

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 14, 2013

8965 Balboa Avenue, Room 1A

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Angela Aleves, Nory Behana, Pamela Besaw, Sandra Boelter, Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Genevieve Bromley, Nuth Chhea, Wendy Curiel, Ann Fox, Ali Freeman, Ernie Gomez, Suzette Johnston, Alice Kennedy, Greg Khoth, Robin Lefkowitz, Maribel Luna, Diana Macis, Michele Manley, Wendy Martinez, Melissa Nagatsuka, Stephanie Ortega, Twila Perucci, Christine Rosas-DiMaggio, Arleth Rubio, Anita Secor, Marilyn Sproat, Karen Wimmer, Barbara Wojtach

Minutes

I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order. All in attendance made introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:

The January 2013 minutes were approved unanimously with one correction noted: section I, Twila Perucci called the meeting to order.

III. Presentation:

Teen Wheel – CHDP - Melissa Nagatsuka & Wendy Martinez

- The Teen Wheel is a health information and education resource wheel. It is a spin-off of the already successful Maternal Health wheel. The Teen Wheel covers a variety of health topics and will be a valuable tool for clinicians, educators, and social workers.
- Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) is a preventative health program available to foster children.

Junior Guardian Scholars - Promise2Kids – Stephanie Ortega

- Junior Guardian Scholars is a new program available to foster youth that will help students:
 - Prepare to graduate high school;
 - Complete the SAT Preparation Course;
 - Transition into a four year college or junior college;
 - Locate funding through scholarships.
- Meetings are held weekly with the youth.
- Meetings with caregivers are scheduled periodically.
- Goal is to raise the high school graduation rate.
- Call Stephanie Ortega at 858-427-1109 for information/application.

IV. Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association - Patty Boles/Barbie Caldwell

- Concern about loss of specific funding for Foster Youth Services.
- Visitation issues: Foster parents are asked to do multiple visits a week for duration of 2 hours each visit. Concern that social workers may get upset with foster parents who cannot accommodate that much visitation.
- Questions about a new questionnaire used by Placement Specialists that may rule out a foster family if they will not provide visitation in the home, Concern about putting foster family's safety and security at risk.
 - Policy will look into this form.

- Association would like new proposed policy and forms to be presented at Foster Care Services prior to releasing it.
- Training is needed for Foster Parent Mentors on CCL complaint and legal processes.
 - Foster Home Licensing is willing to conduct a training, and will ask if State CCL staff ever train foster parents and County staff together.
- Connected Through Kids is forming a group for foster parents to discuss and raise issues they face.
 - QPI will help address many of the issues.
 - An Ad Hoc meeting will be scheduled to discuss specific cases.
 - Alice Kennedy will bring issues to the CWS Executive Team.

HHS & Child Welfare Services – Alice Kennedy

- State of the County Address was held on February 13; Chairman Greg Cox and Supervisor Dave Roberts have interest in foster care
- CWS is scheduling meetings to brief newly elected County Supervisor, Dave Roberts, on Child Welfare issues.
- Debra Zanders-Willis, Deputy Director of San Diego County Child Welfare Services, received national recognition from the Casey Foundation for work done in San Diego regarding Safety Organized Practice and child welfare improvements.
- Alice welcomed Adoptions Program Manager, Genevieve Bromley, to the Foster Care Services Committee. Genevieve’s presence will ensure that the voice of foster parents will be heard in regards to Melding and Adoption issues.

Foster Home Licensing – Ann Fox

- Follow-up on capacity issues for specialized health care needs (Special Health Care Needs) children: State CCL regulations state, “no more than two children” may live in a SHCN home. This includes biological, adopted, guardianship, and foster children. Ann will ask the State representative to verify if this capacity limitation has changed.
- The State Review report was received and provided good recommendations on what Licensing can do in regards to tracking and keeping homes up-to-date. Overall, there were no issues that should affect foster parents.
- Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) meetings: Foster parent participation is greatly encouraged. Online surveys will be sent to Foster Parent Associations in advance of QPI meetings.

San Diego County Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Ernie Gomez

- Independent Living Skills (ILS) is working with high school seniors to complete financial aid applications.
- Currently supporting students by encouraging part-time employment and teaching money management skills.
- Preparations for the high school graduation event are underway; we are hoping to have another successful event.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists

North Central – Bernice Briggs

- Looking for foster parents to take sibling sets and children in wheelchairs.

East – Karen Wimmer

- Working with Wendy Curiel on the Relative Home Approval process.

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

- Polinsky population has been 50-60 children.
- Assessment Center is being well utilized to avoid placement at Polinsky.

San Diego County Office of Education – Robin Lefkowitz

- The 2nd Annual Foster Care Education Summit will be held June 28th at the Mission Valley Marriott.
- California Youth Connection (CYC) is offering \$600 scholarship opportunities for youth currently in foster care who have been accepted in college. The application is due April 1st.
- The Change of Life \$600, scholarship is available for emancipated youth who are seniors in high school and enrolled in college.

Child Health Disability Prevention – Anita Secor

- Pam Besaw, RN, was introduced and is now working with CHDP.
- If foster parents experience problems with accessing health care for foster children, please call the Public Health Nurse in your region, or call Anita Secor for assistance.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program – Maribel Luna

- Maribel Luna introduced herself to the committee as being the new DSEP representative for Foster Care Services. Maribel has been a DSEP Behavior Specialist for over three years.

Roundtable

FHL Options for Recovery - Christine Rosas-DiMaggio

- Options classes are well attended and are currently full.

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

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:45 P.M.