

**FOSTER CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
5469 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Ste. 3700  
**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Present:** Michelle Bailow, Breanna Davila, Yoly Dayrit, Laura Hattaway, Elyce Hoene, Nicole Kelsay, Alice Kennedy, Claire Lynch-Dwight, Mary Jo Meer, Jessica Morales, Katie Olson, Twila Perucci, Barbara Pike, Jacquie Pusateri, Veronica Sarabia, Marilyn Sproat, Debbie Stolz, Mirtha Valadez, Barbara Wojtach, Javier Torres, Troy Rippengale, Aisha Gonzales

- I. Twila Perucci called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m.** All in attendance made introductions.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:** The October 2016 minutes was unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion:**

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

- Christmas toy pick-up date Thursday, 12/15. Flyer to come through mailer.
- Funds available for enhancement activities for children in foster care. Call the association office for application and child can receive \$100.
- Association is requesting guidelines from agency on social media and cell phones for children in foster care.

**Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Deputy Director – Alice Kennedy**

- Continued recruitment for CWS Director.
- Staffing: Currently 30 new workers in Social Worker Initial Training (SWIT) with new classes starting in January.
- 2016-17 Fiscal Year budget is monitored with new Republican leadership in place, it may impact public funding.
- Sunset Review is held every 4 years, we report to executives in downtown regarding Foster Care Services public meeting. Report is on discussions held in this meeting and outcomes. The Ethics training needs to be completed by all members and term served by members on committee is reviewed. Ethics training is every 2 years and Sunset every 4 years.

*Nikki Kelsay – Voting members have a four year term on committee. I will get clarification on switching roles for terms served. Every two years the Ethics trainings are due and every four years the Sunset Review is conducted.*

- Building enhancements are in process for many CWS offices. CWS Levant will be moving to 8911 Balboa Avenue, is projected by June 2017. Foster Care, Adoptions and other programs are in renovations at the Mission Valley offices.
- New staffing is now in place for the Resource Family Approval (RFA) implementation coming January 2017.

*Elyce Hoene – I can provide update on telephone usage policy in place, but will look into it further. It says: Substitute Care Providers (SCP) may not prohibit or restrict telephone calls to the following:*

- *authorized representatives,*
- *placement agencies,*
- *family members not excluded by court order,*
- *SWs,*
- *attorneys,*
- *Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA),*
- *probation officers,*
- *the Community Care Licensing Division of the California,*
- *the Department of Social Services, or*
- *the State Foster Care Ombudsman.*

*NOTE: SCPs must not punish or penalize foster children in any way for making telephone calls to any of the above authorized contacts.*

*Limitations on telephone calls to other individuals and agencies may be based on:*

- *reasonable disciplinary measures,*
- *house rules,*
- *consideration of the rights of others,*
- *case service plan requirements,*
- *documented unpaid reimbursement for long distance telephone calls, or*
- *court order prohibitions.*

*So there are restrictions in place.*

### **HHSA, Foster Care Eligibility – Laura Hattaway**

- In commemoration of Medi-Cal's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, new Benefits Identification Card (BIC) was issued. The redesigned cards are valid.
- Rate Structure:
  - The state is currently reviewing structure, many pending items.
  - Rates are changing starting January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - 2 Phases:

#### Phase I:

- begins January 1<sup>st</sup> with payment sent out 2/1/2017
- eligible resource families, licensed foster homes, relatives, non-related extended family members (NREFM), and non minor dependants
- basic rate is \$889 a month
- automation process outcome to be place, pending real time process, manual entry is possible. The agency will ensure efficiently in payment issuance.

*Mirtha Valadez – If payments are delayed, will the agency notify families by letter?*

- That is something the agency does **not** know will happen at this time. More information will be available closer to February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The current rate structure is based on the child's age and increases as they get older. That structure is going away. The new structure is based on level of care needed for the child in foster care.
- Phase I: does not include the additional levels of care structure.
- Phase II: does include the implementation of level of care rate structure. The State has a projected influx date of July 2017.

*Twila Perucci – What is the difference between level of care and Special Care Rates (SCR)?*

*Elyce Hoene – The State is saying that the SCR is going to be decided by each County on guidelines, whether or not they decide to use. The agency will be using SCR, but is undetermined on how to apply it. Meetings are in process with discussion about SCR.*

- Adoptions assistance Kin-Gap program, a non-related legal guardianship placement will not be changed to basic rate level. Those programs are based on signed agreements or established guardianship. There are different rates and dates for those programs. If the guardianship was established on 1/1/2017 or after, the basic rate of \$889.00 will apply. Anything prior to that date, their rate will stay the same. These are age rate basis cases that will continue that structure. They will be eligible California Necessity Index (CNI) starting in January. Dual agency rate will not be effected.

### **Comprehensive Assessment/Stabilization Services (CASS) – Jacquie Pusateri**

- Currently no waitlist for Spanish speaking and a 2 week waitlist for English speaking due to clinician out on vacation.

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

- QPI training for this quarter is on RFA. Families will be receiving information on RFA if they attend training, providing feedback, and can get questions answered. Families are encouraged to attend in their region.

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

- Our current medical and dental compliance is 97 % for medical and 89% for dental.

*Alice Kennedy – The County is now recruiting a Chief Dental Officer to help establish more resources for the County and kids for dental services.*

**Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) – Katie Olson**

- DSEP is currently hiring.

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

- Plan for January-February booklet to be out by the end of December. There are changes made to the book. It is now published in two month increments. It gives us flexibility to add classes.
- Last month great trainings were provided. Mental Health First Aid was well attended with over 20 people. This program is a counterpart to First Aid/CPR. It trains people to respond to a mental health crisis.
- New trainers presented training on Addiction at the Foster Parent Association. Next week it will be presented at Straight from the Heart.
- Training on psychotropic medication, regarding changes that assists foster parents on how to navigate them.
- Training on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in Spanish, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at Straight from the Heart. Between January and June, there are more scheduled CSEC trainings. Extended invitation to group homes and Foster Family Association (FFAs).
- Offering at the end of the month, Promoting Healthy Sexual Development in Teens. Mike Jones will be presenter.
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) training and in May to have as a support group topic. Presenter is a social worker in Residential program.

*Nikki Kelsay – Does the training on Promoting Healthy Sexual Development in Teens address if the child has been exposed to sexual abuse?*

- Not so much sexual abuse. This is for foster parents on how to talk to your youth about sex and bring awareness to issues that arise with sexual activity.

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

- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Charger calendar will be distributed at the Charger game on 11/13 and at the Charger Blood Drive on 11/22. Featured on calendar are children who have been adopted with their before and after stories.
- Our children will be featured at the Capitol Heart Gallery in Sacramento. There were sibling groups that were submitted to be featured.
- Our Futures Foundation Computer Giveaway event is coming in December. No firm dates at this time. 300 computers to give away to children in foster care.

**Maxim Respite Care – Breanna Davila**

- Currently short staffed in their office.
- At the last part of the approvals for their contract, but unable to provide more information. We will send a notice on any updates.

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

**East Region – Yoly Dayrit**

- Holiday Respite Night for caregivers on 12/2.
- 5 in PCC

**South Region – Javier Torres**

- 3 in PCC
- QPI meeting today, ongoing discussion on RFA; Next QPI training is on 12/8.

**HHSA, Polinsky Children Center – Marilyn Sproat**

- Population currently at 27
- **Will the** Emergency Shelter Care Unit (ESCU) rate ~~will~~ be ending on 1/1/2017? New program, Nurturing Evaluation, and Stabilization Team (NEST), will be in place. They will be recruiting 10 families to start.

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

- Tutoring Connections budget was cut and there is longer a contract with the professional tutoring services agency. The only tutoring offered was through Tutoring Connections. Currently there are 182 students receiving tutoring this semester. San Diego State will have 40-50 students to assist with the needs of children starting in January. Families will need to fill out referrals. Please call the office.

*Nikki Kelsay – How many hours of tutoring do students get?*

- For Cal State San Marcos, they have to do 20 hours, 2-3 hours a week, throughout the semester. San Diego State students have to complete 30 hours throughout the semester. Most of the students will continue tutoring even though they have met their required hours.

**HHSA, San Diego Adoptions – Alice Kennedy for Gloria Escamilla-Huidor**

- The Adoptions Court party is held next week. Currently 20 families and 28 children are schedule to finalize.

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

- Has been attending support groups to present on RFA.

**Roundtable**

**Twila Perucci** – We cancel the December meeting, due to holiday scheduled events. There will be no meeting in December for Foster Care Services; the next meeting will be in January. Ad Hoc meeting will be in February. Notice was sent out on Ad Hoc.

**Nikki Kelsay** – The agency is unable to produce a Memorandum of Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding MOA/MOU for Bikers against Child Abuse association (BACA) because some of their practices do not align with agency values. If foster parents choose to reach out or use them, that is up to the foster parent. However, it is important to maintain confidentiality for any child in foster care.

**IV. NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday, February 9, 2017  
12:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.  
5469 Kearny Villa Road  
San Diego CA 92123 (Seville Plaza Building, Suite 3700)**

**V. ADJOURNMENT: 1:42 p.m.**