

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, August 10th, 2017
5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Patty Boles, Valesha Bullock, Miriam Curiel, Wendy Curiel, Heidi Blue, Breanna Davila, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Nicole Kelsay, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Diana Macis, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Daniela Murphy, Sarah Nolan, Troy Rippengale, Veronica Sarabia, Debbie Stolz, Jocelyn Waters, Barbara Wojtach, Martha Tavares, Nancy Elizarraraz-Lopez, Hazel Lopez, Jorge De La Toba

I. Debbie Stolz called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m. All in attendance made introductions.
Nicole Kelsay – If anyone would like to receive more information about this meeting, please see Jessica Morales.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: The July 2017 minutes correction:
• **Page 3** Polinsky Children Center- Heidi Blue (3rd bullet): Correction – “We also work [on Saturday & Sundays.](#)”

III. Discussion:

Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Deputy Director – Valesha Bullock

- There are discussions within CWS regarding the Resource Family Approval process with Relatives, the conversion letter, and identifying time frames for the agency to hold forums to inform caregivers about the conversion process. More to come on dates and locations. The RFA leadership is present and will speak about our progress in RFA. Currently, the agency continues to do well in learning the new process of RFA and providing information regarding the process as we receive directives.

San Diego Foster Parent Association – Mary Jo Meer

- Looking for more school supply donations. Only one box of donations was received from Mattress Firm/Sleep Train.
- Donation pick up at Promises2Kids is scheduled later this month.

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- Bear Paw Giveaway event where over 200+ Disney books were given out to families.
- School supply donations are low. Low supply of backpacks. We will send out emails for school supply pick up. Older kid backpacks are available. School supplies are included inside backpacks.
- Low on shoe donations, in need of more shoes.
- No backpacks available to give to kids this year. The backpacks donations we do receive are for the Kid Packs used year-round for families that receive new placements.

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

- LPA, Helen Levin, will retire on Friday with 29 years of services at this agency.
- Licensing is currently in interviews for the 2 LPA open positions; this is for the licensing workers handling the approval cases.
- 3 new social workers will be in place for the conversion process for RFA.

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

- The Annual Resource Family Picnic has formally been set for Sunday, October 15, at Admiral Baker Park from 11a.m – 2p.m. Looking forward to seeing everyone there. Some will have booths at the event. This will be a time to enjoy, celebrate, and share resources with our foster families and children. The registration will be capped at 800 guests. More to come on the RSVP’s now opened to relative caregivers and NREFM’s.

- Currently hiring for Social Worker III's, for the KidsLine. Also, the SWIII position will be filled for PCO. The position of SWIII for PCO provides support by updating the database and ensuring trainings are completed before expiration date. This process helps in reducing trainings holds.

Maxim Respite Care – Breanna Davila

- Yesterday was Mike's last day in the office.
- No other updates for caregivers.

HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All Regions

Central Region – Hazael Lopez

- Currently 6 teens in PCC
- QPI is working well in monthly meetings. Next quarterly meeting is on 9/2 on Complaints. Ten foster parents and 16 children registered for childcare. The placement unit assisted in presentation and childcare. Presenter from Volunteer Lawyer program, with information on educational rights and IEP's.

East Region – Nicole Kelsay for Shannon Jimenez

- Placement unit present at Options picnic, reported to have a great time. Kudos to Cristine Rosas-DiMaggio for coordination.
- Sending out information to families to pick up school supplies at associations.
- Regional QPI meetings are going well. In meeting, they had social workers and caregivers give examples of things that the caregivers love their social workers doing. One highlight is they loved when their social worker follows up with a phone call after a tough visit to see how the child and caregiver are doing. Also, social workers loved when resource families went out of their way to introduce themselves to the parents and extended family. This is part of series of best practices.

Mary Jo Meer – Please share with workers to message school supply information to include calling the association before arriving for supplies. Volunteers are not always on-site. They can call the Association office at phone number (619) 579-4900 or contact Mary Jo Meer's cell phone.

Patty Boles – And for North County Foster Parent Association, please email at patricialboles@gmail.com

Debbie Stolz, Patty Boles, Martha Tavares –Discussion on topics:

- *Look at expanding the hours for TIPS*
- *Need more mentors to support relatives*
- *Reporting the overwhelming need to support the volume of relatives coming in.*

HHSA, San Diego Adoptions – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor

- 3 new workers added to Children's Workers joining Adoptions team on September 18th.
- Adding 2 more PSW's to the Permanency Assessment unit that will help with workload.

HHSA, CWS Policy & Program Support Division– Veronica Sarabia

- In policy, we are here to support the placement units, RFA teams, and revisit contracts to address needs.
- Currently I am supporting the different programs in Child Welfare related to placement and RFA. I take back the changes we need to make based on what we hear and the experiences people share.
- The policy manual on placement is being updated to reflect the Resource Family Approval language.

HHSA, Foster Care Eligibility – Maria Martinez

- The Eligibility office is now in Mission Valley. Phone numbers have changed.
- Everybody got the supplemental rate increases, except group homes and FFA's, and those files were just updated on Tuesday.
- The annual clothing allowance, hoping to have staff complete by October.
- Any issues regarding Cal-Works please refer to Placement units in your region so they can refer to me.
- Families are being identified as needy and non-needy, as we submit different information to obtain support for needy families. Families can and should request birth certificates from their workers to obtain services. If any issues arise, I can get involved and invite the program specialist to be involved too.

- The ARC program is for relatives who are not eligible for Foster Care, once their home is approved and they are eligible for Cal-Works, we supplement the Cal-Works with ARC funding up to the Foster Care level.
- For NREFM's we are paying them with County Treasury funds at the Cal-Works rate, while pending an approval.

HHSA, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) – Diana Macis

- Held the quarterly steering committee meeting on 7/26. Big topic was conversion and how to set up forums to reach out to caregivers to answer questions.
- Robin Allen, representative from the state, attended to give us information on the premise of QPI at state level. Trainings will be held county-wide next month in September.
- Big goals for QPI are engaging the Judicial system in QPI. The Beyond the Bench conference is held in December, here in San Diego and we will be present to talk about QPI to attorneys and judges
- National conference for QPI is on January 15 and 16 in New Orleans. Louisiana is as state that has most recently joined QPI. The judge who spoke at the last national conference is now working for QPI and is a huge advocate for kids.
- Working with California Youth Training Project involved with QPI in San Diego to engage former foster youth in our QPI program.
- The next quarterly training is on Allegations and Complaints. The premise will have more teamwork and a family-friendly approach on what we can do to help support one another.

HHSA, Public Health Nurse (PHN) – Claire Lynch-Dwight

- We have a county approved dental provider, Share the Care Dental, looking for a group of foster children to receive a free screening and fluoride varnish as part of their quarterly contract. They are looking to provide the service by the end of September and are able to travel.

HHSA, Polinsky Children Center (PCC) – Heidi Blue

- Submitted transition plan to the state to officially become a 10 day assessment center, which was due July 17. Feedback has not yet been provided by the state.
- Population in PCC is currently 27
- Seeing a trend in teen entries and an increase in homeless youth. Currently PCC is at capacity with teen girls and has been for a couple of weeks.
- The NEST program will be sending a letter out the foster care community letting them know that the traditional ESCU program will be ending and they will have the opportunity to apply for the NEST program, which will start in September or October. We are currently taking names for the NEST pilot, if anyone is interested. ESCU has moved to PCC. If you need to reach ESCU, call the reception at Polinsky at (858) 514-4600 and they will connect you to the ESCU duty worker.
- The way station program is not going away in East and South Regions.

Mary Jo Meer – There is a new non-profit program in South, charging \$240.00 a month for transportation and school drop-off and pick-up. She takes foster families. Kiddy Commute is the name of program and the phone number (619) 254-6500. Shan Cureton is the contact.

Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Sarah Nolan

- Three new Developmental Specialists started and are in the training process. Currently there are 6 open positions for Developmental Specialists and 2 Behavioral Specialist.
- If you come across families with children 6 and under, please connect them to their DSEP specialist. They should have a DSEP case manager who is trauma informed that will be happy to assist over the phone and keep them connected to different resources.

Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program (FAKCE) — Barbara Wojtach

- Just had our Advisory Committee meeting last week and it went well
- Pink book for September/October will be out next Friday

Daniela Murphy

- There are new classes for September/October. There are a few that I would like to highlight.
 1. Internet safety
 2. LGBTQ in Spanish
 3. Baby Basics

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

- Please note a change of venue for next month to the 8911 Balboa Avenue, we will send out information regarding new location. We will confirm by email.
- Ad HOC will also be moving to the new venue
- Next month we will have a presentation from a policy analyst regarding CFT's.
- We will also be voting in new members either next month or October.

Roundtable

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, September 14, 2017

12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:23 p.m.