

## **FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, July 11, 2013**

6950 Levant St, San Diego

**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Jorge Aguilar, Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Genevieve Bromley, Carol Buckley, Barbie Caldwell, Jennifer Fightlin, Ann Fox, Alice Kennedy, Suzette Johnston, Greg Khoth, Maribel Luna, Diana Macis, Michelle Manley, Cristine Rosas-DiMaggio, Mary Jo Meer, Diana Ojeda, Eileen O'Malley, Anita Secor, Pam Sokol, Marilyn Sproat, Debbie Stolz

### **Minutes**

- I. **Ann Fox called the meeting to order.** (Committee Co-Chairs were absent.) All in attendance made introductions.
- II. **Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The June 2013 minutes were amended to read, "Twila Perucci called the meeting to order."
- III. **Discussion:**

#### **San Diego Foster Parent Association—Pam Sokol**

- Grievance procedures for placement issues are outlined in the Program Guide, but some grievances are referred to the Ombudsman rather than going through a grievance hearing.
  - Action: Policy will look into this issue and report back.
- Special Care Rates (SCR) and Emergency Shelter Care (ESC) Rates are no longer granted simultaneously. Three SCR applications were denied until ESC ended. Upon appeal, the SCR was ordered to be paid. SCR funds are needed to care for medically fragile children.
  - Ann Fox: Per CWS Budget, the State will not approve ESC and SCR payment simultaneously. Ann will review the appeal cases with Budget and report back.
- Investigations: Foster parents are not being told what the allegation is during the initial visit.
  - Ann Fox: This is a new State directive; Licensing may not disclose details of the allegation until it is determined that the child will not be in jeopardy as a result. Please refer specific case concerns to Ann Fox to ensure this directive is being properly carried out by Licensing staff.
- Gateway Graduation was a success. There was a focus on AB12 outreach at the event. Thanks to Sleep Train donations, \$10,000 in scholarships were awarded for extracurricular activities.

#### **North County Foster Parent Association—Patty Boles/Barbie Caldwell**

- The Association received Community Enhancement funds from the Board of Supervisors; to be used primarily for administrative costs and Straight From The Heart Thrift Store which helps support foster families.
- Sleep Train donated shoes for distribution to foster, relative, and FFA caretakers; cannot be given to birth parents (per Sleep Train contract).
- The Association will hold a Backpack/Shoe distribution event this Saturday, July 13.

- The Association and Connected Through Kids held a picnic at Santee Lakes with approximately 400 people in attendance. Community partners participated. Supervisor Dave Roberts attended. Cristine Rosas-DiMaggio received an award for her work with Options!

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

- Thanks to those who used the San Diego County Fair tickets to attend Foster Family Day at the Fair. Sincere appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for securing the tickets and for their support of foster families.
- The state budget has been passed.
- There has been great response and participation by foster parents involved in Quality Parenting Initiative. CWS looks forward to positive changes/results from QPI.
- The County of San Diego “Live Well San Diego!” initiative is a strong focus in Child Welfare Services. We look forward to working with caretakers to serve children from a holistic point of view to promote the health and wellness of all children in foster care.

### **San Diego Foster Office of Education –Violeta Mora**

- Tutor Connection is offering free tutoring for foster children primarily in the North County.
- Supplemental Educational Services (SES): Foster parents should watch for the SES /Title I letter that will arrive in the mail soon. Complete and return the form by the specified deadline to obtain SES services for foster children.
- Pre-Employment Training (PET) has 25 students participating this summer.

### **San Diego County Adoptions—Genevieve Bromley**

- The Exceptional Families campaign at the San Diego Fair was a great success, resulting in 80 written inquiries from the community.
- Adopt 8 (Channel 8 Television) is featuring new spots which focus on Exceptional Families.
- Camp Connect will be held August 1-4.

### **Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS)—Jacquie Pusateri & Eileen O’Malley**

- CASS is now fully staffed.
- CASS workers are presenting at CWS Social Worker Induction Training to increase awareness of mental health needs and CASS services.
- CASS workers and Debbie Stolz are conducting a foster parent support group training titled, “How to Support Your Child’s Therapy.”

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

- CHDP will be fully staffed in August.
- Please contact Anita Secor if you have a health-related topic you’d like presented at foster parent support groups.

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

- Seven DSEP staff are now trained in infant massage.
- 100% of children under age six months now receive infant massage.

### **Foster Home Licensing—Ann Fox**

- The Quality Parent Initiative Steering Committee was well attended and very productive. Four Sub-Committees were developed to focus on the following topics related to foster care:
  1. Teen issues and AB12
  2. Confidentiality/Transparency
  3. Normalcy/Prudent Parent
  4. Relationships/Communication between Agency/Social Workers/Foster Parents

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

- Polinsky population is approximately 52 children.
- Looking for placements for young children, sibling groups, and children with medical/emotional disabilities

#### **IV. NEXT MEETING / NEW TEMPORARY LOCATION:**

**Thursday, August 8, 2013:  
6950 Levant Street, Room 1 A/B  
San Diego, CA 92111**

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT: 2:00 P.M.**