

**FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700  
**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Present:** Nicole Kelsay, Wendy Curiel, Troy Rippengale, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Lodia Ruiz, Diana Macis, Miriam Curiel, Maria Martinez, Veronica Sarabia, Khemal Johnson, Yoly Dayrit, Jeremy Vanleeuwen, Twila Perucci, Mike Palomino, Claire Dwight, Deb Stolz, Patty Boles, Barbara Wojtach, Jacquie Pusateri, Katie Olson, Michelle Bailow, Blanca Blake, Mirtha Valadez, Heidi Blue, Carmen Robles, Terri Montes, Javier Torres, Elaine Shelby

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

**II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The February 2017 minute corrections:

- Page – 2; Public Health Nurse; Anita Secor; Bullet 1; Correction – “medical and dental exam compliance for youth in foster care is 96% overall in San Diego County and 79% statewide. Dental at 89% in county and 65% in state.”

**III. Discussion:**

**Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Deputy Director – Nicole Kelsay on behalf of Alice Kennedy**

- Cathi Palatella was appointed the new Director of Child Welfare Services.
- Social Worker Appreciation was recently celebrated. April is Child Abuse Awareness month and May is Foster Parent/Caregiver Appreciation month.

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

- The association has been getting calls about kids not having clothes. Social workers may be misunderstanding Sleep Train donations that come in waves. They should be using clothing allowance. This is likely for NREFMs and relatives that do not receive clothing allowance until approved. Pajamas are coming soon. Straight from the Heart has clothing for North County homes.

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

- Received 100 pairs of boots sizes 6+ and will be giving away on Saturday, 10a.m. to 1:00p.m.
- The association is well funded right now and receiving many contributions. We will search for grants for cribs, car seats, and gift cards, especially for beginning kinship and emergency placements.
- Extra-curricular funds for events like little league, T-ball and Disneyland passes. They are in \$100.00 increments for families.
- Mentoring newsletter is coming out. We can send info to Patty. It is important for all to know what is happening.

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

- On 4/15, Promises-2-Kids College Connections event will be held at County Office of Education.
- On 4/21, Southwest College Connections event will be held and Southwest College.
- Tutoring - send referrals for kids needing tutoring. No tutors in the summer, but for fall semester, start sending referrals in the beginning of August. There will be over 300 tutors next semester.

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

- We will take any printout form the doctor or dentist to document when services have been provided.

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

- We continue to hire bilingual developmental specialists for DSEP screenings.

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

- Distributed the new pink booklet for March/April.
- Training highlights are the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Straight from the Heart and on April 4<sup>th</sup> at San Diego Foster Parent Association (see flyer). CSEC in Spanish happened last week, many referrals by Mirtha Valadez. We received funding for additional CSEC training and plan to have it in June. Also, classes in Cultural Responsiveness: Understanding Gender and Sexuality in Youth March 30; Mental Health First Aid, held at Straight from the Heart.
- TIPS training by Arleth and Jeanie at the Indian reservation were well received. Many people are registering online for TIPS classes.
- Super Saturday event on 6/3 will be held at the Handlery Hotel San Diego. Childcare will be provided. There are four different classes. The San Diego Police Foundation is offering a class on Internet Safety and Mike Jones will provide training on Self-Care. Save the date is in the pink book.
- Will refer Spanish speaking families who went to CSEC to PCO.

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

- Currently oversees the following units: Intake (Standard), Background, 2- Granted licensing, Complaints, FHL Intake that will eventually be RFA Intake. Over 300 backgrounds cleared for placements.
- Stand-by program, workers are placing kids after hours. 18 stand-by placements have been completed.
- FHL and RFA are busy with Intake referrals.
- Rosa Ventura is the new supervisor for the Standard Intake Unit.
- We are now at 8911 Balboa, licensing phone number 619-767-5411 is still the same, but will eventually change to the 858 area code. We will notify families of change.

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

- Currently oversees Emergency Resource Family Approval unit, when a placement of a child with a relative or a NREFM made on a quick basis. Over 100 placements made. Kinship navigating referrals are sent to YMCA for every placement made for support services.
- Quality Parenting Social event on Friday, 5/26. More to come.

**Maxim Respite Care – Mike Palomino**

- Only accepting foster parents to register as providers. Not a big change but would like to get that information out. Foster parents who want to provide respite, we will pay for trainings and will get them through the process quickly.
- Will provide electronic flyer to Diana Macis for email distribution.

*Nikki Kelsay – The State allows up to two weeks of respite through Maxim, it can also be done through Options. Nikki will get more information from Veronica Sarabia.*

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

**Central Region – Terri Montes**

- Central Region is doing a great job, no children in PCC
- Carmen Robles, new Placement supervisor
- QPI meetings had a great turnout

**East Region – Yoly Dayrit**

- 2 kids in PCC
- QPI meeting was well attended last week
- Grateful to RFA, especially to the after-hours/weekend RFA emergency and Kinship groups.

**South Region – Javier Torres**

- QPI quarterly meeting had 31 attendees. Decision to divide the trainings in English and Spanish. Headsets will be provided for Spanish speakers. The second training is next Thursday. More information to come on times.
- 3 kids in PCC
- RFA referrals - Communication is going well, learning from each other, things are progressively getting better.

#### **HHSA, Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Miriam Curiel**

- PCO is calling families and letting them know before their training expires to avoid a training hold.
- After families attend CSEC classes, PCO calls to discuss and scale with them how willing are they before and after the class to take a CSEC child in their home. Also asking what they would need to prepare to take his population. This is also done with attendees of teen classes.

#### **HHSA, Polinsky Children Center – Heidi Blue**

- PCC population is 15, with two under the age of 6.
- ESCU still in place evening and weekends. Trying to change the culture of keeping the kids over the weekend at PCC. We will move children to foster families over the weekend, if they cannot find relative/NRERM.
- Currently under the 10-day model, but the impact of children leaving after 10 days have not been established. We are having constant conversations with the state to overcome barriers.

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

- Increase in referrals received.
- Emergency fund request is increasing for supplies such as diapers, beds, and cribs. Emergency funds can be release within 24-hours. Social workers should be making requests for families, for Kinship families only.

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

- Taking Care of Business/ Telling Home Study takedown on 3/18. English/Spanish Adoptions specialty classes available. Kudos to Barbara Wojtach for partnering on Adoption specialty classes offered.
- Workers are submitting their first draft of Written Report. 36 families in the Permanency Psycho/Social phase.
- Adoptions program manager, Genevieve Bromley, is retiring on 3/30.

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

- New RFA policy analyst is in place to help with implementation.
- Veronica is assisting staff in answering questions and is writing policies for RFA.

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

- Working together with Veronica Sarabia from policy.
- The process in place for CalWORKs relatives seems to be working. There is staff in place to assist in completing the CalWORKs applications.
- We have not been able to pay FFAs the increase in pay, but finally we will be able to pay effective January 1.

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

- State QPI conference took place last week and every region was represented by a social worker or foster parent. The focus was on working with teens, the presenters were two doctors, one medical, and one psychologist. There was a teen panel with foster, Kinship, and biological teen parents.
- Next national conference will be in New Orleans next January.
- Next training in South Region has been separated into two groups including Kinship caregivers, one for English speaking caregivers, and one for Spanish speaking caregivers. We hope to expand with Kinship, foster youth, and birth parent participants.

- The first ambassador retreat was held yesterday to recognize and appreciate the QPI Ambassadors and update them on what is coming up, like CFTs.
- Working on banquet/social event for families.

*Nikki Kelsay – Thank you to Barbara and Twila for participating on our QPI meetings. It means a lot to have our Grossmont partners at the table.*

**Loving Arms Foster Family Network – Elaine Shelby**

- In the process of reorganizing and filling vacancies in the month of April.

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

- Waitlist of 1 week
- **The intent to award letter was released for New Alternatives and Fred Finch is appealing decision.**

**Roundtable**

**IV. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, April 13, 2017**

**12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.**

**5469 Kearny Villa Road San Diego CA 92123**

*(Seville Plaza Building, Suite 3700)*

**V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:25 p.m.**