

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 8, 2018

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Amanda Amabile, Debbie Boles, Patty Boles, Valesha Bullock, Miriam Curiel, Breanna Davila, Jorge De La Toba, Brenda Jones, Delona King, Diana Macis, Mary Mackenzie, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Daniela Murphy, Sarah Nolan, Michelle Pineda, Claudia Hernandez, Mitsuru Raminrez, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Dannette Shevlin, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach, Tereza Wilson, Joanna Smith, Da'Shaun Payne, Lily Smith, Blanca Rios, Elly Chung, Nicole Kelsay, Lisa Gilbert, Margo Fudge

I. Chair: Brenda Jones called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: The October 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- Getting ready for the Holiday Drive. Not sure about Mattress Firm, have to wait and see what happens.
- Have an Eagle Scout doing a project getting 20 bikes. Girl scouts and other groups getting other gifts.
- Trying to write grants for gift cards. This seems to be a better idea than purchasing specific sized clothes.

HHSa, Centralized CWS Operations - Valesha Bullock

- A lot of legislation that is still pending on RFA in general. A lot of discussions in regards to funding. One of the biggest goals is to work with regional partners and reduce trauma for children. A challenge now is managing how RFA is affecting the Adoption piece.
- Our director retires in March. Will do a nationwide search for a new one. Staff here is prepared to cover.
- Internally- We want to hear what you are experiencing. How can we help support families? Staff attended the October RFA convening and provided feedback that the State is looking into.
- Positive and confident that San Diego is moving forward so continue to provide feedback.

San Diego Foster Parent Association –Mary Jo Meer/Debbie Stolz

- Office emails haven't been working right, so let me know if you're having trouble.
- Helping foster homes with concerns with 18 month timeline that isn't being followed in court. Judges cut services and CWS was forced to find a "home"/hotel room for a little while and then they "release them to the streets". Mary Jo to provide specific examples off line.
- Gearing up for the holidays. The letter together that will go out to tell families how to get holiday supplies. Diana will send the list of names to use.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- Still a vacancy for the Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council (CAPCC). Hoping to get some Resource Parents involved. There is a quarterly meeting but hard for parents to attend due to the time. Next meeting is Jan 15th 3:00-5:00.
- The analyst responsible for contracts has left and Phil Varela is overseeing it for now.

Foster Care Eligibility- Maria Martinez

- All of the clothing allowances have been issued. We did manual payments to make corrections.

Quality Parenting Initiative- Diana Macis

- Just started last quarterly training, Part 2 of Birth Parent training. Had the Quarterly steering committee last month. Went over notes from the conference and discussed plans for next year.
- Post Cards are out and we're starting to get the word out on those. Small tokens of recognition to/from

social workers/caregivers.

Polinsky Children's Center- Lisa Gilbert

- Have 22 NEST homes with 39 NEST beds. 22 kids placed in NEST homes now and continuing to recruit. If child is not able to move within the 60 days the families are still keeping them.
- Monthly trainings are going well, we've had 2 so far. Held the 4th Wed each month. 5:30 at the PCC Pavillion room. Parents can bring children. Attachment and Tantrums have been the topics so far. Had a great turnout and discussions. We got feedback that goes back and forth to improve relationships.
- Nicole Kelsay- PCC population hit a high of 60, currently back down to 42. Have a number of large sibling groups that all came in at the same time. If you know caregiver who want large sibling groups, please reach out. There are a few teens with no behavior issues as well.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP) - Sarah Nolan

- October numbers. Serving 440 children. Completed 550 home visits. That includes 192 wellness & behavioral screenings.
- From the time we receive a referral we need to go see the child within 30 days.

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

- RFA convening was well attending- 54 of 58 counties attended. Everting county is trying to figure out what works best. Shared stories and models.
- Internally- We have staffing changes. Managers over RFA approval: Wendy has ERFA and Elly has standard region, NREFM, and community. Gloria is over approved RFA family cases. (Community families at least through the end of this year are being referred to FFAs. If a family comes in attached to a child, we handle those cases internally.)
- State is preparing to release version 6 of the written directives (Jan/Feb). They're trying to focus on making it more family friendly and incorporate county input.
- State is coming in December to review cases and our process since the start of RFA.
- Valesha- A lot of feedback was given to the State including proving a Spanish version. The state is hearing us now. San Diego is active and making sure that we attend meetings to create one voice.
- Mitsuru- Is the State is going to every county? Is it the same group of people? Yes, every county will be visited. There could be different groups from the State looking at different things. They are trying to find out the best way to do things Statewide e.g. tracking, computer systems, etc.

Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Margo Fudge

- Fully staffed now and the latest addition is our Options Coordinator, Graciela Soto.
- Court Party next Friday 1:30. 23 kids with 20 families.
- Rolling out Home For the Holidays. Have a little bit more families than kids. Around 17 families.
- 12/4/18 - Computer giveaway. We have 150 computers for caregivers. The computers come from the county's refurbished supply. A postcard will be mailed out eligible caregivers.
- Miriam- Quality Parenting review for PCO to review Foster Families. Very close to getting the policy published, thank you to Veronica Sarabia. Maybe ready in another month or two. The Special Care Rate policy was updated this month and will be released soon as well.

Maxim Respite Care – Breanna Davila

- Gearing up for the holidays. Expecting a lot of requests as usual around the holidays.
- Question: Can Respite worker drive kids? According to the contract, no, they cannot drive the kids or give meds. This is an ongoing concern. Veronica will take this back for discussion.

San Diego County Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile

- Still working on the grad list for current foster youth at after care.
- Job Fairs coming up. Waiting for the flyers to get approval then they can be distributed to everyone.

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jennifer Zapanta

- Currently no wait list. Family fun day is the week of Thanksgiving. Parents can drop kids off.

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

- Planning Jan/Feb classes. Few or no participation in some classes and had to cancel.
- Winter Advisory Committee meeting.*Flyer* Next is 12/3 in El Cajon. Would love your input.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

South- Claudia Hernandez

- Had our QPI meeting this morning. 35-40 adults, 6 kids. Of the PCC population, we have the 2 sets of 6 siblings. Continue to work diligently to place them. It's awesome to have the support of everyone here.

North- Mary Mackenzie

- Been fortunate with PCC numbers. We have some great resource parents so we're lucky.

Central- Joanna Smith

- Having our QPI meeting 11/14. Everything is going well. Agree with Lisa that Teen and Tween homes are still a need. Sibling homes even for little kids are hard to find.

Probation – Delona King

- Caregiver Appreciation event now 12/3 from 4:30-7 or 8. We will invite caregivers and focus on recruitment as well.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Michelle Pineda/Lily Smith

- Referrals have been going up, last month was 55.
- Reminder when sending referrals, please put the State ID.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz/Debbie Boles

- We have really been diving into our Trauma Informed trainings. Trained 227 childcare providers. 10 providers have been coached one-on-one. The referrals have slowed down during the holidays but keep sending them over for homes needing childcare for kids 0-5.
- Feedback from Foster Parents- Services have improved. Bridge calls to confirm availability, help find services in your area, and they make things easier and faster.

San Diego County Adoptions - Jorge De La Toba

- Staffing changes. Supervisor, Norma Swales, promoted to manager in El Cajon Resource Center. Reassigning her staff. Gloria Escamilla-Huidor is taking on 3 Adoptions units.
- Excited about the Court Adoption Party. Food, balloons and fun to celebration National Adoption Month. About 20 families finalizing. 1:30-3:30 with finalizations at 15 minute increments.
- Down to only 691 cases right now. 50% of the cases we had a few years ago. Cases are moving faster through our system.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 10, 2019

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:20 p.m.