

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Microsoft Teams Conference Call

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Fatimah Abdullah, Kerri Aviles, Kim Ayala, Barbara Wojtach, Collette Best, Valesha Bullock, Cecilia Rubio, Dannete Shevlin, Debbie Stoltz, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Natasha Garcia, Kevin Hauck, Isela Hernandez, Natasha Hood, Alex Kahn, Lodia Ruiz, Diana Macis, MaryAnn Paschal, Melissa Brooks, Michele Manley, Patty Boles, Zayra Rios, Elizabeth Rosas, Diana Shreckengost, Tata Teshome, Margarita Trias, Mai Woo, Veronica Sarabia, Jennifer Zapanta, Martha Mackenzie, Suzanne Thompson, Danica Perez, Steven Wells

I. Chair: Diana Macis called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Minutes for April 9th were approved unanimously:

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- Hoping to open Straight From the Heart in July. Will have to make changes to meet safety requirements.
- Emanuel Faith Community Church brought us diapers, food and have offered to help do a giveaway. Title 9 has also donated some items so we have a lot that we want to give away.
- If you want to be added to Straight From the Heart email list: 760-744-2240 or patriciaLboles@gmail.com

HHSA/Child Welfare Services- Valesha Bullock

- Have had some great candid conversations with our Foster Parent mentors and associations and our FFAs and STRTPs making sure we can provide support to everyone.
- Most of our staff is teleworking. We will be opening offices sometime this month but rules may vary by each office. We'll still be doing most things by appointment so we can control safety measures.
- Courts have been doing most things virtually. As of 6/15 all courtrooms will be up and running virtually.
- Remember to contact supervisors and/or managers if you run into any glitches or have concerns.
- CWDA/State feedback. We've been meeting virtually and the direction we've been given is regarding protocol and we're giving feedback on how we're handling things.
- Our annual budget meeting has been postponed to August and we'll look at things on a long term basis.
- Mary Jo asked are the HHSA offices scheduling appointments for visits. Yes, but I can't speak for every office. They need to make sure they have time between visits to sanitize rooms, so contact each office for that answer. The PSWs making the visits should be letting you know.

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Debbie Stolz for Mary Jo Meer

- We're not going in unless we need to. We're are giving out the birthday club and my stuff bags and welcome bags. If you have a child with a birthday or family with new placement call and leave a message.
- A lot of donations have come in so as soon as it's deemed safe and we figure out how to do it, we want to open up for a giveaway.
- Please don't donate anymore suitcases, we don't have enough space.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- Valesha- Every two years we have to do a board letter for our agreement to work with CDSS to review our legal assessments for RFA. This agreement was approved by our board on May 19th and is extended for another 2 years.
- We got authorization for the Bridge program to provide services for kids up to age 12.

Foster Care Eligibility- Mai Woo

- New staff, Zayra Rios, will be reporting out going forward.
- Still continuing extension to youth who are 21 to June 30th per governor's executive order.

Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) - Kimberly Ayala

- We only have 1 vacancy at Rosecrans. 3 nurses with caseloads that are teleworking. Majority of us are working COVID 100%.
- Many dental offices have opened for 6 month exams and cleanings.
- Claire wanted to remind everyone that if Foster parents need to submit visit documentation, they can give documents to their PSW or mail them in.
- Patty Boles asked who will be giving new placements forms about initial HEPs? They can request forms from the HEP clerks or from the PSW. They should ask the PSW first.

Polinsky Children's Center (PCC)- Elizabeth Rosas

- I'm the acting manager at PCC with ESCU under me. We have an acting supervisor over ESCU, Margarita Trias. We'll have an open Sr. PSW position as well.
- We have 59 kids, 18 are under 5. 51 NEST homes. 66 NEST beds, 35 are vacant. Some NEST homes are putting themselves on hold due to COVID.
- NEST support groups are 1st Saturday and last Wednesday of each month and they've been well attended. NEST homes do get extra support and compensation.

Foster Home Licensing/Resource Family Approval (RFA)- Natasha Hood

- The state has allowed some flexibility as far as pre and post approval requirements to allow us to continue to work with our families. We implemented temporarily using video conferencing to conduct interviews. We now have the option of allowing applications to attend trainings online. TIPS and First Aid/CPR they're allowed to attend through Grossmont.
- If anyone needs to reach their Granted or licensing worker they can, but they can also call 858-650-5876.

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

- We have a wonderful partnership with Grossmont and they've been great at keeping things going virtually.
- Monday was our first virtual orientation and had about 28 attend. About 70 signed up for the next one. We'll be posting July-Sept schedule on our website. Google county of San Diego. RFA and Adoptions information is now together.
- We had the QPI national conference at the end of May. We'll be reaching out for feedback. We may take some of the trainings from the conference and have them as quarterly trainings.
- We've been doing a virtual Options training through Zoom

San Diego County Independent Living Skills- Tata Teshome

- We're still seeing youth. Unfortunately, we're not able to do a graduation, but we'll be getting goodies, possibly gift cards and other resources for the youth.

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS)- Jennifer Zapanta

- We're still up and running taking referrals. A lot of services have transitioned to telehealth. We are providing in home services for high need families or the ones requesting face to face. We're doing a lot of screenings because we've had a couple of parents test positive.
- Parents have been asking if Camp Connect going to be doing anything. The answer is no, due to COVID.

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

- Started online Zoom classes on April 2nd. We've had record numbers of attendees.
- We've had several support groups each month and they've been very positive.
- TIPS pilot went well so we decided to continue it. We have English and Spanish now. We got a lot of calls about First Aid/CPR so we're doing these via Zoom now as well.
- We suspended printing the pink book because so much has been up in the air. But you can go to FAKCE.org to see all the classes online. Classes and flyers are also on our Facebook page.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

Central- Isela Hernandez

- We've been very active. We're getting creative for possible placements and FHL has been helpful.
- Currently don't have a senior but we're working hard. We only have 2 PSWs and a SW.
- Placement Support Specialist program was presented at the QPI conference. We were able to present the program very well.

South- Kerri Aviles

- We are mostly all teleworking but here is always one person in the office every day.
- We're down 3 staff we haven't had a Sr for a year and a half. SW II should start next month, he's bilingual.

East- Collette Best

- We currently have 8 kids at PCC. We just got a new SW II name Janet Duran-Estrada. We have Catalina from residential but she's leaving at the end of the month.

North- Martha Mackenzie

- We got a new supervisor, Valerie Moore, from RFA. Cecilia Castro will be our new SW I, bilingual.
- We have about 17 kids at PCC and a lot have behavior issues.
- Loved the QPI conference and liked the virtual feel, got to see people up close.

Placement Coordinator's Office- Diana Macis

- Kimberly Washington is the Sr. covering as supervisor. A new SW III, Erika Buenrostro, joined us. Trudy Frayer has been helping PCO right now as well. Hope to have Jennifer Doud back from maternity leave soon.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Melissa Brooks

- We're providing services virtually and still able to partner with Grossmont trainers.
- Still processing emergency funds, higher volume than before because of circumstances.
- We will not have overnight camp in the summer, but may have day camp at a smaller capacity.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program –Lodia Ruiz

- Very happy to be able to increase age limit for the program, 0-12.
- Saw a rise in referrals last month. We're doing our trauma informed trainings online.
- Introducing Cecilia Rubio, who is the program director for the voucher side, payment related items.

San Diego Office of Education- Michele Manley

- Thank you to everyone. Foster Parents now acting as teachers and working has been a lot.
- Distance learning will continue for the school year for ESY. Waiting for guidance on next school year.

Adoptions- Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- Majority of staff still teleworking. We have new staff in our training unit. They've been joining experienced staff on visits so you may see some of them.
- Introducing Fatimah Abdullah, exciting about working with everyone.
- Some cases have moved forward to permanency as courts have opened up to virtual finalizations.
- Staff are using every safety precaution that they can to make adoption placements happen.

ROUNDTABLE:

- Kim Ayala- I added the health visit report forms link, word and adobe fillable forms to the chat.
- Dannette Shevlin- Several families have received P-EBT cards but are unable to activate them because the child's birth date was entered incorrectly. Mai Woo and Michelle Manley will research and provide assistance.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 9, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

Microsoft Teams- Info to join is in meeting reminder

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:09 p.m.