

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 11, 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, Elizabeth Rosas, Josie Caudillo, Melissa Brooks, MaryAnn Paschal, Valesha Bullock, Natasha Hood, Alex Kahn, 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 12:04 p.m.

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

III. Updates and Discussion:

San Diego County Respite- Alex Kahn

- We are continuing to process payments. We have run into an issue (that is being addressed) some of our claims in going through county mail to Fiscal have been lost, the good news if we have all the back-ups scanned in. We have been working hard to get this addressed. If there seems like there is a delay in payments being issued please check in with us.
- Reminder that originals are still needed (original Claim forms and tax forms.)
- Working on updates for the county website and will try to continue to add updates on the site.
- At this time, Blue ink is not a requirement.
- Alex Kahn- phone: # 858-614-9135 email: alex.kahn@sdcounty.ca.gov

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Mary Jo Meer

- We will possibly be doing an Easter basket giveaway, more to come on that.
- I have had some people approach me with some questions: “What is the purpose of having meetings with HHSA when the same issues continue to arise and it isn’t addressed but per HHSA it has been addressed and that it is case specific. However, the same concerns are still not being corrected. Will HHSA start putting things in to practice with Social Workers as a whole instead of as the issues arise.” Examples are: Breach of confidentiality, CFT’s not being conducted when they are forgotten, Transition are not being done properly. We want to know if these policies and procedures can be put into practice instead of taking things as a singular event. Where are the policies for Special Care Rates and where we can find them and we want to know how far out can HHSA go on written directives. Will send email to Diana Macis stating concerns so we can address.
- We have a foster/adoptive home that is offering boomerang lessons for foster youth which we have about 8 youth doing that, which is free of charge to the adoptive home.
- We will possibly getting funding/donations from an organization that will provide storage to house cribs, diapers, etc.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- No major updates, the review is finished of the Spanish Version Resource Parent handbook.

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

- No other updates to report

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

- Couple of quick updates we have three new Public Health Nurses starting this month. Barbara Hale who will be in East Region and we have two new nurses starting in residential (Nicole Shy & Dulce Pluma).

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- We are doing great and still planning to try to open, more to come.
- We got 20 brand new suitcases for Foster kids who are moving or planning on transitioning they are 20 inches in size so they are small.

Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) – Elizabeth Rosas

- Currently we have 62 children at PCC (all ages).
- We continue to have openings for our nest families.

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

- We wanted to share, last year the decision was made for CWS to take over RFA for probation. We will be approving all the homes for probation youth and monitoring those homes once they are approved. If anyone interested in working with that population and I can get more information to you.
- As far as RFA Staff goes most of our team is still teleworking at this time, if you are unsuccessful getting in contact with them via their direct line, please feel free to reach out to the RFA main line or reach out to their Supervisor, Rosa or myself.
- Main Number for RFA 858-650-5876

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

- We will be sending out an email reminder for our last training with Casey Family on Brain Mapping which is next Wednesday (March 17th).
- We are currently planning a virtual QPI appreciation event this year, it will be done by Region and each region will nominate a resource parent and community partner that they would like to honor. The event will be in May and invitation will go to the regions (we divide the Resource Parent list by region).
- By the end of this month, we will be starting our Akido pulse survey, which will go out via text. We are starting with a small group of caregivers, caregivers who were approved within the last year and a half they will get a text survey on their phone, which will be a series of five questions. Akido Labs is the agency the Youth Law center has contracted with and we are one of the pilot counties that will be doing the survey. They will gather all the information and report back to what, and us, which can potentially help guide our practice and follow up on what is working well is not working well. The survey will be anonymous and for those who wish to disclose their name for follow-up the will be filtered through our OMBUDS kids line.
- We our flyer done both in Spanish and English we will send that out to the group here and the resource parent community as well.
- We started our Options training last week, we have about 23 people in training 11 of those are new Caregivers.
- We still have QPI masks please let me know if you are in need of any.

- Trudy in Retention will be retiring on 3/25/2021; Lorena Murrieta will be returning to FARFS and taking over the Kidsline position.
- Our Placement Coordinators Office is in the process of hiring a worker for Jennifer who is the Senior PSW.
- Options Spanish support Group that will take next week (3/17 from 3pm-5pm). The topic will be “Working with birth parents who have trauma history”.

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

- No major updates
- We have a new Spanish speaking Clinician (Jessica)
- We are still providing in-home services via in person or via Tele-Health depending on the preference of the family. We currently still have no waiting list.

Independent Living Skills (ILS)-Steven Wells

- No major updates, I would like to point out that we have had a position that is our EFC navigator, which is a Social Worker who is in charge of attending court they are also a repository of any resources or services and anything that may help our transition aged youth. Our new EFC navigator is Tamara Elling.
- 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.

HHSA/Child Welfare Services-Valesha Bullock

- It was announced this morning to CWS staff the new Deputy Director who will be taking over for Adoptions, RFA and FARFS and her name is Lillian Asoera she will be transitioning into the role and should be attending next meeting.
- With everything going with SPA we are working diligently with the State and the Board with what our future plans will be in transitioning that particular facility in general.
- As far as referrals go for SPA we have had to put a hold on referrals until we are able to get a better outlook from the board on what we can and cannot do, more to come on that.
- Lots of legislation going on within the last month, which our policy team has been very busy, more to come.
- We have a new database “Binti” we are currently training the team now to get staff up and running.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)-Veronica Miller

- No updates.
- We just learned that Fred Finch would facilitate all CFT’s with the exceptions of DR

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

- Things are going well, March and April Booklets are out and they are working on May and June.
- We have been doing as many classes online as were when we were in person, all of our classes are now via ZOOM.
- We have Core Team training which will start 3/16/2021, which is for resource parents who have older children who have emotional and behavioral Trauma.

- All Resource parents will be receiving a physical copy of the Pink Booklet in the mail, probably within the next few weeks.
- TIPS materials available at 8911 Balboa Office.
- We have engaged with a partnership with Scripps Health offering a training each month both in English and Spanish.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Melissa Brooks

- No major updates.
- We have a short list for Navigator services.

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

- We have seen an increase in referrals (sibling sets).

San Diego Office of Education- Michelle Manley

- With Schools going back in session so please be sure the Foster parents are filling out the surveys that are going out right now for our district (San Diego Unified). If you have a date that one of your kids are due to go back to school please let us know so we can get a head start on transportation.
- Tutoring is back up and running on a virtual platform. However, we do have many kids currently on the wait list. Tutors are college students who are in the Teaching program.
- michele.manley@sdcounty.ca.gov cell 310-920-3644

Adoptions-Gloria Escamilla-Huidor/Fatimah Abdullah

- No major updates.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

Central- Isela Hernandez

- We currently have 9 kids at PCC.

North- Valerie Moore

- Currently have 19 children at PCC (sibling sets and tweens).

South- Belinda Radovich

- We currently have 8 children at PCC.

East-Colette Best

- We have 6 children at PCC (Teens).

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, April 8, 2021

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:56 p.m.