

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 14th, 2017
8911 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123, Magnolia Room
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Amanda Amabile, Patty Boles, Valesha Bullock, Miriam Curiel, Wendy Curiel, Breanna Davila, Jorge De La Toba, Isela Hernandez, Brenda Jones, Nikki Kelsay, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Diana Macis, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Susan Moreno, Daniela Murphy, Lodia Ruiz, Barbara Wojtach, Natalia Guevara, Nuth Chhea, Juliana Vega, Mara Chacon, Nancy Elizarrazraz-Lopez, Martha Tavares, Collette Best, Belinda Radovich, Rachel Swaykos

- I. Nicole Kelsay called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The August 2017 minutes was unanimously approved
- III. Presentation:** Child and Family Team meetings – Rachel Swaykos
- Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) has pieces of legislation that have come out in the past couple of years:
 - AB 403, inactive in 2015, set out to reform the Foster Care system, RFA was a piece of that.
 - AB 1997, is more specific about on how to set up goals and how it will look like with AB 403. This is how we want to do it.
 - AB 404, is much more minor than other two were and you will be more familiar with and acting out with RFA this past year.
 - Overall goal in CCR – all children live with a committed, nurturing, and permanent family that prepares them in transition of successful adulthood. That is the work that comes from caregivers, social workers, bio-natural families, and everybody working together for placement permanency.
 - Fundamentals Principles of CCR
 - All of the kids, who are out of home care, have child and family team (CFT) meetings. A team who makes decisions together for the best interest of child and everybody voice is heard. There should not be a change of placement to get the support and services for child.
 - Collaboration and comprehensive – more voices and working together for assessments are more thorough and effective.
 - For all kids, besides safe and permanency, we aim for wellbeing portion, normalcy. Extra-curricular activities are just as important in their lives as the stuff we do to protect them.
 - Requirements
 - CFT's
 - Group homes becoming short term residential therapeutic program (STRTP). Group homes being now short term treatment placements. They will provide:
 - Mental health services
 - Medical certified
 - Accredited through the state board
 - Need County's approval
 - We will need help with placements
 - Rate are changing as of January 1, 2017, everyone changed to basic rate
 - Next year, phase II, will brings in level of care rate structure
 - Polinsky has changed into 10-day assessment center
 - Resource families, Relative/Non-relative extended family member (NREFM) are priority

- Intensive Services Foster Care is a service for support with a foster home either by County or by Foster Family Association (FFA) based.
- To meet goals of CCR, all mandates say, as professionals, caregivers, and prior agencies we owe our kids core services and their families. This includes special mental health services and transition services, and permanency support services. CFT help identify those establishing those services.
- CFT's
 - Teaming is build off entering of Katie A. and child and family teams for youth in the enhance services. We have the highest of level of behavioral and mental health needs. We created teams just for youth, just about them for the people they identify.
 - Now teams are every youth who is out of home to address any need they or their family may have.
 - Teaming is the process of a group of people coming together, who are committed to a common purpose, approach, and performance goals, which they hold themselves mutually accountable.
 - The meetings will be designed to produce a plan for safety, placement, and services that is the mandate. This is for all kids considering out of home youth. Anyone in revocation and voluntaries, they will not have the CFT's.
 - The state has mandated certain partners. Our partners are, Pathways to Wellbeing, youth , social worker, and whoever is identified to be part of the team. Every caregiver should be hearing from their social worker about their participation in the team.

Nikki Kelsay: Can caregivers bring their mentors into the meeting?

- So anybody who presents a mandated person by the state, will have to be approved by the team, specifically the youth and family, that they are “ok” for that person to be present.
 - We have implemented the baseline Mandate, it was mandated as of January 1, but the state did not send out the regulation until later time. We are one of the few counties that have it up and running, we went live in mid May.

Valesha Bullock: Right now the CFT's are being lead by social work staff, however, the agency has submitted a proposal for this particular process to be done by contractors. And if approved by the board, we will be contracting with a different agency to be able to be the facilitators to call negotiating the times. And the social workers will focus in working with the families directly. Due to specifics timeframe, you will see this mostly in the frontend.

- CFT vs. TDM
 - Differences: decision making, service planning, reach out to everyone in invitation, ongoing meetings
 - Similar: structured, youth has a team
- Roles and assessing the needs of the family
 - Should youth be in meeting based on appropriateness, age, developmental, emotional, and physical safety. The preference in priority is to have youth be present for entire meeting.
 - Facilitator will being going to everyone and schedule with them and make agenda for each meeting. Social worker and supervisors goal is to know what needs to happen, which is safety, permanency, and wellbeing. Caregiver's role is to share what is going well with the youth in their home.
 - The team deciding what is priority and barriers. On the strength side what are those things we help us utilize more and continue next. Make plans and coming into agreement.

IV. Discussion:

San Diego Foster Parent Association – Mary Jo Meer

- We had giveaways for school supplies. Please call Mary Jo to meet at association for pick-up. We will be receiving more from Mattress Firm in October. We have back-packs.

North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles

- We had over 200 backpack giveaways and have double bags of school supplies. We will be receiving more donations.
- Book donation to come
- To all trainers, most of the trainings will be held in the big training room or the room at the very end past the shop.
- Mentoring phone is very busy. Most are relatives calling about all the changes in place.
- St. Augustine students are coming for the OT/PT therapy and assessment plans and Dr. Steve will also be present for shoe inserts

Mary Jo Meer: Who the granted RFA worker for licensing?

Wendy Curiel: Esther Castellanos is the granted worker.

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

- We will implement for RFA conversion forums in North County next week, East, South bay, and last one at Balboa building. This is regarding the conversion letters that went out to have a discussion about what RFA is, the impact on families, what the state is looking at, and how the agency plans to do the conversion. Please see flyer on forums date and times. We will be doing a presentation with breakout sessions for questions with certain issues. Licensing, RFA, and leadership staff will be present.
- RFA continues to grow and if you have any questions, please call the agency.
- Next two weeks, Levant Street staff is moving sites as of 9/29/2017. New phone assignment and staff transition will be in place, so please be patient during this move.

Nikki Kelsay: the 8911 Balboa building will house Adoptions, Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services, Foster Home Licensing, Resource Family Approval, and Policy will be next door.

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

- The Annual Resource Family Picnic is set for Sunday, October 15, at Admiral Baker Park from 11a.m – 2p.m. This will be opened to our Relative and Non-relative caregivers.
- November is Adoptions month and we will be having an Adoptions Court Party for families who are finalizing adoptions. A Save a Date will be sent to chosen families.
- Next meeting I will be presenting about the Foster Care Services committee and voting in members.
- The Emergency RFA has handled over 300 emergencies placements

HHSA, Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists – All Regions

Central Region – Isela Hernandez

- Natalia Guevara has volunteered to be a mentor for Central region
- QPI meeting has changed to 9/19
- Staffing change in Placement unit. The senior is now supervisor, social worker has promoted, and another will retire.
- 2 kids in PCC

North Central Region – Nuth Chhea

- QPI training on 9/25 at Mission Valley office
- North Central region staff is now located at the Mission Valley office

South Region – Belinda Radovich

- Staffing change in Placement unit. Two social workers have left unit.
- QPI training held last week and 10-12 foster parents attended.
- 2 kids in PCC

East Region – Collette Best

- We have started the QPI notebooks for Relative caregivers
- QPI training is on 9/27, Investigations
- The office is busy now that school has started

Placement Support unit – Miriam Curiel

- New social worker III staff, Lorena Sandoval, will be joining the PCO unit tomorrow. Foster Parents will be receiving reminder letters about trainings renewals.

YMCA Kinship Support Program – Lodia Ruiz

- We have 55 referrals in August. 49% are CWS and 51 % are informal families that we are working with.
- New Spanish-speaking support group meeting the first Tuesday of the month and moved the English support group from Oceanside to Inland at the Palomar YMCA every Tuesday.
- Provided about \$10,000 in emergency funding for formal families and \$18,000 for informal.
- Provided \$8,500 in respite care payments for families
- Two family events coming up:
 - East County family event held on 9/23 at Horse of the Sun Ranch, in Pine Valley
 - South Bay family event held 9/24 at Camp Surf in Imperial Beach

HHSA, San Diego Adoptions– Jorge De La Toba

- We have approximately 800 cases in the Adoptions program and at the end of the Fiscal year last year we finalized 550 children. We are working very hard to stay on track for the following year.
- Adoptions are moving to Balboa building on 9/29.

Nikki Kelsay: Workers are moving from Applicant workers into RFA, from Adoptions to RFA. The Adoptions program is changing its configuration. Currently there is Applicant workers assigned to legacy cases and most of the work is going into Permanency Assessment RFA, under Gloria Escamilla-Huidor.

- We are working closely with the RFA staff, there are similarities between the new and old system, we working with RFA leadership to smooth process.

HHSA, Foster Care Eligibility – Maria Martinez

- Office is busy with statistics from beginning of year and a large volume of Relative placements due to RFA.
- Have bi-weekly phone conference with the state regarding the Level of Care that will come into place in December. We are working in setting up, organizing, and in place, in time before changes.

Nikki Kelsay: the Special Care Rate (SCR) coordinator, Kimberly Washington, is sitting the Level of Care subcommittee, and she can provide updates. They are looking at what the level of care offers caregivers, what did SCR offer caregivers, how do they compare? The counties are responsible making their own decision about SCR.

HHSA, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) – Diana Macis

- Normalcy meeting in Sacramento and QPI will be attending
- QPI Complaint training is currently ongoing and next quarter starts next month. We will be looking at things that are happening new in child welfare. Some of that will include CFT's, conversion, and any other updates we can bring to caregivers.
- Working to solidify the first quarter training for next year in partnership with Youth Training Project, ex-foster youth who train social workers and caregivers. The team will consist of lead trainers with a foster parent and social worker.
- National convening is in New Orleans in January.
- Steering committee meeting in October

HHSA, Public Health Nurse (PHN) – Claire Lynch-Dwight

- We have staff turnover, with three new nurses and two positions open after that.
- Our offices are moving, North Central will be in Mission Valley and in Balboa. You can reach by email.
- In July, 97% in medical and 93% in dental

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

- September – October flyer is available
- Great classes in September – October, and currently planning for November – December. The highlights for September:
 - Parenting from the Inside Out – a class that helps parents work on themselves
 - Internet Safety class – offered by a trainer from the police foundation
 - Helping Children in the Classroom – school is getting started in South Bay
 - Parenting a Sexually Abused Child
 - New class – Sibling Rivalry
 - New class – How to Talk so Kids Can Listen and Listen so Kids will Talk, based on book
 - Nicole Espinosa and Debbie Stolz, will present the Child Centered Transition
 - Baby Basics class held at the end of August, was very well received, had 26 people registered. This class will be offered again in November-December. And we have contracted with a health educator that will be doing the Baby Basics in Spanish.
 - There will be training on Car Seats for 8 hours, more to come.
 - Caring for Children who Experienced Trauma in Spanish. This is part the National Traumatic Stress Network training that we take TIPS from. This is a 16 hour training,
 - LGBTQ class in Spanish with two presenters from the community.
 - Transition class in Spanish
 - For November – December, we will be offering classes in Lying and Getting through the Holidays.
 - Their Voices Matter class– which is former foster youth and birth parents together
 - Teaming class, through the process of allegation in Spanish.
 - Saturdays are the busiest

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

- Three new social workers to start in the RFA Conversion unit. They will be taking on some of the Granted work as well. Social worker III, Esther Castellanos will be assisting in conversion.
- There are over 1,000 cases going through the RFA process in applications.
- Standard team has about 707 since August
- Background has received over 1,000
-

Roundtable

V. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, October 12, 2017
12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.
8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123
(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 2:00 p.m.