

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 13, 2020

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Donna Alexander, Kimberly Ayala, Melissa Brooks, Valesha Bullock, Sergio Cayetano, Elly Chung, Gloria Elizarraraz-Lopez, Elyce Hoene, Brenda Jones, Alex Kahn, Wendy Leeds, Diana Macis, Daniela Murphy, Mary Ann Paschal, Belinda Radovich, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Dannette Shevlin, Debbie Stolz, Suzanne Thompson, Doralina Tichy, Jeff Wiemann, Barbara Wojtach, Jennifer Zapata, Erin Lininger, Idalia Flores, Audrey Brattem, Charlotte Patton, Jessica Bruno, Angelica Sanabria

I. Chair: Debbie Stolz called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Debbie Stolz: Correction to the January 9, 2020 minutes. Please disregard the correction to the Nov 2019 Minutes, which was incorrect. The Marines did make a donation. January 9 minutes were approved with this change.

III. Updates and Discussion:

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Mary Jo Meer

- Mary Jo Meer could not make it today
- There are a lot of giveaways happening with toys and clothing. Do the county or ILS need kid's donations? ILS rep will speak with the managers to see what they need. Things are slow after the Holiday.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- 2020 Census is coming up. We are in the process of drafting a letter to the county and resource families regarding the 2020 Census. If a foster child has been placed in the home by April 20th – They need to be counted when the families are filling out the Census.
- Census can be turned in/respond by mail or online and if someone chooses not to respond a Census worker can go to home. Really important since it is tied to funding and resources that we need: Schools, transportations, and all resources.
- “What does it ask? Are they identified as Foster children on the Census?” – Not that I am aware of, everything is confidential they are not indicated as foster children. Not aware of the questions but no personal info is asked and cannot be shared to other agencies and law enforcement. Letter in the next few weeks.
- Debbie Stolz - Starting to get calls regarding SSN for children – parents are allowed to have the SNN for the care of the children.

Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) – Kimberly Ayala

- Introduced a new Nurse
- 6 New nurses in Foster care and we are now fully staffed.

Polinsky Children's Center- Diana Macis on behalf of PCC

- Population is currently at 90. Brainstorming to identify placements and home. 40 under 6 years old. Need placements for little ones and babies. Spread the word to possible families.

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

- Elly is transitioning out, 2 new managers with RFA experience will be taking over soon. Announcement going out soon. One will be representing moving forward.
- We just returned from the RFA Convening in Sacramento, the focus was on collaboration between FFAs and Counties. Hopefully we can implement ideas and talk about what we learned.
 - Debbie Stolz - Questions – capacity? Number of children and non-minor dependents. 6 kids in the

home maximum. Including non-fosters. Sometimes they go over, but that is the capacity. Once the child turns 18, they no longer count.

- There are several types of guardianships and we should gather information and bring it back to the next meeting.
- Answer to Capacity question – later in meeting “Capacity includes the number of children and non-minor dependents for who a resource family may provide care and supervision.” Reading from the RFA directives.

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

- Diana – Trying to solidify the dates for our QPI Appreciation Banquet, it is tentative for May 8th but we have not confirmed the site yet, more to come.
- Sending information through this committee if anyone’s interested in the QPI conference at the end of May.
 - You have options to purchase the 1st day, all 3 days or just the National Conference. Going to ask if it is possible to buy the State only and not include the National.

Independent Living Skills- Doralina Tichy

- *Flyer passed around* March 15, 2020, clothing distribution for girls by My Girlfriends Closet, 11:00am-1:00pm by invitation only. Location: The Portuguese Hall 2818 Avenida de Portugal San Diego, CA 92106. Each girl will receive 2 shopping bags to fill with clothing, shoes, accessories and more.

Maxim Respite Care - Sergio Cayetano

- Sergio will be working out of another office here and there.
- Working on a project in North County focusing on helping families in need of care, working on multiple projects for Foster Care, Regional Center or other programs, so that all families are serviced.

CASS- Jennifer Zapata

- Nothing new, still getting referrals and a lot of little ones and sibling groups, we have a wait list. Trying to keep everything rolling. It is picking up, we are getting a lot of kids that are being directly placed from PCC into a foster home or kids getting placed into a Foster home where 1 child was stable and no isn’t because of the new placement in the home.
- Debbie Stoltz - Families can call the college and request a mentor and let them know that there are other resources.

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

- Just finished up the March April schedule – being printed now.
- Have a couple new support groups:
 - The 1st new one is for individuals with a recent emergency placement. To help bridge the gap with missing information. Flyers pink color. This is in addition to the TIPS classes. Held at the 8911 office on 2nd Friday of the month 9:30am – 11:30am, Kania Webster is the leader. Trying to reach out to the RFA staff and placement people – that if you have a new resource parent, this might be a good place to get answers and they will also go over the written directives
 - 2nd support group starting for caregivers from babies to preschool age-Mary Ann Paschal will be support group leader held on 3rd Friday of the month from 10:00am-12:00pm at San Diego County Foster Parent Association. This group may be good for Kinship caregivers that haven’t cared for a baby in many years, this will help. More informal and is an additional resource. They can bring babies to group.
 - Another new group that is for positive discipline, Led by Kania, she is a positive discipline trainer, 2nd Friday in the evening.

Barbara distributed the following flyers:

- Flyer - Workforce trends presenter, in relation to career paths for you as employees. March 5th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. At this training we will have someone from Grossmont College from the Guardians Scholars Program, this is happening during the associations support group. Very interesting presentation. Encourage you to attend that.

- Flyer - March 26th – 6 week training Fostering Hope. Foster and adoption parents who have experience infertility. Small group environment, a psychoeducational group. We have done this training two other times and the participants loved it. Great training.
- Flyer - March 31st Kathy and Sam Moehlig, Sam was adopted through the county and is Transgendered. Coming to share their story and their journey. 6:00pm-9:00pm
- No flyer – Danette and Heidi Blue will be presenting the training call The Unique Challenges of Kinship Care, March 23rd, specifically for kinship care givers.
- Super Saturday Event June 13th, held at the Handlery Hotel, it is a conference style day. 3 different sessions. Participants can choose what to attend. Continental Breakfast will be provided along with a sit down lunch. Lots of giveaways. Free to all who attend.
 - Do not have details on childcare yet. Will keep you Posted

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

N. Central- Jessica Bruno

- In need of homes for kids ages newborn to teen. Medically fragile children are a challenge to place and meet their needs.
- Looking forward to the QPI training on March 4th. Getting RSVPs
- Looking forward to trauma classes.

South- Belinda Radovich

- QPI training was today and it was great. Need placements as well.

Central- Donna Alexander

- Quarterly QPI Training yesterday, it was very good. We have 23 kids in Polinsky right now, ages 1-16.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Melissa Brooks

- Fully Staffed.
- Child welfare referrals on the low end, will connect with Veronica.
- Working on kinship data report. Includes a data dashboard with visuals, will be sending that to community partners and it will be available online.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program –Lodia Ruiz

- Referrals have increased over the last month, keep them coming.
- February 5th was Caregiving at the Capitol, continuing to express the need to our decision makers regarding Bridge, we received a lot of interest from Legislators asking questions about Bridge – that’s positive.
- Fully Staffed

Adoptions- Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- Jorge De La Toba will be the new manager at Policy over at Legal Services. The announcement of new managers will happen soon.
- Shout out to Patty Boles – Emergency placement last week and she came to the rescue and we did not have to send the baby to Polinsky. She was amazing, supporting the children and the Agency in making things happen. She went to Target and bought a portable crib to make the placement happen. I will talk with her directly as well.

Roundtable

- **Wendy Leeds** - Share a concern about supervised visit. Foster parent had a concern about supervising visits note read aloud “A visit should be monitored by the County, monitoring visits but Foster parents in an impossible situation of reporting abuse and threats as a mandated reporters while also encouraging reunification, especially when parents see court records after they have been reported. Also the allegation process needs to be improved, bio parents are using allegations to have their kids returned to Polinsky where they get to see their children daily and/or getting new foster parents in hopes that they won’t report (suspected abuse).” This frustration was echoed

by a lot of parents who commented on the statement that monitoring visits was not something they were comfortable doing and that it undermines partnering with the parents to support reunification.

- **Debbie Stolz/Mary Ann Paschal** - Additional training and classes offered for the foster parents that need extra assistance with being a reporter and facilitating visits. Getting a mentor that can help come to an agreement.
- **Diana Macis** – recommended elevating the concerns, if they are not feeling heard they need to go up the chain to address the concerns. We need to be aware so that we can help support them.
- **Barbra Wojtach** - Mentor through the college is only available to formal Kinship caregivers, not informal.
- **Barbra Wojtach** - Support groups are offered to informal Kinship caregivers – they are focused to people that are caring for children in child welfare, we would typically refer the informal caregivers to the YMCA, simply because with our support groups there is no childcare and there is no food provided. Informal Kinship can come to anything we offer they just cannot be mentored in the program.
- **Debbie Stolz** - Reach out to the associations.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 12, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:01 p.m.