



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**  
*Child and Family Strengthening*  
*Advisory Board*  
**Minutes of July 8, 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  
Adam Reed, Dependency Legal Services  
Aimee Zeitz, District 2 Appointee  
Alethea Arguilez, First 5 San Diego  
Cheryl Rode, San Diego Center for Children  
Jeff Wiemann, Foster Family Agency  
Jessica Heldman, Polinsky Children's Center  
Judge Ana España, Juvenile Court  
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.  
Sandy Mueller, Children's Health Care Professional  
Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc

**Members Not Present:**

Supervisor Nora Vargas, County Board of Supervisors  
Carolyn Griesemer, Children's Legal Services of San Diego  
Joy Singleton, District 3 Appointee  
Khylan Bolden, Former Foster Youth  
Kimberly Giardina, Child Welfare Services  
Maddy Kilkenny, District 5 Appointee  
Sade Burrell, Former Foster Youth  
Simone Hidds-Monroe, San Pasqual Academy

**Staff Present:**

Sandra McBrayer, The Children's Initiative  
Emily Lay, The Children's Initiative  
Stephanie Heying, The Children's Initiative

## **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 inequity and compaction concerns regarding Protective Services Workers (PSWs) because of the equity study and implementation in the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Collective Bargaining Agreement.
  - One member of the public shared the terms and titles used in the equity study in the SEIU Collective Bargaining Agreement have created compaction issues for PSWs in addition to other issues such as salary differences.

## **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 March 11, 2022, and May 13, 2022**

- Nick Macchione made a motion to approve the recommendations. Seconded by Patty Boles.
- Motion passed with 14 ayes for the March and May minutes.

## **5. County of San Diego Behavioral Health Budget Update**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Director, Dr. Luke Bergmann. Dr. Bergmann gave a brief introduction and overview of BHS and then proceeded with the BHS budget update with a focus on 2022-2023 fiscal year.
  - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - Judge Ana España commented educational services for young children and youth could be beneficial in keeping these youth out of the system. She also mentioned the six-to-eight-week delay for wrap-around services and a need for substance abuse services for youth. Dr. Bergmann agreed that the wrap-around services delay is long, and that substance use is not uncommon in younger cohorts.
    - Jeff Wiemann stated the 0-5 age group has shown a large need for more services, programs, supports, resources, etc. due to the pandemic. He mentioned differences in contracts between Child Welfare Services (CWS) and BHS, and how some contracts restrict services and care based on where children are placed. He agreed that children and youth often are most costly because services and resources are provided to the children and youth in addition to adults who are caring for the children and youth.
    - Aimee Zeitz pointed out that there are opportunities for alignment and coordination between CWS and BHS with the focus on upstream prevention in the 0-5 cohort. She requested additional data focusing on 0-5 children within the BHS budget and wait times for services.
    - Patty Boles commented that the process to get help and services for children and youth needs to be addressed. She stated the wait times for services negatively impact children and families.
    - Alethea Arguilez reiterated a need for data that breaks down the 0-5 population within CWS and BHS, what types of services are needed, etc.

- Jessica Heldman asked about the Screening to Care programs and who within the schools conducts the screenings. Dr. Bergmann stated that the screenings are in development. She asked if a standardized protocol would be implemented. Dr. Bergmann responded yes.
- Supervisor Fletcher stated a comprehensive report would be released this month that focuses on the Behavioral Health workforce and highlights what types of workers are needed, how many workers are needed, etc. He also highlighted several issues that are present within the BHS workforce.
- Jeff Wiemann asked Dr. Bergmann how members and agencies could better partner with BHS to improve access to services and learning opportunities. Dr. Bergmann responded that he is always available to speak to interested individuals.
- Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
  - A member of the public shared that access to services is a common stressor for children and youth within CWS and BHS.
  - A member of the public asked Dr. Bergmann to share some of the positive outcomes for youth and families due to the increased BHS funding in recent years. Dr. Bergmann shared that clinical interactions in schools have produced some great results, but access is still a barrier to obtaining services.
  - A member of the public shared the wait times for services for the 0-5 population are too long and impact not only the children in CWS, but the foster parents whose care they are in. She asked how we can prioritize subsets within BHS to incentivize employees to become credentialed for the 0-5 population.
  - A member of the public asked how to ensure children are being educated in the lowest-scoring schools within San Diego County.

## **6. County of San Diego Child Welfare Services Budget Update**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to CWS Assistant Director, Alfredo Guardado. Alfredo shared the budget update for CWS, with a focus on the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
  - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - Stephen Moore asked where property and facilities might be found within the budget. Alfredo responded the information could be found under the services and supplies line item.
    - Adam Reed asked if legacy salaries and benefits, such as pensions, would be listed under the salaries and benefits line item. Alex Khan responded yes, the retirement benefits would be listed under the salaries and benefits line item.
  - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
    - A member of the public shared the budget does not bring to light what is going on in the community that is being served. She stated single-parent and foster parent homes need assistance to provide for the children and youth in the community.
    - A member of the public asked how to help teenage youth who have been in foster care. She asked if there are job opportunities, housing opportunities, etc.

## **7. Polinsky Children's Center Update**

- Supervisor Fletcher introduced the agenda item and turned it over to CWS Assistant Director, Alfredo Guardado, who shared the Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) Board recently met and discussed PCC services, population trends, and needs of the youth within PCC.
  - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - Jessica Heldman reiterated that members of the public are welcome to attend the PCC Board meetings. She mentioned a new data system for PCC is in development, which will help broaden the data understanding of PCC.
  - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.

- A member of the public commented that the presentation at the PCC Board meeting was informational and well-done.
- A member of the public stated the length of the PCC board meetings need to be extended to ensure Board members can stay for Public Comment.
- A member of the public stated he is available to speak at the PCC board meetings to discuss items such as overtime, weekend work, etc.

#### **8. Subcommittee/Ad-hoc Updates**

- Supervisor Fletcher 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 June 8, 2022, and the Child and Family Services Subcommittee from June 23, 2022, and shared the minutes for both meetings were included in the meeting materials.
  - Supervisor Fletcher requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
    - No members wished to address to Advisory Board.
  - Supervisor Fletcher opened the item to public comment.
    - No members of the public wished to address to Advisory Board.

#### **9. Advisory Board Member Updates**

- Supervisor Fletcher opened the floor to Advisory Board members to share any updates.
  - Patty Boles shared that her company received a \$5,000 donation for extracurricular activities from Mattress Firm's Ticket to Dream program. She also shared access to MyChart for children and youth in care is progressing.

#### **10. Adjournment**

- Supervisor Fletcher closed the meeting.

**Next Meeting:** September 9, 2022

Meeting minutes were submitted by Emily Lay. Please call Emily Lay at (858) 581-5892 if you have corrections or suggested revisions. She may also be contacted for agenda items or general information.