

FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 11, 2018

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

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Present: Amanda Amabile, Kimberly Ayala, Michelle Bailow, Wendy Curiel, Breanna Davila, Jorge De La Toba, Nancy Elizarraraz-Lopez, Brenda Jones, Delona King, Diana Macis, Mary Mackenzie, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Rebecca Corbett, Gloria Thornton, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Dannette Shevlin, Debbie Stolz, Robin Thompson, Barbara Wojtach, Jessica Bruno, Gina Mijares, Kerri Aviles, Margo Fudge, Shelly Paule, Cjambrica Frett, Joanna Smith, Charlotte Logan, Da'Shaun Payne.

I. Chair: Brenda Jones called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. All in attendance made introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes: For the September 2018 minutes, Diana Macis noticed her last name was spelled incorrectly. All other content was unanimously approved.

III. Updates and Discussion:

Child & Family Team (CFT) Meetings Presentation- Shelly Paule

- The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) is a continuation of California's ongoing system efforts to improve outcomes for children in Foster Care. A way to help all partners to work better together.
- CFT- Requires participation so that things are done with the families, not to them. Also, scheduling meetings further in advance, so that everyone has a fair chance to attend. It was also felt that the facilitators align with CWS, so out of home youth have a contracted facilitator.
- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS): A tool developed for children's services to support decision making to facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and to allow for the monitoring of outcomes of services.

North County Foster Parent Association- Brenda Jones for Patty Boles

- Front end needs to be very clear in giving accurate information in regards to funding.

HHSA, Centralized CWS Operations - Margo Fudge & Wendy Curiel for Valesha Bullock

- Cathi Palatella announced her retirement for March. A lot of changes are anticipated for the program.
- RFA convening is coming up to discuss different topics. 8 people from San Diego attending.

San Diego Foster Parent Association –Debbie Stolz and Mary Jo Meer

- Preparing for Christmas. Still have money for extracurricular things.
- Mattress Firm is filing Chapter 13. Did not get school supplies. Will dry up resources like toys, costumes, school supplies, funding for scholarships. Not sure if they will restructure.
- Mary Jo Meer would like to talk to management about visitation concerns in the South office. Things are being routed through the Hotline against Foster Parents.
- Home for the Holidays- Sooner we get the information for that the better, this has been very successful.

Child Welfare Services Policy & Program Support- Veronica Sarabia

- Have been updating language in policies and clarifying items since we now have Resource Parents.
- Moving forward with the Bridge program next year.
- Will be attending the RFA convening

Foster Care Eligibility- Maria Martinez

- Most of the clothing payments have been issued except for two types of placements; Group homes that have converted to STRTPs and FFA placements that are getting the IFSC rates. The computer system won't allow clothing payments to be issued.

- For Interim and Emergency caregiver payments for those who have a pending RFA, we have a system going (part of it still manual). As soon as the eligibility workers from the RFA unit receive those cases, it has to go through the intake eligibility workers to make a determination, and then it is sent to the RFA workers who do the manual payments. This process can take time.
- Timeline varies case to case. Determinations can take 30 days, could be slower or faster. They tell workers to elevate cases if they are unable to make determinations after 2 weeks.

Quality Parenting Initiative- Diana Macis

- Last month the state conference went well. Valesha and Alice facilitated some conversations. We have the Steering Committee Meeting next week and will highlight some of the workshops that were presented and see how it can help next year.
- Infusing the QPI partnership agreement with CFTs. Getting people familiar with what it is.
- Last quarterly training was the Ice Cream Social with 399 signed in. It was nice to see the community partners and social workers there. Maybe look to do something different in the spring. Helpful to have the support of the regions.
- November training: Part 2 of Working with Birth Families.

Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) - Kimberly Ayala

- July compliance rate is at 96% for the medical exams and 91% for dental exams.
- Added a new position in East and she's doing great, but now there is a vacancy up North.
- Reminder to go get your flu shot!

Polinsky Children's Center- Robin Thompson

- Population is growing every day. Making a lot of placements but they are coming in just as fast as they are going out. Currently at 38 kids. 21 NEST homes, placed 20 kids in those homes. Had a training on Saturday and got 5 new applications.

Developmental Screening & Enhancement Program (DSEP) - Sarah Nolan

- Attended the ice cream social and appreciated the opportunity to be able to share. Looking forward to RFA picnic.
- Behavioral team now fully staffed.

Foster Home Licensing/Resource Family Approval (RFA) – Wendy Curiel

- Brought on a new supervisor, Natasha Hood, to take on another Emergency RFA unit. Ever since starting vertical units, we have been meeting the 90-day requirement.
- Soon the state might be coming out with a 180-day limit for standard/community families. Most of our community families are going through the FFAs right now. We have two units handling standard cases.
- We have filled Nikki Kelsay's Manager vacancy with Elly Chung. Still figuring out what the responsibilities are as there might be some switches happening with the Adoptions and RFA teams.
- The two bills that recently passed will directly impact RFA- AB 1930 and SB 1083.
- Question: What exactly does a vertical caseload mean? One worker will handle the case, from beginning to end. Families like this more because they have just one worker to talk to.

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

- RFA picnic at Admiral Baker Field this Sunday, 11-2. 34 partners/vendors and about 700 RSVPs.
- Home for the Holidays- a mailer will go out to families who would like to host a youth during the holidays.
- Computer give-a-way: December 4th. Adoptions Court party November 16th.
- PCO- filled a position with Riva Jenkins so hopefully we can get caught up soon. Almost ready to announce who the replacement is for Christine Rosas-Dimaggios.
- Question: What is the criteria for the homes who would like to host a youth? Answer: If a family

is interested, they should call the KidsLine at 1-877-792-5437. Approval is case by case. The flyer would only go to current or pending caregivers.

San Diego County Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Amanda Amabile

- The Excel job program changes things to be easier for the kids now. Class now on Saturdays and they get paid minimum wage. Then they are placed on an internship. After 720 hours, they get paid and mostly get hired on. They have to be 16 and need a work permit if they are not 18 yet.
- Graduation lists should have gone out, need the names to send to Cal State San Marcos. These kids do get priority on getting into the university.

Maxim Respite Care – Breanna Davila

- We are excited for the resource fair. We have attended a few QPI meetings. Most of the regions have been good about inviting us.
- Had a meeting with contracts and feel that it will streamline requests and any confusion there.

Comprehensive Assessment & Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jennifer Zapanta

- Sent an email: “CASS continues to not have a waitlist. Had our Parent Advisory Group on 9/18/18 for foster parents which was well attended with education attorney, Matthew Storey, who presented on education rights and obtaining services within the educational system.”

Child Welfare Services Placement Specialists-All Regions

N. Central- Gina Mijares/Jessica Bruno

- We continue to struggle to find Medical Fragile homes.

South- Karen Aviles

- Did a QPI meeting today and have a QPI training on November 8th. Really enjoyed the resource fair. We had 120 folks attend. The Ice Cream Social was really nice because I got to be there and see some of the faces you hear about and interact with the service providers. Continuing work on our PCC Population.

Central- Joanna Smith

- Just had our monthly QPI meeting yesterday and were fortunate to have the County Department of Education present on Trauma. Normally for educators but they tailored it for foster parents.
- Special thanks to Mary Jo. She’s super helpful. Sometimes when we are trying to place kids, she helps and posts ages of kids on Facebook, it’s been helpful because it works. Also helpful in getting bunk beds and cribs.

North- Mary Mackenzie

- Had our QPI Ice cream social and had a good variety. Doing good with PCC and hopefully keeping out numbers down. It’s been busy.
- We do make referrals to San Pascual, we have to if they are over 12 unless they are in a home.

Probation – Delona King

- Continuing to try to recruit. Did an open house last month, doing a mud run, and more to try to get out into the community. Will be at the RFA Convening on Monday.

Resource Parent- Martha Tavares

- **Sent Email:** We have been extremely busy helping out families. We are also getting ready for our big Christmas giveaway! Usually I start making the Christmas bags in the beginning of November. However, we are anticipating a greater amount of families this year. This year I am actually going

to start making the Christmas bags this coming week.

YMCA Kinship Support Services- Rebecca Corbett/Gloria Thornton

- Fully staffed now, filled 3 vacancies, 8 full time navigators, and a full time case manager. Referrals were 55 in August, 31 in September, but they're starting to pick back up.

YMCA Emergency Child Care Bridge Program – Lodia Ruiz

- Referrals are increasing. Have done a couple of QPI events and getting the process known to social workers. Also will be at the resource picnic.
- Attended a network of care meeting and want to give a shout out San Diego because we are ahead of the game compared to other counties. Believe it has to do with our collaboration.

San Diego County Office of Education – Michelle Bailow

- FAFSA is open so make sure the foster youth are getting their applications in. Even for Juniors so it's easier when they are seniors and get access to funds.
- Tutor Connections is in full swing. The group homes up north have tutors and in the majority of foster homes. If you have youth that still need tutors reach out.
- Have a lot of Passion Planners that we're trying to get rid of. Nice for the kids and parents too because they are like journals.

San Diego County Adoptions - Jorge De La Toba

- Have approx. 700 children active to the program. Working hard to schedule as many adoptions as we can for the Adoptions Court party. We received 8 new staff (7 from SWIT, 1 transfer) and 1 new supervisor (Arlene Lopez). We're excited to be moving forward and getting the kids to permanency.
- We have between 30-40 kids that still need a placement, but this can fluctuate.

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

- Passed out Sept-Oct class schedule. Nov-Dec will be out soon.
- Some upcoming classes: Safe & Happy Babies had great attendance and will be doing it again Nov/Dec. Restorative Practices and Justices got great reviews. Two Adoptive Parents are special education advocates and did a two session training on IEPs that was also well attended. Cultural Consideration for Hair and Skin Care for Multi-ethnic Children. Heard there was a big need for this class and only 15 registered so far. There will be products given and hands on training. Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire to help deal with children who lie.
- Had an advisory committee meeting and the program at the state level is anticipating a 10% cut.

Roundtable

Charlotte Logan- Foster Parent

- Pleased to be here. Work with at-risk youth. Still need to go through the RFA process. Here to get as much info as possible as a pillar in the community. Will be attending the meetings regularly.

Margo Fudge

- Reminder for the voting members to respond to the email from Cassandra Duffy.

IV. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, November 8, 2018

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123

(Magnolia Room, 1st floor)

V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:33 p.m.