

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 13, 2019

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Patty Boles, Valesha Bullock, Sergio Cayetano, Elly Chung, Miriam Curiel, Jorge De La Toba, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Elyce Hoene, Brenda Jones, Diana Macis, Martha Mackenzie, Mary Jo Meer, Veronica Miller, Daniela Murphy, MaryAnn Paschal, Belinda Radovich, Mitsuru Ramirez, Blanca Rios, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Dannette Shevlin, Debbie Stolz, Martha Tavares, Robin Thompson, Doralina Tichy, Jennifer Zapata, Kevin Hauck, Eileen Serrano, Corey Kissel, Elisa Sitko, Wendy Ann Leeds, Monica Samano.

I. Chair: Brenda Jones called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

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

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- We have a lot of good quality swimsuits. Title 9.
- This last QPI meeting was the best ever, workers helped sort everything out.
- Martha Tavares- we also received some very nice maternity bras so please reach out. Casa de Amparo takes nursing teens who may be in need.

HHSA, Centralized CWS Operations –Valesha Bullock

- Coming soon!- Statewide program for youth to get cell phones. Utilities companies wanted to provide youth to have cell phone or laptop that they couldn't afford themselves. Trying to decide how this would look. Internally decided on pilot for Extended Foster Care youth. 18-26 y/o, dependent of our agency, apply and be approved. Unlimited text, data, etc, smartphone. Phone numbers can't be transferred, and if they break it they can't get a new one. IFoster will help us with the application process. Ends in 2021. We'll work close with courts and county counsel. Will distribute a letter to go out to eligible youth and foster parents.
 - Debbie Stolz concerned about liability. Elyce Hoene added that Foster parent can control with house rules. Set boundaries. Clear rules will be set by policy as well.
- Leadership is preparing for budget hearings. We've asked for more positions and we've asked for things from our workgroup recommendations.
- Shout out to the foster parents who helped with the Polinsky population over the last few months. We've had high numbers for a while so thanks for your help with responses to placement teams and email blasts.
- Debbie asked about a list of group homes that the agency works with. It seems like we lost a lot of group homes. Valesha says some are still in the process of being approved to be STRTP because they do have to be approved. A lot of the smaller group homes closed because they are required to have a behavioral health component and they didn't have that.
- Mary Jo Meer asked about the Level of Care rate policy? Elyce says this is still on hold indefinitely. Unfortunately a lot of group homes are unable to provide the kind of care that's required.

San Diego Foster Parent Association –Mary Jo Meer

- We still have quite a few bathing suits. No exchanges or returns. The onesies are a little high on the bottom so kids may need to wear shorts with them.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- AB 2247-Placement change requirements. We finally received direction from state so we're working on updating policies and how we'll get the information out. When caregiver expresses potential disruption,

the SW will have a CFT to prevent a change of placement. They'll need to create a placement preservation strategy and implement it. If the determination is made that it's not working, SW will notify caregivers and parents that "14 days from now" we'll move the child.

- Mary Jo Meer asked who is going to provide support until we can schedule the CFT? As an agency we have to provide support so that caregivers don't get to the point where they can't take it anymore and also figure out ways to expedite CFTs.
- Patty Boles- when we have families who are already on the edge, who hope that if someone calls to say come get the child today, the agency will still do it. Understood the new bill as it's the agency who is not allowed to move a child without appropriate notice.

Polinsky Children's Center- Robin Thompson

- PCC population is at 50 now, and was 70 last week. Made 1 placement from the email blast that went out. Took a ton of work on our part because we got bombarded with calls and emails of parents wanting to help, and they ended up not being eligible or just wanting to adopt.
- Diana Macis- There is a disclaimer on the email asking those on hold or not eligible to not call. Need to add more detail to email.
- We're asking regions to be sure to make efforts to make placement before bringing the child to PCC. When PCC and region work together to make placements and not duplicate work it works very well.
- Debbie Stolz- Are there more kids or just less homes that are not taking kids for the summer? There just aren't enough groups/foster homes and a lot of kids that just won't leave.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)- Veronica Miller

- First time at the meeting. No updates and will bring updates moving forward.

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

- We have added more staff, especially in the areas to support/monitor approved RFA families.

Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) QPI/SCR/PCO - Diana Macis

- Since we last met we went to the QPI national convening. We want to share a good resource for caregivers who are working with teens. You can sign up for emails. Centerforparentandteencommunication.com. We can send the link out. MaryAnn Paschal was a part of the workshop for transitions.
- We have been asked to host the state and national QPI convening next year. It will probably be in May to coincide with National Foster Parent month.
- Started quarterly training. South had roughly 20 at theirs. Getting ready to host the Ice Cream Social.
- FARFS had about 322 attendees at QPI Appreciation banquet. Getting ready to host Options annual picnic July 10. On August 1 helping with the Camp Connect send off.
- If you know any family on voluntary hold with no other concerns spread the word that the PCC population is high. They can call PCO, take off the voluntary hold, take a placement and get back on voluntary hold.
- Everyone can and should encourage "Adopt only" families to foster a child first.

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

- June 18 foster youth grad party for seniors. Food, speakers, paparazzi, Polaroid cameras and raffles. Maybe 80 graduating. Waiting for RSVPs for a more accurate count.

MAXIM- Sergio Cayetano

- The quarter is coming to end so lots of requests coming in. We're seeing a lot of request for excess hours. SWs can't just say the hours are approved, it does need to go through the COR, there is a process.
- In the event of a family emergency or any kind of movement to preserve placement, SW requests excess hours with the 04-87. Obtain manager approval and send it to COR, Natasha Garcia. We can send the process out.
- Veronica- The 04-87 can be found in policy and in the forms repository. Please remember to use the most updated version to be sure the required information is being included.

- Valesha, how do resource parents know they reached limits? They keep track or ask MAXIM. If MAXIM has to charge the resource parents, we do charge at the county rate.
- MaryAnn- Are they going to pay for night/sleep time? That is in the works. Keep in mind if overnight hours count, hours will add up much faster.
- Debbie Stolz- Any update about meds, are you sending nurses? Still in the works.
- MaryAnn-Did transportation get clarified? This will come into new contract in July. However, providers will have to have a motor vehicle report. All providers driving the foster kids will have to have this MVR cleared by the DMV. Record, copy of insurance, etc. We'll share the information as soon as the details are planned out.
- Brenda- Every child has to be registered with MAXIM first, before getting hours. Valesha added that some communication needs to come from Agency/SW if family needs childcare as soon as they get the child.
- Reminder that Resource Parents are the client. The hours are attached to foster parent, not child. And don't forget the registration process. Child must be a dependent of our court and not an Options child.

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS)-Jennifer Zapata

- We currently don't have a wait list.
- County level foster homes are getting some high risk level first time placements. There isn't a care plan because there isn't a history of suicide attempts, and it comes up for the first time. One of the kids had a suicide attempted and was hospitalized. Parents wanted to do safety checks, but when licensing came out they were told it was a personal rights violation. Parents feel like they're set up for failure. Where does safety override personal rights? Will have to check the Written Directives.
- Also some situations where by the time CASS gets a referral the placement has already gone out the window. We're legally required to have a CFT and sometimes the family just had one.
- CASS connected with COR Eileen O'Malley. Mitsuru has provided feedback to Policy. Valesha can hone in on this more specifically. Give details to Valesha or Da'Shaun.

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

- Super Saturday in about 2 weeks. We have wait list but don't discourage families from registering. 12 different workshops and breakout sessions.
- Pink book will be out next week or last week of June.
- Highlight of some workshops.
 - 8/24, Saturday- CA office of foster care ombudsman coming to SD *Flyer*
 - Jody Johnson-Powell, author of Parent Tool Shop, will be here early July.
 - Why Kids Lie and How To Encourage Truthfulness. Will help parents understand the reason behind lying and how to respond helpfully and not reactively.
 - Get Cooperation Without Squeezing the Juice Out Of Kids. Helping caregivers build skills on how to help children cooperate more and reduce misbehavior.
 - Preventing and Solving Sibling Conflicts.
 - Fostering Hope. First week of July. Educational opportunity for parents experiencing infertility. Come to terms infertility and how that might impact them with fostering children.
 - CRM- Children Resiliency Model. Partnering with North County Lifeline. All day event. The goal is to create trauma informed and resiliency focused communities to better understand the impact of trauma and chronic stress on the nervous system, and how resiliency can be restored and increased using their skill based approach. Very interactive.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

South- Belinda Radovich

- We do have kids at PCC. Some not group home material.

North- Martha Mackenzie

- Had our QPI meeting yesterday and helped organize bathing suits. Next week we'll have our QPI training in the morning at Straight from the Hearth. Also have kids at PCC.

YMCA Kinship Support Services-

- Sergio had meeting with Kinship few weeks ago and appreciate their time and having MAXIM there. Been working out well between us. Doing presentations to new groups, had a great time and have been exchanging foster families.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz

- Keep spreading the word about our program please. *flyers*
- Trainers just completed the Trauma Informed training and are certified now.
- Completed 1 year birthday as a program.

Adoptions- Jorge De La Toba

- Manager Margo Fudge is no longer Adoptions. Jorge and Gloria are now over all Adoptions.
- Currently looking at 350 finalizations by end of fiscal year.
- AAP has a new program supervisor, Belinda Christensen. AAP has about 6,000 active cases.
- New supervisor to Step/Indep/Guard- Amy Nelmidia.
- Debbie- Any idea how many of those finalizing are relative adoptions? Will bring a better number for that next time, but most of the adoptions are relative adoptions.
- Debbie- A lot of questions about guardianship, is there someone we could connect with? Could we have them speak at our association? Reach out to Amy or roll up to Valesha.

Roundtable

- Valesha-
 - This summer our meeting room/Magnolia will be under construction. Out for 1-2 months. If this happens you'll be notified where new meetings will be held. Robin offered the Pavilion room at PCC.
- Patty-
 - Waiting for services for kids too long. Lack of access to "My Chart" through Rady's. Adoptive families have access but no legal reason foster parents can't have this. I had to go to court and have the judge grant permission to get records and will teach the other parents to do the same until things change.
- Danette Shevlin-
 - We have several grandparents still waiting to be certified. Kids have been placed in their home from out of county. San Diego has started the process and already completed interviews, inspections, etc. What is the timeframe? Valesha- We have to wait until we get info from other county. If San Diego does not approve what the other county has approved, there could be a lot of back and forth. Please give specific case info to RFA/Valesha/Elly.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 11, 2019

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 2:00 p.m.