

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 9, 2022

ZOOM Conference Call

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Veronica Sarabia, Valerie Moore, Mai Woo, MaryAnn Paschal, Isela Hernandez, Emma Tidmore, Veronica Miller, Diana Macis, Zayra Rios, Erin Lininger, Dannette Shevlin, Patty Boles, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Pamela Thomas, Kimberly Washington, Daniel Bernal, MaryJo Meer, Cecilia Rubio, Valerie Tovar, Lillian Asoera, Natasha Garcia, Kania Webster, Natasha Hood, Stephanie Ortega, Lisa Castagnola, Elizabeth Rosas, Belinda Radovich, Brenda Jones, Karen Prosek, Stacy Rauch, Rashida Elimu, Joel Thomas. Alex Kahn, Jessica Bruno, Barbara Wojtach.

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

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Minutes for 2/10/22-Approved.

III. Updates and Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- We have kids packs
- Received some about 100 L’Oréal Paris brand make-up products, they are cute bags.

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

- We had started to do kid packs for 13 years and older.
- We also have diapers for 1 month old and may deliver to homes due to gas prices
- Inquiry about FFPSA and where do resource parents fit into this
- Food bank also has other services

HHSA/Child Welfare Services- Lillian Asoera

- No updates, other than we are in the middle of Budget discussions.

San Diego County Respite- Alex Kahn

- No updates other than we are working with pad day vendor.
- Clarified a question about using respite for vacation. Respite is not supposed to be used for vacation.
- Social Worker can submit request to approve additional respite hours but it is determined on a case by case basis.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- No updates

Foster Care Eligibility- Zayra Rios/ Mai Woo

- No updates.

Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) – Claire Lynch-Dwight

- We are fully staffed, but still have nurses assigned to COVID.
- We are focused on medical and dental exams. Medical exams back over 90%. We hope to focus on dental to get higher.

Polinsky Children’s Center (PCC) – Elizabeth Rosas

- Currently we have 48 kids at PCC, 9 under six years of age.
- Looking for NEST homes, which is intended to be short-term 60 days. A few of these homes are on hold, so EESCU team will be calling those homes.
- Working with Regional Center to get placements and services for youth who are clients

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)-Veronica Miller

- No updates, other than to note that Julie McCormick is on maternity leave and is due back in August.

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

- No updates. If someone wants to port over from an FFA to our Agency please can contact her.

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

- We had 81 participants at the 3 QPI quarterly on “Family First: Service Prevention Act”.
- Waiting to get information regarding The QPI National conference announced their theme last week which is: “Building the Movement Together: Excellent Parenting for Every Child, everyday” that virtual conference is set to be on May 24th- May 26th.
- We continue to do recruitment events in the community as things are opening up more.
- Working on solidifying information about the Resource Parent Appreciation event in May

Independent Living Skills (ILS) - Daniel Bernal

- Continue to send us names for graduation to Rhonda Sarmiento.

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) - Lisa Castagnola

- Introduced Stacy Rauch as new Assistant Director and noted we are fully staffed
- Looking to update referral form
- Noted some resource parents report concerns about the way things are being handled and the language being used when under a complaint investigation.
- They have seen more referrals in January, at that time there was 2 week wait list, which was longest but currently no wait list.
- Serving more children than 5 year contract

**Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program – Barbara
Wojtach/Kania Webster**

- Planning classes for May and June. Kania is putting Pink Book in chat.

- With changes due to COVID we have located a space where we can do in-person classes that are outdoors. No child care for these class, but food and giveaways will be provided. We gave an opportunity to do this hybrid model but no one took this opportunity.
- Highlighted classes;
 - Dr. Gidwani provided training on Understanding the Importance of Early Childhood Development. This was a 3 part training
 - Last month they had Charlie Appelstein, he is coming back in June. These were the TBR classes.
 - Dealing with Racism class. Rita Rizzo trainer on March 29th & April 26th
- Pink book is the best place for list of classes
- Offering Trainer for Trainers classes

YMCA Kinship Support Services- No one in attendance

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Cecilia Rubio

- No updates for Bridge Program
- Everything going smoothly on both sides of the program
- Voucher side no wait list, no break in care

San Diego Office of Education- No one in attendance

Adoptions- Diana Macis

- No updates

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

East-No one in attendance

Central- Isela Hernandez

- No real updates
- 5 kids at PCC with special needs
- Busy with removals, we hope NEST homes will take babies
- Grateful to E-RFA- Thanks you for communication
- We have 1 worker w/North Central & they may stay. Supervisor covering this region

South- Belinda Radovich

- Thank you PCO for clearing homes
- Foster Parent Mentors-Thank you
- We have 2 children needing homes, STRTP-special needs, a 9 year old, home bi-lingual, long term concurrent but will consider short term home as well

North- Valerie Moore

- We currently have 10 kids at PCC, 3 are a sibling group but hopefully in next few days they will be placed. 2 sister hopefully going to relatives
- Thanks to PCO & foster parent community- Patty emails are helpful

North Central- Jessica Bruno

- Senior Protective Services Worker (SPSW) is leaving to Continuing Services. Myself and 1 other worker are there part-time
- Searching for a home for 8 year old, 12 year old & a teenager with medical care needs

Roundtable

Stephanie Ortega from Promises2Kids-Highlighting some of their programs

- Youth to Youth/Peer to Peer Mentor Program @ PCC with EFC Youth- Purpose is reach every youth who is leaving to help support them
- Something Special Funds
- Camp Connect

IV. ADJOURNMENT: 1:09pm**V. NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday, April 14, 2022

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom