

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 08, 2021

ZOOM Conference Call

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Diana Macis, Michele Manley, Veronica Sarabia, Valerie Moore, Mai Woo, Josie Caudillo, MaryAnn Paschal, Barbara Wojtach, Isela Hernandez, Mary-Jo Meer, Alex Kahn, Steven Wells, Emma Tidmore, Veronica Miller, Lodia Ruiz, Martha Mackenzie, Lillian Asoera, Fatimah Abdullah, Alex Kahn, Zayra Rios, Erin Lininger, Daniela Murphy, Naheed Azin, Dannette Shevlin, Alicia Rogers, Desare Lewis, Brenda Jones, Patty Boles, Belinda Radovich, Brittany Alanis and Shayna Hazlett.

I. Chair: Mary Ann Paschal called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Minutes for were approved, with correction to wording on where suitcase giveaways were donated from

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- No updates

HHSA/Child Welfare Services- Lillian Asoera

- No updates

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Mary Jo Meer

- Giveaway went well, we gave away all of the suitcases. We may get more as we talked to company about getting more and they have battery charges in them
- More items from Mattress Firm coming
- We are looking back to get our training room back

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- No updates

Foster Care Eligibility- Zayra Rios/ Mai Woo

- COLA is still in draft. It is going to be 2.11% increase as well for Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) cases. System will run rate changes on July 11, 2021, so for AAP and KinGap they will receive the supplemental rate in July before they get NOA. For other families new rate will appear in August. The new basic rate is \$1059 is new basis rate. Increase applies to LOC levels as well as dual agency rate.
- THP and MD housing the state has approved new supplement for those programs. It will go directly to a housing and they will allocate it. Only for youth in County, not out of County.

- Golden State Grant Program if you have youth who has SSP benefits in the they will be receiving a one- time \$600 payment, directly from the State if Agency is payee and someone gets check that says Director is payee, please send let Huma Services Specialist (HSS) or social worker know, so they can get processed to get out to caregiver.

Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) – No one present

- No report out

Polinsky Children’s Center (PCC) – Alicia Rogers for Elizabeth Rosas

- Currently we have 61, any help to get youth out would be appreciated
- Elizabeth and other co- manager out on leave
- Child here 100 days finally has a placement and we have older teens needing homes.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)-Veronica Miller

- Everything remains the same
- We continue to do visits over Zoom and phone, staff coming back our team members coming into the office.
- We used to do survey’s in person but cannot do that so developing to do via a link so encouraging feedback and complete survey’s.

Foster Home Licensing/Resource Family Approval (RFA) – Diana Macis on behalf of Natasha Hood

- No updates

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

- Doing more recruitment booths
- No other updates

Independent Living Skills (ILS)-Steven Wells

- Recent ACL came out from State in regards to for an opportunity for Chaffee funded cash card, from Federal Recovery Act there was money delegated to states to give to certain populations. California has decided to provide a one-time financial support payment for youth who are or were eligible for EFC, ages 18-26 years. So if you know a youth or have youth in your home active or not to CWS. EFC will be reaching out to these youth to submit their information for the one-time payment. The state has also provided a portal to apply. Payment could be \$1500 for ages 21-26 and \$600 for 18-20 ages. Payment is based on when the date of eligibility is determined. Cards have to be issued by 9/30/2021.
- Provided information about how to support youth when they are wanting to pursue name change and/or gender marker changes, they are looking at ways on guidance on how to best to do that. On LGBTQ work group he chairs, they have a County Counsel who is dedicated at navigating legal issues for this. The work group is having discussions with community partner named Our Safe Place, which has several drop in centers throughout County that offer many services. Please reach out to me if any questions.

San Diego County Respite- Alex Kahn

- A major update for respite program. In late December we were made aware from Auditor and Controller department of how we were processing payments. Changes will require all respite providers to move from a 1099 status to a W-2 status. The Agency is bringing in a payment vendor who will be issuing payroll to respite providers. Also changing process of how respite providers will report the hours you worked as well as how you report the children that you provided care for. In addition, how you get paid will be different because you will be paid through vendor, you will need to complete new tax forms for receiving a W-2. You will also need to amend tax forms from May 2020 to end of 2020, which may require refiling of taxes.
- We understand this may have a significant impact and have contracted with a tax preparer who will provide services at no costs to help in refiling of 2020 taxes. In looking at process of moving to W-2, we have to make some additional changes. For respite providers they will be receiving \$1.00 increase to align with California hourly minimum wage requirement. For caregivers users respite you will have 34 hours per month instead of 100 hours per quarter. A lot of respite users use 100-150 in bulk if they ask for additional hours unfortunately they will only be able to use more than the 34 hours a month and no longer able to utilize hours across months like prior. Payment vendor was just approved, so nothing has changed currently, once we are ready to move to new system we will notify you. We are looking at processes of how to report hours. All information will be posted on website.

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Josie Lewis

- No wait list
- Working on hiring a Parent Partner, so if anyone knows of someone please refer them to us. We are also hiring one new clinician as we are getting more referrals.

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

- July Pink book is out for July/August and available of hard copy at Balboa office
- Just finished last fiscal year
- August 2nd we will have out advisory meeting via Zoom. If anyone is interested in attending the meeting to give us feedback on classes. You can call out main number to receive invite link.
- All classes are on a virtual platform, we anticipate continuing to do them in this format. We will be planning in the fall to do some classes as a hybrid model (virtual and in-person at same time) as we have purchased equipment to do this. Equipment housed at Straight From the Heart
- In 7.0 RFA Written Directives, there is a new mandate to take a CSEC class; we are offering this course every month in English and bi-monthly in Spanish.
- Classes highlighted:
 - Reducing Barriers for LGBTQ+ Youth In Foster Care class with guest speaker Prizila Vidal, who was an ex youth in care
 - Parenting from the Inside Out

- Cracked Up a documentary which shows the impact of childhood trauma of comedian Darrell Hammond. His story is also about his courageous journey. Special guest Marcia Harrison a survivor
- Carrie Collins doing a class on visitation on 8/26
- Continuing to do drive thru book giveaways

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

Central- Isela Hernandez

- QPI Steering Committee meeting next week on the 14th having a presenter from San Diego Center presenting
- We have been sort staffed
- We have 3 teens at PCC

North- Martha Mackenzie

- Currently have 15 children at PCC, a lot of teenagers
- We are losing staff members this month, it will be just me and Valerie

South- Belinda Radovich

- Continuing to meet QPI Steering committee had a presentation today from FACKE. Looking to partner with central region on another training
- We currently have 6 children at PCC
- We have a new SPSW in the unit Brittany Alanis

East- No one present

North Central-Naheed Azin

- Our placement team is growing and be able to call resource parents and connect
- Starting our QPI meetings
- We have 1 kid at PCC, a 15 year old

YMCA Kinship Support Services- No One present

- No updates

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program –Lodia Ruiz

- No updates just busy with referral have increased

YMCA Long Term Subsidy Program-Cecilia Rubio

- No updates

San Diego Office of Education- No one present

- No updates

Adoptions-Gloria Escamilla-Huidor/Fatimah Abdullah

- No major updates
- Cases coming in

- Clerical support back in office full time
- Adoptions still finalizing and moving cases forward

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, August 12, 2021

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:06pm