

# **FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, October 10, 2019**

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

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Present:** Kimberly Ayala, 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, Veronica Miller, Daniela Murphy, Belinda Radovich, Kelly Rollins, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Dannette Shevlin, Debbie Stolz, Doralina Tichy, Tereza Wilson, Barbara Wojtach, Mai Woo, Carmen Arronte, Jessica Agost, Elisa Sitko, Suzanne Thompson, Matt Ray, Wendy Leeds.

**I. Chair: Brenda Jones called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.

**II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The September 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

**III. New Voting Member-** Michele Manley for the Office of Education.

**IV. Updates and Discussion:**

## **Child Welfare Services- Valesha Bullock**

- Valesha- CWDA annual conference will be held this month. Anticipating a lot of information coming out of this meeting because of changes with legislation and policies.
- The Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board is moving along looking at the 88 recommendations in our bi-monthly meetings. We review training, work force, support to families and many other topics.
- Debbie asked, can other Foster Parents be part of advisory work groups? Valesha answered no, the Advisory board members are already set and Patty Boles was voted in.

## **San Diego Foster Parent Association- Mary Jo Meer**

- We picked up a little bit of Halloween supplies and already gave it out. We still have plenty of school supplies.
- Dannette and I enrolled at USD at the Special education program. We'll start offering training and information for caregivers on IEPs. We have 2 special education teachers that will review our IEPs. Valesha reminded that every region has an education liaison that should be looped in as well.
- Debbie Stoltz- Received a call from a woman who is looking for a letter to verify that she was in foster care? Adopted and aged out in 77 or 78. Valesha answered that it sounds like in her situation, the records were most likely purged and we have no records. Try the schools she attended, doctors, the caregivers, financial records, etc.
- Debbie asked: Is there a policy for home inspections for RFA? Getting numerous complaints about intrusiveness. Please tell Valesha to the extent of which this is happening, what type of family, more details. These issues really need to be elevated as soon as they happen.

## **Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support – Veronica Sarabia**

- Next month we'll be starting the training on the change of placement requirements. A letter will also be sent to caregivers.

## **Foster Care Eligibility – Mai Woo**

- Clothing allowances should be issued by the end of this month. Question: Do probation youth under RFA get RFA funding, are these families eligible too? There are criteria that they need to meet, but yes.
- New phone number for inquiries to find out the eligibility worker or Medi-Cal number: 619-767-5000.
- AAICAMA: Refer to handout to find out how AAP assistance will be impacted when moving to a new state. Federal eligibility: With payments there is no difference. There is a difference with Medicaid if the child is federally eligible or not. Status is determined at the time the child comes into dependency.

## **CHDP**

- Went to the Resource Picnic and there was a good turnout. We have 2 vacancies.
- SB 276 passed last month. Requires the Department of Public Health to review all medical exemptions for immunizations for all kids who attend school. Will cause increased oversight to make sure medical exemptions are valid.
- Don't forget to get your Flu shot!

## **DSEP- Veronica Miller**

- We're a grant funded program and contracted with CWS through June 2020.

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

- Will be looking into home inspection policy and practices.
- We are preparing for the state's annual review at the beginning of November. They will also be making sure we're following protocol too so feedback is important.

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

- The Resource Family picnic was a success. Had about 733 attendees. Great place for resources.
- We have the upcoming adoption court party on Nov 15.
- Computer give away Dec. 10-11. Futures took names down at the picnic so we'll be contacting those families soon. Futures is also looking into supplying EFC youth with a laptop.
- The next QPI quarterly training is on change of placement. We'll also do regional trainings for staff that will be mandatory.
- Valesha- Update on the cell phone program. In the next few weeks a letter will go out about this ifoster program. CWS will be focusing on EFC youth until we can determine if it will be successful and should be expanded. Mary Jo brought up concerns about it being too easy to sign up online. Valesha verified that multiple parties in addition to the agency have to be in agreement.
  - Elisa Sitko added that [www.Thorn.org](http://www.Thorn.org) could be a resource for those worried about CSEC issues. Suzanne Thompson added that she was guided by Charisma to the National Hotline for Human Trafficking. They are mandated reporters, they take the info down and forward to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Valesha will ask Charisma for any new info in regards to the DA decisions in these cases.
- Next week is the QPI Steering Committee meeting.
- In the early phases of planning the State and National QPI Conferences being held May 2020.
- Orientations started again. We had 37 at the one last week. We'll do another one in Nov, break for holidays.
- New staff in retention starting tomorrow and we're excited to have her on the team.

## **Independent Living Skills- Doralina Tichy**

- See flyer from Promises2Kids. On Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00 they will have a workshop for those trying to apply to college.

## **Maxim Respite Care - Sergio Cayetano**

- Met with Angels and Foster Care. Angels just got authorization to work with Maxim.
- Had QPI meeting with central with over 20 people.
- We're working with Options and doing great things.
- Mary Jo asked if problems with driving, etc., were resolved. Sergio said they are still planning.
- Mary Jo- Thank you for promptness. Hiring process is taking a long time because there are documents the caregivers forget to bring. Sergio- yes, the onboarding process is lengthy. And yes, we do have specific time slots that might get filled quickly. But we still have to abide by our regulations. Maybe this was one particular situation because we confirm before appointments what documents they need to bring.

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

- We are in the September/October cycle of pink book. Highlight a few classes:

- October 30<sup>th</sup> Turning Dreams into Degrees. Helping caregivers get kids ready for higher education.
- Attachment Parenting Classes- See flyer. Helps caregivers address trauma.
- Save the date: February 25 Allison Davis Maxon and Sharon Kaplan Roszia will present an updated training on The 7 Core Issues in Adoptions. Lunch provided.
- November/December we will have Coping with Unique Challenges of Kinship. First time doing a kinship specific training. 3 hours class on November 19<sup>th</sup> with Heidi Blue.
- We have a new trainer, Nancy Johnson, who is certified in Trust Based Relational Intervention. (TBRI). 6 hours over 2 nights, November 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- TIPS refresher by Diana Macis and Mary Ann Paschal. December 5<sup>th</sup>. They will also be doing a new training called Trauma Systems Therapy for Foster Care, date TBD.
- This month began doing a needs assessment of resource parents. Survey was sent out, 60 have completed it so far. You can find it on our Facebook page.

## **Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions**

### **East – Collette Best**

- We're looking forward to the Change of Placement quarterly training. Had a good time at the Resource Family Picnic. Ice cream social also went well, we had a lot of providers show up.

### **South-**

- We had our QPI ice cream social /resource fair with about 100 attendees, including staff and caregivers.
- The Resource Family Picnic was fun.
- The pilot program with Central is going well. Thankful and lucky to have the extra support. About 1 time perweek referring caregivers to the pilot.

### **North – Matt Ray**

- Record amount of petitions in the last 3 months. About 90 kids with a placement change or need of initial placement. We've been able to divert from or keep them out of PCC. Only about 7 sent to PCC.

### **N. Central- Carmen Arronte**

- Our next QPI training is November 8<sup>th</sup> and we've noticed that the number of attendees have been increasing. We had about 75 participants at our ice cream social.
- We have a lot of challenges finding placement for our Med Frag kids. We have talked to Diana about different ideas. One idea is to have NEST homes that are able and willing to take med frag kids.
- Diana added that the Channel 8 program "Adopt 8" will be renamed to "CBS Fostering Hope for a Moment or a Lifetime". This will allow us to bring a broader spectrum of stories of what the agency needs.

### **Probation-**

- We've been doing our web based campaign and taking the information gained to libraries. Currently have 2 families going through RFA process.
- We'll be having an event in October and two in November and take a break for the holidays. We're trying to move forward with matching our youth with prospective families.

### **YMCA Kinship Support Services- Suzanne Thompson**

- Brought Kinship Support program referrals if anyone needs it.

### **YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program –Lodia Ruiz**

- We just had our first Bridge briefing where we hosted YMCA staff, elected officials, school district officials and others. The purpose was to continue the momentum and advocacy so when it comes time

to legislative ask everyone is at the table and prepared. Veronica Sarabia attended and was able to speak on behalf of Bridge. Wanted to thank Mary Ann Paschal who was also present and was able to provide the foster parent voice.

- We have the Grandparents raising Grandchildren event this Saturday. Brought flyers.

#### **Office of Education- Michele Manley**

- We are fully staffed now that we hired the Central liaison. We have 8 liaisons to help with school issues. Debbie asked for an updated list of contact list for the liaisons.
- Lodia asked do they work in the 0-5 age range, and yes they do.

#### **Adoptions- Jorge De La Toba**

- 110 finalizations so far. We're excited about the National Adoption month court party which is on November 15<sup>th</sup>. A large amount of finalizations will occur on this day.

#### **Roundtable**

- Sergio Cayetano- MAXIM
  - QPI meeting at Central was awesome. Let us know if you want MAXIM to attend and do a 20-30 min presentations.
- Resource Parent- Jessica Agost
  - This is my first meeting and this is so much information that we didn't have 20 years ago. There are so many great things happening now but still so much work to be done. Will be reaching out in the future and continue to help be a part of the solution.
- Dannette Shevlin- Resource Parent
  - Struggling to find childcare hours for kinship children who are from other counties. Does anyone have a way to help? The other county told her if she can find a provider in San Diego who will take a different county's paperwork, they can help. Can Sergio/MAXIM help? Sergio will see what they can do to find resources.

#### **V. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, November 14, 2019  
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
8911 Balboa Ave. SD, CA 92123  
Magnolia Room**

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT: 1:34 p.m.**