

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, August 11th, 2016
5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Amanda Amabile, Patty Boles, Miriam Curiel, Wendy Curiel, Breanna Davila, Yoly Dayrit, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Sharon Ippolito, Brenda Jones, Nicole Kelsay, Alice Kennedy, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Mike Palomino, Katie Penninga, Jacquie Pusateri, Marilyn Sproat, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach, Linda Wong Kerberg, Lodia Ruiz

- I. Brenda Jones called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The July 2016 minutes was unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion:**

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- Backpack & school supply drive, held tomorrow and Saturday. Families needing supplies after drive dates are welcomed. The backpacks were donated from churches and Sleep Train. The Association is open during regular shopping hours, Friday 10:00a.m. -3:00p.m. and Saturday 9:00a.m.-1:00 p.m. An email will be sent as reminder.
- There are good reviews posted from families on Yelp website regarding the items in the store.
- Also they received \$2000.00 from Sleep Train towards Kid Packs.

Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Deputy Director – Alice Kennedy

- Thank you to all the participants in the Live Well 5k, benefits went to the San Diego Blood Bank. The event was a success with a great turnout.
- Retirement announcement for Debra Zanders-Willis, effective 8/19/2016. Cathi Palatella will be the acting director, until further notice.
- New social worker class to start in September and will continue hiring staff to fill vacancies.
- Update on numbers for CWS cases and referrals will be reported next month.
- Currently working on a presentation for FCS committee members on Continuing Care Reform (CCR), which will change how California approaches foster care licensing, Relative Home Approval, and approving adoptive families.
- The state has not determined foster care rates and our implementation plan for RFA is in review. The coming change is something that needs to be shared and discussed with all caregivers in the foster care community. Funding rates will be related to a child's needs and wellbeing. The updated information will be provided by our Policy division, since it is work in progress at state level.
- The state has allotted funding for the county's fiscal year 2016-17. The agency will provide a plan in the beginning of September to assist in child care, recruitment, retention, and support to caregivers. This is a positive move from the state for us to use for childcare.

San Diego Foster Parent Association (SDFPA) – Debbie Stolz

- Minimal school supplies have been donated from Sleep Train.
- Funding/scholarships continue to be available for extracurricular/enrichment activities for foster children. It is \$100.00 per child.

HHSA, San Diego Adoptions – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- New staff coming in September.
- The program continues to work on completing home studies prior to the new process being implemented with RFA in January 2017.

HHSA, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) – Nikki Kelsay for Diana Macis

- The quarterly training on Transitions started today in South region, followed by North, and East next month. The training is 2 hours long and may not cover all elements. There is discussion of a second part being added to training, addressing visitations with caregivers, relatives, and bio-parents.
- QPI National Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, on 9/27-28. Nikki Kelsay, Diana Macis, and Arleth Rubio, will be in attendance.
- Continue to work in having foster parents attend QPI steering committee meetings in region and trainings. Invitations are extended to our community partners and are encouraged to attend.
- Cathi Huerta, California QPI site coordinator, attended the centralized meeting held once a quarter with QPI ambassadors from regions. She was impressed by how the county is regionalized and looking at how this structure could work in other large counties like LA. She provided ideas on what other counties are doing and is working on requesting changes on a state level.
- Will provide information on dates and times for QPI meetings in your area.

Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri

- Introduction of CASS Director and Senior Director of multiple Fred Finch programs, Linda Wong Kerberg.
- Waitlist of 3 currently.
- Currently taking referrals and social workers are encouraged to send referrals now, before school starts, so we can assist sooner.

HHSA, Public Health Nurse (PHN) – Claire Lynch-Dwight

- Working on a new process for getting medical and dental updates timely. The numbers continue to be high and will likely continue to improve. We rely on foster parents and providers to continue submitting medical and dental records.

Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Katie Penninga

- DSEP is being cautious about not releasing foster parents' addresses when completing screenings.
- Dany Wilson is no longer with DSEP and Katie Olsen will be attending FCSC.

Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program (FAKCE) — Barbara Wojtach

- On August 1, the Advisory Committee meeting was held. A discussion of spring classes and development on specific classes for Kinship caregivers took place.
- New pink booklet will come out in a couple of weeks.
- New classes for fall: Mental Health First Aid, an 8 hour class with certification upon completion; Transitions, a 5 hours class, expanding material to foster and kinship parents; Psychotropic Medication and new laws, assisting parents what to look for and what are other options; and a class on Addiction.

HHSA, Foster Home Licensing – Wendy Curriel

- Licensing is preparing for RFA implementation. Licensing staff participate on several subcommittees and are attending QPI regional steering committee meetings. FHL Licensing Program Analysts (LPA) are assigned by zip code, to ensure the same workers serve one area. This will bring familiarity to caregivers as to the licensing workers in their area.

HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile

- ILS offices have moved downstairs in Mission Valley building.
- Classes for 14-15 year old teens, start next month.
- Independent City event will be in spring, currently looking for venues. It will be modeled like BizTown.
- ILS contracts are out to bid, changes are a possibility. They are looking at one-stop centers, staffing, and the appropriate age for transferring children’s cases to ILS workers.

HHSA, Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Nikki Kelsay

- QPI Steering committee regularly scheduled dates are:

Central Region -	2 nd Wednesday of every month, 9-10:30 am, and meeting held at CWS building
East Region -	4 th Wednesday of every month, 9:30-11:00 am, and meeting held at CWS building
No. Central Region -	2 nd Tuesday of every month, 2-4:00 pm, and meeting held at CWS building
No. Coastal & Inland -	2 nd Wednesday of every month, 9:30-11:00 am, and meeting held at Straight from the Heart building.
South Region -	2 nd Thursday of every month, 9:30-10:30 am, and meeting held at CWS building

The 2 hour training takes the place of the monthly meeting once a quarter. The meetings are attended by Adoption Ambassadors, Regional Ambassadors, Licensing Workers, Foster Parent Ambassadors, and foster parents. One can attend any meeting in any region, but we encourage attending meetings in your area to give feedback to the office that frequently services the children in your neighborhood. QPI is working with Residential in regards to Foster Family Agencies (FFA) to be able to best serve the children.

Claire Lynch-Dwight - If you train quarterly, how do you know which month the training will be?

- There are flyers and ambassadors who send out information. You would need to be on the email list. I will bring in flyer with names of ambassadors and where the meetings are held.
- We are encouraging families that want to take in children that are teens with behavioral issues, either through the agency or FFA’s.
- Annual Foster Parent Picnic on October 9th, at Admiral Baker Park, from 11-2:00 pm.

Maxim Respite Care – Mike Palomino

- Making the hiring process easier for Hire-on’s, who are people the foster parents would like to have provide respite service for them. They can apply online, instead of having to come to the office.
- Will look into having a hiring meeting in North County, possibly at Straight From the Heart.

Nikki Kelsay – Has there been a way to separate childcare training from adult care training?

- Unfortunately, we are unable to remove the adult care training from the general training. Currently working on shortening training and gearing it specifically towards childcare.

Mary Jo Meer – How often does the contract for childcare get reviewed for Maxim and who else bids on it?

Sharon Ippolito – We do a site review with Maxim, the contract is usually good for five years and the contract is coming up for renewal after this fiscal year. The bids depend on who is interested in doing the work and it is reviewed by a source selection committee, which decides who wins the bid.

- For any type of issues, contact Mike so he may review them. If you are uncomfortable coming to the office, there is an Integrity hotline that goes straight to corporate office to file any type of grievances. However, Mike would be happy to address in person if needed.

Pam Sokol – Can the rate structure be reviewed to assist caregivers that have more than 2 children? Especially for families that have sibling groups.

Alice Kennedy – This is an issue that will come up with RFA and it is something that needs to be discussed with Contracts. Negotiations need to be made for necessary adjustments to serve the needs of caregivers.

Pam Sokol – Are you there on the weekend?

- Yes, just call the same line, we are there 24/7.

HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All Regions

East Region –Yoly Dayrit

- Workers attended the Options Picnic and reported that was a great venue to connect with foster parents. They were able to come back with a list of foster parents who can provide placement and we have been using those families for the past 2-3 weeks.
- 3 children in PCC currently.

HHSA, Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Miriam Curiel

- Taking Care of Business (TCB) on 9/17. We will be adding Adoption specialty classes.
- Added new Placement Coordinator worker to continue updating the placement vacancy list.

HHSA, Polinsky Children Center – Marilynn Sproat

- Population has been steady at 30-40. Children in wheelchairs have been hard to place.
- There is concern for the children who have severe medical conditions, medication, diabetes, g-tube feedings, and special needs that are not finding placement in 10 days. There are no homes that are open, available, and ready to go.

Patty Boles – I believe there are families willing to take more kids, but due to the medical rule of only having to 2 placements, it limits people. And most of these families have the expertise to care for these children.

Pam Sokol – Maybe money can be used for fire clearance for a wheelchair?

Patty Boles – Recruiting families at events geared to people with disabilities is where we need to target or special education classes. Engaging people that are already set up with ramps and know all about wheelchairs and taking it out to the community.

YMCA Kinship Support Services – Lodia Ruiz

- 5th Annual North County Grandparents Raising Grandchildren symposium on Saturday, August 27, 8:30a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- In July, we received 39 referrals, 38% were from CWS and 62% were from non-CWS clients. There were 28 emergency fund requests from CWS that are just for emergency funds.
- Currently the waitlist is 2 weeks for clients to get connected with Navigation services.
- Starting next month, there will be 4 interns added to assist on the informal cases.

Roundtable

Nikki Kelsay – We will be looking at what the committee’s role is next month. There are new faces in meeting and we are due to review what this meeting is set to accomplish. In addition, we will be voting in new members to the committee. The ethics training is mandatory for voting members, so please complete your training.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, September 8, 2016

12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.

5469 Kearny Villa Road

San Diego CA 92123 (Seville Plaza Building, Suite 3700)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:29 p.m.