

## **FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

ZOOM Conference Call

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Present:** Aisha Baltierrez, Michele Manley, Veronica Sarabia, Valerie Moore, Mai Woo, Josie Caudillo, MaryAnn Paschal, Isela Hernandez, Alex Kahn, Steven Wells, Emma Tidmore, Veronica Miller, Lodia Ruiz, Martha Mackenzie, 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, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Kim Ayala, Erika Medina, Suzanne Thompson, Arleth Rubio, Shannon Jimenez, Diana Shreckengost

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

**II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** Minutes for 09/09/21 approved.

**III. Updates and Discussion:**

### **Diana Shreckengost- Out of Home Placement Presentation**

- The Board of Supervisors has Policies that expires and seven years and what we do is update or obsolete them, for this board letter policy it was “out of home placement” and when we first reviewed it we saw some language that needed to be changed as this was created pre RFA. What the Board Policies do is help give us more guidance on how we can do our operations. What we did was start looking at it through the Diversity, Inclusion, Equality lens that we have been promoting within CWS and adding some of that language in there too. (Power Point Presentation)

### **Polinsky Children’s Center (PCC)**

- We currently have 75 kids, if you know of anyone who has room for our kids in their homes; please refer them to ESU 858-874-1140, we also have 17 children who a 6yrs. and younger.

### **San Diego County Respite- Alex Kahn**

- Not many updates; we are continuing to work with the payroll vendor, at the beginning of our transition there were a few challenges with technical issues and we will have a support line set up to call in for specifically technical support issues.
- We are making updates to our website as we made some changes within the program.
- We hope to have the contract finalized with the Tax Preparer Specialist soon, more to come.
- We have gotten an excess in respite request and we continue to evaluate those and approve on a case-by-case basis.

**North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles**

- Of the \$5000 we got for extracurricular funding we have so far used about half, kids are getting to do wonderful things, we limit it to \$100 per child.
- We also have about \$1000 in gift card to still give away for school supplies or developmental toys for the younger children.
- We are getting ready for the holidays and holiday drives we still have not heard back from Toys for Tots.

**HHSA/Child Welfare Services- Lillian Asoera**

- Only one update: the 5-11 year old age group are now able to have the vaccine and I just want to make everyone aware of it.

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

- We did have a giveaway and we now have a giveaway committee, which is ran by Emma and Maryann. We have been working on trying to do a giveaway monthly, more to come.

**Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia**

- No updates

**Foster Care Eligibility- Zayra Rios/ Mai Woo**

- No updates.

**Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)-Veronica Miller**

- No updates.

**Foster Home Licensing/Resource Family Approval (RFA) – Erika Medina on behalf of Natasha Hood**

- No updates.

**Independent Living Skills (ILS)-Steven Wells**

- Big update that we have is our extension for our youth who are 21 and older is nearing its end on 12/31/21. We are going to using the upcoming months to help our youth to be prepared with the transition.

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

- There were some updates in regards to ensuring we can continue to do this meeting via ZOOM in a teleconference format and in order to continue to that we need the members to vote and make a motion to approve continuing doing the meeting via ZOOM. **(motion was approved by all members)**
- We are currently working on a few projects, one in Honor of National Adoption month in November; we are looking to do a virtual segment on our Fostering hope.
- Computer giveaway event will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>, this will be a partnership with Foster Family Agencies. We also got word that there will be brand new Chromebooks for extended foster care youth that will be working with Stephens shop to help with the transition.
- We have a new recruiter in Arleth shop, Catalina McKasson.
- Regarding QPI, when are in the midst of our road shows and we have one more next week which is North Region. We have had a great turnout for all regions. Our next QPI steering committee meeting will be 10/20 and we continue to be one of the counties that does the text surveys with our caregivers. They are filtered by region so we can see what needs are where. The National conference this year will be on a virtual platform. The planning of the QPI winter resource fair, which we will discuss, dates at the steering committee meeting, more to come.

### **Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Josie Lewis**

- Friendly reminder of our eligibility criteria we serve County level foster homes and the FAST program serves the FFA homes.
- We will not be doing our in person “Fall Family Fun” day, we will be doing little gift bags instead for our active families that will have activities they can do as a family.
- Currently no waitlist.

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

- We have some great classes scheduled; we just finished the November/December schedule.
- We held our first hybrid class (In-person/virtual) which went well. Our next hybrid class will be Saturday. We plan to have one hybrid class in November and one in December.
- At the end of the month 10/28 we will be having sexual and reproductive wellness class which will be a 3 hour class from 6-9pm.
- On November 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm someone from the state Ombudsmen office that will be conducting a class on the personal rights of foster children. In addition, on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3:30pm via ZOOM we are doing our collaboration with San Diego Youth Services the adoption support program called Nurtured Heart. Nurtured Heart is actually an approach that provides a set of skills and techniques to help support parents in navigating with intense behaviors in their children.
- We will offering the class called: “Turning dreams into Degrees”, the focus is how families can prepare children with those goals of possibly going to college. We will be having a Spanish class 11/30 and English class 12/14.
- The C-SEC class is offered in English every month and in Spanish every other month.

- We are continuing to do our monthly drive thru book drive, sometimes we are able to do it twice a month, our next ones will be 11/14 and 12/4.

**Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) – Kim Ayala**

- Indira Counin - East PHN.

**Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions**

**East- Stephanie on behalf of Collette Best/Shannon Jimenez**

- No updates.

**Central- Isela Hernandez**

- Staffing update LaShawn White is now part of our Placement unit so expect calls from her.

**South- Belinda Radovich/Britney**

- We have a 15 year old, a younger sibling set, a 4month old and 2 month old at PCC.

**North- Martha**

- We have several teenagers and a sibling set of 6 ages 1-10 at PCC. We also have a new worker Flor Baer.

**North Central-Naheed Azin**

- No attendance.

**YMCA Kinship Support Services- Suzanne Thompson**

- No attendance

**YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz**

- No updates.

**YMCA Long Term Subsidy Program-Cecilia Rubio**

- We received more money for our CAP program in our alternative payment program for long term subsidies care; please let resource families know that if they do get the call for the program to please take the services.

**San Diego Office of Education- Michelle Manley**

- We are still offering virtual tutoring.
- Our countywide transportation program we still do not have drivers right now.

**Adoptions-Gloria Escamilla-Huidor/Fatimah Abdullah**

- We have been trying our best to move our kids through finalization. However, I do want to alert you that for some of our kids and caregivers who are ready to go we are trying to ensure that we give time for the LOC assessment, which may add a bit of a delay. In addition, the courts have been setting dates further apart.
- We have a 14 year old female and 12 year old male at PCC.

**IV. NEXT MEETING:**

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS FOR THE MONTHS OF  
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.**

**Thursday, January 13, 2022**

**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:06pm**