

**FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700  
**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Present:** Jorge Aguilar, Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Michelle Cirna-Flores, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Brenda Jones, Nicole Kelsay, Diana Macis, Mary Jo Meer, Susan Moreno, Katie Penninga, Twila Perucci, Danica Perez, Dionne Puckett, Jacquie Pusateri, Wendy Curiel, Amanda Amabile, Marilyn Sproat, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach, Danielle Zuniga, Sharon Ippolito, Arthur Hom-Shaw, Kimberly Washington, Jenny Rodriguez, Gina Surgeon, Shannon Jimenez, Cristina Duroiu, Jessica Morales

- I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** January 14, 2016 minute corrections suggested are as follows:
- Correction on Agenda: for Maxim Respite Care, replace Keila Martinez to Michelle Cirna-Flores
- III. Discussion:**
- North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles**
- High volume of participation from relatives during the holiday events to receive toys.
  - Received plenty of donations from Sleep Train; Straight from the Heart received gift cards, pajamas, school supplies, and toys; currently fully stocked for children and families.
  - Received a donation of \$5,000.00 at Straight from the Heart.
  - Pathways training provided information of DSEP assessments; Feedback from foster families was that they were upset that they were not made aware of the changes; suggestion to agency to send out notifications to caregivers and bring awareness to what is coming either by extending information to support groups, mail, email, or phone call. Foster Homes need further notification of changes of service providers to the child.
  - St. Augustine team assessors of professors and students conduct informal Oriented Therapy (OT) and Point Labs therapy (PT) at Straight from the Heart.

When: Three Tuesdays in a row every school semester from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Where: Straight from the Heart in North County

Age: Open to all ages; geared towards babies and toddlers.

Benefits are:

- Provide help and a plan before MediCal services activate; they have a 6 month waiting period.
- Directed by highly trained professors from the university.
- Use the “muscle movement” technique with different stations.
- Podiatrists, Dr. Steve on site.

How it works for Foster Parents:

- Team of 6 students and professors assess child and meet with parents to discuss and create a “goal plan” for child for the next 5 weeks.

*Katie Penninga* – DSEP is doing similar therapy and would like to collaborate with Straight for the Heart for further services.

*Mary Jo Meer* – Dr. Mark Knight, in psychiatry from Healthy Families is a great resource to provide medication without attending therapy.

## **Positive FACE (Foster, Adoptive, Children, Excel) – Gina Surgeon**

- Positive F.A.C.E is a non-profit preventive program.
- Logo of hummingbird represents taking children under one's wing and pointing them upwards and towards the right direction; image of child's face in the bird wing.
- Program mission is to encourage positive life choices through social, emotional, and academic development.
- Program is a school site delivery program; an after school club for children with a primary focus on threading in emotional development with academics.
- Geared towards young people in foster care, kinship care, at risk youth, and adopted youth. Offers membership until high school graduation. Supports goals to enter a 4- year university, build professional trade skills, military career, and community service to build community partnership. Provides workshops, information on healthy lifestyles, tutoring, financial literacy, mentorships, and addresses reunification.
- School locations are Keiller Leadership Academy, O'Farrell Charter School, and Holly Drive Leadership Academy.
- St. Stephens Church is a school facility for enrollees who are not part of a school site but so that they can attend an after school program.

*Brenda Jones* – Will they follow-up with kids when they transfer from foster home to foster home/change of schools? Will they work with social workers during changes for child?

- Yes, we are looking into building strong relationship with social workers as it is in the best interest of a child.

*Barbara Wojtach* – How do you receive referrals? How often does a child meet when school is out of session?

- School counselors issue the referrals, but ideally they should come from social workers & CASA's.
- Calendar is set to 3 meetings a week, other days for tutoring and some weekends

*Nikki Kelsay* – How many kids are currently participating? 18 at the end of 2015.

*Barbara Wojtach* – Is training and education to Kinship parents a component of the program?

- No, it's a partnership with other programs.

## **Health & Human Services Agency (HHS), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Deputy Director – Nikki Kelsay for Alice Kennedy-not present**

- Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) was activated for County of San Diego during floods and foster families will be contacted if affected during a natural disaster. County workers are expected to respond during a disaster and be of service to the community as a whole and ensure foster families safety and needs are met.
- When a child is displaced during a natural disaster (fire; flood), then Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services takes information and works on placement. Foster families need to call the KIDSLine at 877-792-5437 informing them of change of circumstances.
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*Brenda Jones* – Will the agency provide information about tornadoes?

- Valesha Bullock collects countywide CWS information to identify staff and foster families impacted – consider tornado warnings and steps of “what to do.”

*Question:* – Do foster parents know to contact KIDSLine if displaced?

- As placement workers, Nikki Kelsay's team will contact managers with list of children who are likely being impacted, then a regional placement social worker will place call to families to confirm safety.

*Barbara Wojtach* – Is displacement information posted on website?

Not posted on agency website yet.

### **San Diego Foster Parent Association – Mary Jo Meer and Debbie Stolz**

- Reporting of cases in which foster child is injured and caregiver takes child to local hospital. Social workers will notify the caregiver that the child needs to be seen at Children’s hospital emergency. Is there a policy that states that the child can only be seen at Children’s hospital?

*Nikki Kelsay* – Social worker is looking for child abuse expert and Children’s hospital has them

- Foster parents need to be notified about not going to local emergency room for foster child, but to Rady’s Children’s Hospital only.

*Mary Jo Meer* – It is not standard practice or a policy and the agency is pushing issue and causing issues with foster homes.

- Foster families need clarification and guidelines as to what to do for emergency room visits for child.

*Nikki Kelsay* – Will follow up.

*Mary Jo Meer* – Eligibility technicians are issuing checks when the child is not in home.

*Bernice Briggs* – Will follow up.

### **CWS Policy Analyst and Program Support – Wendy Curiel for Veronica Sarabia**

- Update on Family Resource Approval (RFA) will fully implement in the next 10 – 12 months in San Diego County and statewide on January 2017.
- Steering committee has been working since June and the following sub-committees have been formed: Communication; ESC and Permanency Assessments.
- New subcommittees to roll out by March: Emergency Approval, Background and Exemptions, Recruitment, Investigations and Complaints, Probation, and Training and Orientation.
- The state has completed Version 2 of the written directives and currently is working on Version 3.

*Question:* – Will all subcommittees run until January 2017?

- Not sure, it depends on changes the state will make and how quickly subcommittees can accomplish their goals. Hoping to have staff trained and ready by October for officially implementing in January.

*Question:* Have they decided to go Regionalized or Centralized?

- Centralized management is the direction we are moving towards, but they are currently working on details of the structure, so this has not been determined yet.

*Patty Boles* – Any information for current licensed homes of what the process is going to be for them to have clearance?

- State has not provided direction; No, ACL has come out, but should be in written directive Version 3.

### **San Diego Adoptions – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor**

- Adoption finalization on April 20, 2016, with 20 more families added to adoptions roster

*Mary Jo Meer* – Who does one contact for adoption interest for children on Adopt 8?

*Nikki Kelsay* – Call the I Adopt U 877-423-6788 or the KIDSLine 877-792-5437; Adoption website will have link posted for Adopt 8 segments.

### **Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services – Diana Macis**

- QPI is continuing with regionalization.
- Just completed the First Quarterly Training in South Region with 56 attendees.
- Training is about the Partnership Agreement and Placement Needs and Services Plan, with information about the ambassador program.

- Next training is next week in North Central and East Region has training at the end of the month, followed by Central Region.
- A state webcast will be held next week where County of San Diego will present regionalization plan.

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

- 2 week waitlist currently is expected to decrease in January.

### **HHSA, Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care, Public Health Nurse (PHN) – Anita Secor**

- County goal is to have 100% medical and dental exams updated for children in foster care.
- Ensure that medical issues identified at exams are addressed within 120 days.
- Reinforce all caregivers to submit all medical, development, dental, and therapy records; spread word by placement packets at TIPS classes, support groups, trainings and meetings.

*Mary Jo Meer* – Can they be faxed or emailed?

- Yes, and also submit copy of doctor visit forms since they are 100% adequate.
- Communicate to nurses if people are having issues in accessing services. There are admission specialists to facilitate faster services; call nurses if experiencing delays with MediCal. Send blank forms to the fax#/call phone# which Anita will provide in an upcoming e-mail. *Nikki Kelsay* – Blank forms are provided in placement packets at the time of placement; ask all regions to make this standard procedure.
- All emails need encryption.

### **Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Katie Penninga**

- Changes- social, emotional, and behavioral screenings for children under 6 years old. Once a concern is identified, a team meeting will follow and discuss recommendation moving forward.
- CWS Pathways team currently open to all children with an open CWS case.
- Referrals for screening will involve birth parents from the beginning, if possible; goal is to have birth parents understand services at DESP and maintain them for the child if needed.

*Patty Boles* – This is a huge change that foster families need notification of as foster homes should be a sanctuary. Straight from the Heart has training rooms open during the day and if families need to use them for team meetings, it is open for support.

*Nikki Kelsay* – Please note that Special Care Rates (SCR) does not apply to annual screenings.

### **Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program (FAKCE) — Barbara Wojtach**

- New pink book out for January – April 2016; please distribute to all caregivers, social workers, kinship parents, and foster parents since it is a great resource.

*Nikki Kelsay* – Follow up with Cindy Jensen for electronic notice of pink book for CWS staff.

- 4 New English Trainings :
  1. Top 10 things every Foster Parent needs to know
  2. Introduction to caring for sexually abused child
  3. Regional Center
  4. Understanding teens and teen issues
- 4 New Spanish Trainings :
  1. Positive Timeout
  2. Permanency planning for Foster Youth
  3. Siblings
- Added 11 – new English classes and 7- new Spanish classes;
- Two classes caregivers are encouraged to bring children

1. Keeping Children Safe
  2. Yoga – Benefits and Basics
- Attendance in support groups vary and will be sending out post card reminders to families in zip codes where attendance is low.
  - TIPS classes attendance is climbing.
  - TIPS in Spanish has 19 people registered for the Chula Vista location.

**HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile for Rhonda Sarmiento**

- Promises 2 Kids Walmart holiday shopping of children was a total success.
- Housing workshop- date and time is TBD.
- ILS graduations still in the works.
- Amanda Amabile or Diana Ojeda will now represent for Rhonda Sarmiento.

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

- Foster Parent forum scheduled on Wednesday, February 3, 6 – 8:00 pm at 8965 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123;
- Future forums in March for South Region and April for North Region; discussion on RFA and CCR, survey to meet foster parents needs, recruitment and retention for foster families.
- Identifying dates for banquet, possibly in May.
- Chargers 2016 calendar out.

**Maxim Respite Care –Michelle Cirna-Flores for Mike Palomino**

- 25 hours of respite per quarter for families.
- Flooding damage at Maxim facility.

**Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All**

**South Region – Jenny Rodriguez**

- QPI was successful; foster parents and social workers were pleased with the training.
- Going to attend unit meetings to traing workers who are not able to attend QPI training.
- Busy completing home assessments and getting children out of PCC. Thank you to foster parents in region for your cooperation.

**North Central Region –Danica Perez**

- Struggling with non-ambulatory kids and diabetes in meeting 10 day-CCR regulations.
- Need foster homes willing to obtain fire clearances.

**East Region -Shannon Jimenez**

- Respite Night at Helix High School had great turnout on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm; social workers and volunteers provided respite services.
- Annual holiday shopping spree for children and their parents was successful as well.
- QPI training is scheduled on January 27<sup>th</sup>
- Need more resource family homes.

**Polinsky Children’s Center (PCC) – Marilyn Sproat**

- Population at PCC is 23.

**San Diego Probation – Jorge Aguilar**

- Nothing to report.

**YMCA Kinship Support Program – Danielle Zuniga**

- Weekly support groups in session after holidays.
- New staff, Gloria Ruiz and Barbara Alvarado as Kinship Navigators and will have new staff again in March.
- Summer overnight camps will start getting organized.
- Jackie Robinson YMCA will be renovated starting in March.
- Street Matters support during the Holidays for families was successful.

**Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services – Dionne Puckett**

- Homes for the Holidays had 17 youths participating.
- Caregivers wanted to stay in contact with youth that were hosted in their home; Over 20 homes opened for hosting youth.

On March 12, Intergenerational Games will be presented to recruit and promote understanding the needs of foster youth by having them connected to a mentor.

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

- 300 desktop computers distributed to foster, relative, and NREFMs, and relative families in December
- Taking Care of Business (TCB) in March; applicants have the opportunity to complete CPR/First Aid training, Tuberculosis testing, fingerprint and the application process.

**Roundtable**

**IV. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, February 11, 2016**

**12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

**5469 Kearny Villa Road**

**San Diego CA 92123 (Seville Plaza, Bldg 5469, Ste 3700)**

**V. ADJOURNMENT: 2:06 pm**