

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 8, 2020

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, Karen Hockensmith, Peggy Ruefer, Natasha Garcia, Elizabeth Rosas, Kania Webster, Dannette Shevlin, Jennifer Zapata, Melissa Brooks, MaryAnn Paschal, Valesha Bullock, Natasha Hood, Alex Kahn, Barbara Wojtach, Isela Hernandez, Patty Boles, Kevin Hauck, MaryJo Meer, Steven Wells, Emma Tidmore, 619-955-8905-dial in number?

I. Chair: Diana Macis called the meeting to order at 12:08 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 all still closed and will be permanently closed December 31st after 22yrs.
- We just did a promises to kids, we did 50 Drive thru style (COVID friendly) and for the kids under 10 we did backpacks, school supplies, shoes and prom dresses. We will continue doing giveaways through November of various items.
- We will continue on as an entity and not disband that at this point but it will be more of communication than the giveaways.

HHSA/Child Welfare Services- Diana Macis on behalf of Valesha Bullock

- The voting members will be getting an email by Monday (10/12/2020) to complete the required training, be on the lookout for that email.

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Mary Jo Meer

- Gave notice to landlord on 10/1/2020 waiting to see if they are willing to work with us on the rent. We do not plan on shutting down completely but we will try to hold a “mini office” open but we will not be able to take on the same as we did before.
- We are doing giveaways, 10/18/2020 and 10/25/2020. We will be giving away backpacks, school supplies, shoes. We will also probably have a Christmas giveaway sometime in November.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- No updates to report.

Foster Care Eligibility- Zayra Rios/ Mai Woo

- Eligibility workers all have new phone numbers, please be on the lookout for the notices of action they will be send via USPS for all three programs.
- No other updates to report

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

- No updates to report.

Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) – Steven Wells

- Today we have 58 children at PCC, seven of them are under age 6. There are a total of 64 NEST applications received, 49 homes approved and 22 are currently active. There is one NEST application is pending, currently 8 placements in NEST homes. Thank you to the NEST homes/families for being available for our children.
- Reminder about the NEST support group meetings on the 4th Wednesday evening and first Saturday morning. Next support group meeting is 10/28/2020 and the topic will be; “Supporting brain development in traumatized children and youth”.

Independent Living Skills (ILS)-Steven Wells

- Helping to cover responsibilities for Elizabeth until she returns. Supporting ESCU and Intake at PCC.
- Steven Wells – His cell: 619-813-7568 - PCC Intake and ESCU.
- No other updates to report.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)-Veronica Miller

- No changes or updates, team is still providing virtual visits also known as tele-medicine

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

- If you are currently Fostering and would like to continue fostering please make sure to turn in your conversion application (if you are in need of one please contact your granted worker) and that is for licensed foster homes. Regions if you have homes that haven't converted yet please reach out to Merle Liburd she will be your point of contact to get those homes converted.
- Any questions about the process please feel free to reach out to Natasha Hood.

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

- We have our last virtual quarterly training on virtual visitations (in Spanish) this afternoon. Facilitated by and register through Grossmont.
- We were trying to coordinate with Casey Family on a topic but will have to wait until the first of the year. The steering committee really wanted to bring the confidentiality training back, we will revise that and have that next quarter (dates will be sent out soon).
- For QPI our steering committee is meeting on 10/21/2020 we are continuing to work on goals for 2021 and the Regions have been working on goals from this past year and how we can move forward on those once we have a more definite outcome on how to move forward with those (more to come).
- Nothing new with QPI on a National or State level. They have on a National level started their Champions Program we, here on the West Coast will know more about that within the next few weeks. They started it with Ohio and I believe they are going to be reaching out to other counties more to come on that.
- In terms of FARFS program, we have continued to do orientations and they have been full every month (we will probably be adding another one). Applications are still coming in and being processed. We have seen a little bit of an increase with our vacancy list (which is good); we were in the single digits now we are back up into the high 20's.
- We have been in discussion about what or if we will be doing our computer giveaway that we do every year (December), more to come on that event.

San Diego County Respite- Alex Kahn

- Claims have started to be sent out and being paid, we got some feedback from our Auditor and Controller about our process and we are working with them on that. We are not sure what the final outcome will be but in preparation in case they do want us to make some changes, moving forward we'd like for all of our Respite providers when submitting their claim form to sign in Blue Ink. As we get final decisions on any changes we need to make, we share that with the mentor group and our website as well.
- Alex Kahn- phone: # 858-614-9135 email: alex.kahn@sdcountry.ca.gov

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – No Attendance

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

- We just put together our November/December schedule of classes that will be done via ZOOM. We do plan to send out a pink book for November/December to resource parents that are on the list will get the pink book via USPS.
- As of this Morning (10/8/2020) we added an additional class which won't be listed in the pink book. We are coordinating/partnering with San Diego Youth Services the Adoptions Support Program and we are going to have Allison Davis Maxim come to do a training that will be done via ZOOM and the name of this training will be; "Lying, stealing and manipulation. What to do with challenging behaviors". That training will be done on November 12th and November 19th, it will be 4 hours in total but done in 2 hour increments.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- No Attendance

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

- Couple of changes to the ways we are paying due to the 820 Bill, which will be a benefit to our resource families and providers. It will allow them to get paid for an additional 14 days in the event they have to close for any COVID-19 related issues.
- No real updates to report.

San Diego Office of Education- Michelle Manley

- No updates, but schools are starting to resume.
- michele.manley@sdcountry.ca.gov cell 310-920-3644

Adoptions- Diana Macis

- No major updates.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

Central- Isela Hernandez

- We have about five children at PCC. We are thankful for RFA letting us know as soon as families are approved.
- We are trying to restart our monthly QPI meetings our next one will be 10/21/2020.

North- Carmen Arronte

- 2 children currently at PCC and a teenager.

South- Belinda Radovich

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

East- No Attendance

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, November 12, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

V. ADJOURNMENT: 12:58 p.m.