

**FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
8911 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123, Magnolia Room  
**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Present:** Michelle Manley, Heidi Blue, Valesha Bullock, Breanna Davila, Nancy Lopez-Elizarraraz, Isela Hernandez, Shannon Jimenez, Brenda Jones, Nicole Kelsay, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Diana Macis, Maria Martinez, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Daniela Murphy, Sarah Nolan, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Debbie Stolz, Jocelyn Waters, Barbara Wojtach, Rosa Ventura, Denise Bahen

- I. Debbie Stolz called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The September 2017 minutes was unanimously approved
- III. Presentation:** Foster Care Services Committee – Nicole Kelsay
  - Purpose of Foster Care Services Committee meeting
    - For the agency to advise and get information on issues, procedures, and policies affecting caregivers regarding placement
    - Brown Act meeting, there are governed procedures for open meetings of local government bodies and we have procedures in place that dictate how this meeting takes place
    - Requirements are:
      - The meeting be recorded
      - The meeting agenda is posted 72 hours prior to meeting. The meeting agenda is posted in front of the Balboa building, so any one in the public is welcomed to attend and provided notice of meeting.
      - The materials presented at the meeting are provided to the public. The minutes and other information are posted on the Clerk of the Board website.
    - This is a standing meeting that takes place every second Thursday of the month from 12:00-2:00p.m. at the 8911 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123. The meetings are canceled in the month of May and December only.
  - Duties and Responsibilities
    - To improve communication and teamwork among the foster parent community, our agency, other private agencies that help support our foster youth, educational system, and healthcare system. We are all here to talk about issues as they relate to foster care, caregivers, and children that are in placements.
    - We make committee recommendations available to the agency, to take back to improve foster care, placement, and services to children.
  - Membership
    - Committee consist of seventeen (17) voting members nominated by the organizations
      - 7 – representing Foster Parent Associations and foster parents
      - 5 – representing the HHSA
      - 5 – representing community based organizations
    - Members share serve a term of office of four (4) years and can serve no more than 2 terms or ten (10) years to complete a partial term
      - Officers – Chair and Vice Chair
      - Quorum – is required to carry any motion or approval
      - Vacancies – Sub-committee will chose people to become voting members

- Orientation
  - Packet provided
  - All voting members participate in the 2 hour state mandated Ethics Training
  - Sign a non-disclosure form
- Subcommittee
  - Sub-committee needs to meet at least once annually
  - Review membership and bylaws

#### **IV. Discussion:**

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

- We have funding for extra-curricular activities
- School supplies are available for pick up, please call office at 619-579-4900 and leave a voicemail.
- Giveaway on 10/26 & 27. Donation on costumes and clothing.
- Getting ready or Toys for Tots

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

- RFA is moving along fairly well. We have more applications coming in and are triaging accordingly.
- Having conversations with the FFA teams in regards to what they are experiencing during the RFA process
- Attending a state meeting at the end of month, to provide new information regarding state policy or issues that will be changing.
- Clean up bill will be introduced, AB 404, which will impact some the written directives in regards to RFA process.
- The last Conversion forum was completed at Balboa last night. Families provided feedback and the agency will focus on conversion and be accessible to families with questions about conversion.
- If any pressing matter comes from the community, please feel free to contact managers or me. We can elevate to the state.

##### **HHS, Independent Living Skills (ILS) – Denise Bahen**

- Currently putting together the graduation list for this year. If you have any youth who will graduate, please have foster parents contact their social worker or ILS worker, to make sure they are placed on the graduation list. Part of the reason this is important, is because the list is given to Cal State San Marcos, the kids on the list will get priority acceptance when applying to go to Cal State. We are hoping to complete list by end of next week. We want to provided the list relatively early to Cal State (before the end of November), because that is the deadline for the four (4) year school applications.
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is open. Everyone can complete their FAFSA if they are planning to go to college. They started this year opening FAFSA from October 1<sup>st</sup> until March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The four (4) year UC, CSU, and SDSU application are now open. This is for any kid who is going to a four (4) year university and the closure date is November 30<sup>th</sup>. All documents need to be completed and turned in by that time.
- California Youth Connection is a statewide organization where current or former foster youth that are 14-24 years old can participate in their services. This is a foster youth advocacy group that is run by foster youth. They are currently recruiting young leaders for the San Diego Chapter and the North County Chapter. The meeting is held at the ILS office in Mission Valley on the first Wednesday of every month. In addition, they will also sponsor a talent show where any youth can participate they do not need to be a CYC member. The show will be at Jackdaw Street on 11/8, please RSVP to Kenny. This is for current or former foster youth.
- Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) are on every community college throughout San Diego County. At the four (4) year universities, their services are different. Grossmont is specific because they applied for a grant, California Foster Youth Educational Services and they were part of a pilot

program, and they provide more support for anyone who meets the low income criteria. EOPS is for low income foster youth who are independent students. If they were in foster care/at home care after the age of thirteen (13) or in legal guardianship prior to the age of thirteen (13), then they are considered an independent student. They can fill out a separate application when they complete their college application, to get in the EOPS program on different campuses.

#### **Maxim Respite Care – Breanna Davila**

- Plan on attending the Resource Parent Picnic
- The respite cut-off age is up to 15 years old and no longer eligible at 16 years old according to contract

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

##### **East Region – Shannon Jimenez**

- QPI training last month went really well and had a great turnout
- Positive feedback on the Placement Binders, the caregivers really like it
- Plan on attending the Resource Parent Picnic, we will giving out books and bookmarks

##### **Central Region – Isela Hernandez**

- Attend the Conversion Forum and had communication with foster parents. Some families are upset about taking a placement or losing their license.
- The QPI monthly support group meetings continue and looking to invite Grossmont to talk about the classes offered.
- Placement specialist, Terri Montes will retire on 10/26.
- Plan on attending the Resource Parent Picnic
- 4 kids in PCC

##### **YMCA Kinship Support Program – Lodia Ruiz**

- Nothing new to report

##### **San Diego County Office of Education – Michele Manley**

- No updates
- Currently accepting referrals for tutoring
- If any questions, please reach out to any of the 10 staff

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

- Currently updating CWS policy manual for social workers because with the implementation of RFA it changed the procedures with placement and everything in the Live Scan, placement, and assessment pieces. We are actively working with the regions, RFA, and Eligibility to maintain the communication and address any concerns that come up.

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

- Currently receiving high volume of emails from Non-Relative Extended Family Members (NREFM's) and Relatives concerning pending RFA. We take each concern individually and do our best to assist.
- We will be meeting with CalWORKS to help streamline and understand our process
- NREFM's are being paid out of County Treasury funds, the process may take time to determine eligibility
- Clothing allowance is on target in getting out at the end of the month

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

- Just completed last quarter Complaint training. Attendance was equal to social workers and foster parents who attended. Overall, the training was informational to social workers who do not know the licensing piece and RFA in terms of investigations.
- Looking to work on a cheat sheet for CWS workers on how to support caregivers through the Complaint process

- On 9/22, the statewide Normalcy meeting was held for QPI. It is similar to a workgroup, and had 13 counties, California Youth Connection, and caregivers in attendance. Discussion was on barriers, Prudent Parent normalcy, and what things are hindering for those things to happen in CWS. Topic highlight was allegations out of discussions.
- QPI is celebrating 10 years
- National convening is in January, registration opens on Monday
- Next quarter training, What's Happening, which provides updates on things new in CWS.
- Steering committee is meeting next Wednesday. Topics are goals, finalize the first quarter training with California Youth Connection, and pilot the training project, it will be on Transition, Grieving and Loss.

#### **HHSA, Public Health Nurse (PHN) – Jocelyn Waters**

- Current vacancies for Public Health Nurses in North Coastal region and administration office
- Remaining at 97% in Medical Exam compliance and 93% in Dental
- Efforts towards the Hepatitis A outbreak. 190 cases with 18 deaths. Agency is working hard in vaccinating the at-risk population. 2,200 vaccinations in August and 8,000 in September.

#### **HHSA, Polinsky Children Center (PCC) – Heidi Blue**

- Currently 19 children in PCC, five are under the age of 6
  - An overview of children currently in PCC population, to share the struggle in placement resources:
    - 14 yo, M, in PCC for 29 days, this was a disruptive adoption
    - 7 yo, in PCC for 17 days, from Regional center
    - 16 yo, F, in PCC for 16 days, has medical issues that are getting resolved
    - 7 yo, M, in PCC for 115 days, significant medical issues
    - 15 yo, F, in PCC for 140 days, from Regional center
    - Two teen boys waiting on group home placement
- Currently no directive clear or final directive from state on the 10-day model
- NEST program is in waiting to finalize

#### **Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) — Sarah Nolan**

- In the last 3 weeks, 5 - new Developmental Specialist came aboard and two are Spanish speaking. This allows us to meet the need for the Spanish speaking families much sooner. We have 3- Behavioral Specialist that do in-home behavioral coaching with families.
- New Alternatives has a walk-in clinic for crisis stabilization in Escondido and a mobile crises unit that serves in Oceanside.

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

- Last year for the first quarter the unduplicated Trauma Informed Preapproval Service training (TIPS) count was 125, this quarter was 490
- Grossmont is unable to meet the need for the First Aid/CPR training and the County is looking into this
- Training Highlights:
  - Oct 13 at the Oxford office, we are having a LGBTQ class in Spanish
  - Nov 15-16, The Casey Family program is having a speaker on permanency to speak with staff and have an evening class, childcare and dinner provided, for foster parents. Note that space is limited and registration is needed. The title of training is No Place like Home and will take place at The Casey Family offices in Old Town.
- The November/December pink book will be out in the next couple weeks.

#### **HHSA, Resource Family Approval/ Foster Home Licensing (RFA/FHL) – Rosa Ventura for Wendy Curriel**

- Three new social workers have been assigned to the Conversion unit, but currently they are working on emergency

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

- The Annual Resource Family Picnic is this Sunday. Currently we have 704 registered caregivers and 152 all staff and community partners. Please RSVP.
- Court Party is scheduled for next month in November, offered to specific families who are finalizing their adoptions. November is National Adoptions month, 11/18 is National Adoptions Day, and 11/17 is the Court Party.
- Voting members will be voting in new members. New members are: Valesha Bullock, Breanna Davila, Sarah Nolan, Michelle Bailow, Martha Tavares, and Natalia Guevara.

**Roundtable**

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

- Hepatitis A vaccination starts from 12 to 22 months for the first shot and it is a series of 3-shots

**V. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, November 09, 2017**

**12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.**

**8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123**

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

**VI. ADJOURNMENT: 1:45 p.m.**