



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

June 2, 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 9:02 AM with round table introductions.

II. Approve minutes for **May 5, 2021** and the current meeting's Agenda:

Tracy Kashian motioned to approve, Jill Stepke second the motion, Minutes approved unanimously.

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

A. List of Potential Speakers for Future Meetings.

- Elizabeth Thomas volunteered to speak or have a representative for the Foster Parent Association speak at the next meeting.
- Pam Hancock volunteered to speak at the meeting after Elizabeth Thomas.

B. Possible Committee Member Invitations.

- Wilma asked the members to keep people in mind to apply for the Oversight Committee and be mindful of where the vacancies currently are.
- Ari Martinez reviewed the district boundaries and their Supervisors with the Committee.

IV. Department of Social Services Update: **Tricia Gonzalez**

- Tricia shared the department is currently working with the State to figure out efficient placement for a high need youth. The youth was stable in Florida, then the state decertified all out of state placements so a program was created for the youth but it has not proven to be sustainable for the needs of the youth.
- Tricia presented graphs showing social worker turnover, possible reasons for turnover, and number of court ordered cases. The number of cases is the highest it has been in 4 years. All task areas are busy working on managing those cases, however, adoption assessment clearing out their cases and moving them to permanency would help stabilize case management because those are the ones who were effected the most by the court closures. PPLA have been dealing with having kids in the office just about every day. Social workers are beginning to travel to make contact with the kids and families again.
- In response to Jill Stepke's question regarding social worker turnover, Tricia explained most workers do not share why they are leaving, however, some of the reasons have been relocation, better pay elsewhere, burnout, or realizing the work just is not for them.
- Brian Van Anne asked if the department could consider sharing the foster-adopt referrals with adoption agencies again and Tricia explained there are not placement issues but it is something worth reviewing.

V. New Business:

None.

VI. Review of Action Items.

- As a mechanism to satisfy the portion of the mission statement to "provide information," Wilma is emphasizing bringing in guest speakers as a way to contribute to the community information they otherwise would not have obtained.
- Wilma and Pam reviewed the current annual report spanning January 2019 through June 2021.
- Ed Avila requested clarification on the standing of the FCSS and Education Subcommittee meetings. Pam explained she

recommends the Education Subcommittee be collapsed into the FCSS meeting since the information is repetitive.

- Wilma stated the committee appreciates Pam Hancock, the work of the Education Subcommittee, and its relevance and importance especially with the Oversight Committee.
- Wilma explained the Children’s Mental Health Subcommittee has been kick-started again, since COVID-19 shut down, and Wilma and Mary Lou Minkler are co-chairing.
- Tricia explained the CCR and the subcommittee created to support the work and large undertaking of necessary requirements. Over time, the information being shared at the subcommittee became redundant, so it was sunset.
- Pam shared the committee should be contacting their appointed Supervisor and keeping those lines of communication open.
- Pam read the recommendation to the Supervisors from the annual report and Wilma asked if any committee members agreed, needed clarification, or suggestion. Ed asked for clarification on the age range of supported foster youth. Wilma explained AB12 extended the age for support to 24 years old but due to early prevention concerns, the committee decided to remove age restrictions and say support is offered for all youth.
- Annual report is finalized so Staff Analyst Sonia De La Rosa can begin the process to get the report on the Board of Supervisors’ agenda for July.

VII. Subcommittee Updates:

A. Education.

Pam reported the agency is in the middle of reaching out to foster youth grades 3 through 5 and informing the high school age foster youth of a drone class and the Dive into STEM (robotics underwater) program. There are also Leadership academies at Scout Island at the outdoor classrooms.

B. Children’s Mental Health.

No Update.

VIII. Round Table Discussion

No discussion.

IX. Public Comments:

- New Committee Member Ed Avila introduced himself to the committee and present guests.
- Wilma reported CASA has 224 advocates and they are always accepting more people.

X. Adjourn: 10:24 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 type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Hancock
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Bailey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Avila
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jill Stepke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracy Kashian	<input type="checkbox"/> Patricia Miller	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilma Hashimoto

Attending Staff and Guests

Tricia Gonzalez, Erica Lozano, Eva Cosio, Brian Van Anne, Chad Valorosi, Danielle M.-NSFC, Karel Gonzalez, Joanna Litchenberg, Sonia De La Rosa, Dalvin Baker, Rocky Vang, Marilyn Bamford, and Bernia Walker.