

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 8, 2019

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Donna Alexander, Collette Best, Patty Boles, Elly Chung, Miriam Curiel, Mary Helen Curtiss, Jorge De La Toba, Elyce Hoene, Brenda Jones, Michele Manley, Paloma Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Veronica Miller, Mary Ann Paschal, Suzanne Thompson, Belinda Radovich, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Martha Tavares, Doralina Tichy, Barbara Wojtach, Jennifer Zapata, Kelly Rollins, Arleth Rubio, Nikki Kelsay, Renate Smith, Monica Samano, Wendy Ann Leeds

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 July 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Updates and Discussion:

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)- Veronica Miller

- Nothing new to report however there is still confusion in regards to CFT. DSEP no longer facilitates CFTs we only make referrals and attend the CFT. Fred Finch staff facilitates now.

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

- SD County advocated to have the RFA Written Directives translated to Spanish. The state has agreed and it is in the works now. Version 6 has been sent in to be translated, but it could take a few months. Subsequent updates to the Spanish version will be much faster.

Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) QPI/SCR/PCO – Arleth Rubio for Diana Macis

- The Resource Family picnic will be Sunday Sept 29th at Admiral Baker Field. A Save the Date email was sent out yesterday.
- Ice cream social dates for QPI are set.

Independent Living Skills- Doralina Tichy

- Upcoming High School seniors that are going to college should start prepping now. FAFSA application period for 20/21 starts Oct 1 and ends June 30.
- We're having our Back to School shopping event for those who are 10 and up. Flyer went around.

Polinsky Children's Center- Nikki Kelsay

- We have a high population right now, about 60. Have a great need for people willing to take teens and junior age kids.
- NEST had over 100 placements in the last year. We will be at the Foster Parent picnic to try and recruit more parents for NEST. Nest support group meets the 4th Wednesday from 5:30-8 and we just added a Saturday group.

San Diego Foster Parent Association –Mary Jo Meer

- We've done one school supply give away already. We will do another one soon, we're just waiting for more supplies.
- We also still have swimsuits so please spread the word.

MAXIM- Paloma Martinez for Sergio Cayetano

- Inviting all foster parents to our first annual summer bash on Saturday 8/17, 11-4 in Mission Beach.
- Brenda Jones: How's it going with the additional respite hours that were granted? We are receiving a lot of respite requests and working hard staffing the request so that everyone gets their hours.

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

- September/October 2019 pink books are available early, you can get them now.
- We're seeing some trainings now with a high registration number, so we're happy about that.
- In August the State Ombudsman's office is coming down on September 24th. This will be an 8 hour class from 8:30-4:30. They will be discussing reasonable and prudent parent standards and Foster youth rights. Lunch will probably be provided.
- Baby class- Top 10 Things You Need To Know About Baby Care. August 29th 6:00-9:00.

Foster Parent Association- North County- Patty Boles

- I was contacted by Kim Giardina and had 4 pages worth of topics to discuss with her.
- Our facility has been robbed 4 times. This last time we put up a note that someone took a picture of, and they put the picture on Reddit. This led to \$3,200 in donations. So many amazing people reach out to us including a man who was a foster child when a child. We will use these funds towards photo books for the children.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

East – Collette Best

- Our Ice Cream Meet & Greet is on Sept 13th, 10:30-12:30
- We're working on getting out the Back to School shopping event information.

South – Belinda Radovich

- We are having our ice cream social on Thursday, September 19th, 1:30-3:30.
- We're expanding the pilot program that Central began with on call foster parents.

Central- Donna Alexander

- Ice Cream social and Resource Fair on Wednesday, September 11th, 1:00-3:00.

Probation – Mary Helen Curtiss-Gembala

- We've been doing our social media campaign and going to local libraries. 4-5 libraries in the last month and on average there have been two interested families at each.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Suzanne Thompson

- We are getting a lot of referrals. Our support groups are going well. Everyone doing their best and keeping busy with all of the referrals.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz

- The program is doing well. We continue to see an increase in referrals so the word is out.
- Maryann Paschal-Getting positive feedback about Bridge especially about how everyone there is so nice.
- Mary Jo- We have some foster homes that are licensed childcare. They are struggling with getting child care for their foster kids. When they come up on the eligibility list do they just request to go to CDA because the YMCA doesn't fund them? Veronica Sarabia will explore this.

San Diego County Office of Education – Michelle Bailow

- Reminder that transportation services are available and we'll submit these for you ASAP.

Adoptions- Jorge De La Toba

- 41 adoptions finalized last month.
- Working with other counties to set up a regular meeting to address Adoptions hurdles.

Roundtable

- Mary Ann Paschal-
 - Mary Ann- Recently attended the Birth Parent/Foster Parent partnership in Seattle. Nice to see how other states are working to build that relationship. San Diego made me proud, we're way ahead of other states.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, September 12, 2019
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
8911 Balboa Ave. SD, CA 92123
Magnolia Room

V. ADJOURNMENT: 12:44 p.m.