FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 13th, 2018
8911 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123, Magnolia Room
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Amanda Amabile, Debbie Boles, Miriam Curiel, Jessica Morales, Belinda Radovich, Mitsuru Ramirez, Veronica Sarabia, Jennifer Zapata, Gloria Escamilla-Huidor, Delona King, Brenda Jones, Da'Shaun Payne, Ivette Corrales, Dannette Shevlin, Juliana Vega, Melissa Brooks, Rebecca Corbett, Sergio Cayetano, Joanna Smith, Robin Thompson

I. Gloria Escamilla-Huidor called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

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

III. Updates and Discussion:

Straight From The Heart – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor for Martha Tavares
- Straight from the heart is very busy lately. Doing a lot of mentoring with resource parents. Quite a bit of relatives have been coming in for kid packs.
- Talking to organizations who are interested in donating for kids packs because supply is running low.

HHSA, Centralized CWS Operations – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor for Valesha Bullock
- No updates

Resource Parent/Mentor – Brenda Jones
- Resource Family Picnic is October 14, 2018, at Admiral Baker Field. Flyers were mailed to parents with RSVP info. Must call kids line to RSVP 877-792-5437 by October 5th, 2018.

HHSA/ CWS Policy and Program Support – Veronica Sarabia
- No new updates

HHSA, CWS Foster Care Eligibility – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor for Maria Martinez
- Eligibility is on track with issuing clothing allowances and they are on track to complete issuing all payments by the end of month.

HHSA, CWS FARFS – Miriam Curiel for Diana Macias
- QPI regional ice cream socials are under way and going well.
- Resource Family Picnic coming soon, passed out picnic flyers.

HHSA, CWS Polinsky Children Center (PCC) – Robin Thompson
- Population is 33. NEST is up and running with 21 homes with 15 children placed. Need more NEST families to reach 50 beds.
- Training on October 6th, 2018 at Polinsky Pavilion Room, 8:30am-4:30pm
- Spread the word for foster parents to become a NEST family and also get 8 hours of training.

Grossmont College Foster & Adoptive Kinship Care Education Program (FAKCE) — Juliana Vega for Barbara Wojtach
- Four upcoming classes (English & Spanish Youth Mental Health First Aid; Navigating Special Education and Understanding the Secret Language of IEPs; Cultural Considerations for Hair & Skin Care for Multi-Ethnic Children; to be held in September and October 2018.(flyers provided)
• September is Mental Health Awareness Month.

HHSA, CWS Foster Home Licensing/ Resource Family Approval (FHL/RFA) – Gloria Escamilla-Huidor for Wendy Curiel
• Reminder that the RFA Statewide convening is set for October 15-16. San Diego and all other counties will be attending and learning from each other about what is working well.
• Two bills SB 1083, which focuses on Resource Family Approval and AB1930 on Foster Care were passed.
• Deadline extended to 12/31/2020 for converting licensed families and relative homes. Agency will be notifying caregivers by July 2019 of changes.
• Vertical ERFA team has approved some families within the 90 days.
• Family Permanency Evaluation working hard to approve families that have been in process for a while.
• Families with emergency/compelling reason placement prior to approval are getting interim funding.
• Working on having someone from policy come to present at next month’s meeting on Child and Family Team Meetings and answer any questions.

HHSA, CWS Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS) – Miriam Curiel for Margo Fudge
• No updates

HHSA, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile
• Reminder about the graduation list. We will be sending out requests at the beginning of October.

Maxim Respite Care – Sergio Cayetano for Breanna Davila
• Should see an increase in respite referrals with the Holidays coming in. Asking all Social Workers and families to continue good communication.

Comprehensive Assessment and Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jennifer Zapata
• We have no waitlist.

HHSA, CWS Placement Support – Miriam Curiel
• Christine Rosas DiMaggio retired end of August 2018. Currently looking to fill this Options program social worker position. Job posting went out and should end this Friday 9/14/2018 - will be interviewing soon.

HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All Regions

South Region – Belinda Radovich
• QPI Ice Cream Social next Thursday September 20th, 2018 from 1:00-3:00PM
• Any Foster Parents interested in having children should contact Robin Thompson at (858) 874-1140

Central Region – Joanna Smith for Donna Alexander
• We had our Ice Cream Social on September 12, 2018, 125 people attended.

North Region – Mitsuru Ramirez
• Ice Cream Social is scheduled on Wednesday September 19th, 2018 from 10:00-12:00pm
• Onslaught of teens coming in possibly due to the upcoming holidays.
• Working with RFA units and Polinsky to manage the population.
• Green Oak Ranch resource for children that cannot find homes.

Probation Department – Delona King
• Frank Andrade will be taking over title IV-E project and stepping away from RFA. Delona King will be
taking over placement unit.

- Participating in forums with CWS to try to find families that can care for probation youth.
- Having caregiver events. The first one was in June 2018. The next one is November 1, 2018 and is being held at Phil’s BBQ at the event center from 5:15PM until the end of the football game. Contact Delona to RSVP at 858-694-4213.

YMCA Kinship Support Services – Melissa Brooks/ Rebecca Corbett

- No waitlist at this time.
- Currently trying to fill three positions.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Debbie Boles

- As of this morning, we have 34 families that have been through navigation and are receiving vouchers.
- Contact Lodia Ruiz at lruiz@ymca.org if you want the Bridge Program to participate in future events.

Roundtable

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

- NEST support groups are starting September 26th, 2018 and will be held the fourth Wednesday of every month (except for December) and will be at Polinsky in room 5 from 5:30-8:00PM.

Maxim Respite Care – Sergio Cayetano for Breanna Davila

- For Emergency request that are longer than their allotted 50 hours, contact Maxim. There may be a change in personnel for these situations.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, October 11th, 2018
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123
(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 12:40 p.m.