



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

May 5, 2021

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Meeting held via Zoom

I. Call to order and introductions:

Meeting called to order by Wilma Hashimoto at 9:01 AM with round table introductions.

II. Approve minutes for **April 7, 2021** and the current meeting's Agenda:

Rich Bailey motioned to approve, Tracy Kashian second the motion, Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Update of the Previous Meeting's New Business:

No update.

IV. Department of Social Services Update: Tricia Gonzalez

- As of this week, all lobbies are open and business is being conducted in-person.
- Vaccination project is continuing, any employee who wanted to be vaccinated has had the opportunity to be. The clinic on Sunnyside is continuing to operate to serve the public.
- Wilma asked if there have been accommodations made for employees wanting to continue teleworking, Tricia shared there is the option to continue to Telework up to one (1) day a week, approved by the Department of Social Services.
- Pam asked if the capacity for childcare is affecting employees of the department, Tricia explained the telework accommodations have mostly been for childcare due to schools. There is an expectation for schedules to change once the school year ends.

V. Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Update: Pam Hancock

- Pam shared the struggle with combining her regular meeting with the subcommittee meeting and requested guidance from committee members.
- July subcommittee meeting is cancelled.
- Fresno County has won the FAFSA challenge for the fourth year in a row at 88% of financial aid completion.
- Fresno City College finished extreme registration virtually.
- Districts report there have been a lot of school changes with the kids.
- Central Unified is reaching out to all students to ensure they are connected for the next school year.

VI. New Business:

- A. Discussion of Survey results and next steps: Pam Hancock
 - Pam shared the results of the survey from the April 7 meeting and they were e-mailed to the members and interested parties.
- B. Action Plan Discussion – Accomplishments 2019/2020 and Goals for 2021
 - Wilma reported the goal is to have a draft by the end of the month.
- C. From Planning to Action: Pam & Wilma
 - Wilma listed the topics the committee should be focusing on from the survey information sheet.
 - Wilma requested the committee members identify individuals who could speak to the topics and who could fill the committee vacancies.
 - Tricia identified the accomplished Communication items and listed them for the committee members:
 1. Subcommittees as a mechanism for communication between FCSOC and families and children.
 2. Committee members as the link between FCSOC and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) but should be a continuing topic of discussion.
 3. Communication between social workers and FCSOC: due to virtual meetings many managers have been able to participate.
 4. Subcommittee restructuring.

5. Board of Supervisor representation at the FCSOC meetings.
6. Standing agenda item to discuss FCSOC issues.
7. Education and Department process report out during the meeting.
8. Ombudsman/Consumer Liaison/CQI

- Wilma acknowledged the need for each member to report FCSOC topics and issues to their BOS Supervisor and the importance of keeping them informed.
- Pam expressed concern about what the FCSOCs active purpose is going to be moving forward.
- Rich Bailey suggested focusing on oversight of processes instead of focusing on providing services and attend court hearings to identify children's needs.
- Wilma suggested attending the judicial monthly meetings with dependency court Judge Mary Dolas and setting up a meeting with her on a Friday afternoon. Tracy Kashian volunteered to be a part of the meeting.
- Pam suggested including the delinquency court and probation in the meeting as well.

D. List of Potential Speakers for Future Meetings

- Wilma stated she can provide someone from CASA.

VII. Review of Action Items.

A. Annual Report

Discussed during Item VI.

B. Chair and Co-Chair Ad Hoc Committee – present Chair and Co-Chair nominees; and vote

- Rich reported the Ad Hoc Committee determined Wilma should continue as Chair and Tracy should be Vice-Chair. Wilma agreed as long as Pam shares the Chair seat with her. Rich motioned to approve, Pam 2nd the motion, Chairs and Co-Chair approved unanimously.
- Committee voted on altering the frequency of meetings from monthly to every other month. Rich motioned to approve, Wilma 2nd the motion, every other month beginning June 2, 2021 approved unanimously.
- Committee agreed to transition to in-person meetings beginning August 4, 2021.

VIII. Subcommittee Updates:

A. Education.

Discussed during Item V.

B. Children's Mental Health.

Next meeting is June 24, 2021 and they will be discussing statistics, the pandemic, and the referrals data. They meet every other month.

IX. Public Comments:

- Delfino Neira reported the West Fresno Regional Center community room will remain booked for COVID testing, the department has been emphasizing keeping testing numbers high to help with the state tiers.
- The committee decided to continue with Zoom in June 2021 and begin in-person meetings in August 2021.
- Tracy reported they are working on a project for Foster Care. They are in the information gathering phase but hope to have an update soon.
- Brian Van Anne reported Transitions is planning a socially distanced graduation ceremony in their parking lot for the youth and preparing for the RFA contract in July.
- Tricia reported the Drive Thru ILP graduation event is on May 21, 2021 from 12PM-4PM with a photo booth. She shared an update regarding the Clovis building is moving along and there will be a room where some of the events can take place.
- Karel from Focus Forward explained they will be working with Probation and supporting those parents trying to reunify with their youth and offering parenting classes.
- Chad Valorosi explained they are moving into another year with their post adoptive REACH program with Fresno County, among others. They have had good speakers for professionals and families this past month and are looking into organizing a social distanced Foster Family/Parent Appreciation event with a photo shoot to provide canvases to them.
- Delfino shared he is trying to focus on returning the department to a sense of normalcy. There are still great differences between the counties, the state, and the federal government on how the STRTPs are going to operate going forward, the system of care, and system of housing kids, especially high needs youth. Advocacy will be needed for these issues. He thanked Tricia and her team for all of the hard work they have done to serve the families and children.
- Tracy offered the conference rooms in her building, if they are ever needed.

X. Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 AM.

Committee Attendance

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sal Quintero <input type="checkbox"/> Ari Martinez (Proxy)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Hancock
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Bailey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jill Stepke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracy Kashian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patricia Miller	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilma Hashimoto

Attending Staff and Guests

Delfino Neira, Tricia Gonzalez, Erica Lozano, Eva Cosio, Brian Van Anne, Chad Valorosi, Danielle M.-NSFC, Karel Gonzalez, Joanna Litchenberg, Sonia De La Rosa, Cheri Archuleta, Laura Lopez, Shawn Payvandi, and Dana Parker.