



# 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 6, 2022

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Meeting held via Zoom

### I. Call to order and introductions.

Wilma

Meeting called to order by Wilma Hashimoto at 9:00 AM with round table introductions.

Welcome new members Sanja Bugay Director of DSS Fresno County, Wendy Yribarren from District 1 and Maisie Young from District 2

### II. Approve minutes for *March 2, 2022* and the current meeting's agenda.

Rosemary Alanis motioned to approve minutes for March 2, 2022 and the current meeting's agenda, Richard Bailey second the motion to approve the minutes and agenda.

### III. Updates.

#### A. Legislative Updates.

Elected Official Representative and Tricia

- Ian Coolbear continue informing the committee on Bill AB 1671, which would prohibit state funded public and private institutions of higher education from reducing scholarship financial aid to students who are current or former foster youth.
- Update: it has gone to the assembly and has passed the consent counter, which means there is no opposition to it, it will now be recommended to go to the AB57 counter.
- Ian Coolbear will be moving to Sacramento and Dan Moreno will be taking his place.
- Paul Nerland thanked Maria Aguirre for a great work she did while Interim Director of DSS and he welcomed new Director of DSS starting April 25, 2022 Sanja Bugay.

#### B. Department of Social Services Addressing Critical Areas.

Tricia

- Tricia shared for March we had approximately 5 complex youths. Two of them were very complicated so it took some time to find an appropriate intensive service foster care placements, one of them we were able to get into a relative placement, the second we also got into a relative placement but that could of happened earlier so we are looking at how we could of done that better. We still have one in the office that is extremely complicated and we are working with the State and every provider/ partner we can think of to think of solutions for her.
- We are continuing to learn from each case, each child and continue to partner with others
- We have drafted the protocols for children in needs of immediate placements and we have those being reviewed by staff. Our goal is to provide them in the next meeting but they are working drafts at this moment.
- DSS CWS will be moving to building 5 beginning May 16, 2022, hopefully the first week of June we will have all staff stationed at building 5.
- From a staffing standpoint, Social Worker Aide interviews were this week and Social Worker I next week and we continue to pull from the ongoing recruitment of Social Worker Practitioner. March is traditionally a month where we have a high number of people retiring so that added to that month but we are pulling the list sooner and adding them as quickly as we can.
- April is child abuse prevention month, yesterday Supervisor Magsig sponsored a proclamation to the board and there was a presentation.
- We renewed our contract for existing neighborhood resource centers and added two more so as of July we will have 13.
- Tricia provided a presentation called Prevention in Fresno County. This presentation highlighted the Department of Social Services efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect in Fresno County. In 2021, the department received 18,000 calls and in these, 9 thousand resulted in investigations. We had 900 new cases that opened in 2021. The primary reason of neglect are substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence and poverty.
- Katherine Martindale spoke about licensing Mod C location, the application has been submitted, and we received some feedback from the state. The second draft was submitted on Monday April 4, 2022. We hope in getting some answers in around 30 days. We are being licensed for 6, we need to look at supervision and how that will be taking place.

#### C. DSS Update from Interim Director

Maria

- Maria welcomed DSS Director Sanja Bugay; Sanja spoke about her history in which she had worked 15 years in Fresno County DSS but left to become the Director of Kings County.

- Richard Bailey questioned if Sanja has had a chance to look at the steps we are taking about program improvements and if she is receiving any support.
- Sanja shared that she will be starting April 25 and is now transitioning her role in Kings County; she has started conversations with Maria. She did provide her contact information as of April 25 her e-mail is [sbugay@fresnocounty.ca.gov](mailto:sbugay@fresnocounty.ca.gov) or you can e-mail Maria Aguirre and Maria can forward to Sanja for items before April 25.
- Maria thanked all members for everything they are doing for the children in our community.

**D. Board Retreat**

- Wilma continued speaking about having a board retreat due to members leaving and new members joining. She would like to discuss the initial role of the committee, our responsibilities, look at the list of items and what we would like to accomplish and prioritize.
- A poll was sent out to establish a date and time which will work for everyone to attend. There are two dates but the one with most votes received was for Thurs. April 21, 2022 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. During the meeting, the poll was updated and Saturday April 23 had the most votes but Wilma and Cheri will count the votes and will inform the committee.
- Agenda is being worked on
- Location to be determine

**IV. Review of Action Items.**

**Wilma**

**A. Vote on May 7 hybrid meeting with zoom and in-person option**

- Tricia provided update: DSS is doing In Person meetings due to no outbreaks but we will not be in our new building by May 7 meeting. As of June, we can begin using the Hope center for In Person meetings.
- Jill made a motion to Hybrid, Richard second the motion

**V. Subcommittee Updates.**

**A. Children’s Mental Health**

**Wilma**

- Wilma shared the minutes will be going out. They meet every other month, the next meeting is Thurs. April 28, 2022 at 9:00am and the speaker will be Dr. Amy Parks.

**VI. Education.**

**Pam out/ Cheryl**

- Cheryl shared some data for foster youth. For 2021, Fresno County had 2,383 enrolled in our Fresno schools.
- Our foster youth graduation rates continue to be low for our students; we have 48.5% foster youth vs. 81.1% regular population that graduate in our county.
- March 31, 2022 Fresno City College had their extreme registration event; our staff worked closely with Fresno Unified to be out in school sites, FCC had Next Step presentations and assisted students with a counselor. Last year we assisted around 5 students, this year we assisted around 29 students. Great event

**VII. Round Table Discussion by members.**

**All**

- Joanna Litchenberg from Focus Forward informed that they are collaborating with Barrios Unidos and United Way to bring free tax preparation to our foster youth/former youth/AB12 young adults. Web site is <https://www.focusforward.org/free-tax-prep>

**VIII. Public Comments.**

- Marilyn Lambert announced that as of March 1 Pacific Clinics (previously uplift Family Services) has merged with Civic Clinics this is now the name we are working under Civic Clinics. In addition to the great work, we have been providing the families; we are also providing behavior health services, substance abuse services and more.
- Elizabeth Thomas shared the next Foster Parent Association meeting was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 7:00PM via Zoom. Phone number: 559-579-2255 and e-mail: [fosterparentassociation.fresno@gmail.com](mailto:fosterparentassociation.fresno@gmail.com) provided to contact for the Zoom link.

**IX. Adjourn.**

**Wilma**

Next meeting will be on May 4, 2022 via Zoom. Meeting adjourned by Wilma at 10:42 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 type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Martinez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosemary Alanis	<input type="checkbox"/> Pamela Hancock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Yribarren	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maisie Young	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Bailey	<input type="checkbox"/> Ed Avila

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jill Stepke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracy Kashian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patricia Miller	<input type="checkbox"/> Connie Waldrop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilma Hashimoto
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**Attending Staff and Guests**

Tricia Gonzalez, Susana Morales, Cheri Archuleta, Rocky Vang, Anthony Norwood, Catherine Huerta, Dalvin Baker, Ian Coolbear, Rebekah Rodriguez, Jason Williams, Jose Vargas, Judge Mary Dolas, Justin Johnson, Karel Gonzalez, Laura Lopez, Maria Aguirre, Marilyn Bamford, Nichole Bletz, Paul Nerland, Shirley Long, Sonia De La Rosa, Sonja Dosti, Sanja Bugay, Bernia Walker, David Rodriguez, Miriam Flores, Jessica Carrillo, Rita Bohannon, Kim Hazelton, Ryan Townsend, Shawn Peyvandi, Chad Valarosi, Cheryl Whittle, Danielle M NSFC, Inocencio Salazar, KYJO Trainer, Lorraine Ramirez, Marc Salazar, Maya Daugherty, Renee Ramirez, Cheryl Vieira, Edward Avila, Katherine Martindale, Robert Jeffers, Brian Van Anne, Michelle McGaughy, Francisco Pelayo, Marilyn Lambert, Josh Mishou, Laurie Lopez, Patricia Miller, Joanna Litchenburg, Cherie Morales, M. Benjamin,