

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 9th, 2018

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Amanda Amabile, Kimberly Ayala, Collette Best, Debbie Boles, Miriam Curiel, Wendy Curiel, Breanna Davila, Jorge De La Toba, Nancy Elizarraraz-Lopez, Lisa Gilbert, Lilian Nguyen, Donna Alexander, Brenda Jones, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Daniela Murphy, Sarah Nolan, Belinda Radovich, Mitsuru Ramirez, Veronica Sarabia, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach, Jennifer Zapata, Tereza Wilson, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Arleth Rubio, Michelle Pineda, Margo Fudge, Sandra Sheldon, William Sheldon

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

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

III. Announcement:

Protective Services Program Manager – Lilian Nguyen

- On behalf of Valesha Bullock, I would like to bring up the administrative code section for the Foster Care Services Committee is due to sunset and will need to be reviewed by the Board. This section was sent to all voting members for feedback. I am here to confirm if you would like to provide any feedback or recommend any changes. From my conversation with Valesha, there are no significant changes to the code section. One piece that will change is the language from used – Foster Family & Foster Parent to Resource Parent or Resource Family.
- All in agreement

IV. Discussion:

San Diego Foster Parent Association – Mary Jo Meer

- The activity we hosted last month went well. We offered haircuts, arts and craft, and pizza.
- Starting next week, school supplies from Promises-2-kids are coming. No date for giveaway at this time. If you need supplies, just call us and we can coordinate for pick-up.
- Scholarship funding is still available for extra-curricular activities.

HHSA, San Diego County Adoptions – Jorge De La Toba

- We no real updates. We are starting the new fiscal year and did very well last year with adoption finalizations- we had 452.
- Six new staff will be joining Adoptions from Social Work Initial Training Academy.

HHSA, CWS Policy & Program Support Division – Veronica Sarabia

- No updates to report today.

HHSA, Foster Care Eligibility – Maria Martinez

- We continue to work on the interim payments and clothing allowances will be next. We hope to start the clothing allowance at the end of month to have it issued toward the end of September.

HHSA, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) – Arleth Rubio for Diana Macis

- We are working on the Ice Cream Social. We have some confirmed dates for regions and all dates will be in September.
- The state conference will be held 9/13-14 and we are working on registration and travel approval.

- The last quarterly training attendance and feedback were great.

HHSA, Public Health Care Nurse – Kimberly Ayala

- Reminder to caregivers that it is back to school season. If any caregivers need immunization records, feel free to contact us at any regional office. We can provide you with records for school admission.

HHSA, CWS Polinsky Children Center (PCC) – Lisa Gilbert

- We need more NEST families. Currently we have 17 NEST homes.

Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Sarah Nolan

- Four new staff members are starting at the end of the month for Developmental Specialist - three are bilingual. This will allow us to book screenings sooner.
- Currently have two positions open.

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

- We are closing up on the July-August classes and we are finalizing the schedule for September-October.
- Class highlights in September-October are:
 - Cultural Considerations: Hair & Skin Care for Multi-Ethnic Children. This is an 8-hour training.
 - Youth Mental Health First Aid, both in English and Spanish. This is a program from Mental Health America and this class is geared specifically on youth.
 - We have two adoptive parents certified Special Education Advocates who will conduct a two part class on special education and Individual Education Plans (IEPs), to be held in September.
- Last week we had our Advisory Committee meeting. The next meeting will be held in December. We invite you to attend and provide feedback on what classes are needed for resource and kinship parents. At last week's meeting, we specifically talk about kinship caregivers and the best way to address their training needs. Statistics show that the number of kinship caregivers we served has tripled in the last couple of years. Some of the conclusion that were brought up are:
 - Making sure that the trainers are well versed with and inclusive in Kinship caregivers.
 - Find kinship caregivers who are willing to be trainers for us.

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

- We continue to have two vertical units that are doing approval process from start to finish. Once we receive a referral for Emergency RFA, my team will take it from initial to approval and then transfer the case to the Granted team that handles the annual updates.
- They are working on Version 6 of the Written Directives to come out in 2019.
- The RFA Statewide convening is scheduled for October 15-16. San Diego and all other counties will be attending and learning from each other what is working well.

HHSA, CWS Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Margo Fudge

- We have current vacancies that we are looking to fill in Placement Coordinator's Office (PCO) and Recruitment.
- The Retention staff are calling all families that have gone through the RFA process to check in to see if they need any additional support. We are also checking in with all the Relatives to see if they are interested to continue as a placement resource for other children after they resolve the child placed in their home. This has been going very well.
- The Recruiters will be going to regions on a monthly basis to further QPI efforts.
- The annual Resource Family Picnic is confirmed on Sunday, 10/14 from 11-2 p.m. The location is same as last year, Admiral Baker Park. Invitations will go out in about 2 weeks.

HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile

- You will hear me remind now until the end of year, for workers to submit graduating seniors to ILS

program. We have an agreement with Cal State San Marcos (CSM), that if kids meet A through G requirements, they are almost guaranteed admission to CSM. If names are not submitted to the school, they can lose that opportunity.

Maxim Respite Care – Breanna Davila

- No updates at this time.

HHSA, CWS Placement Support – Miriam Curiel

- We lost support group leader, Susan Gibbs for the Options program. We will be looking for new group leader.

Comprehensive Assessment and Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jennifer Zapata

- We have no waitlist.

HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All Regions

East Region – Collette Best

- Looking forward to Ice Cream Social on 9/5, from 1-3 p.m.

South Region – Belinda Radovich

- We are having our Ice Cream Social on Thursday, 9/20 from 1-3 p.m.
- Currently working to keep our PCC population low.

Central Region – Donna Alexander

- We are having our Ice Cream Social on 9/12
- QPI Regional Steering committee was held yesterday, we had wrap around services presenters and continue to have great success in working with our caregivers.
- We have kids needing placement.

North Region – Mitsuru Ramirez

- We are working with Patty Boles to determine Ice Cream Social date and time.
- We have the Indian Specialty Unit (ISU) established in the North Inland region. That program will go into Centralized Child Welfare Services (CCWS) leadership effective 8/17. If you ever take children who are identified as Native or Indian, or applicable to the Indian Children Welfare Act (ICWA), please note that this will be under CCWS leadership. ISU will continue to be housed in the North Inland Live Well Center at the Escondido office.
- New contract with Child and Family Team (CFTs) meetings that has started. We will have contracted facilitators from Fred Finch reporting to the regions within the next couple of weeks and some as soon as next week. The contracted staff are going to be facilitating CFTs. If you are a Resource or Foster Parent and are invited to attend these meetings, we will have contracted facilitators doing these meetings at regional offices. We will continue to have regional staff doing CFTs. Contracted facilitators will be doing most of the ones where the kids have an open case, kids that are currently dependent of Juvenile court. Regional staff will continue to do the CFTs that are considered “emergency”, needed for children who are in imminent danger of potential removal or there has been a safety threat identified. We try to loop in the families natural support systems to make sure the child is safe.
- We have had a couple of fires that have affected North region, San Pasqual, Oceanside, and now the Lake Elsinore area. I would like to know if there is a protocol for Foster Parents on whom to contact during an emergency and in the event you may have to evacuate. What is the general understanding of how to do this? The agency has different departments making calls to the families getting information, when they already have other people call asking for the same information. What is the best way to streamline this process during these scary times?

YMCA Kinship Support Services – Melissa Brooks

- We are low in referrals due to summer break from school.
- 20 referrals received for July. Formal- 7 Informal- 21
- No waitlist at this time.
- We will start approving respite hours in October.
- Emergency funds for July was \$30,000.00

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Debbie Boles

- We have completed eight in the month of July for child placement into childcare programs.
- Five completed in the month of August with four pending.
- We are moving along in helping families get their child arrangements. The process can happen quickly, within 7-10 days. We encourage families to take the recommendations of the different programs available to them under their criteria. In addition, spend the time to look for the quality environment that fits the children.
- The “9th annual Early Childhood Mental Health, We Can’ Wait!’ mental health conference is in September. There is a lot information regarding trauma informed care and on Saturday, they will focus on early childhood provider community.
- Our trauma informed care training is up and running at state level at the end of August. There will be modules on trauma informed care that we will be teaching with the providers.
- There are three sides of parameters for the Bridge program:
 - 6-12 months of subsidized childcare. As long as there is funding, the families that qualify are pulled from the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL.)
 - Training and Coaching – We have staff in place who will be providing the training and coaching to families that are caring for the children or available to care in the future.
 - Navigating – We provide the referrals in our database - we have a list of all licensed programs in San Diego County.

Roundtable

V. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, September 13, 2018

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 2:00 p.m.