

**FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700  
**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Present:** Miriam Curiel, Debbie Stolz, Teresa Montes, Isela Hernandez, Katie Olson, Jacquie Pusateri, Troy Rippengale, Selina Brollini, Nicole Kelsay, Wendy Curiel, Sharon Ippolito, Diana Macis, Yoly Dayrit, Maria Martinez, Michele Manley, Lodia Ruiz, Barbara Wojtach, Twila Perucci, Brenda Jones, Javier Torres, Heidi Blue, Denise Bahen, Mike Palomino, Mary Jo Meer, Mirtha Valadez, Anita Secor, Martha Mackenzie, Breanna Davila, Jessica Morales

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

**II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The March 2017 minutes correction:

- Page 4; Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS); Jacquie Pusateri; Bullet 2; Correction – “The intent to award letter was released for New Alternatives and Fred Finch is appealing decision.”

**III. Parenting Expo Presentation – Selina Brollini**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Parenting Expo, on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido, from 8-2:00p.m.
- Morning speaker, Arthur Soriano, co-author of “Hidden Treasures,” will give the first 150 individuals a free book.
- Breakout Sessions
  - Session One – Help! My child knows more about technology than me, how do I catch up?  
The Power of Positive Parenting  
Teens and Dating: Safety First
  - Session Two – Mindful Eating at the Dinner Table  
The Power of Positive Parenting (Spanish only)  
Relationships – Managing & Resolving Conflict in a Positive Way
- Afternoon panel: Deputy Director, Kimberly Giardina, will host Parents Panel after lunch.
- To register online: <http://www.luvolutions.org/parenting-expo.html>
- We do accept fostering hours for this event.

**IV. Discussion:**

**HHSA, Polinsky Children Center (PCC) – Heidi Blue**

- The Emergency Shelter Care Unit (ESCU) will transition to the Nurturing Evaluation Stabilization Team (NEST). We are proposing to pilot 25 homes throughout the county starting with specialized homes. These homes will be first time entry into care only with some exceptions is a state rule. We will ask families to attend specialized training; monthly support groups, and is readily available to pick up kids when called. Currently, the fiscal incentive piece is in review to finalize. Informational meetings and trainings will be held in May and hoping to launch in June.
- To the foster parent community and Placement staff, if you know families who are interested in NEST program, please call Polinsky at 858-514-4600, and ask for the ESCU duty worker. We will have an application process and application review process. We are looking for experienced families and to attend additional trauma training.
- Population at PCC is 36
- The state did come out with the Interim Licensing Standard, which is the new regulation for shelters. All the shelters were required to submit a transition plan to the state by 5/22, on how to turn into a 10-day assessment center. Many components are already in place at PCC.

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

- The Chez Barbers volunteered to give free haircuts to our children. The event also had art projects with books to give away.
- There is extracurricular funding for children available.
- Easter bunnies for children were distributed to agencies in South and North Central.

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

- Alice Kennedy will be taking the position of Assistant Director for CWS.

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

- Continue to hire for Developmental Specialists position
- Working hard on appointment turnaround. Currently at 75% of referrals we receive we are getting to see the kids within 30 days. And we continue to go out every 12 months, part of the Pathways to Wellbeing requirements, to talk about development.

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

- May-June booklet is in print. The highlights are Super Saturday, held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are collaborating with the Grandparents raising Grandchildren group, and they will provide childcare for kinship caregivers. The Intergenerational group will have booths of resources from the community. There will be three breakout sessions, resource booths, and registration is available online.
- Mental Health First Aid in Spanish offered in May and we will continue the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) classes.
- Charisma De Los Reyes will instruct the Creating Nurturing and Affirming Homes for Exceptional Youth. Also, a new class, Trust Based Parenting Relational Intervention, in May.
- Different panels offered in May-June: Birth Parent panel, Foster Youth panel, and Exceptional Parent/Caregiver Panel

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

- Two Social Worker (SW) staff were promoted to Protective Service Workers (PSW) and there will be openings for two Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) positions in Licensing.
- RFA teams continue to be busy. There may be 6 fully approved homes within the 90 day mark. In collaboration with RFA teams with Nicole Kelsay, RFA workers are conducting the stand-by RFAs. This means the teams go out in the field on weekends, after hours, and out of county, to make placements of children in care. This process has been very successful.

### **HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Denise Bahen**

- Independent City event with flyer is this Saturday and requires RSVP. This is specifically for Central and North Central regions only. Contact Roshawn Brady, if you are from North, South, or East, you can call Roshawn or ILS contractors in region. It will be at the Junior Achievement Financial Park in partnership with Junior Achievement, similar to Biz Town, from 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. with a lunch break.
- ILS Spring Job Fair is specifically for East County. All youth are invited, on 4/26, 4:00p.m.-6:00p.m. at the Spring Valley East County Community Center. We encourage to RSVP all youth looking for jobs.
- Connect-2-Careers flyer with website is a great resource for job fairs for teens. Please distribute to all in foster parent associations.
- Grossmont College Tour, for youth interested attending Grossmont. RSVP to your Case Manager by Monday 4/24.
- Gearing up for graduation and workers will be contacting staff for names of students who will graduate this year with a copy of their diploma for verification. Graduation party is on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Waterfront.

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

- Quality Parenting Initiative Appreciation event for our caregivers will be next month, on May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff transition with workers at the KIDSline, social worker Gloria Green promoted to PSW with the Hotline unit.
- Foster Care Services committee will meet in June. The committee skips meetings in May, due to the foster parent appreciation event. This year, we will have the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) appreciation event.

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

- Completed office move, with new fourth floor location, no longer on the first floor. Flyers with new address to come. New address: 5030 Camino de la Siesta suite 405 San Diego 92108.
- Friendly reminder to all foster parents who are interested or know foster parents who may be interested in becoming a respite provider, please let us know.
- We have clinician supervisors on site that can provide a TB test free of charge.

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

#### **South Region – Javier Torres**

- Thank you to the San Diego Foster Parent Association for the bunny donation.
- Last month completion of the two quarterly trainings on Visitation, Part 1, very successful with good turnout. Attendance was 31 on first training and 24 on second. Next training is in June.
- 6 minors in PCC

#### **Central Region – Terri Montes**

- 4 children currently in PCC
- QPI meetings are successful with varies guest speakers in attendance. Foster parents feel that they are being heard and their problems are being taken care of.
- Welcome Isla Hernandez, Placement Specialist in Central Region.

#### **East Region – Yoly Dayrit**

- QPI quarterly training for Visitation, Part 1, had good attendance. The feedback from foster parents is positive.
- 4 children currently in PCC

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

- Currently fully staffed.
- In March 56 new unduplicated referrals were received. Only 11 families on waitlist. Emergency funds also continue to be used.
- New Spanish speaking support group in North County will be starting in June/July.

### **San Diego County Office of Education – Michele Manley**

- The Southwestern College event held on 4/21 is now cancelled. Not enough sign ups and event was on a school day.

### **HHSA, San Diego Adoptions – Nicole Kelsay on behalf of Gloria Escamilla-Huidor**

- The position for Adoptions program manager is now filled by Margo Fudge, who will be starting this Friday.

### **HHSA, CWS Policy & Program Support Division – Nicole Kelsay on behalf of Veronica Sarabia**

- Currently working on details for respite and will be presenting clarifications regarding respite.

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

- Continue to assist families in applying for funding.

- The state has not finalized the Level of Care; we only have the rates from the type of tiers for level of care, but not determinations for the levels.

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

- Next quarterly training will be on Visitations, Part II. With new policy that just came out, the agency will have updated information that we will review. Forms will be given to caregivers to use during their visitations.
- Scheduling training dates from North and North Central.
- Centralized steering committee will be meeting next Wednesday.

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

- Currently we are in the appeal process and are undetermined on what will happen to our contract. This is impacting us, we have lost two bilingual clinicians and another partner has retired.

**HHSA, Public Health Nurse (PHN) – Anita Secor**

- Anita Secor will be leaving the county and moving to Australia. Anita will continue to work until position is filled, in the meantime. She would like to thank everyone at this meeting and appreciate what everyone does for the youth in San Diego County. Her last day will be the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**Roundtable**

**Maxim Respite Care – Breanna Davila**

- Compliances are coming up and trainings will be next month online.

**HHSA, Contracts – Sharon Ippolito**

- In honor of April being Child Abuse Prevention month, Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council (CAPCC) is sponsoring their annual STARS Awards. They recognize the people and organization in the community who are leaders in child abuse prevention. Flyers distributed to committee.

**North Region Placement Specialist – Martha Mackenzie**

- QPI quarterly meeting was yesterday with many bilingual families in attendance.

**Foster Parent – Brenda Jones**

- Teen Girls Fancy Expo, it is a free event at O’Farrell Charter School. Breakfast and lunch will be served; there will be vendors who give out scholarships. Time is 9-2:00p.m. Flyers are distributed to committee.

**V. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, June 8, 2017**  
**12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.**  
**5469 Kearny Villa Road San Diego CA 92123**  
*(Seville Plaza Building, Suite 3700)*

**VI. ADJOURNMENT: 1:30 p.m.**