

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 9, 2020

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Donna Alexander, Denise Bahen, Collette Best, Valesha Bullock, Sergio Cayetano, Elly Chung, Miriam Curiel, Mary Helen Curtiss, Jorge De La Toba, Brenda Jones, Diana Macis, Michele Manley, Mary Jo Meer, Daniela Murphy, Mary Ann Paschal, Belinda Radovich, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Dannette Shevlin, Debbie Stolz, Suzanne Thompson, Barbara Wojtach, Mai Woo, Jennifer Zapata, Melissa Brooks, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Erin Lininger, Alex Kahn, Paloma Martinez, Wendy Leeds, Yvonne Palmer, Matt Ray, Monica Samano, Carmen Arrontes, Jessica Bruno, Jeff Wiemann.

I. Chair: Debbie Stolz called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Debbie Stolz: Correction to the November 2019 minutes. The U.S. Marines did not donate to the Foster Parent Association. They gave to a different association. Other than this change the November 2019 were unanimously approved.

III. Updates and Discussion:

HHSA & CWS – Valesha Bullock

- Just returned from Sacramento and we have a lot of new items on the horizon. Biggest topic is working with our collaborative partners, foster families, behavioral health teams, probation teams, etc. It is common for one child to receive services from multiple agencies.

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Mary Jo Meer

- We picked up a lot of toys for Christmas and picked up a lot of bags. Did a shopping spree/Giveaway after Christmas and the kids got to “shop”. We’ll be doing more giveaways throughout the year.
- We’d like to know more about Family First Act. It is really starting to impact RFA and the homes, like how long the children stay, their rights, and more.
 - Valesha said maybe we can do a presentation about it. San Diego was a Title IV-E county and that part is ending. It gave us flexibility but now with that going away and Family first starting we will be feeling the impact.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- Reviewing the new legislation but not seeing anything that stands out right now. Will let the group know when there is a change for us.

Foster Care Eligibility- Mai Woo

- Looking at the changes in funding sources but there is nothing that will impact foster parents.

Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) - Claire Lynch-Dwight

- We have 5 new nurses that started last month. 2 in Escondido, 2 at Residential, 1 at the central office. Need to fill 1 more and then we’ll be fully staffed.

Polinsky Children’s Center- Valesha Bullock on behalf of PCC

- Population is currently at 83. Their challenge was placements over the holiday season. They will be doing some self-assessment to see how they can work closer with RFA, PCO and placement teams.

Foster Home Licensing/Resource Family Approval (RFA) - Elly Chung

- We are getting more community member applications which we’re hoping to see increase so we can work

- with and approve more families for kids at PCC.
- On the state level, the Spanish translation is moving along, as of mid-December they were on chapter 7. The next version will be coming out around spring time. Version 6.1 came out but it does not impact San Diego practices.
- If anyone is interested in going the RFA convening February 3-4 you can go online to register.

Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS)/QPI – Diana Macis

- Had computer event at the beginning of December and gave away a little over 200 desktops. Have a new partnership with Futures and gave 48 laptops to ESU.
- Home for the Holidays. A program that we do in conjunction with Residential and have expanded to EFC and PCC older youth. Kids that don't have a home for the holidays are matched with resource parents that are able to open up their homes. We had 13 youth this December and 10 families.
- QPI Appreciation Banquet planning for May has begun.
- National and State QPI takes place May, 27-29, and there are already 50 rooms reserved. They are planning things on the side as well like a bus to and from the Gaslamp.
- Next QPI quarterly training topic will be Understanding the Effects of Trauma and Helping Children Heal.
- QPI Steering committee is next week on Wednesday at 10am.
- Orientations resume next week. 1/month in Central San Diego area. An additional Orientation will be in each region each month. Spanish orientations every other month in South bay.

Independent Living Skills- Denise Bahen

- We are gearing up for graduation. If you have any youth that graduate prior to June, let us know and we can send checks before their graduation ceremony. They can still be part of the graduation ceremony but can get incentives early.
- *Flyer* Junior Guardian scholars is being revamped and is becoming more of a career exploration program.
- *Flyer* Guardian Scholars scholarship application is open until February 14th.
- Jorge asked if the flyer for the career fair has gone out CWS wide. Denise will check with Rashida. Valesha also mentioned that we can have it on our TV screens.

Maxim Respite Care - Sergio Cayetano

- Jan slow but still accepting requesting request.
- Paloma will substitute while Sergio works in a new office over the next 3-4 months. Use same contact #.
- Mary Jo asked if there was an update with medication. Sergio responded that there are no updates yet.
- Debbie asked if the providers you send to homes are RFA providers. Sergio answered that RFA families will have a provider that are either RFA approved, Licensed Foster Families and/or daycare licensed families.
- Mary Ann ask about the procedure for getting extra hours. Family has to contact PSW. Let them know how many hours, pick up/drop off time. Then contact MAXIM. Excess hours are for emergencies, illness, etc. not for vacations. The PSW has to fill out a 04-87 form.
- Dannette asked about the plan of having on call nurses. Sergio explained that the logistics of this are very complicated and we're still looking at this as a possibility with the county.

CASS- Jennifer Zapata

- Doing services and getting referrals. We currently don't have a wait list.

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

- January/February pink book is out.
- Cultural Considerations Hair and Skin Care for Multi-Ethnic children January 25th at the Foster Care Association. Caregivers will be allowed to bring 1 child over age 2 and do hands on learning.
- Jan 30th CSEC class. Please promote and see flyer. We don't often get a lot of participants.
- Beyond Consequences from Heather Fords. 3 Saturdays in February.
- Sibling Attachment in Spanish at Oxford, February 14th.
- Understanding the Juvenile Dependency system with Children's Legal Services on February 6th at the

- Foster Parent Association support group
- Get Smart, What you Don't Know About Drugs- given by DEA 3 hour training
- Re-Parenting the Child Who Hurts. Trauma and how to respond and they receive the book.
- Fostering Hope- For couples or individuals who have experienced infertility. 6 sessions presented by interns in their doctorate program at USD. Starting in March.
- Understanding and Supporting Transgender youth- Presented by Cathy Muller and her child.
- Confirmed Super Saturday! - June 13th. Full day conference style event with 3 different sessions of trainings. People can choose the topics they want to attend and are provided with breakfast and lunch. Childcare is being considered by the Intergenerational Group, possibly only for Kinship caregivers.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

N. Central- Carmen Arronte

- Coordinating our March 4th QPI event. Have been having monthly QPI meetings as well.
- Medically Fragile placements continue to be a challenge and the holidays were very tough.

North – Matt Ray

- Our next QPI meeting is in March. Vista Hill will be discussing drug court and other related substance abuse services for parents.

East- Collette Best

- Last month we had our respite night that was well attended and everyone had a great time.
- Looking forward to QPI training for next month, waiting to confirm the date.

South- Belinda Radovich

- Had our monthly QPI steering committee and I Care presented. They provide a place where CSEC kids can go to be safe and they provide a Harm Reduction model.
- Working on confirming the February QPI training date.
- As far as placements over the last few weeks we've had an influx of kids going into PCC. Please reach out if you or your friends have vacancies.

Central- Donna Alexander

- We did our respite event last month. We had an outdoor activity that didn't happen due to rain but it was still well attended and successful.
- February 12 is our QPI training and we're looking forward to the QPI national and state conference.

Probation- Mary Helen Curtiss

- Thank you for the computers. A number of families got them and they were very excited.
- We have an event on 1/17/20. We'll provide dinner, raffles and more to make it a fun event.
- We recruited an RFA family that is now approved! Another close to being approved, still going out to libraries.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Melissa Brooks

- Still getting 30-50 referrals a month now. Don't have a waitlist now. We were understaffed but we're in the process of hiring someone this month so we'll be fully staffed with 9 full-time kinship navigators.
- We did a big toy drive with the Street Masters Car Club who donated toys, gift cards, movie tickets and bikes.
- We're making updates to the Grandparents and Kinship handbook with the help of Veronica and our Intergenerational partners. Hope to have it redistributed by the end of this fiscal year.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program –Lodia Ruiz

- *Flyers* Keep trying to spread the word and make sure social workers know about the program.

Office of Education- Michele Manley

- We are still waiting on more approved drivers so there is a delay with the transportation program. Most of our drivers have been pulled to help move PCC kids. It could take a week or so to get kids back to school.

Adoptions- Jorge De La Toba

- We've been busy and also have some harder to place Medically Fragile kids that need placements.
- On schedule to finalize 180 adoptions through the end of January.
- We've been having conversations with the other counties throughout CA. We're hosting a call with the other counties and working on policies to establish consistencies throughout CA.
- Finalized 20 families/25 kids at the Adoptions court party.
- Mary Jo asked if you've considered having someone from Adoptions talk to the support groups. Caregivers hear "medically fragile" and get scared and don't take placements that aren't as bad as they think. Diana said we have done that before and what else might help is if they coordinate a Respite. Jorge said we will continue to work with support groups.
- Debbie asked what the percentage of kinship kids is. Might be 70% but would have to confirm. Most adoptions are Kinship though.
- Right now we have 35 kids who need an Adoptive placement.
- Valesha added that we are still holding off on Adoption orientations.
- Yvonne Palmer asked if the kids waiting for an adoptive home have family finding happen up front. Jorge answered that we're always looking for family members first and foremost.
- Lodia is getting a lot of questions about how families can become a resource parent. What's the best thing to refer them to? Kidsline (877-792-KIDS (5437)). sandiegofosterkids.com or Iadpu.org

Roundtable

- Veronica- Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support
 - Want to continue to emphasize the Bridge program. We put the information out there but we still here that the Resource families don't know about it. We can only help if the kids are in a placement. Age range 0-5 and 6-12 if special needs, or sibling set if one of the other children meets the criteria. Must be working but no income requirements. Self-employed ok but must be able to provide W-2/tax reporting. Approvals are on a case by case scenario and the term special needs is vague intentionally. We are making sure to spread the word with PSWs as well, but we do have a lot of new workers.
 - Bridge also covers non-minor dependents who are parents and if they are going to school.
- Yvonne Palmer- Children's Legal Services
 - Not a Number- "a prevention curriculum from Love146 that equips youth to respond to threats of trafficking and supports parents and professionals". For youth 12-18 years of age. 5 One hour long modules for youth and a 2 hour long parent module. Feedback that this should start younger.
 - Thank you to Nicole Espinosa, Diana Macis, and Gloria Escamilla-Huidor for helping with a crisis on Thanksgiving morning.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, February 13, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:27 p.m.