

## **FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Present:** Michelle Bailow, Heidi Blue, Patty Boles, Valesha Bullock, Miriam Curiel, Wendy Curiel, Breanna Davila, Jorge De La Toba, Nancy Elizarraraz-Lopez, Brenda Jones, Nicole Kelsay, Diana Macis, Maria Martinez, Jessica Morales, Sarah Nolan, Lodia Ruiz, Veronica Sarabia, Debbie Stolz, Barbara Wojtach, Denise Bahen, Collette Best, Shlyn Guarian, Jenny Rodriguez

- I. Debbie Stolz called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The October 2017 minutes was unanimously approved
- III. Announcement:** Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council (CAPCC) – Jenny Rodriguez
  - What is the CAPCC
    - Board of Supervisors (BOS) established the Council to focus on strengthening families and identifying and addressing the needs of children and youth who are in the public charge as well as those whose safety and welfare of may be at risk
  - Who does the CAPCC consist of
    - The Council shall consist of following voting members:
      - Five (5) at-large members, one (1) nominated by each Supervisor and confirmed by the BOS. Members appointed at-large by the BOS shall have not potential or actual financial conflicts of interest in the capacity of activities they conduct. At-large members shall fit in one or more of the following categories:
        1. Former recipient of services for children and families
        2. Nonprofit, community, or voluntary agency
        3. Expert in children and family issues
      - Four (4) members shall me nominated as follows and confirmed by the BOS:
        1. Director, Child Welfare Services (CWS)
        2. Chief Probation Officer, Designee
        3. Juvenile Court, Designee
        4. Consumer – Currently an opening for seat #9 and seeking current of former foster parent
    - Persons appointed to the Council must meet the following requirements:
      1. Be a resident of San Diego County
      2. Demonstrate an interest in, and knowledge of, issues relating to the needs of children, youth and families
      3. Shall not be an officer, member of the board of directors, executive director, employee, subcontractor, or other person with any financial interest in an organization that may be funded by County Children’s Trust Funds (CTF)
      4. Shall not have ties to agencies receiving funds where County CTF allocations are determined by members of the Council
  - Why is the CAPCC important?
    - It serves as an informational resource to the BOS on issues related to child abuse and neglect and provides a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment, and legal processing of child abuse cases. In addition, the CAPCC is charged in developing a plan for the San Diego County CTF. The CTF funds child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs operated by private nonprofit organizations or public institutions of higher education with recognized expertise in fields related to child welfare.
  - Meetings and forums
    - CAPCC holds quarterly public forums and meetings that are held in compliance with the requirements of the Brown Act

- The time is 3:00-5:00 p.m. ( 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month) and held at the County Operations Center (COC) located in Kearny Mesa
- How to become a member
  - If you are interested in becoming a Council member, contact Kevin Hauck, Manager, HHSA CWS at 858-616-5923 or [Kevin.Hauck@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Kevin.Hauck@sdcounty.ca.gov)

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

##### **North County Foster Parent Association – Patty Boles**

- Mattress Firm/ Sleep Train is seeking numbers of how many high students are in foster care. This information is needed for business communities who would like to donate to a specific age group.

*Nikki Kelsay – It is 368 students, for all cases.*

- Straight from the Heart Toy Giveaway is held on 12/14-15. We are receiving many inquiries from relatives asking for toys. We need a letter to send out to the families giving them information on time and dates of giveaway, this will include relatives.

*Diana Macis – I can provide the letter.*

- Worries are that the donations and funding are low this year for the holidays.
- The demand for mentoring has increased with questions on respite and RFA. Families continue to not understand the process of RFA and families think they need to forfeit their license if they do not take in a placement.

*Nikki Kelsay – We will be looking at these families on a case by case basis. Wendy’s team will be reaching out to the families by phone to review their options.*

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

- A lot of discussion on important topics at the Southern Counties meeting regarding RFA, Conversion, Relatives, respite, and what other counties are doing to support each other. Many of the same issues felt in our county are also felt with our neighboring counties. We continue to roll up questions to the State.
- I continue to meet with the RFA leadership team trying to streamline, bringing more communities, try to look at more compelling reasons, and working with Polinsky Children’s Center on how to be more proactive. We are meeting individually with each region and their placement teams to see the barriers. We have met with the East Region and plan on meeting with Central Region next week.

##### **San Diego Foster Parent Association – Debbie Stolz**

- Gearing up for the toy giveaway and worried about having enough donations.

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

- The new contract is allowing children over 16 year old to be eligible for respite. They will need a COR approval through Troy Rippengale.
- Maxim just rolled out an online application that will require coming to the office for Orientation only. We can set up Orientation at the Carlsbad location for those families in North County. The longest process is the background checks, typically coming back within 3-5 days. To provide respite, you will need the First Aid/CPR card and then a TB test done within the last 3 months. We have nurses onsite that can administer TB test. Typically one can start providing respite after 2 weeks. Trainings online continue to be in place and need to be completed within 30 days.

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

##### **Central Region – Shlyn Guarian**

- Currently Placement is back-up and have new staff in place. We are teaming with South region units in completing work.

- New Placement Specialist, Joanna Smith has joined team, along with a couple of Social Worker II's will be assisting unit.
- Central Region will be having a Resource Fair for social workers and resource families next week on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **East Region – Collette Best**

- QPI training last month, went well with decent turnout.

### **Placement Support – Miriam Curiel**

- Placement Coordinator's Office (PCO)
  - Primary function is to help social workers match children with available licensed foster homes and approved resource families.
  - We assist social workers and foster parents.
  - Main responsibility is maintaining an accurate database with records for every licensed foster home and approved resource families.
  - As of October, we got a new database, Client Resource Management (CRM) which records crucial details about placement homes. This allows us to determine which homes are on the Vacancy List to take placements and provide social workers with information about foster homes.
  - PCO places and removes Holds on homes. A Hold restricts new placements into a foster home  
There are four (4) types of Holds:
    1. Voluntary Hold – licensee request to be on hold due to illness, pending vacation, or other personal reasons
    2. Training Hold – expired CPR/First Aid and/or annual training
    3. Complaint/Allegation Hold – Placement issues to Hotline referral or other complaints regarding a home
    4. Administrative Hold – Building and grounds issue, an uncleared adult in the home, PCO is conducting a Quality Parent Review
  - Holds are reviewed internally every 30 days. A hold removal consists of:
    - PCO has to review CWS investigation
    - PCO has to review FHL investigation
    - Determine if the home is safe for placement
  - Foster Home Licensing (FHL) and Resource Family Approval (RFA) cannot remove a Hold, only PCO can change status.

*Nikki Kelsay – RFA and Placement are separate. RFA is the approval process and the decision for placement comes from the agency. The approval process is driven from the state and placement is driven from the agency. That is where we keep them separate and PCO is meant to coordinate with the regional placement workers. RFA does the approval process for the families.*

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

- Our Toy Giveaway, in partnership with the car club Street Masters is on 12/12, between 9-5 pm for Kinship families. We are requiring a form of documentation (birth certificate, social security, or cash aid receipt as main caretaker) this year from caregivers. We are worried this year regarding the amount of donations received. The distribution will take place at 4080 Centre Street, suite 103, San Diego, 92103, and our office number is 619-543-9850.
- In October, we received 53 new referrals; 50/50 formal to informal ratio of clients.
- Through our support groups, last month we serviced 312 caregivers. We conduct eight (8) support groups each week countywide, a total of 32 a month. For Kinship support groups meet weekly in each region. Bi-Weekly we have a parent trainer from Grossmont and the other sessions are open discussion and processing. Mostly attended by informal families.
- Emergency funding in October, we administered over \$30,000.
- We held two family events in East and South regions.
- Recently hired a new permanent admin coordinator, Isabel Buenofacio, taking over emergency funds and other administrative duties

- Currently hiring for a temporary Case Manager and 3-North County Youth Development Teachers. During our support groups we also provide in-house childcare, because of the needs the groups. We are looking for staff in specialized training which we can provide in-house.

**San Diego County Office of Education – Michelle Bailow**

- No updates

**HHSA, San Diego County Adoptions – Jorge De La Toba**

- Considering adding more staff to the RFA Permanency Assessment units

*Nikki Kelsay – Next week we will have the Adoption Court party, celebrating 20 families that are finalizing their adoptions.*

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

- Continue to update the policy to the Resource Family language. Continue to support the RFA, Kinship, and everything under policy.

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

- The Level of Care rates is temporary on hold. It will start in February; we are waiting for the state directives.
- Clothing allowances are up to date and anyone who is eligible should have received it. Please contact me if you have not received the allowance and I can research case.
- Office is busy with RFA and have a high volume of pending cases.

*Valesha Bullock – to streamline process, if a compelling reason comes to my attention, I am able to frontload eligibility and our budget department, as documents flow from regions to the teams, they already have started the process instead of waiting for my approval.*

**HHSA, Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) – Nikki Kelsay for Diana Macis**

- The National Convening will take place in New Orleans on 1/16-17
- Steering committee meeting was held last month with discussion on trainings for 2018. This last quarter training will be on updates on CCR, that includes respite, level of care, and keep caregivers updated on what will impact them starting 2018.
- Next year, for the first quarter, former foster youth who are working with California Youth Connections (CYC) come and do a pilot training to talk about Grief, Loss, and Transitions. This training is from a different lens coming from former foster youth. We are looking to have former foster youth involved in QPI because they are part of the membership we want to have at the table. QPI should involve caregivers, social workers, community partners, birth parents, and foster youth.

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

- Population is at 15, with five under the age of six.
- No response on our temporary shelter care facility transition plan. Our analyst came out yesterday and stated it is under review and projected we will formally, officially be a 10-day in mid 2018.
- We have seen a significant trend in Regional Center children coming to PCC and there seems to be an increase on the lack of placement resources in the community.
- We are seeing success in younger children and children with not a lot of significant issues, are moving quickly. The average length of stay last fiscal year was 10 days. We are getting an average of 100 children a month and the average population is 25.
- We have empty cottages and we are in discussion what the best use is for them. We have the capability to separate kids if not able to place together. The cottages are also used for trainings. We are implementing a drought resisting garden which will reduce water cost.

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

- We have four (4) new Developmental Specialist joining the team and their offices are located in South Bay community center. They will be able to see more families.
- Will be attending the Central Resource Fair next week.

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

- New pink book for November – December, we send out pink book to all Licensed, Approved homes, and Kinship givers. We are looking to reduce the cost for the pink book by posting online and minimizing the book by half the size.
- Highlight training:
  - Next week, in partnership with Casey Family Programs, training called “No Place like Home,” Sue Badeau is the trainer. There will be childcare and dinner. Currently have 9 people registered. The training is on Wednesday, November 15, 6-9 p.m. at Casey.
- For the TIPS classes, the attendance has dropped.
- On December 4, we will be having the Advisory Committee meeting, from 10-12 p.m. held at the San Diego Foster Parent Association. Refreshments will be provided.
- Currently putting together the January- February training schedule

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

- We have hit our 100 mark in approved homes
- Kudos to Patty Boles for being on the Live Well Advanced Panel, she did an amazing job.
- Currently we are mapping out all of the processes to improve them
- Kudos to Maria Martinez in supporting the RFA teams.

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

- Computer Giveaway is on 12/12-13 for caregivers. Board Supervisors Cox and Roberts will be in attendance. Location will be at Future Foundations in Central region. 300 computers to give away, families need to RSVP.
- Discussion on Grossmont contract in adding mentors, increasing First Aid/CPR classes, and increasing the hours for TIPS trainings.
- As a county, we are pursuing the Childcare Bridge funding. This allows funding for childcare for the interim before the child can attend preschool. Currently there is a work group in place to figure out how we can implement that in county. The timeframe is undetermined at this time.
- Please note that parking is available in the front and back of building. If you are having trouble finding parking, please let us know.

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

- Amanda currently is on medical leave
- Reminder to foster parents who have a youth, who are applying to the state schools, CSU and UC, deadline for the applications is 11/30. ILS can assist in the process, please call info line, 866-ILS-INFO.
- Upcoming Vocational/Educational flyers for fairs that are coming up next week.
  1. Metro Region at 2220 Broadway SDYS, next Thursday, from 11a.m. – 1p.m.
  2. Escondido at the Palomar Teen Center, next Friday 11/17 11a.m. – 3p.m. For youth that who need assistance finding jobs and locating educational things. Foster parents can get information on resources.
- Promises-2-Kids Holiday Shopping Event are as follows for 10 years old and up, (Up to minor dependents) and the amount ranges from \$250-350. More to come from Promises.
  - First day is Friday 12/8, 4-7p.m. at the Wal-Mart store located at 4840 Shawline Street, San Diego, 92111
  - Sunday, 12/10, 8-10a.m. at the Costco in Mission Valley located at 2345 Fenton Parkway
  - Last day is Wednesday, 12/13, 4-7p.m. at the Wal-Mart store located 732 Center Drive, San Marcos

### **Roundtable**

*Debbie Stolz – I would like to get information on the policy practice on taking the children to their formal school and how it impacts placement. We can start brainstorming on how to bridge that because it seems like a deal breaker for some foster parents.*

**V. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, January 11, 2018**

**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**8911 Balboa Avenue San Diego CA 92123**

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

**VI. ADJOURNMENT: 2:00 p.m.**