



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Ad-hoc Committee Meeting

Ad-hoc Committee:

Race & Equity	1:00 - 2:30 pm
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Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitators: Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Emily Lay, Stephanie Heying

Race & Equity Ad-hoc Committee Summary: 39 attendees took part in the Ad-hoc Committee.

Advisory Members Participating: Adam Reed, Carolyn Griesemer, Melissa Villagomez, Stephen Moore

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

Data Review of the Region children resided in and the Region of placement

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

- Dr. Bharti gave an overview of the regions of placement and ethnicity of children placed within the regions.
 - Of the 835 total removals with placement, 396 were Hispanic/Latinx, 263 were White, and 141 were African American.
 - Central region, North Coastal region, North Inland region, and South region had the highest removals among Hispanic/Latinx youth.
 - East region had the highest removals among White youth.
 - North Central had the highest removals among White and Hispanic/Latinx youth.
- Dr. Bharti then gave an overview on placements with kin versus with a nonrelative. Approximately 46% of youth removed are placed with a relative or non-relative extended family member (NREFM).
- Dr. Bharti discussed removals with placements of African American youth.
 - Of the 141 African American youth removed, 58 were from Central region and 41 were from East region.
 - Of the 141 African American youth removed, 59% were placed with a nonrelative.
 - Of the African American youth removed and placed in a different region, approximately 1/3 were placed with kin.
- Dr. Bharti noted that the number of African American caregivers has increased from 198 to 227 in one fiscal year.
- Sandra reminded the group that the data is broken down by region because the previous data broken down by zip codes did not provide a good representation of where youth were placed when they were removed. She stated the data also provides information on if a youth was placed

with a family member/NREFM or nonrelative. She asked how we can recruit more nonrelative African American resource families to ensure that if an African American youth is removed from their home that they can be placed with an African American family.

- Questions:
 - Stephen asked if there is data that shows the overall resource family population rather than just the African American population. He questioned if there is an increase in resource families across ethnicities. He then asked if the increase in African American resource families is a result of the targeted recruitment effort. Lillian responded that she thinks there is an increase in resource families across the board, but she can confirm that information.
 - D'Andre Brooks commented that churches may be good places to try to recruit African American resource families. Lillian stated that CWS is working with Faith in Motion, who has reached out to many churches for recruitment.
 - Carolyn Griesemer asked if youth have been included in conversations regarding placement, as youth may be able to share additional individuals who may be considered for placement. She asked if the genograms can be shared to make sure everyone involved has the same information.
 - Adam Reed agreed that the availability of the genograms would be helpful in aligning all parties involved in each case and would aid in family finding. Lillian stated she will investigate how to convey that information within CWS reports.
 - D'Andre suggested reaching out to Pop Warner teams to aid in the targeted recruitment.

SB 354 update and All County Letter

Sandra opened the agenda item and turned it over to Diana Shreckengost. Diana gave a brief overview of SB 354. She then turned it over to Veronica Sarabia to present on the agenda item.

- Veronica gave an overview of the All County Letter (ACL).
 - SB 354 removed barriers to relative/NREFM placements, changed criminal conviction timeframes and made changes to non-exemptible convictions.
 - SB 354 allows for Court Authorized placements and Emergency placements when necessary.
 - SB 354 applies to the Indian community and tribally approved homes.
 - Resource Family Approval (RFA) written directives will incorporate SB 354 language.
 - Criteria for Relatives:
 - Eligibility for petitions for reinstatement due to criminal exemptions have been updated.
- Veronica then gave an overview of SB 354.
 - The RFA Background Assessment Guide (BAG) helps to ensure relatives with non-exemptible convictions meet the relative exception criteria.
 - An individual with any non-exemptible convictions within the last 5 years will not be eligible for placement.
- Questions:
 - Sandra suggested including groups like Faith in Motion to help disseminate the eligibility information.

Data Review of Hotline calls

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

- Dr. Bharti gave an overview of what type of groups make calls to the hotline.
 - 25% of calls come from medical groups.
 - 24% of calls come from CWS staff/government agencies.
 - 19% of calls come from law enforcement.

- Dr. Bharti discussed what region the hotline calls come from.
 - The majority of hotline calls come from East, North Inland, and South regions.
 - 41% of hotline calls were not assigned for investigation.
 - Patricia asked for a deep dive into this data to see how many hotline calls were for African American children that were not referred for investigation.
- Sandra stated this data will be available at the October meeting. She also mentioned that CWS will break down the hotline calls by region, reporting agency, and ethnicity.

Family First Update

Sandra opened the agenda item and turned it over to Laura Krzywicki to present on the agenda item.

- Laura shared that CWS is currently working with pilot agencies to finalize items such as claiming and billing. She also mentioned that CWS is working on the evaluation of evidence-based practices and fidelity.
- Laura stated CWS is waiting on the finalization of the State's prevention plan. She mentioned CWS is considering implementing a Community Response Guide that would help mandated reporters determine whether or not a case should be referred to CWS.

Data Review of Mothers who have lost their parental rights

Agenda item was moved to the October meeting due to time limitations.

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

Agenda item was moved to the October meeting due to time limitations.

Next Meeting: October 12, 2022, 1:00 pm

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

- Compare and contrast data review of mothers who have lost their parental rights in the last 3 years.
- Targeted recruitment and retention plan.
- Setting goals for recruitment of more families of color.
- Faith in Motion presentation.
- Compare and contrast data review of the 41% of hotline calls not referred for investigation.
- Community Response Guide.
- Eliminate disproportionality with a targeted goal.