



# Foster Care Standards and Oversight Committee

The mission of the Foster Care Standards and Oversight Committee is to provide oversight for and promote communication between the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Social Services and its related agencies, and the community, with emphasis on providing information and recommendations that make the system more effective and efficient.

## MINUTES

April 3, 2024

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Meeting held in-person for Committee Members and public.

Virtual option via Microsoft Teams for public only

### I. Call to order and introductions.

Rosemary Alanis

- Meeting called to order by Committee Chair, Rosemary Alanis, at 9:06 AM with roll call by DSS Support Staff, Julia Perez.

### II. Approve Minutes for February 7, 2023 and March 6, 2024 Agenda.

- Wilma Hashimoto (District 5) motioned; Ed Avila (Committee Vice-Chair) seconded to approve the March 2024 Minutes and April 2024 Agenda.

### III. Updates

#### A. Receive Report From Department of Social Services Addressing Critical Areas

Dalvin Baker

- Following up on questions asked during the March 2024 meeting, Child Welfare Services (CWS) Deputy Director, Dalvin Baker, said the *Not Reported* category on page 2 of the CWS Data means none of the above ethnicities are indicated. Under the *Placement Metrics* table, the *Other/Missing\** category is explained on the footnote on page 3 of the data. Dalvin defined the *Missing Placement* category on Table IX as two data pinpoints that are not recorded, so it is either the unrecorded removal or unrecorded current placement date. The *Other* category on the *Placements by Facility Type* table is defined as Court Specified Home, Small Family Home, Shelter Receiving Home, Tribe Specified Home or Medical Facility.
- Added *Siblings Placed Together* table to the report.
- Dalvin mentioned April 10<sup>th</sup> is National Sibling Day. The Department is trying to plan a day at the zoo for siblings in foster care. The date of the event is to be decided.
- Wilma asked if there is an update of FURS and the legislation, in terms of the government budget. CWS Deputy Director, Kimberli Smith, said as of right now that is still slotted to no longer be a funded program, however some of the CWS Directors are trying to write to legislation to see if funding could continue.
- Dalvin mentioned the Department is introducing Dr. Bruce Perry's Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) that discusses trauma-based therapy. CWS staff will be introduced to the NMT on April 18<sup>th</sup> to inform staff and the community what the model means. Dalvin added the model examines how trauma affects individuals later in life because of the trauma that was experienced during youth.

### IV. New Business

Rosemary Alanis

#### A. Date/Time for Annual FCSOC Retreat Meeting Presentation

- The original poll inquiring about Committee member availability to attend the retreat on the weekend demonstrated a significant amount of unavailability. Another poll will be sent out to request Committee member availability for a weekday.

#### B. Discussion on Former and Upcoming Audits

- Rosemary asked if there are any updates for upcoming Audits. Kimberli responded not in the next month. Dalvin and Kim asked for clarification as to which audit is being requested. Rosemary described the document she is referring to as having the Department's response to the findings of the previous audit. Dalvin said that is the *County Self-Assessment* and that the Department is currently developing another one. Once findings are available, the Department will present it to the FCSOC.
- Kevin Lisitsin (District 2) mentioned he is part of the Citizen's Review Panel and asked if a DSS Representative could answer questions or provide insight on how helpful it is to have the FCSOC.
- Ed asked what topics will be included in the upcoming audit. Dalvin said every 5 years, every county will go through a County Self-Assessment. UC Davis helps facilitate the meetings with the stakeholders and the Department meets with them to see what the needs are for Child Welfare. A report is then generated based on all of the stakeholder meetings held and that helps DSS inform the State what DSS' System Improvement Plan for the upcoming 5 years.

**C. Request to Provide Staff Salary Schedule**

- Rosemary requested to see the Staff Schedule to see how the salary changes when employees go through Steps 1-5 and have a discussion on the information provided.

**D. Request to Provide Data on Child Maltreatment Referrals by Allegation Type that were substantiated and unsubstantiated**

- CWS Deputy Directors will provide the requested information.

**V. Subcommittee Update**

**A. Children’s Mental Health**

**Kevin Lisitsin**

- E. Kevin said there was an Exceptional Parents Unlimited (EPU) Presentation at the last Children’s Mental Health meeting. The presentation had information on Parent Support Services, Family Maintenance and working with the community.

**VI. Public Comments**

- Patti Scovill said Mayor Jerry Dyer has set up a program for youth to have paid job training. She believes this will be a great opportunity for kids aging out of the foster care system. She also believes that if a youth will be aging out of the system, they should have some kind of advocate to trust, inform and motivate them.

**VII. Announcements**

- Karina Perez (District 1) shared that the California for All Shared Application Loan Program contains a section that asks applicants to disclose if they were in a Foster Care program and to provide documentation as proof, such as a foster care verification form or court document. She asked how individuals can obtain that documentation. Dalvin recommended they contact the Independent Living Program (ILP), specifically Social Work Supervisor, Melissa Chacon.
- Dalvin informed the Committee that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue ribbons were distributed in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention.
- Dalvin thanked Tracy Kashian (District 2) for providing a dessert table to the Social Workers for their participation in the Employee Survey and for Social Worker Appreciation Month.
- Wilma provided updates for the Wild Waters event for foster youth. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 CASA will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Splash Day. 1,000 tickets are available and will be open to foster youth and Resource Parents from Merced down to Kern County. Tickets are 7 dollars each. Flyer will be sent out soon.

**VIII. Adjourn**

- Next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 9:00am in-person for Committee members and the public. Virtual option via Microsoft Teams, for members of the public only. Please note: FCSOC meetings require in-person attendance in order to participate. Virtual option is view-only. Meeting adjourned by Rosemary at 9:58 AM.

**Committee Attendance**

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sal Quintero <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ari Martinez (Proxy)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karina Perez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Lisitsin	<input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosemary Alanis	<input type="checkbox"/> Pamela Hancock
<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maisie Young	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Avila
<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracy Kashian	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilma Hashimoto

\* Marked Boxes Indicate Committee Member Attended

**Attending Staff and Guests**

**In Person:** Dalvin Baker, Kimberli Smith, Julia Perez, Hillary Bolger, J’Lyne Montejano, Taylor Chavez, Brian Van Anne, Rocky Vang, Patti Scovill, Ron Alexander, Stacy VanBruggen