

## **FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, February 14, 2019**

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

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Present:** K.A., Collette Best, Valesha Bullock, Miriam Curiel, Breanna Davila, Jorge De La Toba, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Margo Fudge, Natalia Guevara, Laura Hattaway, Elyce Hoene, Diana Macis, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Daniela Murphy, Veronica Sarabia, Noreen Shakur, Dannette Shevlin, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach, Mai Woo, Jennifer Zapata, Natasha Garcia, Donna Alexander, Jeff Wiemann, Doralina Tichy, Kevin Hauck, Ariane Farras, Stephanie Smith

**I. Chair: Margo Fudge called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.

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

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

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

- Royal Charter did a fundraiser and collected 400 socks for kids. They want to do more in the future.
- Promises2Kids is sending books.
- All bikes mentioned last month have been given away.
- Still working on a giveaway in March so kids can come shop before Easter.

#### **Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia/Kevin Hauck**

- AB 2247. Still waiting for the letter from state so it is business as usual until we receive the All Counties Letter (ACL).
- Respite concerns- Kevin Hauck. We are continuing to work on it. There are a lot of legal pieces on both sides. The overall goal is to protect everyone. We hope to have answers next month.

#### **Foster Care Eligibility- Maria Martinez**

- CalWORKs is receiving an increase effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. Does not impact most of our caregivers, as they receive funding from ARC, Foster Care, or Emergency Care.

#### **Quality Parent Initiative- (QPI)- Diana Macis**

- Had first quarterly training in Central with 56 attendees. Topic was Teenage Placement Disruptions.
- Steering committee is finalizing our work plan for this year.

#### **Foster Home Licensing/Resource Family Approval- Gloria Escamilla-Huidor**

- We received the annual report review and it turns out that most of the recommendations made are ones we're already working on.
- We did get a draft of the Written Directive version 6. Over 150 pages to review and provide feedback to the state before it gets published.
- Debbie Stolz: In the future, can the Foster Parent Association also review the WD before it goes to print?
- Still working on filling remaining RFA positions by April.

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

- Continuing to develop the email that will go out to caregivers to help facilitate placements. We're close to being able to use it. Diana will reach out to caregivers to make sure everyone is aware.
- Had the Options support meeting and respite was a topic there as well. They're trying to align more with MAXIM and appropriate rates.
- Diana- QPI Appreciation banquet: May 31<sup>st</sup> at The Doubletree Hotel.

### **San Diego County Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Doralina Tichy**

- See flyer for “Career Exploration”. This event takes place April 2, 201, 4:30PM-6PM East County Career Center, 924 E Main St., El Cajon, CA 92021

### **MAXIM- Breanna Davila**

- Breanna will be stepping away to a different position. Sergio or Paloma will attend FCSC in the future.

### **Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Lisa Castagnola**

- Currently there is no wait list. Remind SWs to make referrals.

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

- Just finished March/April pink book and it should be mailed out this weekend. We’ve sent copies to the county offices already.
- Have a few new classes in March/April. We’ve been cancelling TIPS due to low attendance. However, specialty class attendance is through the roof. Not sure why we’re seeing this new trend.
- Will be presenting a few new classes. CASEY family programs has a couple of curriculums that we’ll be presenting.
- June 29 definitely doing the Super Saturday. Will not have childcare available.

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

### **Central Region Pilot- Diana Macis**

- March 1<sup>st</sup>, Pilot: Support for resource families who are overwhelmed or have a crisis. Have about 10 caregivers who will be on rotation.

### **South- K.A.**

- March 1<sup>st</sup> we will start doing follow up calls, almost like becoming case managers, helping with follow up questions, timelines, making sure all documentation is obtained.
- Had QPI steering committee today, 15 attended.

### **Central- Donna Alexander**

- Central has already been doing follow up. We try to call within 24 hours no more than 36. We also call to see how everything is going intermittently. For all placements (initial and ongoing). We need more foster homes.

### **East- Collette Best**

- Had QPI last month. Set up goals for year. Looking forward to QPI conference and working on recognitions for the postcards.

### **YMCA Kinship Support Services- Michelle Pineda/Lily Smith**

- Our numbers are down so there is currently no wait list. Please remind workers to refer families.
- April 6<sup>th</sup> East is having their Grandparents raising Grandchildren event at Foothills Church in El Cajon.

### **YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Ariane Farras**

- Referrals are up, this last month has been our highest. Lodia and Teresa have been at outreach functions. 2 all day trainings on Childhood for Caregiving module that have gone well with good responses and feedback. Started coaching services as well. Things are going great.

## **San Diego County Adoptions - Jorge De La Toba**

- Previously I was asked how many children need placement in an Adoptive home. The stats are as follows: Jan- 41. Dec- 50. Nov- 43. Oct- 39. In Jan, 648 children active to adoptions. A low percentage of overall children that need placement. Kids that are waiting for an identified adoptive home.

## **HHSA, Centralized CWS Operations – Valesha Bullock**

- We're now for RFA looking at version 6 draft of the Written Directives that we have to submit feedback for tomorrow. There are a lot of conversations about how we're going to handle some of the adjustments like annual reviews, the appeals process, legal consults, etc. We also talked about out of county transfer process.
- Most of the Written Directives will probably be similar to what they currently are. They're defining Adoptions as one piece separate from Placement. The don't want the processes to be blended in the wording. There will be some crossover but they want to make sure when we start training, staff have a clear understanding.
- From the recommendations submitted to Board a month ago, we were tasked to look at practices. This is finalizing and will be presented to the Board by the end of the month. Out of 93 recs, the agency agreed to 92. The one we didn't agree to was a statute, so we couldn't change it. We will have to look at implementation, so we will reach out to work groups for assistance.
- QPI Convening: We're not able to send a lot of staff this year so we're having to be very mindful of who we send and why. State QPI convening may have more flexibility.
- RFA was to take part of Adoptions and Relative Placements and blend, but there are still parts we can't blend. We may have to go back to the family and finish some requirements because the same staff can't do both parts of the work. Adoptions has additional requirements that RFA does not have.

## **Roundtable**

- Stephanie- Vista Hill Incredible families. Reunification program. Will bring flyers and info to share at the next meeting.
- Laura Hattaway- Laura is retiring. Mai Woo taking over for CWS Eligibility.
- Mary Jo Meer- Caregivers are wondering if they can contact PCC for placement. Let Diana know and maybe a flyer of placement workers can be made. Even add to an email blast. Some families are still adoption only families that might want to take placements.

## **IV. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, March 14, 2019**

**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123**

*(Magnolia Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)*

## **V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:05 p.m.**