

## FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 13, 2014

6950 Levant St, San Diego

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Present:** Bernice Briggs, Wendy Curiel, Elizabeth Cuevas, Robyn Ericson, Jennifer Fightlin, Ann Fox, Lucia Garcia, Sharon Ippolito, Suzette Johnston, Alice Kennedy, Moira Lewis, Maribel Luna, Twila Perucci, Jacquie Pusateri, Cristine Rosas-DiMaggio, Diana Simmes, Marilyn Sproat, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach

### Minutes

- I. **Twila Perucci called the meeting to order.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. **Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The January 2014 minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. **Presentation:**

Diana Simmes from the UCSD Department of Pediatrics presented information on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and Ready, Set, Go: San Diego.

Alcohol is the most abused substance, and it produces by far the most serious neurobehavioral effects in the fetus. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is an umbrella term for the complex range of organic brain injuries resulting from prenatal exposure to alcohol, and it is as common as autism. The effects of FASD are only 20% visible with severely impaired physical features and facial characteristics; moreover, the neurodevelopmental disorders can be up to 80% invisible. FASD is 100% preventable.

The FASD Clinic at the UCSD/Rady Children's Hospital is a multidisciplinary diagnostic clinic serving the community by conducting screenings, educating parents, caregivers, support groups, and implementing pilot screening programs in the juvenile justice system. Math Interactive Learning Experience (MILE) is offered free to parents of children with specific learning or behavior challenges regardless of alcohol exposure. For patient referral, contact Kathie Johnson@858-246-0047.

Ready, Set, Go: San Diego is a research study funded by the National Institute of Health in collaboration with Child Welfare Services, San Diego Regional Center, and 28 schools in the San Diego Unified School District. The study looks at children, ages six to eight, who have FASD, to determine what type and amount of services need to be offered.

### IV. Discussion:

#### HHSA & Child Welfare Services—Alice Kennedy

- County of San Diego will sponsor a 5k walk/run on May 31, 2014. Proceeds will go to the Children's Trust Fund to help children in foster care. Please register@livewellsd5k.com.
- The Intergenerational Summit sponsored by Aging & Independence Services (AIS) will be held June 12, 2014.
- Live Well San Diego has a new website @livewellsd.org.
- First Five has a new website @first5sandiego.org. Foster parents can access the website for services.
- Child Welfare is continuing to hire staff.
- Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI):

- All are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming QPI trainings which will be held on March 4 in San Marcos, March 13 in Santee, April 9 at Jacob's Center, and May 8 in South region.
- Evaluation forms are being completed by social workers and foster parents who attend these meetings.
- The National QPI Convening in Las Vegas, will take place at the end of February.
- Adoptions:
  - Focus groups are being held to evaluate internal operations of the adoption process and determine if there are efficiencies we can put in place to reduce duplication and bottlenecks.
  - The focus groups are being held with families who have adopted through CWS. Distributed focus group flyer.
  - A Lean Six Sigma team from the Office of Business Intelligence will evaluate the process that families go through from the time they first contact CWS until finalization occurs.

#### **Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists—Bernice Briggs**

- Need placements for large sibling groups. Currently placing a sibling group of seven children.

#### **Polinsky Children's Center—Marilyn Sproat**

- The Polinsky population has been under 40 this month.

#### **San Diego County Office of Education—Robyn Ericson**

- Funding rules for schools are changing. Schools will be obligated to show progress on how they are supporting foster youth or they will lose a percentage of their funding. SDCOE held focus groups to meet with schools and discuss how to best serve foster youth.
- College Connection will be held at Grossmont College on April 11.
- The Education Summit will be held in June.
  - Currently interviewing Student Ambassadors.
  - Will send out a call for presenters.
- San Diego Tutor Connection is proceeding to match tutors with foster youth.
- Financial Aid workshops held on February 5 & 6 were well attended by caretakers.

#### **Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) — Jacquie Pusateri**

- CASS currently has no wait list.
- CASS is hiring bilingual clinicians.

#### **Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Maribel Luna**

- DSEP hired a preschool teacher for Polinsky.

#### **Grossmont College—Barbara Wojtach**

- Will host an event on March 6 at the Handlary Hotel for mentors and support group leaders to address low attendance at support groups. The morning session will be for support group leaders. The afternoon session will be for foster parent mentors.
- Training for Trainers will be held on April 5. Trainers will be coached on presentation skills.
- Super Saturday will be held on June 21. This is an 8-hour training with lunch and multiple morning and afternoon sessions.
- Distributed the foster parent training flyer (pink flyer) for January through May 2014.

#### **Foster Home Licensing—Lucia Garcia**

- The State will come in June to assess Licensing's progress with the Corrective Action Plan.
- Licensing staff will attend Advanced Training which will focus on tools and resources.

### **Foster & Adoptive Family Resource Services Operations—Ann Fox**

- The Foster Parent Banquet will be held in May; date and location will be announced soon.
- Focusing on target groups for the Exceptional Families campaign; specifically, medically specialized homes and partnering with Aging and Independence Services.
- Dionne Puckett has joined our team as Community Outreach Specialist. She will focus on developing relationships within target communities.
- Respite care providers are needed to support North County caretakers. Recruitment emails sent to the foster parent associations resulted in responses from several people who are interested in becoming respite providers for North County.

### **Roundtable:**

Cristine Rosas-DiMaggio— Suggest contacting waiting adoptive families to become respite care providers.

Debbie Stolz—There is also a need to identify respite providers for kids with high needs.

### **V. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, March 13, 2014**

**12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

**6950 Levant Street, Room 1 A/B**

**San Diego, CA 92111**

### **V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:45 P.M.**