

## FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

8911 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123, Magnolia Room

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Present:** Frank Andrade, Kimberly Ayala, Michelle Bailow, Debbie Boles, Patty Boles, Valesha Bullock, Miriam Curiel, Wendy Curiel, Breanna Davila, Jorge De La Toba, Nancy Elizarraraz-Lopez, Brenda Jones, Mary MacKenzie, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Daniela Murphy, Sarah Nolan, Troy Rippengale, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Debbie Stolz, Martha Tavares, Robin Thompson, Jennifer Zapata, Joanna Smith, Melissa Brooks, Sergio Cayetano

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

**II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The June 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

### III. Presentation:

#### Maxim Healthcare Services – Breanna Davila & Sergio Cayetano

- I am Breanna with Maxim Healthcare Services. We provide respite service for foster children placed in a home. Each family with one dependent child is eligible for respite hours.

#### Sergio Cayetano

- I work with Breanna in coordinating and finding respite placement for these homes.

#### Breanna Davila

- We will be presenting on changes that were made in the current contract and present at each region to have social workers aware of what we do, how we do it, and recent changes that have taken place.
- What is Respite?
  - Respite is intermittent care for children
  - All families with at least one dependent of San Diego County Court qualifies
  - Foster Families are granted 50 Respite hours per calendar quarter
    - Q1 – Jan-Mar
    - Q2 – Apr-Jun
    - Q3 – Jul-Sept
    - Q4 – Oct-Dec
  - Children coming in from a different county do not qualify. Right now, we are the only office at Maxim that has this contract. We are working on extending the contract so we can service other counties.

#### Sergio Cayetano

- Requesting Care
  - Respite is available to caregivers 24/7
  - Respite should be requested at least one week in advance
  - Emergency requests are accepted
  - Care can be provided in the family's home or in the respite provider's home
- Excess Hours
  - In terms of "excess hours" sometimes, we do find difficulties to finding respite placement. We ask Social Workers to coordinate with us the number of hours needed because we cannot provide care without authorization of excess hours. Maxim will not approve the excess hours. This needs to be approved by CWS.

*Troy Rippengale – The excess hours is anything over the 50 hours that they allocated on for each quarter. If additional respite hours are needed, they need to be pre-approved and granted.*

*Debbie Stolz – For emergencies, are you available on the weekends?*

- Yes, we are available 24/7. When emergencies do occur, we have an on-call coordinator who contacts the recruiters and we proceed with the services.
- Our goal is to have families give a week advance notice to have structure.

**Breanna Davila**

- In addition, we want to limit the amount of people the children are introduced to. When needing respite, giving as much notice is preferred so we can find someone who meshes well with the family and children. We aim to find someone that has the experience and can meet the child's needs. In addition, we would find somebody close to the area and make it convenient for all parties involved.
- The only restriction we have in the contract is with Options. Families that are utilizing Options respite hours cannot use Maxim in the same quarter. Later on, we can enroll them in the next quarter.

*Debbie Stolz – Can emergencies be approved after the fact?*

*Troy Rippengale – That has not occurred and it would be on a case-by-case basis. I will get back to you on that.*

- Join the Maxim team
  - To join the Maxim team, things you will need to have:
    - CPR & First Aid certification completed in a classroom setting with return demonstration
    - TB test done within the past 90 days as required by the state
    - Approved Home Care Aide registration and Live Scan
  - Foster families respite providers are employed with Maxim as caregivers. Providers need to register with the state per state regulation.
- Once the requirements are completed, they are welcome to come on board with Maxim.
  - Need to complete on-line trainings, for which you are compensated for.
  - Most foster families are approved.

*Valesha Bullock – Are you willing to accept an online First Aid/ CPR certification?*

- They can do an online course, but they would need to go and do a live return demonstration in a certified setting in order to accept.
- Restrictions
  - Our timeframe is 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. (a total of 16 hours). Nothing other than counting from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. will be held accountable towards the foster family nor is the caregiver going to be paid throughout that time. This is not our policy, this is per contract.

*Troy Rippengale – If there was an over management situation where the child was up because they have condition, we can review on a case-by-case basis for approval.*

*Question: Can the caregiver provide care in or out of the home?*

**Sergio Cayetano**

- That is correct, they can go to the respite provider's home or provide care from caregiver's home, whichever is convenient.
- With emergency requests, if the family is going out of town, care is provided at the respite provider's home. If they know their provider, we can just ask them to communicate with us to make sure there is communication between all three parties. Mainly because we need to track hours of respite used by the family.
- We will not deny if the caregiver has a provider, so as long as they stay in between their margin of 50 hours.
- We are asking providers to provide their Motor Vehicle Report (MVR), which gives their driver license, their insurance information, what it covers. We put that through the state and get results back. If approved, that provider is eligible to transport kids. This is something new and we are pushing to get an MVR from every provider so we have options.

*Mary Jo Meer – Are you reimbursing foster homes for mileage?*

- Yes, 56 cents a mile. The mileage is for what the kids need, like medical items.

*Valesha Bullock – Those details need to be discussed with the social worker who is allowing respite services to happen. That is something that needs to be discussed with the respite care provider up front what the expectations are going to be for that respite provider.*

*Debbie Stolz – Medication needs to be given, where did that come from?*

**Breanna Davila**

- That is a state mandate. We do not have the required licensure to administer medications. It would have to go through skilled nursing.

**IV. Discussion:**

**San Diego Foster Parent Association – Mary Jo Meer**

- Flyer on park and recreation for summer activities for free.
- Super Summertime Kids Day, this is Sunday from 9-2 p.m. We do ask for RSVP. We are having selfies with superheroes, haircuts from 9-12 p.m., and two dental hygienist to educate the kids about taking care of their teeth with free toothbrushes to giveaway. There will be pizza and CarpiSun from BJ's for the kids from 9-2 p.m. Foster Lift will be there with free books and crafts table.
- School is starting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in South bay.
- School supplies donation not in yet, but we have some if needed.

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

- Our support group stopped a couple of months in the summer. We continue to have relative families coming in for support.
- Funding for Special need barriers in placements, for special need kids, especially, that fund is building. We have a grant coming in, many ideas on where our kids need help.
- L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth contest a few years ago and they reached out to me about products. I put in two requests:
  - One for foster teens for skin and make-up care.
  - Other for foster mothers and dads too. We will be having an event to give as gifts upon arrival in North County.
  - We have reduced hours due to out of town, conferences, retreats, Kitchen College, and going to Children's in Los Angeles.

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

- Finished up the month with the Foster Family Associations (FFAs) and County resource fairs we had for RFA. The event was successful and we will look in to having more scheduled.
- They extended the funding source for families with emergency placements that are going through RFA.
- We continue to wait for a response back. We had to submit plan to the state. We are gearing up for the final piece to report back in September.

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

- Tutor Connection students will start school at the end of August, and they will be cleared and ready to start within the second week of September. For North County families, I will have over 200 students.
- If there were meetings where families would like more information that tutors are not just there for kids struggling in school they can be with the kids as a weekly support.

*Debbie Stolz – At what age can an adoption happen that a youth will still receive the most school support for college?*

- 13 years old for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA.)
- For school support programs, most of school campuses at 16 years old.

### **HHSA, San Diego County Adoptions – Jorge De La Toba**

- The Adoptions program has been busy in the month of June. We finalized 57 adoptions in June and we got an additional date added to finalize adoptions in order to catch up in the numbers.
- We are doing very well. We gauge by the fiscal year, and finalized about 452 adoptions. That is a good number. For two years in a row, we have done well.
- Continue to work with RFA to change our procedures slowly.

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

- We implemented the Bridge Program. The Emergency Bridge Childcare program is funding for childcare for our resource families, licensed foster parents, relative, non-relative extended family member (NREFM), and FFA's.
- Caregivers are referred to the Bridge Program, Lodia and Debbie will share more details. The referrals will come from the social worker in a need of childcare with the ultimate goal of long-term subsidized childcare.
- From the policy side, I would like to message out that when there are changes in legislation, we always try to see how we can support our foster parents and caregivers. We are big advocates for that and sometimes there are regulations that conflict with what is needed.

*Question - Do you help in finding an actual provider?*

*Lodia Ruiz – Yes, we will help identify childcare providers and we do enhance referrals for that purpose as well in offering trainings and coaching to that provider to be able to work with that child from a trauma informed lens.*

*Question - How long does it usually take from you to get the contact from social worker?*

*Lodia Ruiz – We are new and testing the average timeframe. Our first one took seven days from approval to actual start date. Our goal is try to match it as quickly as possible and get that stabilized as quickly as possible. It is for children 0-5 years old and 6-12 years old for children with special needs.*

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

- Working hard in issuing the interim payments since April. We are up to date with payments.
- We have a little over 200 cases that are completed manually, which can be lengthy.
- The interim funding was from April to June, which will continue. The new emergency funding for foster care, those will have different regulations, for placements effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Debbie Stolz – How are the clothes allowances being issued?*

- Not to them, they have to be foster care eligible. Clothes allowance will start mid-August, early September.

*Debbie Stolz – What about emergency?*

- No they do not get clothing allowance

*Debbie Stolz – What about RFA approved homes?*

- Yes, they do.
- The state allowed CalWORKS to continue for relatives and we are supplementing the difference. Now the state is asking us to discontinue CalWORKS. We are gradually asking for those cases to close. We have about 130 cases that we will gradually transfer over to have the foster care funding payed at the end of the month. Starting 7/1, we are no longer sending relative caregivers to apply for CalWORKS.

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

- Steering committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month.
- State conference coming up of dates in September.
- Working with regional offices to setup an ice cream social event.

**HHSA, Public Health Care Nurse – Kimberly Ayala**

- New nurse will be starting next Friday for East Region.

**HHSA, CWS Polinsky Children Center (PCC) – Robin Thompson**

- Nurturing, Evaluation, Stabilizing Team (NEST) is up and running. Currently have 17 approved families with one pending approval.
- We have made one NEST placement.
- Biggest issue we are facing is not having enough homes. The majority of beds available are for babies. If anybody is interested in their regions in being a NEST family, other than for babies.
- NEST is the new Emergency Shelter Care Unit (ESCU) program. We are approved for 25 homes, 50 beds. We rolled out on July 1<sup>st</sup>, with changes like the \$10, a day that foster parents were previously getting will no longer be paid. People that will be getting the funding will be the NEST families. We were able to extend it from 30 to 60 days. Also, we were able to up the payment to \$20 a day. NEST families will be allowed to keep the children in their home for 60 days and will receive \$20 a day that they are placed in that home.
- Many positives in being a NEST home. The NEST families will be assigned an ESCU worker. If we get 25 homes, each worker will have five families. ESCU are the only people who can place in a NEST home.
  - Biggest need right now is for homes for children 2-6 years old.
  - Big barriers, the child does not have to leave after the 60 days. We will close your NEST bed until you have another open bed.

**Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Sarah Nolan**

- On Monday, Rady's has opened a satellite clinic in Murrieta. It will be housing some specialty services but will also have developmental services like PT/OT and speech. This is not in San Diego County, if there are situations where children are on long wait lists, they can work on a case-by-case agreement with out of county Medi-Cal to receive services. They have ideology, OT/PT, speech, Autism Discovery Institute, and the DEC clinic. They are also opening an Alexa's PALYC, a childcare center with typically developing children and kids on the Autism spectrum. This will be helpful for North County families.

**Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program (FAKCE) — Daniel Murphy**

- We had a great event on self-care last month at the Handlery Hotel, with about 120 families came to the event. We had a panel of QPI ambassadors to speak to our caregivers about self-care. Thank you to QPI ambassadors and Michelle Bailow from the Office of Education.
- The July- August pink book schedule is out with an exciting event happening tonight at Balboa. We will be presenting a documentary on "Resilience: The Biology of Stress and Signs of Hope." A good documentary talks about the signs of trauma and the impact it has in adulthood. This will be held at Balboa from 6-9 p.m. We currently have 50 people registered and we are taking walk-ins. Snacks will be provided.
- A workshop highlight is "Creating, Nurturing, and Affirming Homes for Exceptional Youth." We are offering this in English and Spanish. We are trying to expose more caregivers to create awareness and educate on LGTBQ youth. The Spanish class will be on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> and the English class will be held on Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Maxim Respite Care – Sergio Cayetano**

- If you have any questions on what was presented today, please feel free to contact me.

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

- Both Emergency Vertical units have gone live and we are doing the vertical process. Once they receive an emergency request, they complete it through approval. We are working hard in getting families approved within the 90 days. We are working with regions to overcome barriers.
- We are working on our backlog, for families that are in the middle of the process in permanency, we are trying to complete our backlog by 9/1.

**HHSA, Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Valesha Bullock**

- Next event is the Resource Family Picnic coming up in October. Upon confirmation of date, we will send out an email notification.

**HHSA, CWS Placement Support – Miriam Curiel**

- Recruitment for new Protective Service Worker (PSW) in PCO went out today. We should have position filled by end of month or in August.
- We had the annual Options Picnic and it was a great turnout. Thank you to our community partners and we hope our families had a great time.

**Comprehensive Assessment and Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jennifer Zapata**

- No new updates. We continue to take referrals.
- Currently no waitlist.

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

**Central Region – Joanna Smith**

- We completed our monthly QPI meeting yesterday, with Public Health from San Diego County who presented on lead poisoning and dental hygiene.
- We have been impacted by the influx of kids coming in.

**North Region – Mary MacKenzie**

- No QPI this month
- Attended the Options Picnic and received great feedback from foster parents.

**San Diego County Juvenile Probation – Frank Andrade**

- Last year we completed 61 referrals and this year we are at 33.
- Approved 15 homes. Out of that total, two are not specific youth. Most are relative's families.
- We will be participating in Pride event - booth to talk about foster care.
- We will have booth at LiveWell San Diego 5K on 7/29/18 at the Waterfront Park. We will be there representing our department and getting our message out.
- We will be working and participating in the orientation trainings. We want to let families know we have a need and we will be assisting with resource forms.
- We had our first Foster Parent Appreciation event on 6/22. We had 12 families who participated in raffle and games. Families received gift cards and were thankful to the Probation team. We hope to do this annually and during the holidays.

**YMCA Kinship Support Services – Melissa Brooks**

- We continue to get an average of 50 referrals a month for navigation services. More than half are directly from the county and the others are informal families who are referred by a school social worker or self-referred.
- We lost Lodia Ruiz to the Bridge Program, but hired one part time staff and full-time staff.
- We continue to conduct the support groups listed in the pink book.
- We were inundated with respite requests this year. We had to turn some people away or that we could not do over the summer, but possibly later in the year. We are currently applying for other funding for caregivers who are 55 and over.

**YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz**

- We just started in the month of June. We are new at this and will be working closely with Kinship to make sure that our childcare side of things we are responsible for. We are starting up our trainings with childcare providers on curriculum that is statewide. The trainings will be available in September. We do not have providers who are formally trained, but we do have the program educators who can provide coaching. This is brand new and we are rolling this out, not just in San Diego, but also across the state.
- If you would like to learn more about the program, please email [childcarebridge@ymca.org](mailto:childcarebridge@ymca.org)

**Roundtable**

**Breanna Davila** – Our rates have increased effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our providers will have an increase in pay.

**V. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, August 9, 2018**

**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123**

*(Magnolia Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)*

**VI. ADJOURNMENT: 2:00 p.m.**