

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 13th, 2017
5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Amanda Amabile, Michelle Bailow, Patty Boles, Valesha Bullock, Miriam Curiel, Wendy Curiel, Heidi Blue, Breanna Davila, Cassie Duffy, Isela Hernandez, Laura Hattaway, Brenda Jones, Nicole Kelsay, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Diana Macis, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Katie Olson, Twila Perucci, Troy Rippengale, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Barbara Wojtach, Nancy Elizarraraz-Lopez, Daniel Murphy, Jorge De La Toba, Sarah Nolan, Michelle Pineda, Collette Best, Mara Chacon

I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: The June 2017 minutes corrections:

- **Page 1** Head Start Presentation- Mara Chacon (1st bullet): Correction – “ Income (possibly waived) –Not necessarily have to be working or going to school for 30 hours to receive full time care if they have a need that is for emancipation or CPS services.”
- **Page 1** Head Start Presentation- Mara Chacon (2nd bullet): Correction – “There is no need to show requirement of 30 hours or more only for the pre-school program.”
- **Page 5** Polinsky Children Center- Heidi Blue (2nd bullet): Correction – “We need to provide plan by July 17th.”

III. Discussion:

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- Straight from the Heart is busy. Many families are coming in for support. There are a lot of Kidpacks available.
- Picking up more donations from Mattress Firm.
- Mentoring is in high demand from relatives and NREFM families not understanding what is happening. There is confusion from the conversion letter and what they need to do.

Nicole Kelsay – We are trying to collect those questions the KIDSline is helping to answer those questions. As a reminder, conversion will be covered in the last quarterly QPI training.

Valesha Bullock – The agency revised the state letter, keeping the same language. We are one of the fortunate counties that licensed their families. Other counties that did not license their families used the form letters from the state. The FFA piece regarding guiding families to utilize FFAs if preferred is feedback I will take back. We just wanted to provide options to families. Any information or questions you are getting, please forward to Nikki’s team. Those are the things that will roll up to the state.

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

- The agency anticipated confusion for families with the conversion letter. Please continue to pass information on to our agency so I can roll up concerns to the state.
- I am happy to be on board with RFA, FARFS, and Adoptions. I have background in Adoptions. I was an Adoptions Program Manager. I have a lot of history of working with families in the community. Thank you for welcoming me to this team. I’m looking forward to the next chapter with this program.

San Diego Foster Parent Association – Mary Jo Meer

- Donations from the San Diego County fair of plush animals. You can pick up stuffed animals for children at the Foster Parent Association.

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

- New July-August pink book should be out to social workers
- Reminder of Twila Perucci’s retirement on 8/1

- We are busy planning the September – October trainings. The next Advisory committee meeting is on 8/7, held at Foster Parent Association between 10-12:00p.m. This is when we talk about training needs for foster and kinship caregivers.
- This Saturday, training will be held at Straight from the Heart, called “Where Voices Matter”. It will have a birth panel and former foster youth panel. We need people to attend.

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

- Changes are happening in FHL. Many LPAs have been promoted, mostly in the South Bay areas. Maricela, Santiago, Lourdes, and Vanessa. Helen Levin is retiring in August. Their replacements are Michelle Rodriguez, Wendy Kaeg, and Martha Perea. Michelle and Wendy will be taking the South Bay area. Still need to staff two other positions. Currently the new workers are in training for the next three months. You may be getting phone calls from the new LPAs.
- The RFA Background unit received 3 new workers that will help with the backlog.
- Currently 750 families are going through process of RFA, with 35 approvals. 109 are in Permanency Assessment under Gloria Escamilla-Huidor.

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

- The Options Picnic is on 7/19, held at De Anza Cove.
- Planning the big family picnic, scheduled for Sunday, 10/15.
- Social Worker, Carol Kozik-Sproule, for the KIDSline, has promoted. Currently the Recruitment staff is answering the KIDSline.

HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile

- ILS high school graduation party was held the last week of June. Total of 75 graduates.
- New contractors coming in for ILS. The new class schedules will be coming out. We will be covered by San Diego Youth Services.
- Life Skill classes will be coming out for the 14-15 year old teens.
- Any questions, call the ILS line, and somebody will call you back.

Maxim Respite Care – Breanna Davila

- For any foster parents needing respite, please give us a call.

HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All Regions

Central Region – Isela Hernandez

- Completed the QPI monthly meeting
- We are working with our community to keep kids out of Polinsky. We are using SPA a lot.

East Region – Collette Best

- Very busy
- We will be attending the Options picnic
- Completed QPI training on Visitation Part II and it was well attended
- Continuing to support the caregivers with our QPI workers and try to be more proactive in stabilizing placements.

San Diego County Office of Education – Michelle Bailow

- Passing out referrals for tutoring services. Please get them in as soon as possible. Students who tutor are coming from SDSU and CSUSM. I need to have kids sign up for tutoring in the North County area.

HHSA, San Diego Adoptions – Jorge De La Toba

- Adoptions are celebrating the high number of finalized adoptions. It was the second highest number of finalizations in 5 years. We need all of our adoptive families, we appreciate them and continue to need them because every day we have kids that need the adoptive parents.

- Any questions, please call Gloria or me.
- Our new Adoptions Manager, Margo Fudge, has replaced Genevieve Bromley.

HHSA, CWS Policy & Program Support Division– Veronica Sarabia

- Working on updating the policy manual. Specifically in regard to relative placements.

HHSA, Foster Care Eligibility – Laura Hattaway

- Last month we talked about the CNI increase that came down, just received finalized from state.
- Our system is updating this weekend in preparation for August payments to reflect that increase. The new basic rate is \$923.00 a month. This is the standard basic rate.
- The Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) program, this is the program that brought relative placements up to the same level as the foster care payments. That is fully transitioning to my shop, effective 8/1. We are now retaining the new cases coming in. It is a good thing that this is coming to us; we are able to provide immediate service to them and understand their needs.
- Eligibility will be relocating to the Mission Valley office. We will be in office with Residential and Extended Foster Care. Changes in phone numbers for staff. We will have a voice message for 30 days, letting you know how to reach us. Please call the mainline to track someone down, (858) 514-6644. This number is staying the same.

HHSA, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) – Diana Macis

- QPI steering committee meeting is coming up on 7/26
- Scheduling in regions for 3rd quarter training on allegations and complaints of caregivers for September
- Our 4th quarter training will be something also done in support groups right now, called “What’s Happening in CWS”. We will expand it to include conversion, updates on CFTs, N.E.S.T., and other things coming up.
- Looking to work with the California Youth Training group. It is a state group that takes former foster youth and trains them to become trainers. We will be piloting this with QPI.

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

- New supervisor, currently on vacation, Jocelyn Waters. She’s been with County at CHDP.

HHSA, Polinsky Children Center (PCC) – Heidi Blue

- Temporary Shelter Care facilities plan is due July 17th. PCC is in a good position to transition, because we have everything in place and have been functioning as a 10 day assessment shelter since last year.
- Changes in ESCU- Marilynn Sproat retired a few weeks ago. Kristina Ellis is the new social worker who will fill in behind Marilynn. Lisa Gilbert is now the senior at ESCU. ESCU is moving from Viewridge this Friday to Polinsky. We will have new phone numbers and get a roster out as soon as possible. In the meantime, please call the reception at PCC, (858) 514-4600, if trying to track down ESCU worker in the County.
- Just a reminder, ESCU works 7 days a week. We want them to continue placing kids beyond Monday through Friday. We also work [on Saturday & Sundays](#). We may be placing calls to foster parents to make placements.
- The NEST program has finalized our recommendations and for the most part they have been accepted. We are finalizing those details since it is a big change. We want 25 families. For those who contacted us, you are still on the list. We have not done a selection process. We are waiting for policy to finalize the application to finalize the fiscal piece.

Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Katie Olson

- Continuing to grow to meet the need to do all the developmental and behavioral screenings within 30 days of case opening and leading the CFT meetings.
- We hired 3 new specialists
- Sarah is the new supervisor with DSEP program. She will be attending this meeting and it will be my last.

Roundtable

Child Development Associates – Mara Chacon

- This is an outline of how the program would work from the beginning to end. (Passed out an outline document)
 - It starts with child needing care and being placed with a caretaker, relative, and foster parent.
 - Then it could be 2 different scenarios:
 1. If child is categorized as CPS or at risk
 2. Regular Foster child
 - In either instance, we have caregivers contact the CEL. That is Centralized Eligibility List; they place family as an application holder. From that list, other agencies can pull applications. Then we contact families to complete enrollment. Funding comes from state in July, we have not heard from them yet, but we typically do.
 - Once we exhaust all the applications from the CEL, then we can go outside and just get referrals from CPS workers or any other place.
 - From that point that we call parents to schedule appointments and complete enrollment. They need proof of California residency and a picture identification of that caregiver or relative. It may be that social workers request a family fee waiver; typically CDA can cover most of the care based on state reimbursement for 12 months.

CDA – Clarification provided on 8/11/2017 by Mara Chacon:

- Reviewed the attached flyer and discussed that once a caretaker gets a foster care child placement and child care is needed, they can apply at the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) and from there, when CDA or other agencies get funding, we pull families from the CEL to offer services.
 - **Clarification:** When we say that the child needs to be categorized as “At Risk,” we mean At Risk of Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation. This can be determined by a qualified professional (legal, medical, social service agency or emergency shelter)
 - **Question:** Once the child receives child care services through CDA, if the child changes placement and goes to a different family, does child care follow the child?
 - **Answer:** Unfortunately current regulations do not allow us to keep a case open when child changes caretaker. This may change in the future based on upcoming regulations.

Foster & Adoptive Resource Family Services – Nicole Kelsay

- Twila Perucci does Foster Care Services, Foster Lift, Inc, which helps to support Recruitment/Retention of foster families. She volunteers to assist in many events, works for Grossmont as a trainer, mentor, foster parent, and adoptive parent. We couldn't find any one more well rounded or suited for the roles she fills and its going to be a huge loss to us when she retires. You've done great work! You are a true bridge builder. You help us with communication between families and the agency. You are an advocate for both and will be deeply missed.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, August 10, 2017

12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.

5469 Kearny Villa Road San Diego CA 92123

(Seville Plaza Building, Suite 3700)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:35 p.m.