

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 11, 2019

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Donna Alexander, Kimberly Ayala, Michelle Bailow, Sergio Cayetano, Miriam Curiel, Mary Helen Curtiss, Jorge De La Toba, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Natasha Garcia, Elyce Hoene, Brenda Jones, Diana Macis, Mary Jo Meer, Veronica Miller, Daniela Murphy, Mary Ann Paschal, Michelle Pineda, Mitsuri Ramirez, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Dannette Shevlin, Stephanie Smith, Debbi Stolz, Barbara Wojtach, Mai Woo, Jeff Wiemann, Erin Lininger, Matt Ray, Melissa Sawyer, Sara Kelley, Jensine Junus, Suzanne Thompson.

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

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

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association- Debbie Stolz for Patty Boles

- We still have a lot of good quality swimsuits. Watch for opportunities to send people to try them on.

HHSA, Centralized CWS Operations –Valesha Bullock

- CWDA on hiatus, there is a lot of preparation for upcoming legislation.
- We had a very successful QPI Banquet in May. Very happy to see a lot of our families in attendance.
- We had our budget meetings in June and it was unanimous that we will be getting more staff to CWS.
- Margo Fudge is no longer with Adoptions. She is now the Acting Director of Policy and Program Support and still works closely with us helping with policies that involve foster parents.
- RFA recently added 6 staff and created a combo unit that will handle new incoming and granted families.
- RFA and FARFS will be opening orientations to community families, the first on Aug. 6. Goal is to focus on families that can accept high needs kids. Adoption only families will not be on this current recruitment. Will add more orientations as we see where the need is. They will need to call Kidslines and RSVP.
- Just had an awesome Options picnic and we all had a great time. A lot of families, vendors and placement teams attended.

San Diego Foster Parent Association –Mary Jo Meer

- We still have bathing suits as well. Hard to catch us at the office so you can call our cells. We recommend those interested take a class and stop by afterwards for a bathing suit.
- We're giving out school supplies from what we have left, but have not received more just yet.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- Video presentation that came from one of the youths to help show the intent of placement change requirements - Promote placement stability and prevent unnecessary placement changes. Notice is still there if there are concerns, however, the law still has requirements. Agency has to give 14 day notice when moving a child. 7 day notice now obsolete. Certain times where it can be waived: child over 10 y/o and agrees, imminent danger, placing with family. We also want to prevent the loss of educational credits. Ensures that placement changes are not because of race, gender, gender identity, or cultural identity. This new law also prohibits a change of placement between 9pm-7am. Feedback solicited from meeting attendees.
- Mary Jo Meer- QPI/ Placement agreement paperwork is not being used properly after SW changes.
- Debbie Stolz- Finds this negative. Need to do something before disruption. Let the data drive the

process.

- Mary Ann Paschal- need more preventative things in place before we get to this point. Maybe instead of a full on CFT, we just need the essential members. Law does say “may have” certain attendees, but we have to be careful because some parents still have rights until the rights are terminated.
- Mary Jo Meer- Can the state remove the 10 day hold from PCC? Maybe go old school and PSW needs to visit child/family in home where they’re in the environment where they’re experiencing the issues.
- Veronica Miller- Our specialists’ concern is the timeline for CFTs. Sometimes it takes more than 14 days just to schedule. Diana Macis- We’re looking to discuss this with the pilot members in central.

Foster Care Eligibility- Mai Woo

- COLA for Adoptions KinGap and adoption supplements went out Monday, 7/8. Foster care should go out regularly and should see an increase on next check. Rate increased 4.15% to \$1,000.
- Debbie Stolz- Rates went up to where the teens had been. You might want to look at this as a supplemental for foster parents taking teens who are the hardest to place. This is why we ask for Level of Care.

Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP)-

- We hired a new nurse, Maria, who will be working on psychotropic meds. Still have 2 nurse vacancies in residential and Extended Foster Care.
- We had booth at the Options picnic and met lots of new people and had fun.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)- Veronica Miller

- We also had a booth at the Options picnic.
- Nothing new, ended fiscal year. Reminder that DSEP will complete 12 month prescreens for all open cases children under 6. Automatic flag now. Main Line- 858-966-7874. Admin or ask for Veronica Miller.
- Mary Jo- Dr. is requesting full screening, is it separate? DSEP only does screenings but we can refer for a full comprehensive eval. at the Developmental Evaluation Clinic (DEC) does have waitlist.
- Patty asked how long have you been doing the 12 month screenings? Do we have data? Are we catching concerns? We’ve been doing it for 2 years now. It’s working out great and we haven’t been missing any kids this way.

Foster Home Licensing/Resource Family Approval (RFA) - Gloria Escamilla-Huidor for Elly Chung

- Added new staff. 6 new workers and a new granted team.

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

- We had our Options picnic with about 350 in attendance. It was a Luau theme with Polynesian dancers.
- Also with Options, at the beginning of this month we increased respite rates. It is a tier system and this is exciting news for the Options caregivers.
- If you come across families that are RFA approved who can do 0-5 yrs special needs babies, contact KidsLine. The next training will be in September.
- Anabel Cox is no longer with Options, now with PCO. New Options OA is Keyla Magno.
- Resource Family picnic- We haven’t solidified the date but we’re looking at the last weekend of September or October.
- QPI- Confirming ice cream social dates with regions. Managers please encourage PSWs to stop by for resources. Very informal way for workers to gain knowledge and learn what services are out there. Mary Jo Meer added- At the Options picnic saw Pacific Safety Center. They have funding for car seats, helmets and life jackets.
- Hosting the State National Convening and they are close to solidifying hotel.
- Camp connect is first weekend of August and they’re in dire need of about 50 volunteers. Look for a global email and/or contact Clifton Hidds-Narcisse at 858-751-6613 or Clifton@promises2kids.org

MAXIM- Sergio Cayetano

- 24 hour care is approved. 10-6 out the door. Keep in mind this means the hours will go by faster.

- Driving- Providers can now officially drive kids. But they have to have Motor Vehicle Report (MVR).
- Pay rate increase- We are paying per additional child now.
- Valesha- These new things are great but have you worked with our policy team so it can get out to staff? What will the communication line be? Veronica is in touch with Kevin and Natasha at the county.
- Mary Ann Paschal- What about administering meds? Did not get passed this time around. A lot of moving pieces with having to follow state law and CWS policy. Valesha- CWS is addressing - we hear and understand the concerns.
- Foster families will now receive 100 hrs/quarter. This will be communicated in writing
- Maxim 1st Annual Summer Bash- Aug 17, 11:00-4:00, South Mission Beach. N. Jetty Rd, SD, CA 92109

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

- July/August pink books are now available.
- Super Saturday was a few weeks ago with about 111 in attendance.
- Upcoming trainings: ****See Flyers***** 1) Cultural Consideration- Hair and skin care for multi-ethnic children. 7/13. A lot of community members and SWs asking for this class, however we only have 10 people registered right now. 2) Parenting the Adolescent. 3) The Community Resiliency Model- Creating a renewed new sense of hope on 8/13 and this is a daytime class 9-4 at San Diego Foster Parent Association (FPA). This class will help with self-care for caregivers. 4) Sex/Human Trafficking- given by community members in N. County 8/1 and at the FPA 7/30. 5) Teaming Through the Process of Allegations - Talking about regulations and what to do if you have allegations and how to avoid them.
- Have our Advisory Committee Meeting on 8/5 from 10-12. You're welcome to come.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

Central- Donna Alexander

- QPI mentor project going good. We've saved a few placements because of it. When supervisor comes back will start to provide a book that will follow the child.
- Lots of need for placement for teenagers and high needs kids.

North- Matt Ray

- Just looking for placements.

East – Melissa Sawyer

- Good turnout at last QPI. A lot of families with kids out of school.
- Had a booth at Options picnic and games set up for kids.
- Also have a lot of kids at PCC.

Probation – Mary Helen Curtiss-Gembala

- We are currently doing a social media campaign to recruit. Not much success in getting people to come in for orientations, so we're going into the community. Over the next two weeks we'll be in libraries in areas with interest.
- Valesha, have you coordinated with Delona King in regards with tougher kids to place? She or I will want to attend orientations held by the county.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Michelle Pineda

- Referrals are going up. We have hired 2 new kinship navigators.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz

- We attended the Options picnic.
- Governor signed \$10 million increase in childcare vouchers. Asked for \$43 million, got \$10

million.

- Clarification- We've been asked does Bridge do retro pay? No. Forward from intake appt only.
- Debbie Stolz asked how long they can be in the program? 6 months up to 12 months with COR approval. We can help get them into another program.

Office of Education – Michelle Bailow

- New referral forms for tutoring which will start back up in September. Reminder to PSWs, the Educational Liaison in your office can fill out the forms for you.
- Work with your Ed Liaison for transportation if the child needs to stay at their school.

Adoptions- Jorge De La Toba

- The population at PCC yesterday was 54 kids.
- Adoptions is pretty busy right now. We finalized a little under 350 kids last F/Y.
- We have 675 cases but only 19 that need placement.
- Mary Helen- We have a family where we're trying to find a work around to not have to pay the \$5,000. Jorge- We have step/indep/guard unit that you can reach out to. Email Jorge the info though it sounds like something that's already been dealt with.

Roundtable

- Mitsuru- N. Region Program Manager
 - We're all here for the children. Be mindful when talking about changing placements. One thing that might be stable is school. More emphasis being placed on school of origin, keep in mind when thinking of placements.
- Sara Kelley-
 - Introduced Promoting Dreams for Change and their Safe Parking program. (co-founded by Sara and her partner)
 - USD Souls Student program- assistance with housing support for foster youth in college until the age of 25. (Sara's partner assisted with this program too)
 - Encourage everyone to adopt a How Can I Help campaign. Wants everyone to work on being a change maker.
- Danette Shevlin-
 - Reminder that gay pride weekend is this weekend

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, August 8, 2019
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
8911 Balboa Ave. SD, CA 92123
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V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:35 p.m.