

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 10, 2019

8911 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123, Magnolia Room

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Kimberly Ayala, K.A., Collette Best, Debbie Boles, Patty Boles, Lisa Castagnola, Miriam Curiel, Breanna Davila, Jorge De La Toba, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Margo Fudge, Brenda Jones, Diana Macis, Mary Mackenzie, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Daniela Murphy, Katie Olson, Michelle Pineda, Mitsuru Ramirez, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Dannette Shevlin, Debbie Stolz, Martha Tavares, Barbara Wojtach, Joanna Smith, Nicole Kelsay, Jeremy Van Leeuwen, Mario Hernandez, Natasha Garcia, Jerry Webb, Noreen Shakur, Michelle McGowan, MaryAnn Paschal, Mary Helen Curtiss, Doralina Tichy.

I. Chair: Debbie Stolz called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: The November 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Updates and Discussion:

New member approval. All agreed that voting is not required. New members are: Katie Olson, Kimberly Ayala, and Mary Ann Paschal.

Promises2Kids Presentation- Taelani Camacho

Promises2Kids is a local non-profit that provides resources to youth in foster care. They have grown from a team of 6 to 20. Services include:

- *Some funding at PCC.*
- *Camp Connect where we reunite siblings who have been separated by foster care with monthly activities.*
- *Annual shopping events where kids can buy clothes as well as a holiday shopping event at Walmart.*
- *We also have a birthday club, which can be requested a month in advance and youth receive a gift card in the mail.*
- *Guardian scholars program has grown the most. Started with just giving money, but noticed that the money was secondary. Found what was the most helpful to them is case management and education plans. We are starting to work with the kids much younger- Spring semester of Junior year.*

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- Survived the holidays and it seemed to be the most successful so far. Getting technology toys for kids now, from laptops to tablets, etc. They even are providing pink and purple microscopes for girls.
- We closed more homes that we'd like because of the crisis in L.A. but we're hoping to get more.
- The Women's Club gave \$10,000 for a fundraiser this year.
- The program has been going for 21 years now.

HHSA, Centralized CWS Operations – Margo for Valesha Bullock

- Recruiting for a new Director so this is still an ongoing process.
- CWS is working on the recommendations that came from the CWS Workgroup and looking at ways to improve our system.

San Diego Foster Parent Association –Mary Jo Meer

- Had empty tables for gifts for ages 7-16, but luckily Promies2Kids helped provide some gifts.
- Still have 8 little girl bikes. 2 or 3 big girl bikes. Please call Mary Jo if you're interested. Trying to provide toys at trainings so parents and kids can take them at that time. Trying to plan a kids shopping spree before Easter and let the kids come in and take what they want.

- Mary Jo and Pam went to meet with Promises2Kids and again the Birthday Club came up. Remember that only the PSW and the CASA can make the request.

Foster Parent- Mary Ann Paschal

- There are a lot of people needing mentors so the number of mentors has just increased. There are now 8 mentors authorized to do 33 hours a month, but many of them do much more.
- To contact Grossmont call 1-800-200-1222
- The Grossmont “Pink Book” has now also been coming in digital form now, so look out for it.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- Working very closely with MAXIM to address the concerns that were brought up. Driving- we are going to make changes to the contract. Looking to see what we can do in the interim because we know it could take a while. Medication: Running into difficulties because of regulations.
- New Bill: AB2247 that impacts Placement changes. Became effective January 1, 2019 so we’re working on how we’re going to notify/train everyone. 1) Placement Prevention strategy- try and prevent a change in the first place. 2) Going from a 7 day notice to a 14 day notice. 3) Change of placement can’t happen from 9pm-7am to prevent the placements that happen in the middle of the night.
- ****Action Item: Veronica to talk to Diana Macis to see if QPI can be more involved with placements.
- ****Action Item: Miriam and Margo will look into how homes are notified and that privacy isn’t being breached. Situation where there was an allegation on a Foster Home and MAXIM called and told them they couldn’t do respite. Foster Homes feel this should come from the agency not MAXIM.

MAXIM- Jeremy Van Leeuwen

- We’re working with the county and some of it is contract language that we’re also trying to decipher. There are things we have to look at on the state level.
- Have been discussing an increase or some kind of increase for homes with extra kids.

Polinsky Children’s Center- Nikki Kelsay

- We’re at 31 NEST homes, 7 applications pending and 34 NEST placements. (NEST= Nurturing Evaluation Stabilization Team). NEST homes are required to respond within 2 hours. Get extra support and funding and follow up support.
- NEST Holiday party had 80 attendees. Gave gifts out to the children and it was a good time for our first holiday party.
- PCC population is 34. We need homes for teens.

Foster Care Eligibility- Maria Martinez

- Our manager is retiring at the end of February.

Quality Parenting Initiative- Diana Macis

- Next quarterly training is on Placement Disruptions.
- National Convening is April 29-May 1 in Philadelphia.
- Steering Committee meeting next week to plan for 2019.
- Post Cards are out and still working on getting the word out. Small tokens of recognition to/from social workers/caregivers.
- ***Action item***Diana to send out more postcards.
- Starting with regional trainings is that each region will select a SW and a caregiver that they want to recognize at each training. A template has gone out to each region.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Katie Olson

- Our supervisor Sarah is no longer with our team.
- As of Jan 1st CFT facilitators are now provided by Fred Finch.

Foster Home Licensing/Resource Family Approval (RFA) – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor for Wendy

- RFA audit is complete and went well. We’re waiting for the formal report to come back.

- Structure changes. Wendy Curiel and Elly Chung are now over the approval process for RFA. Gloria Escamilla-Huidor is taking on the Granted process, the families that have been approved.
- We were allocated 15 staff so we'll be working to get them filled. We're making strides on our backlog. We are meeting the 90 day requirement on families that have an emergency placement. Additional staff will definitely help us get to the families that don't have a current placement.
- Still waiting for Written Directives #6, last told that we should be seeing them in March.

Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Margo Fudge

- PCO and recruitment team is going to be focusing on technology and how we can use it with placement. Using ideas that North uses and will send email blasts to identify placements faster. We have about 1,000 homes in our database.

San Diego County Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Doralina Tichy

- FASFA has opened as of October so if you have Foster youth that are seniors they can be assigned now. Call 866-457-4636. Can also call this line for any ILS questions.

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Lisa Castagnola

- Had a busy fall and now a little bit of a lull. We have openings and currently no wait list. Talk to the assigned PSW to submit a referral.

Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program - Barbara Wojtach

- New Jan/Feb pink book passed out and now available. Currently working on Mar/Apr
- Next week having “Navigating special education and understanding the secret language of IEPs”. Michelle McGowan is the instructor. ***flyer***
- DEA doing training to let parents know what to look for because kids in school are being targeted to smuggle drugs. ****flyer****
- Planned Parenthood talking about Family Communication and Sexual Health basics.
- Super Saturday on June 29, 2019. Looking into childcare but not sure yet. This is a conference style day for resource parents at a hotel with breakfast and lunch. 8 hours credit.

Placement Support- Miriam Curiel

- As soon as the new Level of Care rates come out we'll be doing a training with Special Care rates so that resource parents can see how it all works together.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

South- K.A.

- March 14th QPI training at South region.
- Half of the PCC population belongs to South. Finding a lot of family members out of county.

East- Collette

- Had a respite night in Dec and then we had the toys for the holiday to give out and it went well.
- Using the QPI postcards and everyone is liking the idea.
- Having QPI meeting on the 23rd from 9-11.

Central- Joanna Smith

- Had out QPI meeting yesterday and we did the “3 questions” and it went well. One of the things they brought up was the respite, and they'd like the hours to be based on child rather than caregiver.
- In need of sibling homes in general for all ages. There used to be a sibling home incentive.

North- Mary

- Had our QPI meeting yesterday and came up with good ideas having recruiters go to unit meetings and get their buy in.
- Thank you to Mary Jo Meer for helping to place a 5 year old Autistic child.

Probation – Mary Helen Curtiss for Delona King

- In December we had our holiday party for RFA parents. It was nice we had raffle parents for parents and prospective parents were there to get a good picture of things too.
- In desperate need of homes for teens as well.
- Finding that Probation courts are approving homes that we would not approve of because of valid concerns. Judges are educated and are still doing what they want to do.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Michelle Pineda/Lily Smith

- Moved to a new office. Temporary Fax: 619-281-1925.
- Referrals staying between 45-50, but right now there is no wait list.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz/Debbie Boles

- Hired a new trainer/coach. She's going to be hosting trauma informed trainers.
- Reiterate that we're open and hoping to do outreach. We'd love to attend unit meetings and want to keep getting the word out. Still finding that some social workers aren't aware of Bridge.

San Diego County Office of Education- Michelle Bailow (not present, sent email)

- Get the word out that tutoring will start back up beginning of February. (Passed out referral form)

San Diego County Adoptions - Jorge De La Toba

- 200 Adoptions so far and we're only halfway through the fiscal year. Everything else is going great.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, February 14, 2019

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 2:06 p.m.