

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 10, 2021

ZOOM Conference Call

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Diana Macis, Michele Manley, Cecilia Rubio, Veronica Sarabia, Valerie Moore, Mai Woo, Kimberly Washington, Natasha Garcia, Josie Caudillo, MaryAnn Paschal, Barbara Wojtach, Isela Hernandez, Mary-Jo Meer, Steven Wells, Emma Tidmore, Veronica Miller, Lodia Ruiz, Martha Mackenzie, Amanda Amabile, Kim Ayala, Omar Avila, Lisa Castagnola, Lillian Asoera, Gloria Escamilla- Huidor, Alex Kahn, Zayra Rios, Kania Webster, Erin Lininger, Wendy Leeds, Daniela Murphy, Naheed Azin, Sarah Glass, Stephanie Carter, Elizabeth Rosas, Dannette Shevlin

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

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

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association- Patty Boles

- No report out as Patty was not present.

HHSA/Child Welfare Services- Lillian Asoera

- No major updates. We are looking to reopen, must consider Cal OSHA laws. In the middle of Budget meetings. Staff will be starting to do more targeted recruitment for Teens, Medically Fragile and African American populations.

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Emma Tidmore on behalf of Mary Jo Meer

- We are receiving some suitcases from Promises2Kids.
- We will be doing a giveaway of various items on June 26th, asking County to send an e-blast on our behalf.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- Submitted application to opt in for Bridge Program and we are very happy about that.

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

- Working on a draft for COLA and hopefully to be effective as of July.

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

- Nothing to report for this month.

Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) – Elizabeth Rosas

- Currently we have 47, had been in the high 30's. Youth at PCC, 8 of them are under the age of 6 yrs old.
- Focus on NEST homes and looking at the ones on hold to see if they can open up as a placement option.
- We have a lot of Teens and so if anyone has vacancies please let us know.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)-Veronica Miller

- We are slowly bringing back our team members coming into the office. In next month, we anticipate in-home services to begin again.

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

- RFA has started accepting applications online through Binti portal for English speaking applicants. Spanish speaking applicants will still be processed via mail.

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

- We hosted the first QPI Virtual Appreciation events. 208 people attended the five regional events. There were recognition awards given, interactive games, prizes and Zumba by Liza.
- We had nine people attend QPI National conference and planning to have a meeting with all attended to provide a recap of highlights to present at next Steering Committee meeting in July.

Independent Living Skills (ILS)-Steven Wells

- Steven will continue to have oversight and support EFC and ILS while seeking my replacement.
- Steven expressed sincere gratitude for all the work resource families do.
- ILS looking to re-engage youth in the community, since some have difficulties in getting back to work and obtaining resources.

San Diego County Respite- Natasha Garcia on behalf of Alex Kahn

- No real updates, still processing payments and no major issues have come up.
- Question was posed to Alex if providers can go into resource parent home? Alex responded yes but they assess this as a case by case situation.

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

- We have seen an increase in referrals and acuity.
- Hiring 1 staff clinician.
- Doing a Summer tote bag giveaway versus an event this year
- Looking to add a Spanish speaking Parent Partner to the team, preferably with foster parenting experience. Questions you can call 619-514-6995 and press #4.

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

- We have published the Spanish handbook and it is now available. Also continuing to do drive thru book giveaways.
- Planning to continue to do Zoom until end of August and the will be looking at an in-person hybrid model, still working out details.
- Highlighting some upcoming trainings:
 - On June 24th Dr. Megan Zapatelli will be doing a training called: Exploring Childhood Trauma and Brain from 10:30-12:30pm.
 - In July a new class discussing healing w/animals. The class will be Healing w/Horses from a movie named Buck.
 - August 2nd a class called Blood Memory. This is based on a documentary, which looks at America's Indian adoption era and its historical injustices and ramifications today. Participants will hear the story of Sandy White Hawk, an adoption survivor.
 - Contracted with Scripps Health to do trainings on topics Importance of Sleep, Water Safety.

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

Central- Isela Hernandez

- QPI appreciation event went well.
- For QPI monthly meeting we had invited Mental Health to do a presentation.
- We have 4 children at PCC now.

North- Martha Mackenzie

- Currently have 13 children at PCC, there seems to be no vacancies in STRTP's, even out of County.
- Lots of petitions being filed.
- Trying to get the QPI monthly meetings up and going again.

South- Sarah Glass

- At their QPI appreciation event they honored a Melissa Brooks as a Community Partner.
- We have a new SPSW in placement Brittany Alanis.
- We currently have 6 children at PCC and of those 6, there is a 2 sibling set and a 3 sibling set. The sibling set of 2 has been there for 40 days.

East- Stephanie Carter

- We appreciated the QPI appreciation event.
- Looking to start the QPI monthly meetings again.
- Placement unit is busy looking for adequate placements.

North Central-Naheed Azin

- Naheed introduced herself as she is new to the placement team.
- Relaunching QPI.
- We have 2 kids at PCC, but a teenager was placed that has Diabetes.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Melissa Brooks

- No one present to provide updates.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program –Lodia Ruiz

- The program was renewed for another 2 years.
- Just finished year 1 of a 2 year State study, of 13 counties. Preliminary findings showed:
 - 49% unlikely of accepting a child w/out child care
 - Of those accessing services, 82% have stress reduction
 - 82% allowed to keep their jobs

YMCA Long Term Subsidy Program-Cecilia Rubio

- Program was slowing down, starting to increase.
- Some providers are charging a Regional Market Rate Registration Fee. YMCA may not be able to pay this. Provided website in chat to look at market rate- good for 1 year.
- YMCA starting to offer reduced rate of \$15.00 a month for whole family that is a 2 parent household or \$10.00 for 1 parent household but must have a Bridge Voucher to be eligible.

San Diego Office of Education- Michelle Manley

- End of school year, if there is no summer school, school will start in July.
- All schools districts are offering summer programs that include fun activities at remote locations. Additional funding for districts.

Adoptions-Gloria Escamilla-Huidor/Fatimah Abdullah

- Still surpassing finalizations from last fiscal year.
- We have two new supervisors starting Lisa Salsbury and Karlis Thorpe.
- We are looking at reopening and how to bring staff back into office.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 8, 2021

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:16pm