

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 14, 2013

6950 Levant St, San Diego

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Jorge Aguilar, Nory Behana, Sandra Boelter, Patty Boles, Bernice Briggs, Elizabeth Cuevas, Lovelette de la Cruz, Ann Fox, Lucia Garcia, Sharon Ippolito, Suzette Johnston, Alice Kennedy, Greg Khoth, Maribel Luna, Diana Macis, Moira Lewis, Michele Manley, Violeta Mora, Twila Perucci, Jacquie Pusateri, Anita Secor, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach

Minutes

- I. **Twila Perucci called the meeting to order.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. **Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The October minutes were amended to include Elizabeth Cuevas in attendance; under DSEP, first bullet should read "...Social Worker Initial Training and foster care trainings; Grossmont College, second bullet "...TIPS training is available for foster parent support groups."; and insert: Maxim Respite Care—needs more respite care providers in North County."
- III. **Discussion:**

San Diego Foster Parent Association—Debbie Stolz & Twila Perucci

- The Association is getting ready for Toys for Tots.
- Sleep Train scholarships are ending soon.
- Association received the CAMP award for outstanding service in the community.
- Congratulations to Patty Boles, who was selected as one of ten L'Oreal Women of Worth!

North County Foster Parent Association—Patty Boles

- The Association is preparing for the Toys for Tots distribution.
- Reports have been received from adoptive parents that social workers are doing body checks on children
 - Ann Fox and Barbara Wojtach - This issue was raised to our attention; Adoptions staff have been directed not to conduct body checks unless there is reason to suspect there are injuries.
- Reports have been received that investigating Licensing workers are not informing foster parents of what the allegations are. Due process should include being informed of the allegation.
 - Ann Fox—New State directive is that Licensing may not disclose the allegation to foster parents upon initial investigation if doing so may compromise the child's safety.
 - Lucia Garcia—is available to discuss specific case issues/address concerns @858-694-5272.
- Foster Parent Voices meets tonight; this is a foster parent meeting led by Patty Boles and Barbie Caldwell to foster open communication, address system issues, and share information. Contact the Association for additional information.
- Association is working on a newsletter to be released in early 2014.

HHSA & Child Welfare Services—Alice Kennedy

- Congratulations to Patty Boles for being selected as a L'Oreal Woman of Worth; thanks to Patty for all her work on behalf of foster children and families.
- Thanks to Nory Behana for her years of service to foster families and to the Foster Care Services Committee. Nory will retire at the end of December.

- CWS is continuing to hire new staff.
- A Board Letter was approved to enhance the Adoptions program; it will streamline services and focus on QPI to raise the quality of adoptive caregiving.
 - Thanks to Nory Behana and Twila Perucci for speaking at the Board meeting on behalf of CWS and the Adoptions program.

Grossmont College—Nory Behana

- Congratulations to Barbara Wojtach, who has been hired as the new co-coordinator of the FAKCE program!
- The new pink flyer was distributed.
 - Expanding Your Discipline Toolbox will be held in November.
 - QPI training will be held in the spring.
- TIPS training has caught the attention educators in other counties. Information on TIPS has been shared with Santa Barbara, Imperial, Orange, and Riverside counties.
- A retirement party for Nory Behana will be held at El Torritos Restaurant in La Mesa on December 13th from 4-6 pm.

Polinsky Children's Center—Lovelette De La Cruz

- The current population at Polinsky has been around 50 children.
- Homes are needed for teenagers.

San Diego County Office of Education – Michelle Manley

- College Connection Day will take place on April 11, 2014 at Grossmont College.
- SDCOE will be conducting a survey on mileage to school of origin.

San Diego County Adoptions—Barbara Wojtach

- The Adoption Court Party will be held on Friday, November 15; 21 families will finalize their adoptions.
- The Charger calendar will be distributed at the December 1st Charger's home game.
- A training unit is being developed for new Adoptions staff.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) — Jacquie Pusateri

- Fred Finch has made some restructuring changes as follows:
 - Eileen O'Malley - Program Director for Fred Finch Wraparound program at Polinsky.
 - Charlotte Moore - Program Director for Fred Finch CASS program.
 - Jacquie Pusateri - Clinical Supervisor for CASS program.
- CASS has a two-week waitlist at this time.

Child Health Disability Prevention (CHDP)—Anita Secor

- CHDP would like to encourage caretakers to take children to doctor and dentist appointments.
- Anita Secor is always available to answer health-related questions or listen to concerns @619-692-8488.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Maribel Luna

- DSEP will hire a pre-school teacher for Polinsky; funding will come from Promises to Kids.

Foster Home Licensing—Ann Fox / Lucia Garcia

- Foster Home Licensing has recently undergone the following changes:
 - Lucia Garcia is the new Foster Home Licensing Manager, under Assistant Deputy Director, Fran Cooper.

- Ann Fox is now manager of Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services Operations, under Assistant Deputy Director, Alice Kennedy.
- Special Care Rates: Miriam Curiel will leave the Special Care Rate Coordinator position and move to the Office of the Ombudsman; Kimberly Washington will be the new Special Care Rate Coordinator.
- Computer Distribution: CWS and the San Diego Futures Foundation will distribute 150 refurbished computers to foster families on December 5th and 6th. Please contact Ann Fox if you know someone who may benefit from this program.
- Foster Care Services Meeting in December will be cancelled.

Maxim Respite Care—Elizabeth Cuevas / Sharon Ippolito

- Maxim Healthcare Services wants to recruit eight to ten more respite care providers in the North County area.
- Steps to become a Maxim Respite provider are as follows:
 - Apply and interview with Maxim.
 - Complete Live Scan fingerprinting/criminal background check.
 - If already licensed, then no new fingerprints are required, but criminal background check is still conducted.
 - Obtain CPR and First Aid certification.
 - Complete a TB test.
 - Attend six-hour paid orientation and training
 - Training is available online.
- Pay scale for respite is as follows:
 - One child with no medical needs - \$8.40/hr.
 - Two or more children with no medical needs - \$12.60/hr.
 - One child with medical needs - \$12.60/hr.
 - One child with medical needs and other child(ren) - \$18.60 /hr.
- Transporting foster children: Respite providers may not transport foster children.
- For additional information contact Elizabeth Cuevas @ 619-298-7548.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists—Bernice Briggs

- Need placements for medically fragile children, teens and sibling groups.

IV. Round Table

Diana Macis—Letters have been mailed to foster parents notifying them to contact the Foster Parent Associations about the Toys for Tots holiday distribution.

V. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 9, 2014
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
6950 Levant Street, Room 1 A/B
San Diego, CA 92111

V. ADJOURNMENT: 2:00 P.M.