

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 10, 2013

8965 Balboa Avenue, Room 1A

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Nory Behana, Sandra Boelter, Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Wendy Curiel, Ann Fox, Ali Freeman, Suzette Johnston, Alice Kennedy, Greg Khoth, Michele Manley, Violeta Mora, Twila Perruci, Christine Rosas-DiMaggio, Leesa Rosenberg, Arleth Rubio, Anita Secor, Marilyn Sproat, Karen Wimmer, Barbara Wojtach

Minutes

- I. Sandie Boelter called the meeting to order. All in attendance made introductions.**
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:**
The minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion:**

North County Foster Parent Association - Patty Boles

- The Association is grateful to have many volunteers helping to organize donations and distribute them to foster families; using email to help distribute donations.
- The Association is now an official partner with Sleep Train!
- School issue: A foster child had a pre-existing IEP and medication prescription. A school refused to let this child attend school until the foster mother met with them.
 - Violeta Mora advised to have foster mother contact the School Liaison and San Diego County office of Education.
- Special Health Care Needs: Does regulation that allows only two children in the home apply only to foster children, or to all children in the home?
 - Ann Fox will check and follow up next month.
- Melding: Concern that a child placed in a Resource Family home may be moved to another approved adoptive home; would like to discuss melding strategies.
 - Alice Kennedy advised that CWS will be examining the unintended impacts of melding; impacts to both foster and adoptive homes.

HHS&A & Child Welfare Services – Alice Kennedy

- Child Welfare Services is moving forward with hiring more classes.
- County of San Diego welcomed new Chief Administrative Officer, Helen Robbins-Meyer, and new County Supervisor, Dave Roberts.
- Quality Parent Initiative (QPI): Alice Kennedy and Diana Macis attended QPI conference in Florida. A representative from Youth Law Center presented on QPI to CWS Managers. CWS looks forward to including foster parents in QPI discussions!

Foster Home Licensing – Ann Fox

- Greg Khoth was introduced as the new Licensing Social Worker Supervisor.
- Mileage reimbursements are available for foster children to remain in the school of origin; flyer distributed.
- Licensing is working on the 52nd Annual Foster Parent Banquet to be held in May 2013.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists

East – Karen Wimmer

- Hosted a successful Respite Night in early December.
- East Region Placement Unit has two new staff: Shannon Jimenez and Abbie Brack.

North Central – Bernice Briggs

- Looking for foster parents to be trained to care for medically fragile children.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support Division – Leesa Rosenberg

- Relative and NREFM home denials: Grievances will now be heard by an Administrative Law Judge.
- CWS Policy staff will review all proposed denials before they are officially denied.

Polinsky Children’s Center/Emergency Shelter Care – Marilyn Sproat

- The current Polinsky population is approximately 50 children.
- Emergency Shelter Care Unit has new staff: Elvin Gonzalez and Michelle Rodriguez.

Rose House Kinship Association – Ali Freedman

- Pam Smith chairs monthly Kinship meetings to discuss kinship issues.

San Diego County Office of Education – Violeta Mora

- Letters have gone out to all school districts notifying them of Education Code changes in AB 1909 which go in effect January 1, 2013. These changes require notification to the students’ attorney and the local child welfare authority when a student in foster care is going to a manifestation or expulsion hearing.
- Recruitment is underway to secure Pre-Employment Training (PET) employers for the summer.
- The Educational Summit will be held June 27th & 28th at the San Diego Marriott Hotel.

San Diego County Adoptions – Barbara Wojtach

- Seventy thousand Chargers calendars were distributed!
- Donations of holiday toys for children were received from a large community church.

Child Health Disability Prevention – Anita Secor

- Working with dental directors of community clinics who want to meet with caretakers.
 - Referred them to the Kinship meeting to conduct outreach with relative caretakers
- Health surveys will be distributed to caretakers in early 2013.

Foster Care Education – Nory Behana

- New class schedule (Pink Flyer) was distributed.
 - New classes include training on HEP, Avoiding Allegations, and AB12 training.

Roundtable

FHL Options for Recovery - Christine Rosas-DiMaggio

- Classes are available for baby signing and music therapy.
- Options classes now include segments on Medically Fragile, CASS, DSEP, and Effects of Trauma on Young Children.

IV. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 14, 2013: 8965 Balboa Avenue, Conference Room 1-A

V. ADJOURNMENT: 2:05 P.M.