

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 14, 2022

ZOOM Conference Call

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Mary Ann Paschal, Brenda Jones, Omar Avila, Emma Tidmore, Barbara Wojtach, Maricela Cano, Sarah Carter, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Jeanna Bruce, Stacy Rauch, Stephanie Carter, Mai Woo, Tim Harris, Brittany Alanis, Lillian Asoera, Eunice Sifuentes, MaryJo Meer, Arleth Rubio, Valerie Moore, Darryl Chairez, Linda Carter, Erin Lininger, Angela Wood, Veronica Sarabia, Patty Boles, Elizabeth Rosas, Dannette Shevlin, Alex Kahn, Zayra Rios, Veronica Corona, Collette Best, Diana Macis, and Daniel Bernal.

I. Chair: Mary Ann Paschal called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Minutes -Approved.

III. Updates and Discussion:

HHSA/Child Welfare Services- Lillian Asoera

- Passed the budget, very excited, getting 100 new positions
- Will have to do major hiring and anyone interested, county child welfare is hiring

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

- Part of budget we got two new positions allocated for the respite team, adding a Program Specialist and an Analyst. Waiting for list to review and start interview process, hoping to have them onboard by September
- Goal to be expanding the number of providers, more provider outreach, finding more providers, and certifying more providers, so we have more available respite to offer
- Requests tied to resource families who test positive for COVID and are looking respite for kids in their care, this presents a challenge as kids that are exposed to COVID. We cannot force respite providers to take these children.
 - Share with resource families to identify any other plans and what they might be doing that
 - We can respite providers if they are willing and comfortable to take these kids, but they may not be and that is the reality of the situation, so we need to prepared for that and build that resource amongst our resource parents
- Please continue if our resource families are in this situation, they can reach out to us and we will try to help as best as we can and see if we can provide a respite provider. We have not had a lot of luck with providing a respite provider who is willing to take a kid with a recent exposure to COVID

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- Giveaways
 - Target cards for graduating kids
 - Out of 51 bikes – Fancy Unicorn bikes, have 7 bikes left, 3 small bikes for age 2 to 4 and 4 bikes for age 6 to 8
 - Tons of Barnes and Nobles books left, San Marcos High School did a drive for 800 books.
 - When people come by, people can pick up 3 or 4 books for every child in the family
 - Trying to ask donors to see if we can still offer items for guardianship kids
 - Barnes and Nobles is letting them do that for birth kids, adoptive kids, guardian ship kids – trying to be inclusive of the entire family, as we know everyone in the family gets foster care not just the parents
 - Working on as many items as we can and happy to give items away as well

San Diego Foster Parent Association- Mary Jo Meer

- Had another incident in office, had a flood, hot water leaked
- Had to get everything out in the office, hoping to get everything done
- Giveaways
 - Getting ready to do another giveaway next month, just waiting on school supplies to come in to give away
 - Have money to giveaway for extracurricular activities, will send a flyer so people can send receipts and we can reimburse up to \$100
- Email changed to SDCFPA@yahoo.com

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- No updates

Foster Care Eligibility- Zayra Rios/Mai Woo

- Received all county letter – letting us know that the rate for Foster Care went up 6.63%
- Still waiting for adoptions payment
- This one will start July 31, 2022
- Anticipating to continue with annual clothing allowance in August/September
- Even though new rates are increased for adoptions, for adoptions it is not finalized yet if you are in AAP, but the system has already generated a change.
- For all programs, Foster Care, KinGap, and Adoptions. If you already received your adoptions payments, you will get the supplement to it. The new basic rate is \$1129 that is the new rate with the 6.63% increase, so you should be getting that.
- For Foster Care you will be getting that reimbursement at the end of the month for the full month

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

- No updates

Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) – Elizabeth Rosas

- Population is at 50, have been climbing at low 50s
- Summer swing of things, had barbeque for 4th of July, kids are going on outings and pool time
- Looking for relative caregivers, resource parents, if you can think anybody that is need of kids and ready to take some more, please have them give Elizabeth a call or ESCU team
- Have a few sibling sets that we want to keep together
- Keep an eye out for anyone who is ready to love on our kids and need some more of them in their home
- Population from 2 years and up

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP)-Veronica Miller

- No updates

Resource Family Approval (RFA) – Natasha Hood

- No updates

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

- FARFS
 - FARFS is doing recruitment boosts in the community. We continuing looking to recruit for targeted groups such as; medically fragile, sibling groups, older youth, and children of diverse backgrounds
 - This weekend we are working with policy team to do PRIDE
 - Last weekend we did SheFest and Juneteenth last month
 - We have a booth at event tomorrow for Day of Play
- QPI
 - We had Carole Shauffer, one of the Youth Law Center Directors was in San Diego yesterday. She attended our steering committee meeting and we did a mapping to create the vision for when we meet in October for 2023
 - San Diego participating in QPI Champions Program, which is similar to the Ambassador program. 17 staff and resource parents attending August cohort. Some of those in August cohort will be attending conference in September in Reno.
 - There will be another QPI Champions cohort in January 2023
 - Will continue to have discussions of what 2023 will look like for QPI, there has been a lot of change of staff and new staff coming onboard that might not know what QPI is, so planning a relaunch for 2023. More to come
 - Planning a couple of road shows in August/September
 - Resource Fair/Ice Cream Social events are being planned for early September. Once flyers are done will send out to everyone and regions will be connecting with community partners to participate
 - Continuing work with Faith in Motion(FIM). Brittany can add Spectrum church doing a respite night in September. Part of this work includes looking at offering and connecting with Grossmont for training and possible training sites, expand

those training sites with our faith based community partners. In addition looking at ways to support resource families

Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Daniel Bernal

- No updates
- Graduation events ended week of 6/20, they went well

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Stacy Rauch

- No updates
- Had a family event that went well
- Continuing to take in referrals with relatively no wait time
- Still at no wait time and still have one staff member on leave

Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program – Daniela Solano Murphy

- Upcoming events
 - 7/21 – Family Welcome Book
 - In-person Workshop taken place at The Patio
 - Catering is provided to resource parents, dinner is provided
 - Outdoor event and very fresh location
 - Importance of having a Family Welcome Book
 - Having history for our kids
 - Change can be difficult, family welcome book can help transition into the new home
 - 9/9 – Charles Appelstein – Youth Care Trainer
 - In Person Training at the Handlery Hotel
 - Training on using positive strength based verbal interventions
 - Providing breakfast and lunch
 - Bring back inspiration in all of us and really support our resource families
 - 9/20 – Nathan Ross – Therapist, National Child Welfare Consultant
 - Virtual – in partnership with SDYS
 - Speaks about his experience in foster care at the age of 10 and was
 - Talks about racial identities and formation of racial and cultural identity
 - Last Training: Active Parenting Teens – starts 7/20
 - A series of 2 workshops, held 7/20 and 7/25

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Darryl Chairez

- No updates

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Melissa Brooks

- No updates

San Diego Office of Education- Michelle Manley

- No updates

Promises2Kids- Christy Mader

- No updates

Adoptions- Gloria

- No major updates
- We continue to work hard, and remember if you have trouble getting a hold of staff, we do have people on-site every day and calling reception

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions**East- Collette Best**

- Have a new worker, Maricela Cano
- Looking forward to the upcoming events
- We were able to attend the QPI steering meeting and excited to be getting it out to the new workers and region

Central- Veronica Corona

- Have two new workers in unit
- Continue to give good rapport with foster parents, gives the opportunity to be supportive as much as we can, even when they take a placement, we want to be able to keep in contact with them to see how we can be supportive, resources, anything that we can relay to the assigned worker
- Excited about the upcoming events
- Calling foster parents if they are taking an placements, reassuring that with summer if they are taking any vacation , want to make sure that we have a set plan and they we are able to support them with their vacation or anything else they have for the summer

South- Sarah Glass

- Working towards being a fully staffed team
- Transitioning a new Sr PSW to that team, she has a full caseload, slowly moving over
- Added a SWIII to that team
- Will probably see an increase in our calls to resource parents in that region, just offering support and taking about FARFS

North-Valerie Moore

- Added a new worker, further enhancing partnership with resource parents
- Will be doing QPI calls/follow up with another point person for resource parents to connect with
- We do have a lot of kids in North region, we have 16 kids at Polinsky, about a dozen of those are teens with various mental health needs that are proving a challenge to place.

We have a couple little kiddos, a sibling set of 9 and 7 year olds, adorable 3 year old child with autism, his last placement was removed due to circumstances that had nothing to relate with his behavior. Also we have a sibling set of 3 year old and 7 year old due to physical abuse of 7 year old

- If any of those speak to your heart, reach North Placement Specialist Flor Beyer (760) 450-4952

North Central- Brittany Alanis

- Working really hard with pre-placement visits for youth especially if they are at Polinsky and getting to an adjustment period and getting to know the resource parents and gain that trust to not have an abrupt transition
- Faith in Motion is moving forward, and happy to be collaborating with faith community in San Diego
- South Bay/Chula Vista area there are several churches that are excited to partner and really support resource parents
- Looking to host a respite event with resource parents, working out logistics and wanting to get plan in place and do something back-to-school to give relief to resource parents, more to come
- Will be adding a bilingual intern to team
 - Looking for placements for two sibling sets: ages 1, 2, and 4, and another set ages 2, 6, and 8
- If any of the siblings speak to your heart, reach Brittany Alanis NCR 619-433-2776

Roundtable

IV. ADJOURNMENT: 12:51 pm

V. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, August 11, 2022

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom