

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board Minutes of January 18, 2025

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

First District

JOEL ANDERSON Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY-STEPPE Fourth District

> JIM DESMOND Fifth District

Members Present:

Patricia Boles, Foster Parent Association
Erin Gospodarec, Congregate Care Provider
Joy Singleton, District 3 Appointee
Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc
Adam Reed, Dependency Legal Services
Jeff Wiemann, Foster Family Agency
Chief Tamika Nelson, San Diego County Probation
Beth Ploesch, Children's Legal Services of San Diego
Steven Gachette, Social Worker
Diana Venegas, Individual with Lived Experience
Melissa Villagomez, Individual with Lived Experience
Alfredo Guardado, Child and Family Well-Being Department
Stephanie Ortega, Polinsky Children's Center/Promises 2Kids
Dr. Kimberly Giardina, County Health and Human Service Agency
Dr. Joseph Robinson, Individual with Lived Experience

Members Not Present:

Dr. Gloria Ciriza, San Diego County Office of Education Dr. Patricia Fernandez, District 1 Appointee Hon. Judge Ana España, San Diego Superior Court Jason Sharpe, District 4 Appointee Stephanie Gioia-Beckman, Rady's Children's Hospital Aimee Zeitz, District 2 Appointee Alethea Arguilez, First 5 San Diego Shea Prophet, Child Abuse and Juvenile Justice

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Dr. Kimberly Giardina called the meeting to order. There are open seats on the board for representatives from districts 1, 2, 3, and 5, and for the San Pasqual Academy seat.
- All Advisory Board members introduced themself.
- A quorum was present.

2. Public Comment:

• There was one public comment. The speaker wants CFSAB to recognize the importance of involving those with lived expertise. Lived experts should be compensated and meetings should be set when they are available to appear. There is some lived expert participation in the San

Sandra McBrayer, The Children's Initiative Torrey Giaquinta, The Children's Initiative Kyle Sand, County Counsel Pasqual Academy Advisory Board, Youth Transition Campus, and RISE Court. Not only is youth feedback and insight important to agencies, the youth learn about public speaking, empowerment, and leadership. All qualities that look good on a scholarship application or resume.

3. Approval for the Statement of Proceeding/Minutes for the meeting of October 25, 2024

- Jeff Wiemann motion to approve the minutes. Patty Boles seconded.
- All other members voted to approve the minutes.

4. Child and Family Well-Being and County Ombuds' Report

- Katherine Hodge from Child and Family Well-Being presented on the Office of the Ombudsman. The ombudsman office was established in 1992 to provide impartial, objective oversight of child welfare. The office provides support within the agency and for the public. Internal support includes supporting regional teams, collaboration with community partners, and serving as the liaison to the state for fatality and near fatality reviews. Externally, ombudsman staff provide education on CFWB policy, procedures, and social work practice and facilitate resolutions of complaints. Ombudsman do not have the authority to make recommendations to the court or change court orders, make exceptions in laws, investigate matters when there are appeals or lawsuits pending, investigate personnel or disciplinary matters, or give legal advice.
- In San Diego there are three different options to manage issues based on the nature of the concern, CFWB Office of the Ombudsman, Resource Parent Ombudsman, and the HHSA Business Assurance and Compliance Office.
- Next, Amaris Sanchez from the HHSA Business Assurance and Compliance Office (BAC) presented on their work. People with concerns are able to self-refer on the office's website. Referrals can come from the community or from the CFWB Office of the Ombudsman if they were not able to resolve a complaint. BAC staff meet with the parents, gather and review any documentation and the case. Identify the policies and protocols associated with the complaint and interview social workers, supervisors and other staff as needed. People do not need to know the exact policy or procedure they believe was violated. Staff will ask questions to help determine that. After the investigation the either a founded or unfounded determination is made. The office may make recommendations to CFWB for changes in language in policy or additional training.
- CFWB handled 724 complaints in 2024. BAC conducted 18 review.

5. Update on San Pasqual Academy

- Alfredo Guardado discussed the background of San Pasqual Academy (SPA). SPA opened in 2001 to serve youth ages 12-17. In the 20+ years since the opening 80% fewer kids in foster care, and, of those that are in care, 40% are in placements with kin. In 2023-2024, 34 youth were placed at SPA.
- Lawrence Howell, Executive Director of Rite of Passage (ROP), the contractor who runs SPA spoke next. Rite of Passage assumed operations of SPA in March 2023.
- As of December 2024, the average age of SPA students is 15 years old, the average length of stay is 2 years. Students have an average number of prior failed placements of two, with one youth who has 8. There are currently five sibling groups on campus.
- Currently, sibling groups are not able to be housed together but are instead housed according to age and gender. The foster care program, ROP is starting will target those sibling groups. The

planned opening date for the first of the two foster homes is April 2024. ROP is currently having difficulty finding caregivers who want to come live on campus that have no financial ties to CFWB.

- ROP is also going to open a short term residential treatment program called the San Pasqual
 Treatment Center. Although staff assigned to the treatment program are not able to work at
 SPA and the program schedule is different, having the treatment program allows youth to go up
 or down in level of care on the same campus. The opening date for this program depends on
 when the license is received.
- Board members discussed the positives and negatives of SPA residents attending the school at SPA versus one in the community. The community school may at times be the least restrictive placement, however staff at SPA are aware of each residents triggers and calming behaviors which can help reduce incidents.
- SPA alumni are able to participate in the campus through a student and alumni advisory board and senior lunches.
- In 2024, 83% of students exited the program successfully. 100% of on campus seniors graduated with a high school diploma. Nine alumni received on campus housing assistance.

6. Funding Update: Birth of Brillance Conference

 The last two years, CFASB has provided \$1,500 in support to the Birth of Brillance Conference from discretionary funds. CFSAB will be providing support at this year's conference which is in February 2025.

7. Work Group Updates

Child and Family Well-Being

- Both co-chairs were not present so staff, Torrey Giaquinta, presented the update. The work group is looking at data related to domestic violence and intimate partner violence in preparation for the map and gap analysis that is the action plan. Data have been presented by 211 and CFWB. Children's Initiative staff presented on the Children and Families Data Hub, the new electronic versions of the report card.

• Placement and Caregiver Support

Jeff Wiemann and Patty Boles discussed the current focus of the work group. The group is looking into what information is needed but not provided when a child changes placements. CFWB with Quality Parenting Outreach is putting out a survey on this topic in the next month. Based on the results, CFWB will look at the need to change practice (as most of the information is already collected) to make sure everyone gets the information they need.

Lived Experts Action Partners

Torrey Giaquinta also presented this report as there is not currently a chair for this work group. The last few meetings have had very few lived experts present. The group is looking at being able to answer the questions of 'why' lived experts should participate in the work group.

8. Child and Family Well-Being Department, Director's Report

Board Letters:

- Foster and Kinship Care Education

- Acceptance of Funding for Transitional Housing Program, Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program, and Transitional Housing Program Plus Housing Supplement Program
- An Ordinance Amending Article XVI of the San Diego County Administrative Code Relating to the San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council
- **CFWB System Improvement Plan** Due to time constraints this item was moved to the next agenda.
- **Family Connection Hub** Thus far, 8 families comprised of 14 children have been referred to the Family Connection Hub by CFWB staff.
- **Flexible Funds** The flexible funds need to be used by July 1st. Board members were encouraged to remind people to use the flex funds. Promises2Kids has paused their Something Special Fund and are instead direction request to the flexible funds.
- 9. Advisory Board Member Updates: Members may make brief announcements or report on their activities that are relevant to the Advisory Board
- **10. Adjournment** Future agenda items include the CFWB System Improvement Plan, a summer update on San Pasqual Academy, a presentation on First 5 San Diego's new five year strategic plan, a legislative update, and the CFSAB annual report.

Next Meeting of the Advisory Board: Friday, April 18, 2025, 9:00 – 11:00 AM



KIMBERLY GIARDINA, DSW, MSW DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING DEPARTMENT 8965 BALBOA AVENUE, MAIL STOP W-473 SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-1507 (858) 616-5811 • FAX (858) 616-5908 ALFREDO GUARDADO, MSW
DIRECTOR
CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

CFSAB 4.18.25 Agenda Item 4

December 13, 2024

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING SPECIAL NOTICE

TO: All Social Work Staff

Child and Family Well-Being

FROM: Alfredo Guardado, MSW

Director

Child and Family Well-Being

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE YEAR

Purpose

This Special Notice introduces staff to new laws that change how the Health and Human Services Agency provides child welfare services. This is not a complete list of all legislative changes, but highlights the main bills that impact Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) staff.

Italics indicate new policy that is to be followed by all CFWB staff. More detailed requirements of some of these new laws will be addressed separately in forthcoming policy updates.

Background

During every legislative session, Senators and Assembly members introduce thousands of bills to create new laws, or amend existing ones, and CFWB Office of Administration/Policy staff track and analyze the bills that are related to child welfare.

Bills that are passed by both the Senate and the Assembly are sent to the Governor's desk for signature. If the Governor signs a bill, then it is "enacted" or "chaptered" and becomes law; if they decline to sign it, then it is "vetoed" and does not become law.

Effective date

All new laws are effective January 1, 2025, unless noted otherwise.

Changes Affecting Adoptions and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

AB 2948 – AAP Qualification for Tribal Court Adoptions

 Adds a final order of adoption issued by the tribal court of the child's tribe as a qualifier for Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) eligibility if the child was a dependent of the juvenile court immediately prior to transferring the ICWA case to the tribe.

Changes Affecting Court, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and Extended Foster Care (EFC)

AB 2224 – Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

- Requires the Court to provide the person who requested the SIJS
 determinations with a certified copy of the order within 3 court days from
 the date of the hearing at which the determinations were made, or the date
 the proposed order was submitted, whichever is later.
 - If a SW is the requestor, they will submit an Ex-Parte for expedited processing.
- Authorizes a court to appoint a parent as the guardian of their unmarried youth if the youth is between 18 and 20 years old, with the youth's consent.

Changes Affecting Emergency Response, Court Intervention, and Court Proceedings

AB 2664 – Foster Care Entry Date

- Requires that when a child is placed with a parent at Disposition (i.e. Family Maintenance), and then the child is removed from the parent's care after Disposition with a new petition, the child is deemed to have entered foster care on the date of Jurisdiction for the new petition, or 60 days from the new petition, whichever is first.
- Reunification timeframes for review hearings will be based off of the subsequent petition date as outlined in the dot point above.

Changes Affecting Court Procedures, Family Finding, ICWA, and Court Reports

<u>AB 2929</u> – Efforts to Locate Relatives/Nonrelated Extended Family Members (NREFMs)

- Requires the SW to report to the Court from Detention Hearing to the end of the 366.26 Hearing what efforts, and in the case of an Indian child, the active efforts, have been made to locate any relatives, NREFMs, including extended family members of an Indian child, who could provide family support or possible placement of the child or NMD and to include the names of those relatives, extended family members, or nonrelative extended family members in the court report along with the results of those efforts.
 - Including in any supplemental court reports.

Changes Affecting ICWA, Court Procedures, Placement, Case Plans, and Child and Family Teams (CFT) Changes Affecting ICWA, Court Procedures, Placement, Case Plans, and Child and Family Teams (CFT) (cont.)

AB 81 - California ICWA

- Effective 9-27-24.
- Requires that any placement of an Indian child complies with placement preferences.
- Requires a case plan to include, in the case of an Indian child, that the SW
 made active efforts to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs
 designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian family.
 - The tribe is to be included in CFTs and consulted in the development of case plans.
- Requires the SW to make active efforts to reunite an Indian child with their family.
- Specifies that a SW has a duty to inquire whether the child is or may be an Indian child when first contacted regarding a child.
 - This includes asking the reporting party and at first contact with the child and each family member, including extended family members.
- Requires a court presiding over any juvenile proceeding that could result in
 placement of an Indian child with someone other than a parent or Indian
 custodian, to inquire at the first hearing on a petition whether the child is, or
 may be, an Indian child.
 - The inquiry is of each party and all interested people who appear in court at their first appearance and has to be on the record.
- Allows the tribe to examine all reports and documents filed with the court in ICWA cases.
- Authorizes a tribe to appear remotely.
- Requires the Court to appoint counsel for the parent or Indian custodian
 when it appears to the Court that a parent or Indian custodian in an Indian
 child custody proceeding cannot afford to hire counsel and desires to have
 counsel for the proceedings.
- Authorizes a federally recognized tribe or tribal organization to approve homes for the purpose of emergency placement of an Indian child.
 - These placements are entitled to the same funds as CFWB emergency placements.
 - CFWB is still responsible for placement even if using the tribe's services to secure placement.

Changes Affecting Resource Family Approval (RFA) and Foster Family Agencies (FFAs)

AB 161 – RFA Completion Timeframe

- Effective 7-2-24.
- Written reports and permanency assessments are to be completed within 120 days instead of 90 days.
- Requires CFWB to submit reports to CDSS regarding RFAs that haven't been completed within 120 days and summarize the reasons why.

Changes Affecting Resource Family Approval (RFA) and Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) (cont.)

AB 2496 - FFA Homes Porting to RFA or to Another FFA

- Effective 10-1-24.
- Specifies that the rate paid on behalf of a youth or nonminor dependent (NMD) placed with an approved FFA Resource Family (RF) who has applied for a transfer to become an RFA home or go to another FFA is the rate most recently established for the child or NMD.
 - Authorizes, upon approval of the RF by the subsequent FFA or county, the rate to be adjusted based on the needs of the child.
- Authorizes CDSS to waive provisions governing the transfer of RFA other than those provisions related to background checks until 1-1-27.

Changes Affecting Minor's Consent

AB 866 – Consent for a Licensed Narcotic Treatment Program and Health Services

- Authorizes a dependent youth who is 16 years of age or older to consent to receive medications for opioid use disorder from a licensed narcotic treatment program as replacement narcotic therapy without the consent of their parent, SW, and without a court order, only if, and to the extent, expressly permitted by federal law.
- Authorizes a dependent youth who is 16 years of age or older to consent to replacement narcotic abuse treatment that uses buprenorphine at a physician's office, clinic, or health facility, by a licensed physician and surgeon or other health care provider, whether or not the minor has the consent of their parent, SW, and without requiring a court order.
- Authorizes a SW to inform a dependent youth who is 10 years old and older
 of their right to consent to receive the following health services, as necessary,
 including of their confidentiality rights regarding the following services:
 - o Diagnosis and treatment of sexual assault
 - Medical care relating to the prevention or treatment of pregnancy, including:
 - Contraception
 - Abortion
 - Prenatal care
 - Treatment of infectious, contagious, or communicable diseases
 - Mental health treatment
 - Alcohol and drug use treatment
- Authorizes a SW to provide a dependent youth with age-appropriate and medically accurate information about the following and to facilitate access to care:
 - Sexual development
 - o Reproductive health
 - Prevention of unplanned pregnancies
 - Sexual transmitted infections (STIs)
 - Accessing reproductive and sexual health care services

Changes Affecting Missing Youth and NMDs

AB 161 – Missing Youth and NMDs

- Effective 7-2-24.
- Adds that the report submitted by the county probation or county child welfare department to law enforcement (LE) and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) is to include all of the following when reasonably possible:
 - A photo of the missing or abducted child or youth.
 - o A description of the child's or youth's physical features, such as:
 - Height,
 - Weight,
 - Sex,
 - Ethnicity,
 - Race,
 - Hair color, and
 - Eye color
 - o Endangerment information, such as the child's or youth's:
 - Pregnancy status,
 - Prescription medications,
 - Suicidal tendencies,
 - Vulnerability to being sex trafficked, and
 - Other health or risk factors, to the extent such information is released in compliance with other applicable laws.
 - Information about whether the child or youth is or may be an Indian child, including the name of the child's tribe.
- Adds that for each youth who is missing, the SW is to maintain regular communication with LE agencies, including tribal law enforcement agencies in the case of an Indian child, and NCMEC in efforts to provide a safe recovery of the missing or abducted child or youth, including by sharing information pertaining to the child's or youth's recovery and circumstances related to the recovery.
- Authorizes the SW to disseminate information from the juvenile case file to the NCMEC as necessary for the the SW to carry out their duties.

AB 2108 – Missing Youth and NMDs

- Requires the SW or probation officer to notify the court and all parties or entities to the case (noted below), along with local LE, within 24 hours of learning that a child receiving child welfare services is absent from foster care.
 - Parents or legal guardians, unless notification has been limited or terminated by the court
 - Attorney for the parents or legal guardians
 - Minor/NMD's attorney
 - o CASA, if appointed
 - Court
 - o Tribe or tribal representative, if an ICWA case

Changes Affecting Missing Youth and NMDs (cont.)

- Any known sibling
- Defines "missing from foster care" to mean the whereabouts of a foster youth are unknown or the foster youth is in a location not approved by the Court that may pose a risk to the child. This would also include NMDs in the definition if, based on the totality of the circumstances, SW suspects that the NMD did not voluntarily leave foster care or is at risk of substantial harm.

Changes Affecting Extended Foster Care (EFC)

AB 2802 – Transitional Housing Placement (THP) Providers

- Allows a minor or NMD participant to share a bedroom or unit in a THP with a non-participant roommate or coparent, as approved by the provider on a case-by case basis.
 - With providers giving priority to program participants.
 - Allowing current participants to reject a nonparticipant into their existing unit.
- Requires regulations:
 - To allow a minor or NMD participant to share their living arrangement with another participant, including a coparent or participant sibling.
 - To require counties and program contracts to allow individual program participants and individuals sharing their living arrangements to share bedrooms, bathrooms, and units together, regardless of gender identity and would require county program contracts to allow providers and participants to make best matches to allow for gender flexibility.

Changes Affecting Eligibility, Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP), and Youth Exiting Foster Care AB 2906 – Youth Receiving Social Security Administration (SSA) Payments

- Effective 1-1-25 or 30 days after an ACL is released, whichever is later.
- Requires counties to do the following at least 6 months before a youth's 18th birthday if the youth is receiving payments from the SSA:
 - Provide information to the youth regarding the federal requirement that the youth establish continuing disability as an adult, if necessary, in order for the SSI benefits to continue beyond their 18th birthday.
 - Provide information to the youth regarding how to become their own payee and steps needed to maintain the benefits or designating an appropriate representative payee if benefits continue past their 18th birthday, and regarding any benefits that have accumulated on their behalf.
 - Provide information about the effect, if any, the youth's foster care benefits may have on the amount of the youth's SSI payments.

Changes Affecting Eligibility, Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP), and Youth Exiting Foster Care (cont.)

- Requires the county to assist the youth by providing any applicable financial literacy training and support and document that assistance in the youth's transitional independent living plan (TILP).
- Prior to applying to be appointed representative payee of a child's SSA benefits, the county is to send a written notice of intent to be appointed to the child's counsel and parents or legal guardians.
- Requires the county assist the NMD or the NMD's representative payee for SSA benefits, if the payee is not the county, understand any restrictions on the use of the SSA funds.
- Requires counties to act in accordance with the Guide for Organizational Representative Payees, as published by the SSA and do the following:
 - Not use the child's federal survivors' benefits to pay for, or reimburse the county, for any costs of the child's care or supervision.
- Monitor any applicable federal asset, resource, or income limits for the child's benefits and ensure that the child's best interests are served by conserving the benefits in a way that avoids termination of those benefits as a result of exceeding the federal asset, resource, or income limits, including establishing and maintaining a dedicated account to preserve eligibility for other benefits the child may be entitled to.
- Provide upon request, an accounting to the child if the child is 12 years of age or older, and the child's attorney of how and in what amount the child's resources, including any benefits administered by the SSA, have been conserved.
- Requires the county to promptly notify the child, the child's attorney, and the child's parents or guardians, before, concurrent, or at the request of any of them, all of the following:
 - Any application for benefits administered by the SSA made by the agency on the child's behalf.
 - Any application by the county to become a representative payee for benefits administered by the SSA on the child's behalf.
 - Any decisions or communications from the SSA regarding an application for benefits.
 - Any action taken by the county regarding an application for benefits.

At least within 30 days of the child exiting foster care, if the county is the representative payee, the county is to collaborate with the child, the child's attorney, and the child's parents or guardians if the child is exiting to reunification or the child's guardian or adoptive parent if the child is exiting to guardianship or adoption, to begin transfer or control and responsibility for any SSI funds conserved to the child's parent, guardian, adoptive parent, or the child if the child has exited after 18 years of age, unless the child chooses to select another representative payee.

Changes Affecting Dual Status Youth

SB 1005 – Restorative Justice Practices

- Authorizes a probation officer, with the consent of the minor and the minor's parent, to refer the minor to youth court to implement restorative justice practices for minor infractions or misdemeanors without having to file a petition.
 - o Referral can also be sent to an Indian tribe or tribal court.

Changes Affecting Residential, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), and Institutions Evaluation Unit (IEU)

SB 1043 – STRTP Dashboard for Seclusion and Behavioral Restraints

- Requires an STRTP to notify any foster child, who has been subject to seclusion or behavioral restraints, of their personal rights by no later than the day following the incident and to provide, within 7 days, descriptions of seclusions or behavioral restraints used, in both oral and written forms, to the person who was secluded or had a behavioral restraints on them, along with the parent, resource parents, guardians, Indian custodian, or other authorized representatives, and attorney, if any, and for Indian children, the tribal representative.
 - Written copy also goes to CDSS within 7 days.
 - Description is to include:
 - Actions taken during the incident
 - Incident duration
 - Rationale for the actions
 - Personnel approving and implanting the actions
- Requires CDSS to review all reported incidents involving the use of seclusion or behavioral restraints and to investigate any incidents that indicate a potential health and safety concern or licensing violation.
 - c CDSS is required to determine whether the use of seclusion or behavioral restraints potentially violated any licensing laws and regulations or violated the licensee's approved emergency intervention plan.
 - If CDSS determines that an incident should be investigated, then CDSS is required to provide the Office of the State Foster Care Ombudsperson with a copy of the incident report and require the ombudsperson to exercise their discretion in determining whether to investigate the incident.
- Requires the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson to collect a statement about the incident from the person subjected to the seclusion or behavioral restraint and provide that to CDSS within 7 days.

Changes Affecting Regional Center Respite Services

SB 1197 – Expanding Regional Center In-Home Respite Eligibility

- Allows youth, including NMDs, who receive both AFDC-FC benefits and Regional Center services and who live with a RF, or in a tribally approved home in the case of an Indian child, to be eligible for in-home respite services from the Regional Center.
- Requires Regional Centers to assess a small family home for service needs prior to approving in-home respite services for children in this placement type.

Changes Affecting a Youth's Rights

SB 1353 – Youth Bill of Rights

 Specifies that the Youth Bill of Rights for youth in juvenile facilities includes the right to receive adequate, appropriate, and timely behavioral health services.

Changes Affecting Credit Reports

AB 2935 – Credit Report Freezes

- CFWB or Probation can request the placement or removal of a security freeze for a foster youth if the foster youth appears on the most recent list provided by CDSS if the SW or Probation Officer (PO) provide sufficient proof of identification per federal law 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1681c-1(j)(1)(G).
 - o If the security freeze request received by one of the above entities indicates that the foster youth has a consumer credit history:
 - Requires any information that appears on the foster youth's credit report to be promptly blocked and not reported, in the same manner as if the credit reporting agency had received a police report relating to identity theft.
 - Requires the credit reporting to comply with additional requirements relating to the blocking and unblocking of credit history information that is subject to investigation by the police or DMV.
- Restricts the SW from requesting a security freeze for a youth placed in foster care that continues beyond the consumer's 18th birthday.
- Authorizes the freeze to be removed by the foster youth or their representative if they are 16 years old or older, under any of the following circumstances:
 - Upon the foster youth's removal from foster care.
 - Upon the foster youth's request, if the foster youth is 16 years of age or older.
 - Upon a determination by the representative of the foster youth that removal of the security freeze is in the best interest of the foster youth.
 - If the representative inquires with each of the three major credit reporting agencies.

Changes Affecting Credit Reports (cont.)

 Requires the freeze to automatically expire on the foster youth's 18th birthday unless the foster youth instructs the agency to maintain the freeze beyond that date directly or through their representative if a request to remove the security freeze was not received.

Changes Affecting Foster Care Payments

AB 2477 – Removing the Monetary Value Limit

 Wards and foster youth who are 16 years old or older, including an NMD, can now retain assets that are worth more than \$10,000 and it would not impact foster care payments to be consistent with federal law.

Changes Affecting Prevention Services

AB 3145 – Family Preservation Services

 Requires that family preservation services have a track record of helping families, have their outcomes tracked and reported, and be designed to eradicate the situation that necessitated intervention.

Legislative FYI

AB 161 – Human Services

- Kin-GAP
 - This becomes operative when CalSAWS is able to perform the necessary automation to implement.
 - Youth 16 years old or older can now retain assets that are worth more than \$10,000 and it would not impact Kin-GAP payments.
 - Adds that income or property received after the beginning date that Kin-GAP benefits start is to be disregarded.
- AFDC-FC Eligibility
 - o Effective 7-2-24.
 - Adds eligibility for the following:
 - An out of state residential facility if the facility has a childspecific certification by CDSS
 - A tribally approved home (TAH)

AB 162 – Developmental Services

- Regional Center
 - o Effective 7-2-24.
 - o If a Regional Center has not held an in-person individualized family service plan (IFSP) meeting or completed any other in-person meeting or visit in the previous 6 months, or has not held an in-person individual program plan (IPP) meeting in the previous 12 months, the Regional Center is to hold an in-person IFSP meeting, or other meeting, or visit at a location and at a time that is convenient for, and reflects the preference of, the parent, legal guardian, or authorized representative.

Legislative FYI (cont.)

- Regional Center and AAP
 - o Effective 7-2-24.
 - Dissolves the Family Cost Participation Program
 - Families involved with child welfare, including adoptive parents receiving AAP, would not pay for the child's regional center services.

SB 163 - Early Learning and Childcare

- California State Preschool Programs
 - o Effective 7-2-24 until 7-1-27.
 - o 2-year-olds are now included in state preschool programs for:
 - Priority access
 - Part-time preschool
 - Full-time preschool

AB 2137 – Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program

 Authorizes a foster youth services coordinating program to provide tutoring, mentoring, and counseling services to a foster youth student if a foster youth educational services coordinator determines that they are unable to secure those services provided by the foster youth's school district and those services are identified as being needed by the coordinator.

AB 2484 – Expert Witness Testimony

Until 1-1-27, exempts parents, children, NMDs, and Indian tribes in juvenile
dependency hearings from needing the consent from parties to use remote
technology for an expert witness to testify.

AB 2508 – Kids Investment and Development Savings (KIDS) Program

- Starting with the 2025–26 fiscal year, subject to appropriation:
 - Requires a California KIDS Program account to be opened for a pupil
 who is a foster youth and is enrolled in any of grades 1 to 12 at a
 school district, public charter school, state special school, or other
 local educational agency, if an account has not already been
 established for them, and would require the account to receive a
 one-time enhanced deposit of \$500, and
 - Requires an additional enhanced deposit of \$500 for those foster youth who did not previously receive deposits for unduplicated pupils in the 2021–22 fiscal year and unduplicated pupils in the first grade commencing with the 2022–23 fiscal year.
- These new provisions for enhanced deposits for foster youth would end on 1-1-29.

Legislative FYI (cont.)

SB 242 – CA Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program

- Makes this operative on 7-1-25, or on the date that CWS-CARES can perform the necessary automation to implement these provisions, whichever date is later.
- Requires the State Treasurer to verify the minor's parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian's cause of death and verify the family household income prior to that person's death once the Treasurer receives government-issued documents or a statement signed by a person who is eligible to do so..
 - Individual records or source data associated with the establishment of a HOPE trust account would not be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.
- Prohibits funds deposited and investment returns accrued in a HOPE trust
 account from being considered as income or assets when determining
 eligibility and benefit amount for any means-tested program until an eligible
 youth withdraws or transfers the funds from the HOPE trust account.
- Requires a one-time lump-sum payment made from a HOPE trust account to be exempt from enforcement of a money judgment by levy without making a claim.
- Authorizes a program enrollee who is also an eligible youth to withdraw or transfer funds from their HOPE trust account on and after their 18th birthday, and would require the Treasurer to assist an eligible youth in transferring funds from their HOPE trust account to other accounts.

SB 1051 – Lock Changes for Victims of Abuse or Violence

- Effective 7-2-24.
- Requires a landlord, at the landlord's expense and when an eligible tenant submits a written request, to change the locks of a protected tenant's unit within 24 hours.
 - Written request is to include one of the following, per the tenant's choosing:
 - Copy of the temporary restraining order, emergency protective order, or protective order.
 - Copy of the written peace officer's report.
 - Documentation showing that they, someone in their household, or immediate family member is seeking assistance for physical or mental injuries as a result of abuse or violence.
 - Must be a police report if for an immediate family member.
 - Documentation that reasonably verifies the abuse or violence

Legislative FYI (cont.)

- Requires the landlord to change the locks at their own expense or to reimburse the eligible tenant if the tenant changes the locks, whether they did so on their own or if the landlord didn't change them within 24 hours of the written request.
- Prohibits a landlord from taking action against the prospective tenant if
 there was a breach in the rental agreement because of the alleged abuse or
 violence against the prospective tenant, their immediate family member, or
 their household member, if they have been victims of abuse or violence.
 - Including if the prospective tenant previously asked to have locks changed.

Alignment with SET

New legislation and subsequent policies support all SET values and expectations by enhancing:

- Communication and inclusion of children and families in decisions made throughout the CFWB process (Value 1).
- Coordination with resource families to support what they need in order to provide optimal care to the youth in their homes (<u>Value 2</u>).
- Supports and services available to youth in care to help them achieve permanency or transition to adulthood successfully (<u>Value 3</u>).
- Coordination with BHS and Probation partners to provide quality services for youth and families (Value 4).
- Streamlined processes with our court partners to meet the needs of youth and families while enhancing efficiency for both the court and CFWB systems (Value 5).
- SW trainings to continue our learning about how to partner with youth and families (<u>Value 6</u>).

ORC Statement

This Special Notice was reviewed by ORC members Norma Rincon, Lauren Gabby, Rachel Swaykos, Omar Avila, Denise Bahen, Miriam Curiel, Nancy Elizarraraz-Lopez, Amanda Garcia, April Griffiths, Amy Mezger, Gina Mijares, Carmen Robles, Linda Schulte, and Aubrey Sheetz.

Contact

Staff with questions about this Special Notice may contact Stephannie Novitski, CFWB Policy Analyst, at 619-964-6260 or email at Stephannie.Novitski@sdcounty.ca.gov.

ALFREDO GUARDADO, MSW Director Child and Family Well-Being

CHILD AND FAMILY STRENGTHENING ADVISORY BOARD

BY-LAWS

Article 3 lists the duties and responsibilities of the CFSAB. Those include:

- (d) Submit an annual report and dashboard to the Board of Supervisors on the needs and performance of the County child well-being system.
- (f) Review and comment on the County's performance outcome data, as it relates to child welfare matters, and communicate its findings to the Board of Supervisors.
- (g) Review and comment on the outreach efforts used to engage citizen involvement on this Advisory Board.

Demographics of Children In Care

- Number of children in care
- Disaggregated by race, age, gender
- Number of referrals
- Allegations



Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

- Board composition
- Meeting frequency
- Work Groups



Efforts to Date

- Two-year Action Plans
- Increasing Relative Placement
- Eliminating Racial Disparities
- Creating Lived Expert Care and Compensation Model



Outreach

- Board member attendance
- Attendance at work group
- Distribution lists
- Focus groups



Next Steps



Waiting for end of 2024-2025 fiscal year.



Update data.



Share report with work groups.



Have final report for October CFSAB meeting.



CHILDREN'S CRISIS RESIDENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM (CCRMHP)



CHILDRENS CRISIS CONTINUUM PILOT PROGRAM



2023: CA established the **Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program (CCCPP)**Jointly implemented:

- California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
- Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

The Pilot Program provides a framework for a highly integrated Continuum of Care for <u>foster</u> <u>youth</u> with high acuity needs across California.

Funds awarded to San Diego for CCCPP set to Expire <u>June 2028</u>

SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S COMMITMENT: CCCPP



Objectives of CCCPP:

- 1) Reduce hospitalizations for youth in foster care
- 2) Decrease interactions with law enforcement
- 3) Improve permanency outcomes for participating youth
- 4) Reduce placement changes
- Increase familial connections

Enhance or establish the following services:

1) Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) Homes:

Sixteen (16) bed placements for identified participants of the Pilot Program

2) Crisis Stabilization Unit

Stabilization services for up to 23h:59m

3) Children's Crisis Residential Program

Minimum of **Four (4)** Dedicated beds for participants of the Pilot Program

4) <u>Dedicated Care Coordination</u>

Wraparound, Aftercare, Family Urgent Response System (FURS), Mobile Response Teams (MRTs)

CHILDRENS CRISIS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM



Project Vision

To establish the County of San Diego's first Children's Crisis Residential Mental Health Program (CCRMHP)

Broad Parameters: What we Know

CCRMHP will serve **THREE** primary functions:

- 1. Provide an alternative/diversion placement to psychiatric hospitalization
- 2. Provide a "step-down" resource from acute inpatient care when medical necessity for locked placement is no longer met
- 3. Improve the mental health and behavioral functioning of clients by stabilizing acute crisis symptoms before transitioning to a lower level of care

CHILDRENS CRISIS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM



Children's Crisis Residential Mental Health Program (CCRMHP) will support seamless entry and transition through clinical services designed to reduce the most acute behavioral health symptoms and other Bio-Psycho-Social Factors that prevent stability and success in a community setting.

The CCRMHP will be **licensed** as a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program **(STRTP)** by the California Department of Social Services **(CDSS)** and requires Mental Health Program Approval to provide outpatient Specialty Mental Health Services **(SMHS)** through Department of Health Care Services **(DHCS)**.

CHILDRENS CRISIS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM



Target Population:

- Children and youth, ages 12 to 18, who present with active symptoms consistent with an acute psychiatric crisis but do not meet medical necessity for inpatient psychiatric admission
- Up to four (4) foster youth identified as participating in the Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program
- The program will serve Foster Youth placed through an Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) and other Medi-Cal and unfunded youth in San Diego County that meet clinical eligibility criteria

Program Size:

- Daily capacity of up to 16 crisis residential beds
- Up to four (4) beds dedicated to foster youth participating in the Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program

Program will provide:

- · Residential services with a full range of structured programming for a length of stay NOT expected to exceed 10 days
- Services will include group and individual therapy focused on; crisis management, coping skills, healthy expression and communication, emotional regulation, Co-occurring disorders, age-appropriate independent living skills and resource coordination
- Services will include Medication Support Services and Targeted Case Management which will include **discharge planning at the time of intake** and will involve families and caregivers
- Services will be available 7 days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day

ESTIMATED TIMELINE



- April 2023-San Diego Awarded CCCPP Grant Funding of Approx. \$8.5M
 - \$3.3M dedicated to establishment of Children's Crisis Residential Program
- August 21, 2024-Request For Information (RFI) completed
- December 2024-COSD-BHS submitted application for BHCIP Bond Capital Grant seeking funds to repurpose County Owned Facility where Children's Crisis Residential Program will be located
 - May 2025-Disposition of BHCIP Bond application expected for award of funds
- December 2025-Construction scheduled to begin
- Summer 2026-RFP to identify Service Provider
- January-July 2027-Services expected to commence



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Child and Family Well-Being Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Co-Chairs: Aimee Zeitz

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 40, including board members: Aimee Zeitz, Joseph Robinson, Diana Venegas, Erin

Gospodarec, Adam Reed, Stephanie Ortega, and Shea Prophet.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Aimee started the meeting. Participants entered their name and affiliation in the chat. Aimee went over the agenda, the two-year action plan goals, and our current efforts.

2. Presentation by SBCS re: Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence trends, needs, and services.

Analicia McKee-Chon from SBCS presented on some of the services and programs they have related to domestic violence and intimate partner violence. Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness among families and women. The primary needs of families seeking services from SBCS are housing and legal services.

SBCS has multiple shelters. Analicia detailed the services offered and number of beds at both Casa Mariposa and Casa Segura. There are seven domestic violence shelters in San Diego County; those shelters are often full. Rancho Coastal Humane Society will temporarily house pets when families are in shelter. Many of the shelters are 60 days which is not enough time for survivors, who may have been out of the workforce for some time and are dealing with housing, mental health, childcare, medical, etc., to save enough money for a downpayment given the rental market in San Diego. San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program are at the shelter one day a week to help with custody, divorce, child support, eviction, and restraining order paperwork.

Some of the gaps or areas for growth identified were legal services, shelter capacity, inconsistencies in services based on geography, streamlined referrals, alignment with the Family Connection Hub, and connecting with CalAIM.

3. Presentation from Department of Child Support Services

Adriana Mejia, and Soheil Sassani from SD County, Department of Child Support Services presented on all of the services they offer which go far beyond child support collection. There are specialized teams for Justice Involved Parents and Children, Youth with Dreams (for parents under the age of 26), Intergovernmental Team (for interstate or intercounty collections), a Debt Reduction Program, Parents Invest in Education Program (for every \$1 entered in a savings account, \$3 of arrears are

forgiven), and Dads Corps. This is in addition to the typical child support efforts to locate parents, establish parentage, garner stipulations or court orders, and collecting and distributing payments.

4. Announcements

Partners were concerned about the threatened decrease in federal funds. One of Casey Family Program's focuses is the intersection of immigration and child welfare. Resources were posted in the google drive.

- 5. Date of Next Meeting March 19, 2025 11am-12:30pm
- 6. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Child and Family Well-Being Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Co-Chairs: Aimee Zeitz

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 42, including board members: Aimee Zeitz, Joseph Robinson, Diana Venegas, AnneElise

Goetz, Adam Reed, Stephanie Ortega, and Shea Prophet.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Aimee started the meeting. Participants entered their name and affiliation in the chat. Aimee went over the agenda, the two-year action plan goals, and our current efforts.

2. Presentation Your Safe Place – A Family Justice Center

Sara Rondon from Your Safe Place presented their services. In 2023, there were 16,666 calls to law enforcement regarding domestic violence. Since 2002, there has been an average of 13 domestic violence homicides each year. In 2023, there were five. The age group with the highest rate of domestic violence is 18-29.

Your Safe Place is a confidential program that offers confidential address services, case management, transportation, housing, car seats, emergency funds and clothing, healthy relationship education, forensic exams, individual and group counseling for children and adults, and financial literacy to those fleeing domestic violence. Additionally, there is a room that can be used for remote court appearances.

Law enforcement is only contacted at the client/victim's request. Law enforcement's Gun Violence Response Unit is helpful to assist in obtain a gun restraining order when there is a firearm in the home. Having a firearm in the home increases by 500% the likelihood someone will be killed. Tours of Your Safe Place are offered on Fridays at 9am, you can call 619-533-6000 to reserve a place.

3. Discussion of Maps and Gaps Analysis

This was the last presentation on domestic violence. Our early analysis based on data from CFWB and 211 indicated that domestic violence and basic needs were the top areas of concern for families. Participants decided to focus on basic needs such as childcare, food, housing, utilities, and transportation, as these can lead to allegations of neglect. Ostensibly, focusing on basic needs will also benefit survivors of domestic violence.

4. Announcements

Stephanie Gioia-Beckman has resigned from the CFSAB. There are currently open seats for district 5, SPA, and Children's Health Care Professional Representative.

- 5. Date of Next Meeting –May 21, 2025 11am-12:30pm
- 6. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Placement & Caregiver Support Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025

Co-Chairs: Jeff Wiemann and Patty Boles

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 25. Board members present: Jeff Wiemann, Patty Boles, Adam Reed, Beth Ploesch.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jeff opened the meeting. Participants introduced themselves in the chat.

2. Announcements

Diana Macis is retiring.

3. QPO survey update

The surveys for the year have all been approved. The text messages to CFWB caregivers went out on 2/26. Social workers received their texts on 3/5. The survey is open until 3/19. There will be preliminary results for the next work group meeting.

Participants discussed expanding the caregivers to include FFA using BINTI.

4. Transitions legislation

Rachel from CFWB presented on the legislation she is following. AB601 addresses the definition of neglect trying to get a better definition of what is and is not neglect to try to separate allegations of neglect from poverty. The proposed legislation then orders a differential response for cases that are not willful neglect. Willful neglect will still go through an agency assessment.

Participants argued that sometimes an allegation of general neglect provides an opening into a home that has abusive behavior as well. The importance of attachment for infants was mentioned.

Participants asked for statistics on why kids come into care in San Diego and how we define neglect. Participants were directed to the CFWB Dashboard and the UC Berkeley data.

The much anticipated transition legislation was proposed. The work group and CFWB are going to pause work on transition plans until the bill passes or fails.

SB452 provides legal support pre-petition. San Diego already has pre-petition legal services however they have not been used a lot.

5. New local rule

There is a new local rule that came out in late fall. The agency is planning implementation. The rule is in regards to what information can be shared with ongoing service providers. Currently FFAs get information verbally with no demographic or identifying information.

Once the child is placed with that FFA they would become an ongoing caregiver. Caregivers who provide visitation, the work of the agency, should know any concerns or dangers they need to be aware of. There needs to be a protocol to follow when a social worker erroneously does not share information.

Caregivers are not always aware of who to go to for help. Mentors can help with but since the decrease in the number of hours of TIPS training, less information is covered. The results of the QPO survey will help us learn what information is not being shared.

6. Child safety report creation discussion

Participants continued the previous discussion on the creation of a new child safety report. Of particular interest is the number of reports made regarding children in a placement. That information should be disaggregated by placement type. The result of the report should be noted as well, whether it was founded or not, whether the child was move, if there were extra requirements imposed on the placement. The idea of a dashboard report being put on the CFSAB consent agenda was floated. The PCC Board used to get a data report at every meeting.

- 7. Date of Next Meeting March 27, 2025 at 11:00 am
- 8. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Placement & Caregiver Support Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025

Co-Chairs: Jeff Wiemann and Patty Boles

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 26. Board members present: Jeff Wiemann, Patty Boles, Erin Gospodarec, Stephanie

Ortega, and Beth Ploesch

1. Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made in the chat.

2. Announcements

Today is Diana Macis' last day.

3. QPO survey update

The QPO survey was extended to 3/31 to garner more responses.

4. Child safety report creation discussion

Participants were interested in a consolidated report with the number of allegations of abuse of children in care, the number of deaths, and the number of substantiated allegations. Links to both the CFWB dashboard and the UC Berkeley Child Welfare Indicators Project were shared. A discussion began about what we want to do with the data or how having the data would lead to a change in practice. If we are concerned with child welfare more broadly, far more children die from nonintentional injuries from drowning or falling out a window.

The group was concerned that they did not know about the allegations against PCC until the first lawsuit was filed. Probation is not accessing the data, we could connect it to recidivism or negative contacts with law enforcement.

A County Report Card used to be put out by the medical examiner. The most recent report was in 2018 or 2020. It is not clear why the reports have not continued but the data is still being collected. That information feeds the fatality case review.

The rate of maltreatment in care is already tracked, there is a open case investigation unit within CFWB that works on those cases. It is possible that the cases of child maltreatment in care that are not founded could be helped through community supporting.

A participant suggested using data to look forward rather than backward. There are still a number of kids 0-5 or in sibling groups going to PCC. How can we accelerate kinship placements?

The work group will look at the data to see what is available, and come up with a list of questions. CFWB will look into what data they have and what they can share. That process will take a few months. Will not be a quick turnaround.

5. Information Sharing

a. Court notices At a recent caregiver training none of the 8 caregivers reported ever receiving a notice about a court hearing for the child in their care. That notice allows the caregiver to send in the JV290 form.

Depending on the type of hearing there are different required timeliness and methods of notice. The court should not hold hearings if a caregiver was not given notice. This is something that is reported by the social worker and checked by the judge at every hearing.

CFWB staff pulls cases with upcoming hearings and sends information to the social worker on the case to confirm everyone's contact information. Court notices should be received by mail 30 days prior to the hearing (depending on the hearing type).

The CFT meetings that occur pre-hearings are a good space to confirm the next court date and provide input.

CLS texts caregivers of children they represent three times for each hearing: when the hearing is scheduled, one week prior to the hearing, and 24 hours before the hearing.

b. Policy updates/searchable online services

Some policies were changed but caregivers are not aware of the change. Is there a way to provide notice when policies are changed?

6. Date of Next Meeting -May 22, 2025 at 11:00 am

7. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Lived Expert Action Partners Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025

Chair: (none at this time)

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 9, board member present: Melissa Villagomez

1. Welcome

Melissa opened the meeting; all participants introduced themselves.

2. Presentation and discussion of listen and learn focus group proposal

Torrey introduced the idea of changing the work group meetings into focus groups. One benefit of the change is that lived experts are able to be compensated for participating in focus groups. Another benefit is that lived experts will know ahead of time what the topic will be and can choose to only attend groups with topics they are interested in. Attendees seemed very excited about this idea as it will help solve the 'why'/purpose question we have been struggling with.

CFWB and others can identify topics for lived expert input. The notices for the focus groups will include the topic so that the lived experts know what is being discussed. CFWB has funding for 10-15 lived experts at each meeting. Casey Family Programs offered to provide additional compensation if there are ever more than 15 lived experts that sign up to participate in a meeting.

CLS offered their graphic designer to help create the announcements. We will want to make sure the announcements are in language that is appealing and accessible to (former) foster youth.

CFWB will look into which of their social media channels will be best to post the announcements. Melissa will reach out to her friends at Walden about the best platforms to reach youth. P2K and CLS will send the notices out to their contacts. We will reach out to JIT. CLS and Casey Family Programs have both offered a location and food if any of the groups are in person.

Torrey will work with CFWB to develop a funding process.

CFWB staff will think about possible topics, options include: housing, financial literacy, referral time, placements.

It is important that the policies or procedures created with the lived experts' advice is

brought back in final form. It is important that the youth see that their feedback was used and how their input shaped the final product.

We still need to set up a care/support system for the lived experts. P2K will talk with their clinical manager who provides this support for their youth. We will want to come up with group norms/group rules to share at the beginning of each meeting. This idea will be discussed more at the next meeting for a potential start date of May.

3. Announcements

ILS has a graduation ceremony on June 27th at the waterfront. More information to come but this was a very inspiring event last year. It would be great to have a lot of people supporting the youth.

The Birth of Brillance Conference is taking place on February 27th and 28th.

4. Adjournment. Date of Next Meeting –Thursday, March 20, 2025, 6:00pm.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Lived Expert Action Partners Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025

Chair: (none at this time)

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Attendees: 11; board members present: Joseph Robinson, Melissa Villagomez, and Stephen

Moore

1. Welcome

Torrey shared link to google drive. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Discussion of focus group proposal

- Review draft language
- Develop care/support system
- Start date

Attendees reviewed a draft proposal on the change to focus groups and discussed multiple areas.

Alignment with mission: Torrey shared parts of the CFSAB mission per the 2024 by-laws: to serve as a platform for cross-sector collaboration and transparent monitoring and accountability for child welfare system. Monitoring should include the review and evaluation of SD County's child welfare system such as: needs, trends, programs, services, budget, policies, priorities, and the identification of gaps. We should also support the implementation of system wide changes.

The focus groups can help identify gaps, needs, what is working, and what is not. The CFSAB can use that information to inform recommendations to the County.

Collaboration: Since the purpose of the CFSAB is to break down silos, we should make

sure this process is not siloed. Invite the chairs of the other two work groups to come to a LEAP meeting to brainstorm topic ideas based on their group's 2-year action plans.

The change to focus groups is being brought up at the other work groups meetings this month and will also be discussed at the full board meeting on April 18th.

Lived Experts: How do we define a youth in foster care? Do they need to be in care for a certain amount of time? Did they need to have been removed from their home? Does our definition include youth on family maintenance or trial home visits? Some people hold multiple perspectives, for example foster youth and parenting or foster youth that participated in BHS services.

The suggested definition was: current and former foster youth, kin, caregivers, birth parents.

A more specific lived expert population can be identified and prioritized based on the focus group topic.

Lived experts will self-identify, no verification will be done. It would be good to know who is in the room, attendees could be asked "what is the perspective that you bring?". If participants are going to be referred through an organization, that organizations has likely already vetted the person.

Topics: Attendees brainstormed possible topic ideas. CFWB is creating a list which will be shared at the next work group meeting. Some topics may cover multiple sessions. The work group discussed having focus groups every other meeting to allow time to plan the focus groups versus the facilitators doing that work outside of the work group meeting. In which way the focus groups are planned will likely depend on the topic and the facilitators' knowledge/comfort with that topic. We will need between 4-8 topic ideas.

Outreach: The plan is to develop an engaging flier that lists the identified topic, lived experts will self-select to participate. It may be good to put language on the flier like "Help CFWB shape the policy on...". Lived experts want to know how sharing their experience will change practice or impact current foster youth. Is it important to circle back to the group to let them know what happened with their recommendations.

Format: Have an opening at each session on the format of group, what the topic is, what we hope to learn, the potential impact, expectations, and roles.

If any of the groups are held in-person, how the physical space is set up will be important.

Roles: Non-lived experts/action partners should still participate in the dialogue. The burden should not be on lived experts; action partners will need to step up when needed and step back when needed.

Attendees discussed the role of the facilitator as to plan and prepare for the focus groups. There should be two co-facilitators. The facilitators do not necessarily need to be the co-chairs. Lived experts, advisory board members, or action partners (agencies) could rotate facilitation.

It is helpful for lived experts to see a familiar consistent face. Regardless of whom facilitates, that familiar face should welcome the experts and help them feel comfortable.

The agency or group that provides the topic should attend the meeting to answer questions or provide clarification.

Timeline: The original idea was to switch to focus groups in May, but the contracting process to be able to offer compensation will likely take longer. The new estimated start date is September or October. At the next CFSAB meeting, board members will be invited to the May LEAP meeting to discuss possible topics (as identified by CFWB). The final list of topics should be ready to be shared at the CFSAB meeting in July.

3. Announcements

The Children's Health Care Professional Representative, San Pasqual Academy, and District 5 seats are all open. Also open is one co-chair position for Child and Family Well-Being Work Group and two co-chair positions for this work group.

Voices for Children hired four new lived expert consultants.

4. Adjournment. Date of Next Meeting –Thursday, May 15, 2025, 6:00pm.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

VACANT

JOEL ANDERSON Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE Fourth District

> JIM DESMOND Fifth District

DATE: April 8, 2025

05

TO: Board of Supervisors

CFSAB 4.18.25 Agenda Item 8ci

SUBJECT

APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024 TO A.B. AND JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER AND CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING AND SEND LETTERS OF APPRECIATION TO THE DONORS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) Policy A-112 and the San Diego County Administrative Code Section 66 require Board approval to accept gifts and donations over \$5,000. The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) periodically receives monetary gifts and in-kind donations of over \$5,000 to benefit children temporarily residing at the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) and children involved with CFWB. PCC is a County-operated Temporary Shelter Care Facility administered by CFWB and provides 24-hour care for up to 10 calendar days for children and youth under 18 years of age who can no longer safely remain with their family of origin due to abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment.

On March 12, 2024 (5), the Board approved to accept the gifts and donations valued at \$144,668 for Calendar Year (CY) 2023. Today's action requests the Board to accept gifts and donations valuing \$47,893 for CY 2024: \$13,760 for the benefit of children at PCC and \$34,133 for the benefit of children involved with CFWB. This item supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by furthering collective efforts to maximize resources through community partnerships and providing equitable access to these resources.

RECOMMENDATION(S) CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. In accordance with County Administrative Code Section 66 and Board Policy A-112, accept gifts and donations totaling \$13,760 to the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center from Promises2Kids; and accept gifts and donations valuing \$34,133 to Child and Family Well-Being from Promises2Kids.

SUBJECT: APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024 TO A.B. AND JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER AND CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING AND SEND LETTERS OF APPRECIATION TO THE DONORS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

2. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign letters of appreciation, upon receipt, on behalf of the County of San Diego to the donors. If the Chair position is vacant, authorize the Vice Chair to sign letters of appreciation.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) periodically receives monetary gifts and in-kind donations of over \$5,000 to benefit children temporarily residing at the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) and children involved with CFWB. PCC is a County-operated licensed Temporary Shelter Care Facility administered by CFWB and provides 24-hour care for up to 10 calendar days for children and youth under 18 years of age who can no longer safely remain with their family of origin due to abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment. Some of the services provided at PCC include physical and mental health services, medication support, and crisis services to all youth entering the facility and throughout their length of stay. In Calendar Year (CY) 2024, PCC served 563 unduplicated children and of these, 38% were White, 35% were Black, 21% were Hispanic, 1% were Chinese, 1% were Iraqi, and 1% were Native American. Other ethnic groups comprising less than 3% of the population at PCC include Afghan, Asia Indian, Filipino, Other Asian, Romanian, Russian, and Samoan.

PCC represents a unique public-private community partnership that continues to generate periodic gifts and donations from individuals and private corporations for the children residing in this temporary shelter. The partnership maximizes resources available and ensures children at PCC and involved in CFWB have equitable access to gifts and donations that aid youth in maintaining connections to their communities and fosters their continued sense of belonging despite the barrier of being unable to safely live with their biological families or in their communities.

Monetary and in-kind donations received are monitored and publicly disclosed through the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board meetings and annual reporting to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Expenditures are internally tracked by HHSA and CFWB to ensure transparency and accountability of donations and gifts received and provide for the advancement and equitable distribution of resources.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

As a result of the generous contributions from community members and organizations in San Diego County, donations benefit and enrich the lives of children who are temporarily staying at A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center and involved with County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Child and Family Well-Being. The proposed action to accept gifts and donations received by HHSA supports the County's Sustainability Goal #1 by engaging and building strong partnerships with community partners who provide donations. Sustainability Goal #2 is also supported by providing just and equitable access to special events, special activities, and other enhancements that directly benefit the children that would otherwise not be available to them.

SUBJECT: APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED BY

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024 TO A.B. AND JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER AND CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING AND SEND LETTERS OF APPRECIATION TO THE

DONORS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

FISCAL IMPACT

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) received donations valued at \$47,893 between January 2024 and December 2024 to support activities of children at the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center and to support children involved with CFWB. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

This item was presented to the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board as an informational item on January 24, 2025.

BACKGROUND

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) Policy A-112 and the San Diego County Administrative Code Section 66 require Board approval to accept gifts and donations over \$5,000. The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) periodically receives monetary gifts and in-kind donations over \$5,000 to benefit children temporarily residing at the A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) and children involved with CFWB. On March 12, 2024 (8), the Board approved to accept the gifts and donations valued at \$144,668 for Calendar Year (CY) 2023.

PCC is a County-operated Temporary Shelter Care Facility administered by CFWB and provides 24-hour non-medical care for up to 10 calendar days for children and youth under 18 years of age who can no longer safely remain with their family of origin due to abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment. The campus includes six residential cottages, a nursery for infants, a medical clinic, school, library, cafeteria, gymnasium, two swimming pools, three playgrounds, and a recreation field. In CY 2024, PCC served 563 unduplicated children with an average daily population of 21 children. Furthermore, PCC was built on County owned land with funds for the facility partially raised from private donations received through Promises2Kids. The County has an existing agreement with Promises2Kids that includes provisions for funding to support PCC operations via annual monetary contributions and in-kind support. As part of this agreement Promises2Kids shall provide an annual monetary contribution along with in-kind support for programs administered at PCC.

PCC represents a unique public-private partnership that continues to generate periodic gifts and donations from individuals and private corporations for the children residing in this temporary shelter. Monetary donations are deposited to the HHSA PCC Trust Fund. Typical expenditures pay for recreational and special events and for the purchase of toys and other items for the children. During CY 2024, PCC received the following monetary and in-kind donations of over \$5,000 to benefit the children at PCC and throughout CFWB:

SUBJECT: APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED BY

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024 TO A.B. AND JESSIE POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER AND CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING AND SEND LETTERS OF APPRECIATION TO THE

DONORS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

PCC In-Kind Donations

• Promises2Kids donated new toys, sports equipment, electronics, art supplies, and event tickets valued at \$13,760.

Donations received throughout CFWB are disbursed to the children in care to assist with their educational and recreational needs. During CY 2024, the following cumulative donations over \$5,000 were made to benefit children involved with CFWB:

CFWB Monetary Donations

• Promises2Kids donated \$1,890.

CFWB In-Kind Donations

• Promises2Kids donated new toys, art supplies, electronics, sport equipment, clothing, and contributed to special events valued at \$32,243.

Today's action requests the Board to accept gifts and donations valuing \$47,893 for CY 2024: \$13,760 for the benefit of children at PCC and \$34,133 for the benefit of children involved with CFWB.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed actions support the Sustainability (Resiliency), Equity (Health), Empower (Transparency and Accountability), and Community (Partnership) initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, as well as the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe and thriving communities. This is accomplished by providing equitable opportunities for transitional age youth to receive services and supports to secure and maintain a safe environment, advancing their goal of self-sufficiency and preventing homelessness.

Respectfully submitted,

USE "INSERT PICTURE" FUNCTION TO INSERT SIGNATURE

EBONY N. SHELTON Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment A – Letters of Appreciation



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

VACANT

JOEL ANDERSON Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE Fourth District

> JIM DESMOND Fifth District

DATE: April 22, 2025

XX

TO: Board of Supervisors

CFSAB 4.18.25 Agenda Item 8cii

SUBJECT

AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION FOR EVIDENCE-BASED FAMILY HOME VISITING SUPPORT SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego (County) provides Family Home Visiting Support Services for children and families following the Healthy Families America (HFA) evidence-based family-focused model. The model is currently used by both the County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Medical Care Services (MCS) and the First 5 Commission of San Diego County (First 5) and employs a framework to strengthen the health and well-being of parents and children through a series of home visits. County Public Health Nurses (PHNs) conduct the home visits provided by MCS. The First 5 program employs contracted paraprofessionals for these services.

Through a business re-engineering process, HHSA has determined that a more equitable and effective option to maximize resources would be to integrate these two approaches so that the best level of service is provided to the families served by home visitation programming. If approved, today's recommendation authorizes the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a competitive solicitation for Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting Support Services and award one or more contracts for the delivery of these services. Selected providers will coordinate service delivery with PHNs to ensure that each family is provided with the appropriate level of service based on need.

Today's item supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have historically been left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities by supporting families in making healthy lifestyle choices, developing resiliency, and enjoying the highest quality of life.

RECOMMENDATION(S) CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administration Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a Competitive Solicitation for Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting Support Services, and upon successful negotiations and determination of fair and reasonable price, award one or more contracts for a term of one year,

with four option years and up to an additional six months if needed; and to amend contracts as needed to reflect changes to services and funding.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has been instrumental in supporting Home Visiting programs for over two decades, with the goal of improving the health and well-being of families and reducing health disparities by building and sustaining community partnerships. This includes engaging overburdened families through home visiting services, cultivating and strengthening nurturing parent-child relationships, promoting healthy childhood growth and development, and enhancing family functioning by reducing risk and building protective factors. Additional resources include referrals to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, food assistance, diaper bank, housing, medical providers and behavioral health services.

The Home Visiting Program is designed to support families who are particularly vulnerable to adverse childhood experiences, ensuring person-centered services are utilized to address their specific needs. The program emphasizes culturally responsive practices by tailoring services to the unique needs of diverse communities. Every effort is made to match eligible families with staff who speak their language and understand their culture and staff are trained in active listening and cultural humility.

The Home Visting Program utilizes Parent Satisfaction Surveys as an essential tool for collecting feedback from families, providing insights into their experiences. Participant feedback promote program improvements and can further strengthen community engagement by demonstrating responsiveness and a commitment to meeting the evolving needs of families.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed action supports the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal #1 to engage the community in meaningful ways; Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access; and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region. The home visiting approach creates fair and equitable access to services by meeting families where they are at and collaborating with the family to create service plans that support their well-being. Through the Healthy Families America evidence-based family-focused model, this approach fosters positive parenting, promotes child health and development, and helps prevent child maltreatment.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are partially included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 CAO Recommended Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this will result in estimated annual costs and revenue of up to \$12.0 million in FY 2025-26. The funding source includes Proposition 10 approved by the First 5 Commission (\$2 million), Social Services Administrative Revenue (\$3.6 million), California Home Visiting Program State General Fund Expansion (\$0.2 million), Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood funding from the California Department of Public Health (\$0.8 million), and Realignment (\$2.4 million). There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

The Health Services Advisory Board (HSAB) reviewed and approved this item at their meeting on April 1, 2025.

Brought forward by the First 5 Commission of San Diego County as an informational item at their meeting on April 16, 2025. Additionally, the First 5 Commission of San Diego County has reviewed and approved an extension of existing Home Visiting Support Services contracts through December 31, 2025.

BACKGROUND

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has delivered an evidence-based home visiting program since 1999. By building trusting relationships between provider and family, home visitation services improve both the health and life-course of children and families. These services nurture the development of healthy relationships between parent and child and enhance parental knowledge regarding their child's growth and development. Services are customized based on an assessment of family strengths, needs, and desired outcomes. Families are equipped with the necessary tools and community referrals to achieve their personalized goal plans. A home visit can consist of a variety of activities including but not limited to providing education on child development, positive discipline, safe sleep practices, lactation support and healthy diet and exercise. Additionally, they may include family goal planning, stress management techniques, and referrals or linkages to community resources.

HHSA utilized the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) model of home visiting for over 25 years but re-procured the services per the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) authority on October 25, 2022 (7). The Board authorized a competitive solicitation for an evidence-based home visiting model and approved the extension of the NFP contract through August 31, 2026, to allow for client transition. The procurement resulted in a contract with American Academy of Pediatrics using the Healthy Families America (HFA) model, which has been implemented by HHSA Medical Care Services (MCS) and the Public Health Nursing (PHN) staff. Additionally, the First 5 Commission (First 5) has been operating a home visitation program using the HFA model since 2013 which is administered through contracted services delivered by paraprofessionals.

Evidence shows that parents following the HFA model gain knowledge regarding their child's growth and development and interact more positively with their children. Expected outcomes include 48% fewer infants born at low birthweights, increased likelihood of infants being breastfed, increased likelihood of having health insurance, being linked to a medical home leading to increased well-child visits and developmental screenings. In addition, HFA families are five times more likely to enroll and participate in school training programs, and 27% fewer families were homeless. In alignment with expected outcomes, the efforts of MCS and First 5 reflect a

commitment to achieving positive results, demonstrating consistency between strategic goals and program implementation.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, the MCS Home Visiting Program provided services for 900 families and First 5 provided home visiting services to 632 families, countywide. During this timeframe, MCS Nursing transitioned from the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Model to the Healthy Families America (HFA) model with enrollment of families beginning April 5, 2024. Due to this recent transition, statistics and outcomes during this period are currently being compiled and available in the near future.

In FY 2023-24, First 5 outcomes using the HFA model demonstrated positive health trends, including 95% of children being born at or after 37 weeks of gestation, which significantly reduces health risks and supports healthy development. At 30 days postpartum, 97% of children and 95% of primary caregivers were linked to a medical home, ensuring consistent healthcare access and preventive care. Additionally, by 12 months, 97% of children were up-to-date with Well Baby Checks, indicating strong adherence to healthcare guidelines and early detection of potential issues.

In 2024 a business process review was conducted to examine HHSA home visiting efforts and make recommendations to streamline the process and maximize the impacts of the programming. Recommendations include that the existing programs be integrated to realize revenue efficiency, better utilization of both PHN and paraprofessional resources, and increase centralized access to the program. To implement these recommendations, a new contract(s) must be established to integrate the expertise of both disciplines and provide a more comprehensive approach that is case specific and thus more efficient in assigning the appropriate level of staff required to meet the families' needs.

The transdisciplinary approach to the Home Visiting Program integrates County PHNs and contracted staff for day-to-day operations and communication processes to enhance case management activities. Selected providers will coordinate service delivery with PHNs to ensure that each family is provided with the appropriate level of service based on need. The HFA model is designed to meet social and parenting needs, while a PHN focuses on important health needs such as reducing pre-term births and supporting clients with complex health issues.

Today's action requests the Board authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a competitive solicitation for Evidence-Based Home Visitation Services. If approved, this action will maximize enrollment efficiency and provide timely service, and centralize and streamline program access with the goal of increasing the number of families served.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed action supports the County of San Diego 2025-2030 Strategic Plan initiatives of Sustainability (Economy and Resiliency) and Community (Engagement, Quality of Life, Communications, and Partnership) as well as the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe and thriving communities. This is accomplished by delivering resources to families who are

at risk for adverse childhood experiences. These efforts empower our workforce by fostering innovation to implement best practices in home visiting services to increase the well-being of families and their children. Additionally, the transdisciplinary home visiting approach supports flexibility within the PHN workforce to ensure the capability to respond to urgent needs while home visiting services are maintained.

Respectfully submitted,

USE "INSERT PICTURE" FUNCTION TO INSERT SIGNATURE

EBONY N. SHELTON Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S) N/A