

# **FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, November 14, 2019**

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

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Present:** Donna Alexander, Debbie Boles, Patty Boles, Valesha Bullock, Lisa Castagnola, Sergio Cayetano, Elly Chung, Miriam Curiel, Mary Helen Curtiss, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Brenda Jones, Diana Macis, Mary Jo Meer, Daniela Murphy, Mary Ann Paschal, Belinda Radovich, Kelly Rollins, Lodia Ruiz, Dannette Shevlin, Debbie Stolz, Martha Tavares, Suzanne Thompson, Barbara Wojtach, Jennifer Zapata, Lisa Gilbert, Carmen Arronte, Eileen Serrano, Diana Bribiesca, Janice Schattman, Nicole McDonald, Matt Ray, Wendy Ann Leeds, Josefina Ring, Cristina Crabb, Trudy Frayer

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

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

### **III. Updates and Discussion:**

#### **San Diego Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles**

- Partnering with San Diego Youth Services who will have a clinician come and offer counseling services.
- We will be picking up toys for the holidays on December 9<sup>th</sup> and will give them away on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.
- \$50,000 worth of toys were donated from the U.S. Marines.
- Mary Jo Meer reported out there are plenty of school supplies.
- Ready to do the toy drive- possibly on December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Promises2Kids may have funds for a special event as well.

#### **HHSA & CWS – Valesha Bullock**

- All region should have their Public Health Nurses (PHN). We just got confirmation that Adoption's PHN is assigned.

#### **Polinsky Children's Center- Lisa Gilbert**

- Polinsky has a lot of kids, NEST is working on finding good matches.
- NEST is providing trainings to foster parents once a month.
- Carmen Arronte suggested having NEST homes for medically fragile children.
- A NEST home means being a foster parent that agrees to take a child on the spot, to answer their phone every time we call or call back and pick up that day.
- RFA is participating in the evaluation process for NEST applications.
- Mary Helen from Probation asked- Is there an internal mandate for NEST homes?
- Dannette Shevlin asked- Where do people go to find NEST home trainings?

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

- We had our annual review and received positive feedback.
- Followed up with Sacramento and asked about the translation of the Written Directives. Spanish translation is in the works.
- Home Environment Assessment- required form is RFA-03 (available online). This is a much more detailed form which includes checking drawers and making sure knives, medicine and cleaning solutions are stored away and "inaccessible" to children and Non-Minor Dependents.
- Debbie Stolz asked if it was a requirement to redo interviews for the annual review and Elly said, yes it is.
- Patty Boles recommended mailing families a 1 page reminder of what RFA will be looking for when they come out to do the annual review.

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

- The Adoption Court Party is 11/15/19.
- Computer giveaway postcards will be mailed out to families tomorrow, 11/15. There will be 300 giveaways. We will be celebrating 20 years in partnership with SD Futures Foundation. The giveaway will be on December 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 11am-3pm. Refreshments and snacks will be served. To sign up call the KIDSline.
- Home for the Holidays- more families are needed.
- We are working on revamping the website to make it user friendly and there will be 1 website instead of 2.
- There will be no orientations in December, starting up again in January.
- The QPI Presentation on December 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> (includes judges and attorneys) will be called “Beyond the Bench”. There will be a panel of birth and resource parents highlighting QPI and how they work together.
- QPI trainings on Change of Placement (COP) have gone well, regions can report out.

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

- Outreach has nothing to do with FFA’s as they are not affiliated with them.
- Clarified that FFA’s can provide respite services but they cannot receive the respite service from Maxim.
- There has been a delay in getting Maxim providers to sign up.

#### **CASS- Jennifer Zapata or Lisa Castagnola**

- Many foster parents are losing placements due to allegations. Foster parents feel like they are being personally “attacked”. This is happening to a lot of 1st time foster parents.

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

- Barbara Wojtach explained that NEST stands for Nurturing Evaluating Stabilization Team.
- Upcoming Classes: Tonight- Trust Based Parenting Relational Intervention (TBPRI). This is a 2 part class on 11/14 and 11/21; Coping with the Unique Challenges of Kinship Care on 11/19/19; TIPS refresher on 12/2/19; Trauma Systems Safe and Happy Babies on 12/7/19; Therapy for Foster Care on 12/14/19; \*\*See Flyers\*\*\*
- The Grossmont College campus will be closed beginning December 20th until the new year.

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

##### **South- Belinda Radovich**

- Had our quarterly QPI training. 45 attended and Mary Jo Meer was recognized.

##### **North – Matt Ray**

- Our region had up to 40 intakes at one point at PCC and now it is down to 20. ESCU and North region placement team helped in getting these children out.

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

- Our QPI training had 30+ attendees and went really well.

##### **Central- Donna Alexander**

- 30 people attended our QPI training. We had a lot of questions and concerns from resource parents, especially concerns about the verbiage of the 14 day notice instead of 7 day.
- We will schedule a QPI training on COP for PSW’s.

##### **Probation- Mary Helen Curtiss**

- We will continue to schedule orientations to get more families to take our youth. We have one family that is just waiting for Arizona to provide background information.

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

- South and Central regions had their Halloween celebration on October 26<sup>th</sup> in Chula Vista. There were 16 families/60 people. Attendees enjoyed games, face painting, and more.

- This upcoming Saturday will be the N. Central & East event called Connect with Nature. It takes place at the Pine Valley House Horse of the Sun Ranch.
- Dannette Shevlin asked- How do resource parents find out about these events? Through support groups.

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

- Had State Convening November 6, covering 45 Counties with CWS partners.
- We are still trying to get the word out about Bridge as many social workers do not know about the programs we offer.

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

- We are working on clearing more drivers to take kids to school.
- The tutors are wrapping up their training and they'll be ready after the New Year. They'll be available to help kids fill out their FAFSA applications for college.

#### **Adoptions- Gloria Escamilla-Huidor**

- 119 finalizations so far and another 33 scheduled this month.
- November is National Adoption month and we are looking forward to the Adoption Court Party tomorrow, 25 children finalizing their adoption
- There are many kids at Polinsky Children's Center. Let's support each other in getting them placed. Adoptions has 2 medically fragile children currently at PCC that need a home.

#### **Roundtable**

- Mary Jo Meer- Foster Parent Association
  - Helped a PSW with a child throwing a tantrum. The child didn't want to return home but wanted to go back to Polinsky Children's Center.
- Patty Boles- Resource Parent
  - If a person is on hold/inactive status for two years, what happens after? Can they take a child? Elly answered and said no, the home would have to be reassessed.
- Wendy Leeds- Resource parent
  - Had Facebook remarks from RFA families: 1) Applicants surprised they were on hold because of training and wanted to know if they could get a month ahead notice. 2) A family is open and has not had a call for placement in 16 months. Valesha Bullock asked that the resource parent be encouraged to reach out to the placement team to see if anything out of the ordinary is happening.

#### **IV. NEXT MEETING:**

**NO DECEMBER MEETING**

**Thursday, January 9, 2020**

**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**8911 Balboa Ave. SD, CA 92123**

**Magnolia Room**

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:45 p.m.**