

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 13, 2022

ZOOM Conference Call

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Aisha Baltierrez, Veronica Sarabia, Valerie Moore, Mai Woo, Josie Caudillo, MaryAnn Paschal, Isela Hernandez, Steven Wells, Emma Tidmore, Veronica Miller, Lodia Ruiz, Martha Mackenzie, Diana Macis, Zayra Rios, Erin Lininger, Daniela Murphy, Dannette Shevlin, Alicia Rogers, Desare Lewis, Patty Boles, Belinda Radovich, Brittany Alanis, Shayna Hazlett, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Kim Ayala, Erika Medina, Suzanne Thompson, Arleth Rubio, Collette Best, Pamela Thomas, Barbara Wojtach, Natasha Hood, Omar Avila, Sarah Glass, Kimberly Washington, Tina Carmichael, Daniel Bernal, Kania Webster, MaryJo Meer, Ceclia Rubio, Melissa Brooks, Kim Ayala,

I. Chair: Mary Ann Paschal called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Minutes for 10/14/21 approved.

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- No attendance

HHS/Child Welfare Services- Lillian Asoera

- No attendance

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Mary Jo Meer/Emma Tidmore

- We have made a few changes due to COVID, our Christmas giveaway was successful it was approximately 77 homes that came out to receive the \$50 gift card. We have intentions to plan more giveaways.
- We cannot answer any specific question in this meeting pertaining to SDFPA we have meetings to discuss these matters however; we are still revamping some things. If you do have questions please visit our Facebook.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- No updates

Foster Care Eligibility- Zayra Rios/ Mai Woo

- Regarding Medi-Cal and the Rx claim issues, this should be resolved already as the state has transitioned to their new program for Medi-Cal Rx.
- Starting 1/1/2022 there is a new payment for eligibility call the “Expectant Parent Payment” which will provide three months of payment (\$900 monthly) to pregnant youth who are under foster care. These payments will be issued directly to the youth.

Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) - Kim Ayala

- No updates.

Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) - Steven Wells on Behalf of Elizabeth Rosas

- We currently have 76 youth and 17 of which are under the age of 6 yrs. old. and 14 youths who are aged 6-12. If you know of anyone who has room for our kids in their homes, please refer them to ESU 858-874-1140.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)-Veronica Miller

- No updates, all services are still be provided via telehealth for everyone's safety.

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

- We currently have a few of our staff that are supporting the PCC team and others that are out for various reasons. If you need to get in contact with your Granted Worker please use the RFA mainline (858-650-5876) or you can reach out to me directly (858-650-5760).
- We announced a few months ago that the granted team would start reaching out to caregivers as a “check-in” bi-monthly just to see if can offer an additional support. Please provide us with any feedback on how those are going, or if there are any services that we can provide to help maintain and/or support placement.
- We have a few licensed foster homes that haven't converted to resource family homes I believe we have about 40 left, please work with our team to spread the word we are trying to get those homes converted a quickly as possible.

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

- We continue to do our orientations online, attendance has been well.
- We have done some in person events but due to the surge in COVID numbers, we are holding off on future events.
- We had our Virtual QPI Winter resource fair in early December, attendance was about 78 between the two regions (Tim & Sarah's group).
- Wednesday 1/19/2022 is the QPI Quarterly Steering Committee meeting. Please let us know if you are not on that invite and would like to attend.
- November was National Adoption month; we were unable to do our traditional Court party due to COVID. However, we did utilize our media platform via Channel to profile a couple of stories, one for Families that had finalized within that month, another for our Fostering Hope segment and our San Diego Living segment. The videos are posted on their website (Channel 8) if you would like to go back and look.
- We have also been working on a recruitment video that will be done through the voice of a Resource Parent.
- We gave out 100 computers to our Resource Families and 25 Chromebook to our EFC youth at our annual computer giveaway with Futures Foundation that took place in December.
- The options group continues to have their support groups; they have a new class starting in March. If you know of any Resource Parents that might be interested please have them reach out to Graciela Soto who is our Options Coordinator.

- In Recruitment, we have been working with “Olive Crest” which is a foster family agency who also works a lot with Orange County in regards to Faith In Motion initiative in conjunction with Restoration 225. More to come on that and some of things we have been working on.
- We are expanding the Placement Unit within Adoptions that is still in the works, more to come.

Independent Living Skills (ILS) - Daniel Bernal

- No updates.

San Diego County Respite- Diana Macis on Behalf of Alex Kahn

- No updates

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Lisa Castagnola

- No updates.

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

- January/February Pink Booklets are out as of the beginning of this month.
- We have many classes this month for our support groups, about 16 different topics in both Spanish and English.
- Just to highlight a couple of the trainings; 1/25 we will have Charlie Appelstein doing a training topic titled “No such thing as a bad kid, understanding kids with emotional and behavioral challenges.” The other training I would like to highlight is; “TBRI: Trust Based Relational Intervention” this training will be done in 4 parts which will begin 1/27 9am-1pm.
- For February (2/19 & 2/26) we will have a training titled “Core (Critical Ongoing Resource Education) Teen” it was created by Spaulding for children. This training really focuses on solutions that promote stability and permanency for adolescents in foster care.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

East- Stephanie on behalf of Collette Best/Shannon Jimenez

- We currently have several kids at PCC, about 6 teens, 4 kids ages 2-7.

Central- Isela Hernandez

- No updates.

South- Belinda Radovich

- We currently have some of our workers helping the PCC team.
- We have 3 children at PCC.

North- Valerie Moore

- We currently have 9 kids at PCC.

North Central-

- No attendance.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Melissa Brooks

- No updates.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz

- We do currently have a waitlist due to the rise in referrals. It has been a challenge to find infant space and licensed childcare providers that can take in infants.

YMCA Long Term Subsidy Program-Cecilia Rubio

- We are continuing to get families into long-term subsidized care who are in need.
- Another update, childcare providers that have foster children are now eligible to receive an additional 16 non-operational days if they are required to close due to COVID related reasons. We retro paid back to July of 2021.

San Diego Office of Education- Michelle Manley

- No attendance

Adoptions-Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- We have been experiencing some staffing challenges. We thank you for your patience in advance.
- We have been working hard to move some cases that are ready for finalization to get court dates.
- If you experience any challenges getting through to our staff please call our reception line (858-650-5995) there is a duty worker on call every day and a duty supervisor.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, February 10, 2022

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:17pm