

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 8, 2021

ZOOM 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, Peggy Ruefer, Natasha Garcia, Josie Caudillo, Melissa Brooks, MaryAnn Paschal, Natasha Hood, Barbara Wojtach, Isela Hernandez, Patty Boles, Kevin Hauck, Mary-Jo Meer, Steven Wells, Emma Tidmore, Veronica Miller, Lodia Ruiz, Suzanne Thompson, Martha Mackenzie, Amanda Amabile, Kim Ayala, Aisha Gonzales, Omar Avila, Lisa Castagnola

I. Chair: Mary Ann Paschal called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

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

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- We are planning to do a slow opening and will be open for a few days next week. We are going to try to go back to two Saturday's a month and then two days during the week. More to come.
- We have been doing kid packs throughout the pandemic and our bins are getting empty, we did get some funding through Mattress Firm, which we will be purchasing some things to replenish our bins and hopefully do some gift card giveaways.

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Mary Jo Meer

- Not much to update, we will still be doing giveaways.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- No updates.

Foster Care Eligibility- Amanda on behalf of Zayra Rios/ Mai Woo

- Regarding Level of Care (LOC) we are working on our messaging that will go out to the families, expect that shortly.

Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) - Kimberly (Kim) Ayala

- No major updates for us this month we have mainly been busy with training our three new PHN's (Public Health Nurse).

Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) – Stephen Wells on behalf of Elizabeth Rosas

- Currently we have 58 youth at PCC, which 11 of them are under the age of 6yrs old.
- Regarding NEST, we have 71 applications that we have received, currently there are several openings in our NEST homes.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)-Veronica Miller

- No updates.

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

- In 2019, we had a few families that went on an inactive status and homes can only be on an inactive status for 2 years. We will be sending out letters to let the families know that the 2 year time frame has been met and if they would like to become active again there are some requirements that will need to be met. If not their license will be forfeited.
- Main Number for RFA 858-650-5876.

Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS)/Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)- Diana Macis

- We are still planning a virtual QPI appreciation event this year, there will be one for each Region. We will be honoring all foster parents and each region has selected a caregiver to honor. Email invitations went out on Monday; hard copy invitations will be going out next week via USPS. We will be sending reminders encouraging attendance. We will be doing a “Drive-Thru” style to distribute all gifts from the event. We are working on the scheduling for that and will be announcing the dates for each region at the event. We will also be incorporating those Honorees in our Fostering Hope segment for May and using the platform to highlight and recognize all of you. Although virtual, we are planning to make this event as fun as possible with prizes and games. The theme is “Unsung Hero”.
- As mentioned with LOC (Level of Care) rolling out more to come on an email that will go out to care givers on how that will work, more to come.
- The QPI National conference is on a virtual platform this year but with very limited attendance for each county and what we are working on doing is identifying people who have never been to have them go as well as resource parents and unfortunately we were only given eight tickets. On a positive note, we have been asked to co-host the 2022 National conference here in San Diego.

Independent Living Skills (ILS)-Steven Wells

- No specific updates.
- If you have any questions in regards to extended foster care, independent living skills, resources, etc. you are welcome to email the centralized email address:
CWSEFCINFO.HHSA@SDCOUNTY.CA.GOV
- Steven Wells – His cell: 619-813-7568 - PCC Intake and ESCU.
- No other updates to report.

San Diego County Respite- Natasha Garcia on behalf of Alex Kahn

- Few updates and reminders; As of now we have submitted and completed all claims up until the month of February and we have begun to process claims and payments from March. With that being said, we have been seeing recently that providers or submitting prior claims from previous months, which we are encouraging if you do have any of those to please submit them.
- The other reminder is in regards to Options qualified Resource families; if there is an options qualified child in the Resource parents care those respite claims need to be submitted through Options.
- Alex Kahn- phone: # 858-614-9135 email: alex.kahn@sdcounty.ca.gov

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Lisa Castagnola and Josie Lewis

- No major updates
- Currently no waiting list.

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

- We have May/June pink book all set to go (link will be posted in the chat). Just to highlight a few classes in April; this Saturday we have a class called the Connected Child: Trust Based Parenting. Next week we have one of our resource parent Michelle McGowan who is a certified Special Education Advocate and she will be doing a 3 part class on IEP's, special education. We will also have a CSEC class.
- Moving on to the May/ June schedule all of our classes are virtual and we anticipate that they will be this way until July, we also anticipate that our TIPS classes and adoptions classes will most likely be virtual through the end of the year. We will have a few Guest trainers; Jeanette Yoffe, who is a Therapist from Los Angeles and who is also an adoptee she will be presenting a day time training on May 20th on “Telling a child their Foster care or Adoption story for parents and professionals”. Later in May and the beginning of June we are having a Trainer by the name of Sue Badeau On May 22nd will be doing on “Understanding Secondary Trauma and Self Care for Caregivers”. On June 5th she will be doing the training “Keys to Raising Resilient Children”.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

Central- Isela Hernandez

- We currently have nine kids at PCC.

North- Martha

- Currently have over 20 children at PCC.

South- Sarah

- No updates.

East- Stephanie Carter on Behalf of Colette Best

- We have six children at PCC (Teens).

HHSA/Child Welfare Services-Valesha Bullock

- No updates

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Melissa Brooks

- No major updates.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program –Lodia Ruiz/Cecilia Rubio

- We have changed our email address and we have stated the new address on the Referral forms.(posted in Chat) Childcarebridge@ymcasd.org

San Diego Office of Education- Michelle Manley

- No attendance
- michele.manley@sdcounty.ca.gov cell 310-920-3644

Adoptions-Gloria Escamilla-Huidor/Fatimah Abdullah

- No major updates

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, June 10, 2021

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

V. ADJOURNMENT: 2:01 p.m.