

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 14, 2019

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Donna Alexander, K.A., Collette Best, Patty Boles, Valesha Bullock, Lisa Castagnola, Sergio Cayetano, Miriam Curiel, Breanna Davila, Jorge De La Toba, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Natasha Garcia, Elyce Hoene, Brenda Jones, Diana Macis, Mary Mackenzie, Maria Martinez, Daniela Murphy, Katie Olson, Belinda Radovich, Mitsuru Ramirez, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Noreen Shakur, Dannette Shevlin, Debbie Stolz, Robin Thompson, Doralina Tichy, Barbara Wojtach, Renate Smith, Jerry Webb, Jennifer Palivanich, Blanca Rios, Kevin Hauck, Matt Ray, Sara Kelley

I. Chair: Debbie Stolz called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

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

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- Doing a lot of trainings. Had the QPI training yesterday with 32 people, including staff, community partners, and foster parents attending. Doing well.

HHSA, Centralized CWS Operations – Valesha Bullock

- Asked for Office of Emergency Services to do a training for FCSC next month. Presentation on what we do as a county so you understand what happens when we have an emergency.
- CWDA meeting yesterday and there were a lot of conversations about our processes. We did submit feedback to the state for the Written Directives version 6 so hopefully they take our input into consideration.
- Cathi Palatella is retiring this month but we still don't know who the replacement is. The management team is working together to be sure things still run smoothly.
- The Board of Supervisors authorized a new type of advisory board: Child and Families Strengthening Advisory Board. It will include a lot more community representatives. Could be up and running by the end of April. More to come.
- Need clarification for Debbie Stolz regarding new advisory board. Valesha said it is focused on a different directive.

San Diego Foster Parent Association –Debbie Stolz

- Had a giveaway a few weeks ago but due to rain it wasn't as well attended as we hoped. We will do another one in the future.

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

- Still waiting for direction from the state in regards to the new legislations that passed.
- Kevin Hauck Re MAXIM: We discussed payment of overnight care and agreed to change the language in the contract. Medication- no options available for county, state, or MAXIM other than MAXIM providing a Nurse. There will have to be a nursing aide and those nurses will go to families. This is the best way to protect all of us legally. We understand that this is 24 hours a day, many nurses, driving around all day.
- Debbie Stolz- Concerned that this is going to be undoable. There are kids that need meds multiple times a day and the nurses will have to be trained for nebulizers for each child.

MAXIM- Breanna Davila/Sergio Cayetano

- Sergio- When caregivers are on the clock, you are under MAXIM's license. That's what we have to work with. Again, this is how we can be sure that everyone is protected.
- Patty Boles- Can we operate under Prudent Parent? Veronica Sarabia answered and said Prudent Parent does not apply to MAXIM employees.
- Transportation is still being discussed and the contract is being amended.
- Mary Mackenzie asked when might we expect an update to the contract? Possibly at the start of the new fiscal year in July.

Foster Care Eligibility- Maria Martinez

- We've been quiet, no changes, no updates to report. Waiting for the State updates.
- Retiring at the end of the month. Unsure of who will attend the meetings for FC Eligibility in the future.

Quality Parent Initiative- (QPI) - Diana Macis

- Gearing up for the national conference at the end of April in Philadelphia. Maryann Paschal is going to be part of a panel. SD County is also facilitating a workshop in regards to QPI.
- We have our monthly state calls, and next month San Diego will be presenting our Partnership Agreement. We are one of few counties that have this document as part of policy and practice.
- Placement Pilot in Central: Started Sunday, 3/10, but have not had any calls yet. 24 hour support line to help decrease placement disruptions. Foster Parents are volunteering for the pilot since this is just short term help. We're calling the Foster Parents "Placement Support Specialists". 2 Foster parents per week, 1 bilingual, 1 English. 3 month pilot. We have about 10-12 volunteers.
- Valesha- We anticipate that this will probably be rolled over because the process is being looked at Statewide.

Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) – Kimberly Ayala/Jocelyn Waters

- New nurse in North and have a vacancy in N. Central (Adoptions nurse) that we're working on filling.
- Compliance Stats: Medical 95.6% Dental 87.6%
- Reminder- Get your flu shot!

Polinsky Children's Center- Robin Thompson

- Current PCC population is at 34 kids and the numbers have been going down.
- NEST is doing wonderfully, we have more families than we need. Supports groups are a huge success and are growing rapidly. Last month we provided childcare for 19 children during the support group.
- The approval was for 25 families, 50 beds. We have way more than 25 families, but just over 50 beds.
- Valesha- Are the families staying as NEST or becoming long term placements? There have been maybe 3 placements where the child was in the NEST home at the end of 60 days and the foster parent wanted them to move. Other than that, children have stayed after the 60 days. Placed 7 hard to place kids in NEST beds. Gave up these 7 NEST beds so the kids could have a home.
- Valesha- Is there any thought to looking at change of placements for next fiscal year? Don't think we can get the funding.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)

- Things are quiet, nothing new to report. See flyers.
- Debbie Stolz: Are you still holding a high percentage of kids that are coming in and being picked up and followed? Yes, we get automatic referrals when the status of cases change.
- Debbie: Could KidSTART come and do a presentation for further information?

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

- We are still waiting for version 6 of the Written Directives to be published.
- Doing interviews to hire the new staff that was allocated and getting ready to get them on board.

Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Diana Macis

- Diana- QPI Appreciation banquet: May 31st at The Doubletree Hotel.
- Starting "Placement E-Blast". FARFS will send an email request to approve caregivers for difficult

to place kids. So far this is working very well.

- Robin Thompson: Can PCC refer kids to use the email blast? Yes, PCC can.

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

- April 13th we're doing a "Mock City".
- June 18th is the ILS graduation.

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Lisa Castagnola

- There was an uptake of referrals in February but there is no waiting list right now.
- Remind social workers that they are our only referral source and try to make referrals as soon as you think you may need it. It's challenging when you get a referral and the family has already given notice. We focus on prevention.

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

- Working on the May/June schedule. Going to be offering Super Saturday this year. A Save the Date will come out May/June. This is an 8-hour day that happens at the Handlery hotel, like a conference in that participants can choose topics for each section. At lunch time will show film "Resilience".
- **Flyers** Doing a couple of new trainings: Michelle McGowan is doing "10 things children with Autism wish you knew." Starts soon but there are only a few people registered.
- "Road to Recovery- Supporting children with developmental delays." Helping children who have development or intellectual delays and how to help them if they experienced trauma.
- Foundations for Loving Attachment- Parent with PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy) - Providing parents with a method to build attachment because that connection helps to heal.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

South- K.A.

- Just had our QPI training on placement disruption and it went well. The room was full of foster parents, community partners, social workers, etc. It was well attended.
- Have 2 kids at PCC and we have a plan for 1 already.

Central- Donna Alexander

- Very excited about the pilot. Had some possibilities but some foster parents pulled back and didn't give notices. Looking forward to this helping decrease placement disruptions.
- Need resource homes.

East- Collette Best

- Looking forward to our QPI training on March 27th.

North- Mary Mackenzie

- QPI training was well attending. Good suggestions and conversations.
- Struggling with older children at PCC. Working with RFA to get placement with families.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Noreen

- Our numbers are still down, we only have 32 referrals. We usually get between 50-60.
- Had referrals due to the article that was in the Union Tribune that talked about kinship parents.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz

- We've been pretty busy. Last month attended R & R at the capitol. Did some advocacy work and

met with some local members of council to keep telling the Bridge story.

- We've been asked to be a panelist in the Step Up Coalition Childcare Bridge webinar in April to discuss some of the practices that we have as a county.
- April 3rd back in Sacramento to again do some advocacy for the childcare Bridge program.
- Started in June so we're almost at 1 full year in and trying to keep the momentum going.
- Increasing in referrals but can take more. There are still quite a few social workers who don't know about the program. Invite us to your QPI events, we are more than able to host a table.

San Diego County Adoptions - Jorge De La Toba

- 660 children open to Adoptions, rise from the previous month. Of this, 50 children still need an adoptive home. They are in a placement but not with adoptive parents.

Roundtable

- Brenda Jones- Event on April 5th 6pm located at 5333 Geneva Ave. SD 92114. Extra toys, pizza, etc.
- Sarah Kelley: Resource parent since Sept 2015 shared that she and wife have had a negative experience with the County in regards to allegations against them and now have exhausted all appeal options.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, April 11, 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.