

## FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

8911 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123, Magnolia Room

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Present:** Amanda Amabile, Michele Bailow, Collette Best, Patty Boles, Miriam Curiel, Erika Medina, Isela Hernandez, Brenda Jones, Nicole Kelsay, Diana Macis, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Daniel Murphy, Aisha Pope, Mitsuru Ramirez, Lodia Ruiz, Debbie Stolz, Martha Tavares, Robin Thompson, Javier Torres, Kimberly Ayala, Cathryn Figueroa-Soto, Jeannie Oestreicher, Martha Mackenzie

**I. Debbie Stolz called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.

**II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The March 2018 minutes were unanimously approved

**III. Discussion:**

### **North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles**

- Support Group meeting held last night, Rachel Swaykos presented on Level of Care (LOC), Child, and Family Team (CFT) meetings. A lot of helpful information was provided in training.

### **Health & Human Services Agency (HHS), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Deputy Director – Nicole Kelsay for Valesha Bullock**

- Assembly Bill 110 ensures families will receive interim of payments from April 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Families will be paid the first 60 days from when they have placement of a child. They will be paid for the first 60 days of care, even though they do not have a full Resource Family Approval (RFA) and it will be at the basic LOC rate. This is not retro; this only applies if you have a child in your care starting April 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Maria Martinez - This applies if you are eligible to either Emergency Assistance (EA) or the ARC program. We are reviewing the families who are not eligible and their cases. The state has approved payment for 60 days or up to June 30<sup>th</sup>, whichever comes first. We have more to come in July.*

### **San Diego Foster Parent Association – Mary Jo Meer**

- Getting ready for yearly hair cut event for kids. Working with volunteers to determine time and date. Every year, a local barbershop offers their services to foster families.

### **YMCA Kinship Support Program – Lodia Ruiz**

- Last month has been busy as we received double the referrals and intakes.
- North County family event happening on 5/12 at Hearts and Hooves.
- South County family event happening on 5/12 at Mission Beach in partnership Urban Surfer Kids.
- Added a North County evening support group held on Mondays at Escondido. We have two groups going on at the same time in different buildings to meet the need of the North County community. The groups meet at the Palomar YMCA in Escondido.

### **HHS, Foster Care Eligibility – Maria Martinez**

- We are working on setting up the process for the interim payments and this will take some time. This will be effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are working on a manual process to make payments and are waiting from the state for more direction.
- Working with the Foster Families Associations (FFAs) regarding new entries into foster care placed in a FFA home effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, who are eligible for the flat FFA basic rate. For entries coming into foster care effective March 1<sup>st</sup> are also eligible same rate but not eligible for an LOC evaluation. This is

for Non-Relative Extended Family Members (NREFMs), relatives, and community members for compelling reason placements. This funding from the state allows the agency to pay caregivers eligible for EA funding. EA is special type of funding that is only up to 12 months, starting from the day of risk. The triggering effective date is either the RFA 01A signed date or the placement date, whichever is later.

- To relatives that are currently receiving CalWORKS, we will accept the CalWORKS funds they received for the month of April. It will not be deducted, meaning those families will get double pay. The RFA staff will be placing calls to all those families who are eligible. We are asking for permission not to close CalWORKS cases after the 60 days because they will have to re-apply for CalWORKS.

**HHSA, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) – Diana Macis**

- Getting ready for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ambassador Retreat that will be on 5/3 to regroup and set some goals for next year.
- We are preparing the next quarterly training about working with birth families and have some birth parents who will be co-trainers for this training. We have been working to bring the point of view from every team member with which we work.

**HHSA, Public Health Care Nurse – Kimberly Ayala**

- Almost fully staffed as far as foster care nurses with one more position to fill, and then we will be fully staffed.

**HHSA, Polinsky Children Center (PCC) – Robin Thompson**

- Current population is 35 kids with 12 under the age of six.
- We received all final approvals for the Nurture Extended Stabilization Team (NEST) program. The NEST committee will be reconvening next week. If anybody who would like to be part of the meeting, please email me to add you to the committee since many of our former members have taken other jobs. We are planning to have NEST up and running by July 1.

**Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program (FAKCE) — Daniela Murphy**

- The new May-June edition pink book to ship out on Friday through Tuesday.

**HHSA, Resource Family Approval/ Foster Home Licensing (RFA/FHL) – Wendy Curiel**

- We are currently working on the conversion of our licensed foster homes to RFA and reaching out to families explaining what the next steps are in the process.
- We are working on closing out the cases that do not qualify for conversion. Those families will be receiving a letter explaining why they do not meet the criteria for the conversion to RFA by the end of May.
- Licensing is downsizing their Granted Units from two to one unit due to the closed licensing cases. Those social workers will be added to the RFA Intake unit.

**HHSA, Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Nikki Kelsay**

- The QPI Appreciation Event, formally the Foster Parent Banquet, will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel from 6-9pm on 5/19.

**HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile**

- Independent City event, in partnership with our contractors, for ILS eligible youth ages 16-21, get to learn how to create a budget, save for the future, career choices, and investments. Presentation is held at the Junior Achievement Center on Saturday, 4/28 from 9-1pm. RSVP by 4/20. Let the ILS worker, agency worker, or contractor to RSVP.
- We continue to gear up for graduation in June, make sure to get students' names in for a \$500.00 check. We will need names in the week before graduation to get checks out on time.
- Follow up on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) challenge, San Diego County did

win. The education liaisons, social workers, and school counselors did a good job in making sure the San Diego County foster youth who are seniors completed their FAFSA applications.

**HHSA, CWS Placement Support – Miriam Curiel**

- The new Special Care Rate (SCR) is being developed in conjunction with the changes being made by LOC. The new policy should be finalizing soon.
- With the new review process for families, Quality Parenting Review (formerly PQRB), policy proposal is in review with policy. Once approved, we will share with committee.

**HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All Regions**

**Central Region – Isela Hernandez**

- On 3/23, Central's respite event happened with 72 RSVPs and 41 in attendance. The event has held at the Jackie Robinson YMCA for three hours.
- QPI meeting held yesterday, the Office of Education came over to present about secondary trauma, with a great turnout of foster parents and social workers. We received good feedback about the presentation.
- Kudos to the Placement Unit for placing 9 children yesterday. Thank you to the foster parents who took our calls and took our kids.
- 1-child currently in PCC.

**East Region – Collette Best**

- We had our first LOC and are getting used to that.
- Recently added Cathryn Figueroa-Soto to our unit, she will be doing QPI work and other duties.

**North Region – Martha MacKenzie**

- We have a new SW I join the team and implementing QPI with our families.

**South Region – Javier Torres**

- QPI Steering Committee meeting was held this morning and it was well attended. Permanency Assessment and RFA workers, resource parents, and Protective Services Workers (PSWs) attended.
- 6- minors currently in PCC.
- We continue to look at the barriers of placement.
- Kudos to Mary Jo Meer. She has helped in alerting families of children needing placement by email. In addition, she went to PCC to speak with a minor who has difficulty in placement.

**Foster Family Agency Stabilization & Treatment (FFAST) – Aisha Pope**

- We are collaborating with San Diego Youth Services Adoption Assistance to conduct training on Trauma, Resiliency, Parenting Traumatized Youth, and Foster Parent Self-Care on 5/15. Training information is in pink book. This is open to all families.

**San Diego County Office of Education – Michelle Bailow**

- Bi-Curious Trauma training is available through the County office. We also have trauma informed services.
- Countywide summer tutoring is available, but you need to contact me for confirmation.

**Roundtable**

- **Mitsuru Ramirez** – For regional staff, we have a staff psychologist, Babbi Winegarden, who will be setting up a Bi-Curious Trauma training.
- **Nicole Kelsay** – We have a blanket purchase agreement (BPA) with Office Deport to get duffel bags for

children in transition. For children needing a duffel bag during placements, please know we have resources. They can contact the KIDSline or their social worker to ask how to get bags.

**IV. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, June 14, 2018**

**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123**

*(Magnolia Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)*

**V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:10 p.m.**