

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 10, 2020

Microsoft Teams Conference Call

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Diana Macis, Michele Manley, Belinda Radovich, Cecilia Rubio, Veronica Sarabia, Valerie Moore, Mai Woo, Kimberly Washington, Karen Hockensmith, Peggy Ruefer, Natasha Garcia, Elizabeth Rosas, Kania Webster, Dannette Shevlin, Jennifer Zapata, Melissa Brooks, MaryAnn Paschal, Valesha Bullock, Natasha Hood, Alex Kahn, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Barbara Wojtach, Isela Hernandez, Patty Boles, Kevin Hauck, MaryJo Meer, Steven Wells, Emma Tisdale, 619-955-8905-dial in number?

I. Chair: Diana Macis called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Minutes for August 13th were approved unanimously

III. Updates and Discussion:

Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) - Elizabeth Rosas

- Today we have 77 kids, 20 of them are under age 6. This is a temporary facility 10 day and under, but we understand that with Covid things are different. We have 7 NEST homes with children, but if you know anyone with vacancies please reach out.
- The contact person for ESCU is Margarita Trias and you can contact her at 858-874-1140 if you have any vacancies. Thank you so much for all you do and the care you provide for our children.

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- We are all still closed and unable to open as we're at home teaching our children.
- We still have prom dresses brand new from Macy's. Would love to donate them if someone is able to come pick them up. Other things through title 9, women's clothing.
- Getting about 245 stuffed backpacks today. We will do some sort of communication to let people know how and when they can pick them up.
- Still working on shopping event with Mary Jo and Promises 2 Kids at Straight from the Heart and the other associations. Would try to have kids shop at home.
- Still working with the courts, Judge España, has been responsive. We can use the drop boxes so if a Foster Parent has paperwork. 2-3 weeks prior to hearing is recommended. Attorneys are supposed to be noticing families and providing the Microsoft Teams link.
- We wrote a grant because we're at risk of Straight from the Heart going away. Wrote the grant for a whole year's worth of funds. Got a letter back that there is 4.1 million to give out and over 8 million in funds requested. So we can't rely on this.

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Mary Jo Meer

- Getting ready to do a big giveaway. Watch your emails and Facebook for a last minute shopping spree. We have a lot of backpacks and school supplies and we'll be trying to give these away too.
- We'll also be looking to downsize, keep location but will probably lose our classrooms.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- We are moving along with the resource parent handbook. Possible publishing date of October.

Foster Care Eligibility- Mai Woo

- Still teleworking. If you need your worker call them with the contact info on the notices.
- Diana asked if the NOA is a state form. Came up as an idea to have worker's email address on the notice. Mai answered that it depends on the program but the form is provided by the State. Generates the workers name and phone #. When they call these numbers it rings to them at home.

c

- Foster Care eligibility- electronic fax so you can email (fax) to: FCEligibilityFax.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov

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

- Hoping Version 7 of Written Directives is released next month.
- Last month we received close to 40 applications for community members so we're hoping to increase our pool of families that want to foster for us.
- Reminders- we do still have a few homes that are licensed foster homes that have not converted to resource family homes. Applications need to be received by end of the year to in order for us to convert you.
- We do still have the majority of our workers teleworking. Use duty line if you need to reach worker.
- Emma: Are the workers calling the licensed foster homes to update or is it up to the home to call? Letters went out identifying what the process is if they want to convert. If they have questions, call their worker. We can assist with making sure they get an application. RFA duty number is 858-650-5876

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

- We have scheduled our first virtual quarterly training which will be on virtual visitations. Facilitated by and register through Grossmont.
- 4th quarterly training we're trying to coordinate with Casey. Got feedback from the steering committee that confidentiality should be a topic that people want to revisit.
- We continue to do orientations. We're doing the Fostering Hope and San Diego Living segments which are our top recruiting tools.

Independent Living Skills (ILS)- Steven Wells

- Doralina and Tata are on leave. Team is smaller than usual but we are mighty! Denise Bahen, Samka Aslan, and Augustin Moreno who are doing our ILS work for our youth. Still doing a lot of the services in person.
- We continue to wait for additional guidance about EFC extension. We're keeping cases of 21 year olds open.
- Helping to cover responsibilities for Elizabeth until she returns. Supporting ESCU and Intake at PCC.
- Steven Wells - Cell: 619-813-7568 - PCC Intake and ESCU.

San Diego County Respite- Alex Kahn

- Payments have been a challenge and we know some providers have not received payments. But we did get an update that all claims that we've submitted since May claims should be paid next week. If there are still some unpaid, please let us know.
- We were notified by agency fiscal department that there were some issues tied to taxes. These providers are aware and will see a smaller check due this tax issue.
- Alex Kahn- phone: # 858-614-9135 email: alex.kahn@sdcounty.ca.gov

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jennifer Zapata

- Still taking referrals. CASS still taking referrals. In home or telehealth.
- Leaving CASS by end of this month so Lisa Castagnola or my replacement will attend the meetings.

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

- We haven't done a pink book since pandemic but will send them out to current resource parents.
- We have figured out a way to have the Attachment Parenting class which is an 18 hour class. Planning to present via Zoom between November and December.
- Support groups, First Aid/CPR, interpreters are all online line, we're moving right along.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

Central- Isela Hernandez

- We have about 20 kids at PCC. We're thankful for RFA letting us know as soon as families are approved. Working with licensing to see if we can increase capacities or how we can accommodate.
- Our placement unit is getting interns so they can start calling families to provide support.

East- Karen Hockensmith

- We contacted homes in East to check on them during the fires- and everyone is safe.
- RFA- things have been going smoothly, thank you Natasha for helping us recently.
- Policies are online now so some Foster Parents have been able to point out when things were being handled by the book. If you have problems with workers, please reach out.

North- Valerie Moore

- Our population got bigger, 24 now. At least half of them have no relative resources available.

South- Belinda Radovich

- We continue working on diverting children from PCC, by contacting PCO, licensing and RFA.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Melissa or Suzanne???

- Still doing navigation, case management, virtual support groups, emergency funding, approving respite. The only thing we're not doing is family events. Looking for/interviewing MSW interns to help provide case management to caregivers not involved with Child Welfare Services.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program –Cecilia Rubio

- Navigation side- we are seeing steady referrals. We are providing trauma informed training and coaching via Zoom. We have 2 new trainers that have been certified.
- Voucher side- steady referrals, 33-34 children being enrolled with vouchers since July. We have seen a slowdown with the centralized eligibility list from the alternative payment program which provides long term care for children. They recently pulled 60 families, 18 of those were ours, so they've been transferred to long term subsidy care now.

Adoptions- Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- No major updates but we do have several kids at PCC. A special plug for a 11 year old boy at PCC, a really great kid, struggling with finding a home. If you know anyone, let me know.

San Diego Office of Education- Michelle Manley

- We still need kids for tutoring. So if you know kids that need help, we need kids.
- If you're receiving surveys, please fill them out. They need to know how they should provide support. How many teachers, how many kids in class, etc.
- michele.manley@sdcountry.ca.gov cell 310-920-3644

HHSA/Child Welfare Services- Valesha Bullock

- FURS- a 24 hours 7 days/week resource for caregivers throughout the state of CA if youth have an issue. They're trying to figure out how to roll it out with each county. Implemented in 2021
- Want to emphasize the point Natasha brought up about families that need to convert. They definitely need to get their application in by the end of the year. We will not be able to work with families if they don't get their application in by December 31st.
- This is a Brown Act meeting and those of you that are voting members will be receiving a phone call or email with required training information. You'll be provided with a certificate that you must send back in.
- We were successful in August with over 48 Adoption finalizations. We're trying to also support regional staff and being creative in how we can help each other.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, October 8, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

V. ADJOURNMENT: 12:58 p.m.