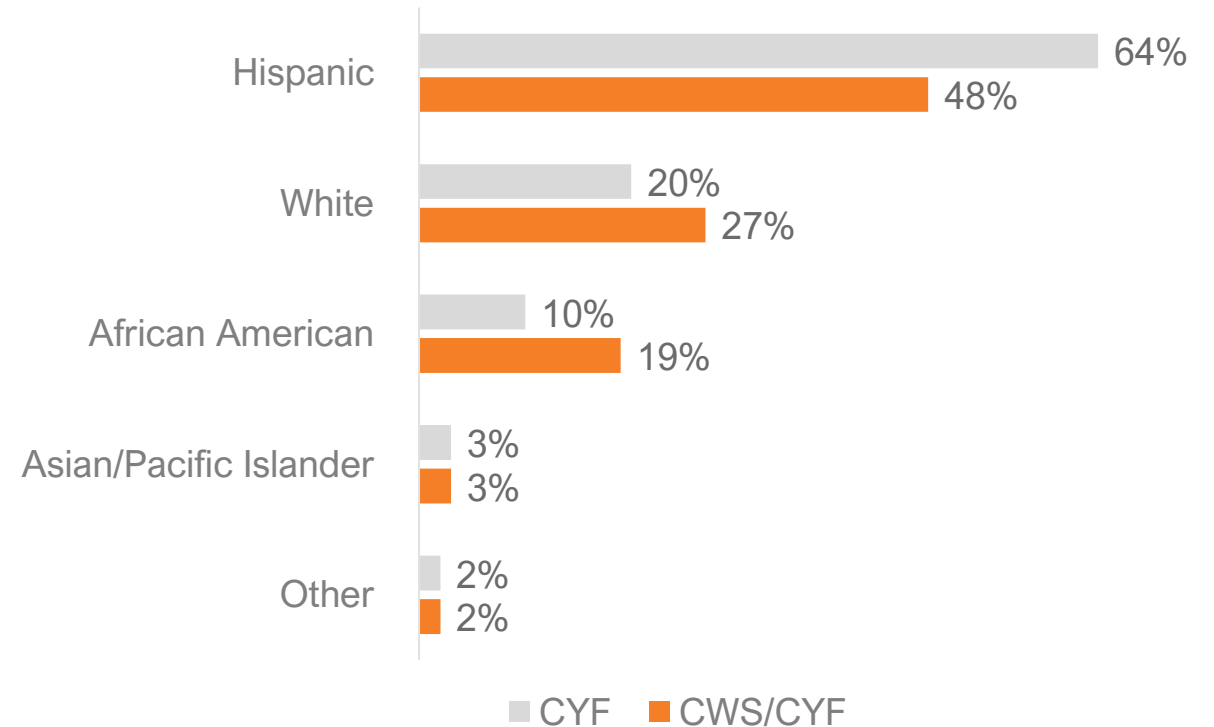


LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO

- Most common **diagnoses** for children served by BHS & CWS:



- Race/ethnicity** of children served by BHS & CWS:

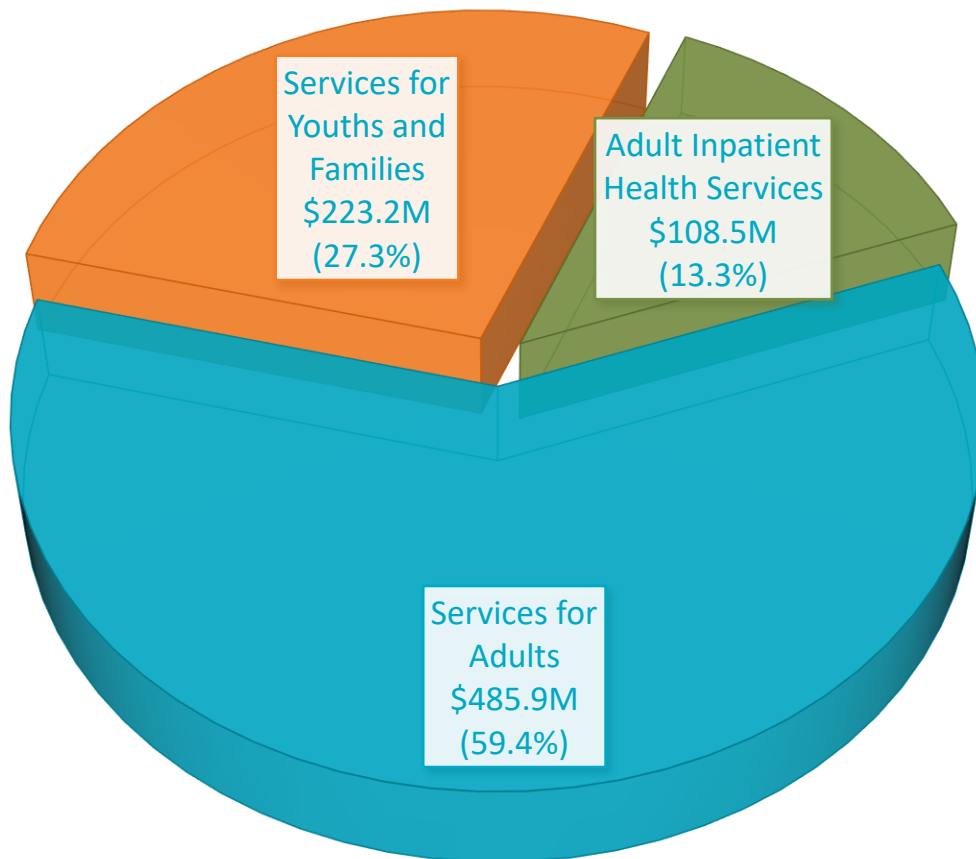


# BHS CYF BUDGET

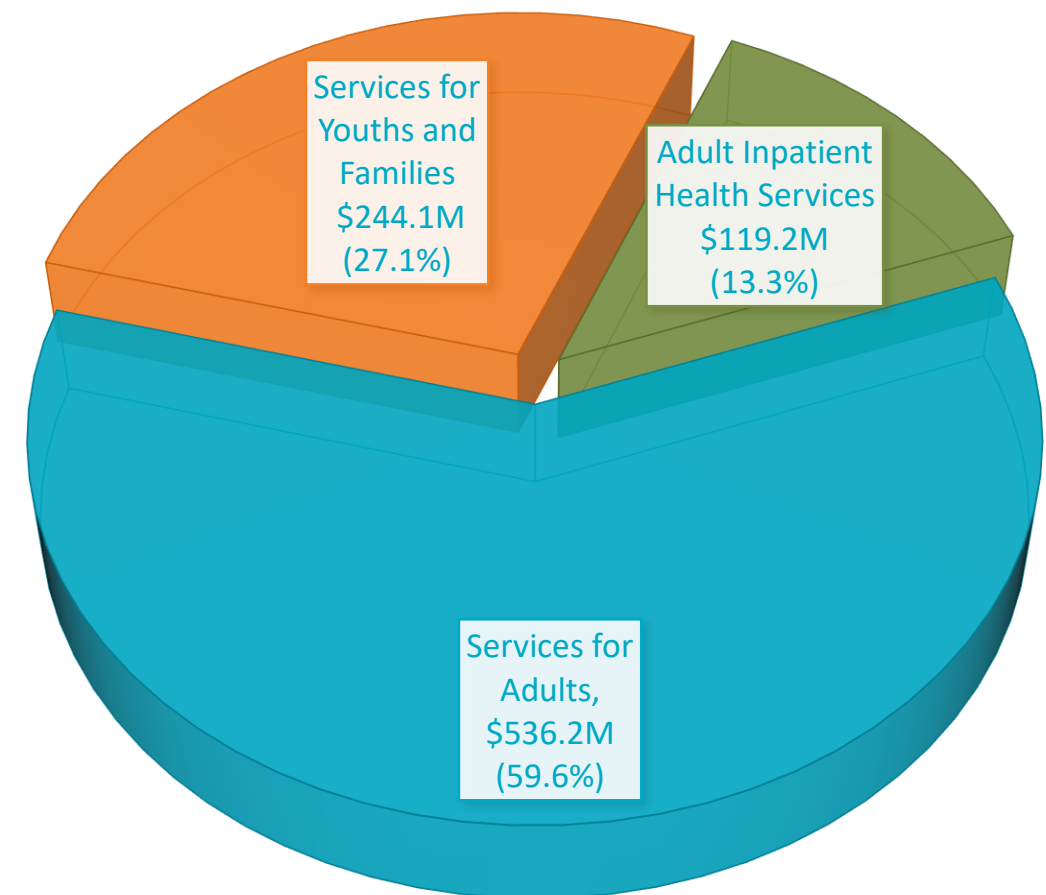


LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO

All BHS FY21/22 Budget (\$817.6M)



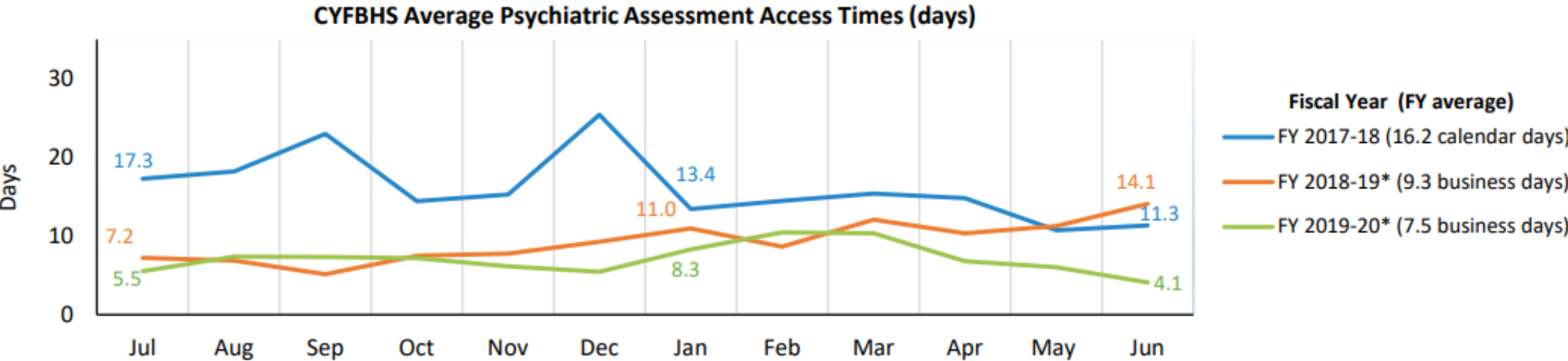
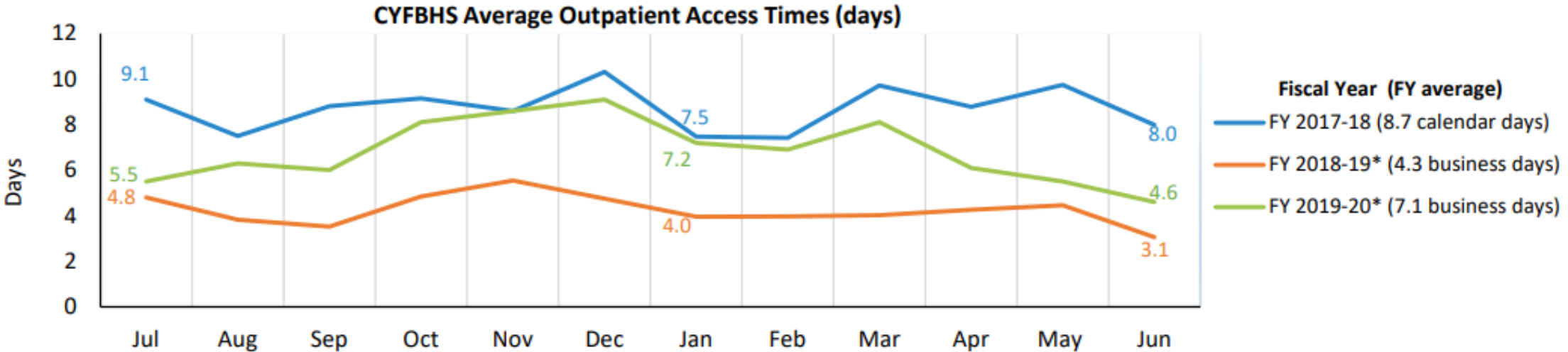
All BHS FY22/23 Budget (\$889.5M)



# BHS CYF ACCESS DATA



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO





# THANK YOU

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Presentation to the Child Family Strengthening Advisory Board  
Luke Bergmann, PhD, Director, Behavioral Health Services

July 8, 2022





# CHILD AND FAMILY STRENGTHENING ADVISORY BOARD

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*Alfredo Guardado, Child Welfare Services Assistant Director*

*July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022*



# CWS FY 22/23 BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Agenda Item #6



**LIVE WELL**  
SAN DIEGO

## Budget by Categories of Expenditures

	Fiscal Year 2020–21 Adopted Budget	Fiscal Year 2021–22 Adopted Budget	Fiscal Year 2022–23 Recommended Budget	% Change	Fiscal Year 2023–24 Recommended Budget
Salaries & Benefits	\$172,047,884	\$179,800,258	\$186,063,248	3.5	\$196,310,128
Services & Supplies	73,315,413	75,874,595	81,349,603	7.2	78,187,895
Other Charges	155,025,455	163,002,444	163,488,456	0.3	163,488,456
Expenditure Transfer & Reimbursements	(26,563)	(2,718,599)	(26,563)	(99.0)	(26,563)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$400,362,189</b>	<b>\$415,958,698</b>	<b>\$430,874,744</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>\$437,959,916</b>



# PRIMARY REVENUE CATEGORIES



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO

## Budget by Categories of Revenues

	Fiscal Year 2020–21 Adopted Budget	Fiscal Year 2021–22 Adopted Budget	Fiscal Year 2022–23 Recommended Budget	% Change	Fiscal Year 2023–24 Recommended Budget
Revenue From Use of Money & Property	\$681,211	\$681,211	\$681,211	—	\$681,211
Intergovernmental Revenues	367,089,091	384,039,628	416,541,720	8.5	423,626,892
Charges For Current Services	1,464,490	1,464,490	1,464,490	—	1,464,490
Miscellaneous Revenues	187,510	187,510	187,510	—	187,510
Fund Balance Component Decreases	2,250,000	—	—	—	—
Use of Fund Balance	2,886,550	—	—	—	—
General Purpose Revenue Allocation	25,803,337	29,585,859	11,999,813	(59.4)	11,999,813
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$400,362,189</b>	<b>\$415,958,698</b>	<b>\$430,874,744</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>\$437,959,916</b>

# CWS STAFFING



**LIVE WELL**  
SAN DIEGO

<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>1,630 Positions</b>
<b>SW I/SW II/ SW III</b>	116 Positions (58 SW I/17 SW II/41 SW III)
<b>SW SUP</b>	6 Positions
<b>Protective Services Worker (PSW)</b>	630 Positions
<b>Senior Protective Services Worker (SPSW)</b>	163 Positions
<b>Protective Services Supervisor (PSS)</b>	163 Positions





## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

### Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

### Summary of Ad-hoc Committee Meeting

#### Ad-hoc Committee:

Race & Equity	1:00 - 2:30 pm
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**Date:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Facilitators:** Sandra McBrayer

**Meeting Staff:** Emily Lay, Stephanie Heying

#### **Race & Equity Ad-hoc Committee Summary: 35 attendees took part in the Ad-hoc Committee.**

Advisory Members Participating: Carolyn Griesemer, Stephen Moore

Sandra provided a brief overview of the agenda and the purpose of the Ad-hoc committee. Sandra then explained how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and provided attendees multiple ways to ask questions during the meeting. Lastly, Sandra encouraged participation from all attendees.

#### **Update on Community Session – Racial Bias in Child Welfare that occurred on April 8th**

Agenda item was moved to the August meeting due to the presenter having a last-minute conflict.

#### **Data Review of the Zip Code children resided in and the Zip Code of the homes they were placed in**

Sandra opened the agenda item and turned it over to Balambal Bharti to present on the agenda item.

- Balambal gave an overview of the removals and placements of youth in San Diego County.
  - Of the 175 removals of African American youths, 160 were placed in a different zip code (but could be in the same regions or neighborhood).
  - More than half of African American youths placed with relatives were placed in the same zip code.
  - Of the 14 removals of Native American youths, ten were placed in a different zip code.
- Balambal discussed the difficulties with categorizing data by zip codes as zip codes are connected to one another so it is hard to tell if youth are in different zip codes but are actually still in the same general neighborhood or region.
  - Patricia Bevelyn questioned the physical distance between removals of African American youth and their placements. She asked for data that is broken down by region or neighborhood, zip code, and type of placement.
- Sandy stated that the data will be available at the August meeting. She also mentioned that CWS will be reviewing the hotline calls by geographic location, referring agency, and types of calls.

#### **Goal for Ad-Hoc Committee – Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in CWS – Moving forward**

Sandra opened the agenda item and proposed several questions to the group.

- How do we strengthen families and what can be done to support them prior to their contact with the County of San Diego or Child Welfare?

- How do we redirect resources from “after” contact with Child Welfare to “before” contact with Child Welfare?
- How do we transition from mandatory reporting to mandatory supporting?
- Discussion:
  - A participant stated services could be more accessible and preventative if we have more beds for addressing domestic violence and drug abuse, prioritizing and expediting Section 8 housing to ensure families stay together, expansion of livable wages, trainings for women in non-traditional jobs, developing extracurricular activities geared toward expanding growth and development for children.
  - Participants asked about regional services and assessments associated with infants and babies that are removed from their parents. Members discussed more frequent interaction with infants and toddlers for more success with reunification.
  - A participant suggested that it would be helpful if funds were available to be used for services such as camping, family-bonding, and family-enrichment activities to aid preventative measures on the front-end.
  - It was asked if Section 8 housing could be expedited through the County. This would be helpful in keeping families together. CWS said they are unclear and will check
  - A participant suggested that the County partner with the City of San Diego and other interested parties to ensure youth are employed during the summer. The more youth with summer jobs, the lower the youth crime rate.
  - It was asked if there are programs in place that cover the cost of summer camps for youth in foster homes. Participants responded that CWS and Voices for Children do have programs sending youth to summer camps.
  - A participant stated that she felt that entities that provide supportive services are not responsive, effective, or timely. She stated that number of people served does not equal a high success rate.
  - A participant stated that families often forget what services are available and suggested that CWS case workers could send out quarterly reminders.
  - Sandy stated that an independent Ombudsman that does not report to CWS has been hired and is on board at Health and Human Service Agency (HHS). Participants asked if the Ombudsman could attend the next ad-ho meeting to share their background and explain their roles and responsibilities.
  - A participant asked if the County has a toll-free number for youth, families, and clients to register complaints to CWS.

**Next Meeting:** August 10, 2022 1:00 pm

Sandra concluded the meeting by reviewing agenda items for the August meeting.

- Update on S.B. 354 with the all-County letter and the interpretation from the County.
- Review of where hotline calls are coming from and what entities are making those calls.
- HHS Ombudsman Introduction.
- Data review of the region/community children resided in and the region/community the homes they were placed in.
- Petitions filed by race and population.
- Update on Families First.
- Progress report for Jewish Family Services efforts to-date.
- Compare and contrast data review of mothers who have lost their parental rights in the last 3 years by race.



## 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, June 23, 2022

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

**Facilitator:** Sandra McBrayer

**Meeting Staff:** Emily Lay, Stephanie Heying

**Child and Family Services Subcommittee Summary: 50 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.**

Advisory Members Participating: Sandra Mueller, Patty Boles, Jessica Heldman, Cheryl Rode, Carolyn Griesemer, Simone Hidds-Monroe, Adam Reed, Melissa Villagomez

I, II, III. Sandra McBrayer opened the meeting and provided a brief overview of the agenda. She explained how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and encouraged participation.

#### IV. Ombudsman Update

Sandra introduced Christy Carlson from the County of San Diego. Christy then shared the below update:

- Introduction
  - Compliance Officer for the County of San Diego
    - Focus on independent reviews, citizen complaints, and escalation of concerns
  - Shared professional background and education
  - Shared Compliance Office review process
  - Shared Compliance Office metrics
- Questions and comments on the Ombudsman Update:
  - A participant asked how the Ombudsman agency could be separate from CWS when the funding component is the same. Christy responded that funding for the Ombudsman agency comes from the General Fund, meaning the funding source is different than CWS' funding.
  - A participant suggested the group be given data on number of complaints received by the Ombudsman. He stated that the group is looking for an Ombudsman that is separate from CWS and HHSA. He also expressed concerns that many children and families, specifically children and families of color, do not feel comfortable discussing concerns or complaints with CWS.
  - A participant asked how to start the complaint process, as there is often confusion as to who should be contacted. He also asked how complaints can be addressed in real-time vs. correcting the complaint for the next case. Christy explained the types of elements typically handled by the Compliance Office. She expressed that any calls that come to the Compliance Office will be addressed.

- A participant asked if a hotline call is made, should a separate report be made to the Ombudsman? Elly Chung responded that all hotline calls are cross-referenced.
- A member of the Advisory Board asked for clarification on how to start the complaint process, who to contact, which agency is the first point of contact, etc.? Elly responded that the process typically goes through whichever agency is currently working on the case. She stated that during the review process, cases are elevated as necessary.
- A member of the Advisory Board suggested the flyer for the Ombudsman office be clarified more by adding additional contact information and information on where individuals can go to start the complaint process. She asked if youth already in the system would follow the same complaint process as those who are just entering the system. Elly responded there is an Ombudsman at the state level that current and former foster youth can contact to begin the complaint process.
- A participant suggested adding the state Ombudsman's information to the flyer for clarity.
- A participant asked if the Compliance Office is available to Resource Families. Christy responded that any client of San Diego County is welcome to contact the Compliance Office.
- A member of the Advisory Board stated that attorneys give every client a comprehensive packet with information regarding who to contact for what issue. Another member of the Advisory Board asked if youth who are emancipated also receive this information.

#### **V. Update on Workgroup Recommendation – Placement Recommendations**

Sandra opened the agenda item and passed it on to Diana Macis from CWS. Diana then shared the below update:

- Implementation of a Specialty Program Placement Unit
  - Utilizing staff with experience related to Adoption, Native American communities and Short-term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP.)
  - Dedicated team to screen STRTP's throughout the state to meet clients' individual needs.
  - Eliminates duplication of work.
  - Focuses on family placement settings.
  - Increased diversions from Polinsky Children's Center (PCC).
- Quality Parenting Outreach:
  - San Diego one of 7 counties in nation to participate in year long pilot.
  - It was a texting platform that surveys resource families to obtain feedback
  - 12 surveys were sent via text messages to resource parents within the county.
  - Survey results have been used by CWS to improve services.
- Questions and comments on the Placement Recommendations:
  - A participant stated the number of placement options are limited for youth and there is a need for additional placement options.
  - A member of the Advisory Board stated due to Federal guidelines, STRTP's cannot have more than 16 beds, further limiting placement options for youth.
  - A participant asked about to learn more about being involved in the respite program Diana responded there is information on the CWS website, and she added information in the chat.
  - A member of the Advisory Board stated that there is an opportunity to promote respite care providers.

#### **VI. Follow-Up Information from Last Meeting**

- Sandra opened the agenda item and passed it on to Balambal Bharti from CWS to discuss Length of PCC placement before going to a STRTP. Balambal then shared the below update:



### **Length of PCC placement before going to a STRTP**

- Approximately 59% of children/youth stayed between 1-10 days at PCC
- Approximately 31% of children/youth stayed more than 10 days at PCC
- Questions and comments on the length of PCC placement before going to a STRTP
  - A participant asked for clarification on the difference between Resource Family and Resource Home.
  - A member of the Advisory Board asked for clarification regarding Relatives vs. NREFM. Balambal stated that NREFM are not related to the youth in their placement.
  - A participant asked for data regarding children/youth that stay more than 10 days at PCC.
  - A participant stated that not all youth go through PCC for placement. He also stated that the approval process to become a Resource Family is long and burdensome.

### **How do services follow children and youth who have been at Polinsky?**

Sandra passed it on to Diana Macis and Sarah Glass to discuss how services follow children and youth who have been at Polinsky. Diana and Sarah then shared the below update:

- CWS assesses the individual needs for each child or youth to determine what services are needed.
- CWS does referrals while the children/youth are at PCC. Unfortunately, some services often have long waitlists, delaying services for children/youth in placement.
- There is sometimes a delay between referrals and delivery of services. The delay of start of services is frequently longer than the stay at PCC due to the 10 day limit.
- Questions and comments:
  - A member asked how to ensure services are received in a timely and consistent manner. She suggested data on services with the longest waitlists be provided to the Full Advisory Board for a recommendation to expand or fund services.
  - A member of the Advisory Board suggested Family's First Services and Prevention Act rollout is supposed to support more prevention-based services. She mentioned that data regarding tracking for services with waitlists is inconsistent and needs to be improved.
  - A participant suggested DSEP data on length of time from referral to receipt of services be provided.

### **Fostering Academy Success in Education**

Due to time constraints, the agenda item has been moved to the August agenda.

Sandra concluded the meeting by reviewing items that will be discussed during the August meeting.

- August: Practice Improvement Recommendation
- Additional information from the Polinsky PowerPoint
  - Better understanding of the Resource Family vs. Resource Home on the slide
  - A better understanding of the relative/NFREM: emergency approvals or different approval process from Resource Families
  - A clearer breakdown for the 31% of children and youth who stay more than 10 days at PCC
- Fostering Academy Success in Education
- Update on Family's First rollout and implementation

Sandra then reminded everyone of the upcoming full advisory board meeting occurring on Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

**VII. Next Meeting:** August 25, 2022, 11:00 am