

**FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700  
**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Present:** Amanda Amabile, Patty Boles, Melissa Brooks, Miriam Curiel, Wendy Curiel, Breanna Davila, Yoly Dayrit, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Shlyn Guarian, Brenda Jones, Nicole Kelsay, Alice Kennedy, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Diana Macis, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Katie Olson, Mike Palomino, Twila Perucci, Dionne Puckett, Jacquie Pusateri, Troy Rippengale, Veronica Sarabia, Marilynn Sproat, Debbie Stolz, Javier Torres, Mirtha Valadez, Barbara Wojtach, Daniela Murphy, Andi Carlin, Heidi Blue, Gloria Green

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

**II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The November 2016 minute corrections:

- Page-2; Foster Care Eligibility; Laura Hattaway; Bullet 3; Correction – “does not know...”
- Page-4; Polinsky Children Center; Marilynn Sproat; Bullet 2; Correction – “Will the Emergency Shelter Care Unit (ESCU) rate be ending on 1/1/2017?”

**III. Discussion:**

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

- Toy drive giveaway had great turn out. Women in Technology donated tablets. Hundreds of children received giveaways.
- Parents are receiving notices about Special Care Rate (SCR) and want to know if the rates are continuing?

*Wendy Curiel – Yes, Special Care Rate will continue. The state has decided to have the counties choose if they want to keep SCR with the new rate coming into place.*

*Maria Martinez – The notice sent out is about basic rate information.*

- Families stated to have issues with changes to Medi-Cal. There are reports of medications are not being covered.

*Maria Martinez – The state does not notify Eligibility on Medi-Cal changes. I will look into providing a phone number for Medi-Cal. Our office can call Medi-Cal on behalf of the foster parent for any questions.*

**San Diego Foster Parent Association – Debbie Stolz**

- Great turn out for toy pick-up. Relative families received a late notice but overall well attended. Toys were also given after Christmas.
- With Prudent Parenting, does everyone have to fingerprint with Resource Family Approval (RFA)?

*Nikki Kelsay – Prudent Parent is the same with RFA. We are fingerprinting people who have significant contact with the child. The written directives are online at [childsworld.ca.gov](http://childsworld.ca.gov), Version 3, and Prudent Parenting is in the table contents.*

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

- QPI state conference is in Sacramento on March 2-3.
- On the 24<sup>th</sup>, there is a state webinar where counties will be presenting their successes for 2016. We will be participating.
- Next quarterly training is pushed out to the end of March for regions due to RFA. Training is on Visitations, part I and II. Central Region will be hosting the training on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Emails and flyers were sent to relatives and NFREMS. Email will be out on training dates for regions.
- LA County will be coming down on 2/2, to observe QPI implementation regionalized.
- Planning an Ambassador Retreat on 2/8. This is to have the ambassadors come together to see how we can better support regions, families, and ambassadors.
- Next steering committee is next week. Topics are judicial system and other ideas.

### **Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri**

- Waitlist of 2-3 weeks for Spanish speaking. No waitlist for English speaking, we can accept those referrals immediately.
- Currently recruiting Spanish speaking clinician.

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

- Fully staffed
- Medical and dental compliance is at or above state level. We do rely on social workers, families, and providers to turn in information, so thank you.

### **Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Katie Olson**

- Continuing to see families within 30 days of case opening. We are having more child and family team meetings in places that are familiar to the family and it is working well.

*Debbie Stolz – What is the best way to have a child in Kid Start? Does one need a referral?*

- You can call Kid Start. You do not need a referral from the doctor to go to Kid Start. Call the office, it is self referred, they will schedule an evaluation within a few weeks to see if it's a good fit. The Kid Start Center for developmental can do assessments in Kearny Mesa, one day a week in Oceanside, and some in South. The developmental services are mainly in the Kearny Mesa office, and have clinic, the mental health portion. They are in South at the Rady's location.

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

- January-February pink booklet is out, this is the first edition that covers two months.
- Welcome Daniela Murphy.
- Redo on advertising towards support groups, more simplified. Separated out the "special interest" support groups, like Brenda Jones' Medically Fragile group." Starting in January, a Men's support group is held in North County. Also, Native American, Teen Issues, and Adoption, Bridges to Parenting support groups. Please share any feedback on changes.
- Psychotropic Medication training with Sarah Pauter held tonight at the Foster Parent Association.
- We have started the new RFA TIPS training.

### **HHSA, Resource Family Approval (RFA) – Wendy Curiel**

- RFA implementation started on 1/1/2017. The first emergency RFA on January 2, on stand-by.
- Referencing on stats: 82 background checks, 37 applications for Standard Intake unit that are 22 from community and 9 from relatives. And from Nikki's shop, 25 emergency approvals were conducted. Currently, 59 licensing applications are pending because they were submitted prior to 1/1/2017.
- Conversion is a topic of discussion and we are waiting for clarification from the state.
- Foster Home Licensing moved temporary from Mission Valley to 8965 Balboa Avenue. The office contact numbers are the same. FHL will be moving to 8911 Balboa Avenue in the beginning of February.

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

- Offices in transition, there may be minor phone issues.

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

- In December, the Computer Giveaway event in partnership with Future Foundations, where 300 computers were given away. Not many foster families registered so the invitation was extended to Relative caregivers and FFA's.

*Alice Kennedy – We have been doing this computer event for many years and supported by the Board of Supervisors, Greg Cox. We will be submitting a proposal for recognition through the National Association of Counties (NACo) awards. This is an excellent example of collaboration to support healthy communities, and counties.*

- I would like to recognize Dionne Puckett, for coordinating Home for the Holidays.

*Dionne Puckett – We were able to successfully match 15 youths. We had 29 families volunteer to open their homes to host a youth on Christmas Day. We received positive feedback.*

### **Maxim Respite Care – Mike Palomino**

- As of 12/1, every foster parent can receive 50 hours of respite. New flyers are distributed to committee.

*Nikki Kelsay – The state plan is to have RFA approved families and licensed foster families providing respite care is different from what your agency is able to do now. We will need to coordinate if they are not a licensed foster family or RFA approved, they will need to be one or the other to provide respite care for our children. The state is planning for a Special Notice to come out.*

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

#### **East Region – Yoly Dayrit**

- We had our first Emergency RFA last week.
- 1 child in PCC
- Toy Drive was held on 12/22-23 and it went really well. Thank you to the associations for the toys.

#### **South Region – Javier Torres**

- RFA transition has been smooth and referrals have been made from units.
- QPI quarterly training on Communications was attended by 49 people. QPI steering committee had 18 attendees.

### **HHSA, Polinsky Children Center – Heidi Blue and Marilynn Sproat**

- After hour work has increased due to RFA implementation and meeting the 10-day model. We are waiting for the directives from the state.
- PCC population is 30

### **YMCA Kinship Support Services – Melissa Brooks**

- Over the holidays we did a few events; North County Family Holiday event, toy drive, and we had about 30 of our families adopted. We try to assist our Kinship families with toys and things during the holidays.
- In terms of staffing, we were funded to hire two additional Kinship navigators who will be starting next week. This will bring us up to seven full time navigators for the County. Currently we have a waitlist of 28, but new staff will take on those clients.
- With RFA, referrals and emergency fund requests have increased a little and anticipate to continue.

### **HHSA, San Diego Adoptions – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor**

- The Adoptions Court party finalized 28 kids. A total of 61 kids finalized adoption for the month of November.
- Our team is conducting the Permanent Assessments for RFA approvals. So far, 4-5 families are in process.
- Staff our currently working on **approximately 200 in-progress Home Studies in addition RFA emergency assessments.**

### **HHSA, CWS Policy & Program Support Division – Veronica Sarabia**

- Currently updating forms, writing policy for SW, and trainings for RFA and RHA's. Our office is busy and updating with RFA.

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

- Today we received 5 or 6 Emergency RFA referrals and we are changing the process. We are immediately referring them to Cal-Works. The Cal-Works office is receiving all information up front. We are unsure how long the approval will take so we have identified staff who will oversee these cases to make sure no one is left behind.
- The rate increase for regular placements, were 92% successful in our cases. Almost 100 cases the rate did not take and the **HSS** are re-evaluating to see what went wrong. The rates for FFA's are not up and running due to state issues.

**Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Deputy Director – Alice Kennedy**

- Special Kudos to Wendy, Nikki, Gloria, and Diana Macis, in leading the RFA effort with all the other players, it is a tremendous amount of work. Thank you and I am very appreciative for all your work.
- Chief Administrative Officer, Helen Robins-Meyer, has monthly executive meetings with news to share on the horizon. A key county/city issue is homelessness and housing and coming up in ways to tackle issues. Another issue is the budget, on how the new national administration fiscal plans will impact California. There are specific cuts coming to HHSA.
- New class of SW's starting this month and currently recruiting for CWS Director.
- Working with FFA's on RFA implementation and CCR. We want to support them in process.

**Roundtable**

**IV. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, March 9, 2017**

**12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.**

**5469 Kearny Villa Road**

**San Diego CA 92123 (Seville Plaza Building, Suite 3700)**

**V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:43 p.m.**