

## **FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

6950 Levant St, San Diego

**12:00 – 2:00**

**Present:** Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Patricia Coleman, Wendy Curiel, Margo Fudge, Lucia Garcia, Claudia Hernandez, Shannon Jimenez, Brenda Jones, Nicole Kelsay, Alice Kennedy, Dorothy Martin, Keila Martinez, Susan Moreno, Anya Navarez, Mike Palomino, Danica Perez, Twila Perucci, Dionne Puckett, Jacquie Pusateri, Dolores Scruggs, Anita Secor, Elaine Shelby, Debbie Stolz, Danielle Zuniga

- I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** April 9, 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion:**

### **HHSA & Child Welfare Services – Alice Kennedy**

- The Annual Live Well 5k event had a great turnout.
- There are 24 new social workers that are scheduled to graduate in June and a new group is scheduled to start training in September.
- We have 1½ years until we go live with changes on the process of how we approve foster parents. We are convening as a County regarding RFA (Resource Family Approval) to be launched statewide by January 2017.
- A brief LMS training is being developed regarding QPI that will be shared with staff, to improve relationships between employees and foster parents.
- Encourage staff to talk to foster and adoptive families about pool safety.
- Currently working with iHeart radio regarding pool & water safety.
- Introduced Nikki Kelsay, new Program Manager of Foster and Adoption Resource Family Services.
- Camp Jack, sponsored by the Lion's Club, is a free summer camp for underprivileged youth. Two separate dates: July 9-12 & August 2-7. Registration is still open.

### **Loving Arms Foster Family Network – Elaine Shelby**

- Foster Family Picnic will be in September, date is TBD.

### **North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles**

- Purchased 88 new car seats.
- Promises2kids funded gift certificates in the total amount of \$3000 to support extracurricular activities for children in foster care.
- Board of Supervisors are hosting Green Oaks Ranch picnic.

### **San Diego County Adoptions and Quality Parenting Initiative – Margo Fudge**

- 400 children have finalized adoptions this year, which is an increase from last year by 60-70 more children finding permanence.
- In the process of scheduling dates for the Charger calendar.
- Rolling out Permanency Roundtables with the CASEY foundation. QPI Regionalization started in Central Region and has been a success.

- QPI steering committee has recommended additional training hours for foster parents each year in the form of support groups; however, we need to be mindful to not add more for foster parents. We have a significant number of foster parents on training holds and we do not want to add to that with additional requirements.
- August 6-9 Camp Connect (Contact Margo directly if you are interested in participating).

#### **San Diego Foster Parent Association – Debbie Stoltz**

- Sleep train is collecting new school supply items for foster children of all ages.
- There are no meetings between now and September.

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

- CASS staff are holding meetings to educate CWS staff about the CASS program.
- A reminder was given to refer to CASS prior to foster parents giving a 7-day notice to have a child moved.

#### **Child Health Disability Prevention – Anita Secor**

- Reminder for foster & adoptive parents; during the summer break to get exams and immunizations prior to school starting.

#### **Foster Care Education Services – Twila Perucci**

- Super Saturday this Saturday.
- 132 have signed for Grossmont advocacy program.
- In July plan to start planning for fall classes.

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

- June 20<sup>th</sup>, Foster Home Licensing and Adoptions will begin streamline the Orientation process.
- Coming up with community and foster parent cheat sheets which will be distributed to everyone involved in foster care, so that they are on the same table.
- Foster Home Licensing is increasing informal meetings with foster parents to facilitate the answering of questions. They will host Meet & Greets and Question and Answer sessions. More information to come at a later date.
- Basic violation of regulations continue to impact foster home placements and training is so important. There are free resources within the county that FHL can direct families to when applicable.

#### **Foster and Adoptive Resources Family Services Operations – Nikki Kelsay**

- The Foster Parent Recognition Banquet had a great turnout.
- There is a booth set up at the Del Mar Fair until 5<sup>th</sup> of July.
- There will be a Foster Parent picnic in September.
- PCO is in the process of working on reducing the number of holds in place for foster parents.
- Looking at setting up a database that will provide better technology for tracking, monitoring and arranging placements.

#### **Maxim Respite Care –Keila Martinez**

- Respite – Hiring process:  
If the individual already has a license there is no need to do a new set of fingerprints.  
New individuals to the program will have a 3-5 business day wait with a paid orientation.

Now licensing does require fingerprints be taken and it may take longer than two weeks to receive the results.

### **Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All**

#### **East -Shannon Jimenez**

- There are currently more kids at Polinsky Children’s Center.

#### **South -Claudia Hernandez**

- Working to update payments to all Relative Caregivers in alignment with ARC.
- Thanked Kinship for the four bunk beds received.

#### **Placement Coordinator’s Office - Bernice Briggs:**

- TCB coming up June 20<sup>th</sup> for new foster parents.

#### **Policy and Program Support - Wendy Curiel**

- San Diego County opted into ARC starting May, allowing all relative caregivers to receive the same amount of financial support as foster parents.
- 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016 is the projected date of Resource family approval.
- Recruit Kinship parents and Foster Parents

#### **YMCA Kinship Support Program – Danielle Zuniga**

- There have been 59 referrals for the county.
- Temporary Kinship Support Navigator is available.
- More staff are being hired to accommodate families.
- South County at a later time moving to Jackie Brown YMCA in San Ysidro.
- South English meeting time and date is wrong. Still working with grandparents and grandkids
- Respite night is full for the summer; still working on the parameters of the contract.  
\*Branches offer Parents Night Out for Kinship.
- Approved pay for relative caregivers.

#### **Polinsky Children’s Center – Marilyn Sprout**

- 57 kids are currently at Polinsky in immediate need of homes, most of those are children and toddlers.
- We are in need of medically fragile homes. Options program can waive placement with approval from the Adoptions managers to take families with pending/nearly completed home studies off hold if they met the needs of medically fragile children
- The current licensing/home study process is triggering a 1 year waiting list for placements for foster children.

#### **Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Anya Nevarez**

- Any foster parents are welcomed to take the ILS classes.  
The phone number is: 1-866-457-4636. Children are currently at Polinsky in immediate need of homes, most of those are children and toddlers.

### **IV. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, July 9, 2015**

**12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

**6950 Levant Street, Room 1 A/B  
San Diego, CA 92111**

**V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:05 pm**