

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 11, 2019

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Kimberly Ayala, Denise Bahen, Patty Boles, Sergio Cayetano, Miriam Curiel, Mary Helen Curtiss, Breanna Davila, Jorge De La Toba, Natasha Garcia, Isela Hernandez, Elyce Hoene, Brenda Jones, Diana Macis, Mary Jo Meer, Daniela Murphy, Belinda Radovich, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Dannette Shevlin, Robin Thompson, Mai Woo, Erin Lininger, Elly Chung, Kevin Hauck, Hayley Gonzalez, Eileen Serrano, Maria Del Sol, Elijah Richardson, Michelle Pineda, Matthew Ray.

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 March 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Updates and Discussion:

Special Presentation- Candace Hadley- Office of Emergency Services

- Our office focuses on large emergencies, like natural disasters, and coordinates the regional response.
- 4 main natural disasters in SD county: Fires, Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Floods
- First responders are only 1% of the population. Help by evacuating early or follow warnings given
- Number of wildfires caused by human error- 90%. Top cause of fires-Vehicles
- Test your fire alarms twice a year, at Daylight Savings time.
- How you can get prepared: Download the SD Emergency app, Register with AlertSanDiego, go to www.readysandiego.org
- Be aware, make a plan, have a kit, stay informed!

HHSA, Centralized CWS Operations – Margo Fudge for Valesha Bullock

- CWS Director retired last month. Acting Director is Kim Giardina
- Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board is going to be starting soon. Team implementation meetings happening at the end of April. More information to come.

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- Question about RFA recertification. Foster mom got a letter saying it was time to recertify and to call. But her RFA worker is out, so nobody has returned her call. Worried about reaching the deadline but no one will contact her.
- Elly answered and said she would take this family's information and assist. Also to please call the RFA duty line if you need to reach a worker. 858-650-5876.
- Question about fingerprinting: If mom comes to visit for a weekend she doesn't need to fingerprint. But does prudent parent apply if she wants to do an overnight?
- Rule about rooms. Can siblings share a room at any age? Elly answered and said yes, but we always have to make sure there aren't any behavioral or historical concerns that might put the other children at risk.
- Was told that MAXIM could watch the foster child, but not the mom's adoptive child. Breanna answered and said that as long as one of the children is dependent of SD county, MAXIM can watch the children.

San Diego Foster Parent Association –Mary Jo Meer

- We put out an email blast and on FaceBook for a drawing. We're getting a donation of a play structure from a doctor. Call 619-579-4900 to enter a family-one family wins!
- Still have school supplies if needed.

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

- Opted in for the BRIDGE program for the next 2 years.
- Continuing to monitor all county letters from the state so we can get direction on how to proceed with the changes that have been made recently.

Foster Care Eligibility- Mai Woo

- Changes coming for finalizations, especially for extended foster care youth. Will report changes as they come.

Quality Parent Initiative- (QPI) - Diana Macis

- Next week is our steering committee meeting so we'll be regrouping and trying to prioritize and define our goals for the next coming year.
- Last quarter's training was on placement disruptions. We had 175 people go through the training: 64 SWs, 81 caregivers, 9 kinship, 21 community partners.
- Will be attending the national conference in Philadelphia; San Diego is doing a couple of presentations.
- QPI recognition banquet May 31. Invitations out in about 2 weeks. DoubleTree Hotel in Mission Valley. Recognizing our caregivers as royalty.

Polinsky Children's Center- Robin Thompson

- We have a lot of long stayers. Population is at 37 now and the majority have been there well over 10 days. A lot of them don't want to go anywhere.
- NEST is doing great, continuing to grow so much that we had to get a bigger room for the support groups. 75 kids have been placed in NEST homes. Of those 75, 24 stayed in the home past the 60 days. 3 are going into adoptions with the NEST parent.

Foster Home Licensing/Resource Family Approval- Elly Chung

- Just received version 6 of the Written Directives this morning. Looking at some areas that we have addressed like transferring approvals from FFAs to the county.
- Mary Jo: Heard that RFA got hit with employee losses and this is part of the reason why a few homes had licensing reviews scheduled and no one showed up or was reassigned to the family. Elly answered and said we don't have a high turnover. We've had employees leave for promotions, 1 who left for family reasons, 1 who left for surgery, etc. But we have a lot of approved families, so we're trying to shift and accommodate and address staffing and we're doing so right now. Hopefully the family contacted the workers supervisor. Will follow up with Granted unit manager Gloria.

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

- Keeping busy trying to recruit more homes.

San Diego County Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Denise Bahen

- April 13th we're doing a "Mock City". An interactive day in the life of an adult.
- June 18th is the ILS graduation. Any youth graduating this year or have already graduated this school year, youth will be invited, so make sure they're on the ILS list. There is an incentive and maybe a GoPro and Beats as a big item give away.
- For N. County, there is a career fair on May 9th in Escondido. Help them get ready for college, vocational college, or choose what they want to do beyond high school.

MAXIM- Breanna Davila/Sergio Cayetano

- Met with N. Inland region and also presented to South region. Doing a lot of outreach and making sure SWs and foster families have what they need.
- MaryJo says it's difficult to give a 7 day notice and when they can't other foster homes cover for other foster homes. MAXIM prefers a 7 day notice when possible, but if you have emergencies, still call.
- Discussion about ongoing concerns with MAXIM (driving/meds).
- Margo asked Kevin for the timeframe to resolve contract issues. Kevin says we're working to have

things set by July 1st for the things that have solutions.

Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program – Daniela Murphy

- Super Saturday this year on June 29th at the Handlery Hotel in Mission Valley. See flyer and/or pink book for details. Good way for resource parents to get their 8 hours of required training for RFA approval. Space is limited and childcare is not provided.
- Partnering with Palomar health offering training called Stewards of Children: Darkness to Light which helps to end child sexual abuse. They use videos of real people who have experienced child sexual abuse to see the impact all the way into adulthood and how they healed.
- Partnered with YMCA who is doing a Workshop on Relational Wellness. Build skills to help manage emotion, conflict, stress, communication and hoping that this training will help them be more present and learn how to respond.

Placement Support- Miriam Curiel

- We continue to work to support placements units.
- Margo reminded the group that we're working on the policy about notifying MAXIM of all foster home holds in case they are a respite provider. We have a meeting coming up and we'll look into changing this practice.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

South- Belinda Radovich

- Just had our QPI steering committee meeting today and had MAXIM there sharing information about respite and other concerns.

Central- Isela Hernandez

- Had steering committee meeting yesterday and it was led by interns. It went very well with a good turnout.
- QPI Pilot, sent letters to foster homes. There are two great stories where we were able to connect with everyone and stabilize the home.

East- Maria Del Sol

- Recently had a successful QPI training and it was well attended. This has been helpful with locating RFA homes and we diverted 4 little ones from having to go to PCC this week.

Probation- Mary Helen Curtiss

- Still trying to recruit families. It's hard to get parents for teens who have committed crimes, but we're trying.
- Trying to do 2 events next month- Mud Run and the Linda Vista street fair to recruit families.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Michelle Pineda

- Our referrals have been going up drastically. In March we had 55-60 referrals.
- Getting a new person next month.
- Veronica asked if the referrals are more formal or informal. There are more informal referrals.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz

- Full steam ahead. Extended contract another 2 years. Last week went to Sacramento and provided testimonial on behalf of the BridgeProgram representing the whole state.
- We've been asked to participate in a Bridge implementation study group.
- Making sure we stay on the policy level to be sure we continue to get funding.

Roundtable

- Brenda Jones-
 - Had an event on April 5th for Foster Lift. There was pizza, cookies, giveaways, and 30 kinship and foster kids showed up. Just trying to get the word out about Foster Lift.
 - April 27 if you have teen girls we're holding a fancy expo from 9-2 at the O'Farrell Charter School. Live performance, free food, college activities, and giving out a scholarship. This is a free event.
- Veronica Sarabia-
 - Want to get back to Patty's question about alternative caregivers and prudent parent. In referencing the Written Directives and the WIC code, caregivers do have the option to use alternate caregiver. Does fall under prudent parent. But if SW gives the ok, you can use prudent parent. Page 9 of current Written Directives. Will be updating the protocol to update this. Check the WIC code.
 - When do you need a caregiver to be fingerprinted? Can the County come up with a 1 page cheat sheet?
 - Very impressed with some of the families coming out of RFA, they're really taking to heart what they've learned about working with birth families. But SWs need to be reminded about doing Bridge referrals.
- Daniela Murphy-
 - New pink book out next week and online right now.
- Kevin Hauck-
 - Bringing Families Home- For the homeless or families whose main barrier is stable housing. They can help rebuild a paperwork trail, help with deposits, guarantee for landlords, evictions, etc. This program has been extended by the state for another fiscal year.
 - We've had 165 families that have been referred and 56 families that have been housed.
- Dannette Shevlin-
 - On May 8th I will have our first Resource Family support group in the La Mesa Recreation Center from 9-12. Info can also be found in the pink book. We're very excited about getting started.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, June 13, 2019

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:33 p.m.