

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 12, 2019

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Donna Alexander, Collette Best, Patty Boles, Sergio Cayetano, Elly Chung, Miriam Curiel, Jorge De La Toba, Elyce Hoene, Brenda Jones, Diana Macis, Mary Mackenzie, Mary Ann Paschal, Veronica Sarabia, Martha Tavares, Robin Thompson, Doralina Tichy, Barbara Wojtach, Kelly Rollins, Lani Barnes, Suzanne Thompson, Elizabeth Perlin.

I. Chair: Brenda Jones called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

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

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster parent Association – Patty Boles

- Business as usual though the mentors are working hard with allegations and support right now.
- Going to start doing a support group with San Diego Youth Services (SDYS).
- We've already contact Toys 4 Tots and kids are already asking what they can be for Halloween.
- Remind Foster Parents that there is an Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) Social Worker that can assist with resources after adoptions.

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Brenda Jones for Mary Jo Meer

- We still have school supplies left including a large amount of backpacks.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support – Veronica Sarabia

- As of tomorrow the policy regarding Change of Placement requirements will be published. Caregivers will be provided a letter, 04-560 Change of Placement Requirements letter. Provides information in regards to the changes, exemptions, and assurance for child's safety.

Foster Care Eligibility - Kelly Rollins

- We do not have an update/date on the back to school clothing allowance yet.
- Martha Tavares asked- Is there is a main number where they can find out who the eligibility worker is? Diana/Veronica will share the number. They can even check with the placement worker.

Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) – Robin Thompson

- We currently have 62 kids. 19 of those are in the toddler cottage. Please spread the word and contact Robin directly. We have teens, siblings, toddlers etc.

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

- Waiting for additional families to work with from orientation that started last month.

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

- The Resource Family picnic will be Sunday Sept 29th at Admiral Baker Field. Will be sending out email blasts to remind Resource Parents to register. Futures Foundation will have a booth, signing up people who are interested in getting a computer.
- Ice cream social for QPI are in motion.
- Next month quarterly training will be on the Placement Change Request.
- Working on solidifying dates for adoptions court party.
- QPI ambassadors should have gotten save the date for May for state and national QPI conference.

Independent Living Skills- Doralina Tichy

- FAFSA application period for school year 20/21 starts Oct 1 and ends June 30. If any youth need a dependency letter please call 866-457-4636.

Maxim Respite Care - Sergio Cayetano

- Effective today Options parents are now allowed to have respite services through Maxim, if and only if they don't have an Options child in the home.
- We're seeing a need for N. County respite foster families so we're trying to recruit RFA families there. Patty Boles- Their facilities are open if needed for training, classes, etc.
- Martha wanted to say how nice the Maxim picnic was. Location was a challenge so they've learned for next year.

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

- September/October 2019 September/October pink book passed out. We are putting together the classes for November/December.
- 9/26 we have a 3 hour class on foster youth sexual health. This is in response to SB89 with curriculum from State.
- 10/7 there will be a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) 3 hour class for anyone who doesn't really know what CSEC is.
- Also in October a class called Circle of Security that deals with attachment and teaches techniques.
- Turning Dreams into Degrees- Supporting successful transition from high school to college.
- November- Will be having 3 hour training targeted for kinship caregivers.
- Finding that there is low attendance for classes about sexual health or education.
- County Protective Services Workers (PSWs) are still referring parents to take Attachment Parenting classes.
- February 25th 2020 -The 7 Core Issues of Adoption and Foster Care. Allison Davis Maxon and Sharon Kaplan Roszia. Are partnering with Eileen at SDYS. Hoping that Adoption and RFA workers will attend this one.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions**South – Belinda Radovich**

- We are having our ice cream social Thursday, 9/19 1:30-3:30 p.m. at our Chula Vista office
- Pilot program is going well. Educating SWs about it and providing the flyer to Foster Parents and Resource Families.

Central- Donna Alexander

- We had our Ice Cream Social and Resource Fair yesterday. SD Futures gave out 25 tablets.
- The mentor pilot is excellent. So far it has helped us save a lot of placements.

East – Collette Best

- Our ice cream social and resource fair is on Sept 18th, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.. Expecting a good turnout of providers. Looking forward to the Annual Resource Family Picnic.

North – Collette Best

- We had out Ice Cream Social and fair on Tuesday, turned out nicely. Sergio/ Maxim, thank you for coming.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Suzanne Thompson

- We're keeping busy and continuing to receive a lot of referrals.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Veronica Sarabia for Lodia Ruiz

- They have been having a good time attending the ice cream socials.
- The 2nd annual Bridge convening coming up where we'll get together Bridge from other counties.

Adoptions- Jorge De La Toba

- Very busy with about 700 kids in Adoptions and have finalized about 90 cases so far.
- We are gaining new staff from the Social Worker training classes.

Roundtable

- Patty Boles- N. County Foster Parent Association
 - Eligibility question. Have things changed about making kids federally eligible or not? A few kids aren't now. Eligibility told them they don't qualify. Tais Millsap has a case where the child is not federally eligible, and this is in the placement paperwork. Elyce and Jorge say this sounds like it might be an error and will look into this.
- Martha Tavares- Foster Parent
 - Does the Bridge Program help Riverside dependents? Veronica Sarabia: If Riverside also has Bridge, yes.
- Robin Thompson- PCC
 - Originally when we got the criteria for NEST homes we got approved for 50 beds 25 families. We're never coming close to paying 50 beds at a time. Continuing to approve NEST families. Need to put word out that we're taking NEST families. Flyer should be coming out soon.
- Veronica Sarabia- CWS Policy & Program Support
 - Attended the Prudent Parent training and it was great. The highlight of the day was that I got to see resource families in action working with pilot program. Mary Jo picked up child and then came back to the training.
- Elizabeth Perlin- Angel's FFA
 - Thank you for having us. Love being able to see what everyone is able to provide. We came to listen and say thank you.
- Mary Mackenzie-
 - We're struggling with transportation when looking at foster homes. They don't qualify for transportation program through the school board as well as with Foster Family Agencies (FFAs). Workers try to do requests for exceptions and get denied. NEST homes will get denied because they're getting the extra funds.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, October 10, 2019
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
8911 Balboa Ave. SD, CA 92123
Magnolia Room

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:06 p.m.