

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 12, 2013

6950 Levant St, San Diego

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Nory Behana, Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Elizabeth Cuevas, Ann Fox, Sharon Ippolito, Suzette Johnston, Alice Kennedy, Moira Lewis, Maribel Luna, Mary Jo Meer, Eileen O'Malley, Sara Otto, Twila Perucci, Jacquie Pusateri, Anita Secor, Barbara Wojtach

Minutes

- I. **Twila Perruci called the meeting to order.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. **Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The August 2013 minutes were amended under the heading of CASS to read: "Cass will provide additional collaborative services to support this, including behavioral and rehabilitative support services and more case management."
- III. **Presentation: Head Start/Early Start - Stephanie Tesch, MSW**

Stephanie Tesch presented to the Committee information regarding the Head Start/Early Start programs which provide comprehensive child education services for ages 0-5 to low-income and foster parents. Currently, the referral process has been streamlined giving children in foster care priority services with the neediest family served first. Social workers are to provide the foster parent the 04-99 packet which lists enrollment contact information by area; additionally, they are to fill out the referral (04-100) and either fax it to the Head Start contact person themselves, or give it to the foster parent to give to the enrollment contact. All forms are available on the San Diego County intranet.
- IV. **Discussion:**

North County Foster Parent Association—Patty Boles

 - The Association has been receiving children's Halloween costumes from Promises2Kids.
 - The Association has been holding "giveaway" events where school supplies and costumes have been provided to foster parents.
 - The Association has been providing cribs to replace the drop-down styles that are no longer allowed by the State.
 - The Association is preparing for the Toys for Tots distribution in December.
 - The Association has found the use of technology (emails) to be an effective way to get the word out to foster parents about giveaways, trainings, and placement openings.

HHSA & Child Welfare Services—Alice Kennedy

 - Child Welfare continues to hire social workers. A class of 36 PSWs started this week.
 - The Extended Foster Care (EFC) program is growing; CWS has added another unit of staff to EFC.
 - Lucia Garcia is the new CWS Manager for the CARE (Critical Assess Release Early) program.
 - The 28th Annual Foster Family Picnic will be held Sunday, October 6th from 11am to 2 pm.
 - The Affordable Care Act will go into effect November 1.
 - Child Welfare would like to remind foster parents that fire season is coming up. All foster families are encouraged to have emergency kits in their homes and vehicles; additionally, all contact information should be kept up-to-date in event of an emergency.

San Diego Foster Parent Association—Mary Jo Meer for Pam Sokol

- The Association has school supplies and Sleep Train scholarships of up to \$200 per child for extracurricular activities.
- The Association will distribute Halloween costumes in October.
- The Association Rummage Sale will be held next weekend.
- Sea World is advertising online specials for children under 9 years old.

San Diego County Adoptions—Barbara Wojtach

- The 2014 Charger calendar is being completed, and it should be available in November.
- November is National Adoption Month.
- The Adoptions Court Party will be held November 15 at Meadowlark Court
- Upcoming events will focus on the Exceptional Families campaign.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) — Eileen O'Malley

- CASS is in process of identifying clients that will meet Katie A. eligibility requirements.
- CASS and Debbie Stolz conducted mental health training entitled, "Supporting Your Child's Therapy" at foster parent support groups.
- CASS conducted training for new CWS social workers at Social Worker Induction Training.

Child Health Disability Prevention (CHDP)—Anita Secor

- Moira Lewis was introduced as the newly hired CHDP nurse.
- New nutrition classes for caretakers are currently being held.
- CHDP would like to recognize the great job that the South Region foster parents are doing with getting kids into the dentist and getting the necessary information back to the CHDP nurses.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Maribel Luna

- DSEP staff attended the Options picnic and distributed DSEP information to caretakers.

Placement Specialists

Bernice Briggs – North Central Region

- Looking for foster homes to care for teens.

Grossmont College—Nory Behana

- The new Training Booklet (Pink Flyer) is available, with classes listed from September through December.
- Spanish-language TIPS class will be available January 1, 2014.
- Discipline Toolbox training will begin in the fall.

Foster Home Licensing—Ann Fox

- Follow-up on questions from last meeting:
 - Must children always be supervised when playing in the back yard?—There is no regulation that requires a caretaker to be in the yard with children who are playing there; however, good judgment is required when caring for young children.
 - When a biological child turns 18, how long do they have to get fingerprinted?—30 days.
 - Can foster parents use safety gates in the hallways?—There is no regulation about that specifically describes the use of safety gates; however, the home must be safe, and safety gates should be considered on a case by case basis. The gates that swing out are preferable. The Licensing worker will observe the home and work out a safety plan with the foster parent.

- The 28th Annual Foster Parent Picnic will be held on Sunday, October 6th at Admiral Baker Park from 11 am to 2:30 pm.
- The next QPI meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2013.
- In the event of a disaster, Licensing will call licensed foster homes to ensure that everyone is safe, and to determine if resources are needed. Please be sure to have your contact information up-to-date.
- Licensing staff will send out letters to foster parents about Toys for Tots at the end of November.

V. Round Table

- Diana Macis—New recruiter, Sara Otto, will be starting in the Escondido office soon.

VI. NEXT MEETING / NEW TEMPORARY LOCATION:

**Thursday, October 10, 2013:
6950 Levant Street, Room 1 A/B
San Diego, CA 92111**

V. ADJOURNMENT: 2:00 P.M.