



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

August 4, 2021

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Meeting held via Zoom and in person at CASA Fresno/Madera

I. Call to order and introductions:

Meeting called to order by Wilma Hashimoto at 9:05 AM with round table introductions.

II. Approve minutes for **June 2, 2021** and the current meeting's Agenda:

Tracy Kashian motioned to approve, Pam Hancock second the motion, Minutes approved unanimously.

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

A. Continue recruitment of new members to the FCSOC.

- Wilma encouraged the committee to continue to reach out to contacts to find those who would like to join the committee.

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

- Tricia explained the department has continued to experience struggles with turnover. Recruitment has not been able to keep up with resignations. The new challenge is people declining at the interview stage as opposed to starting and then resigning.
- Due to the shortage of social workers Tricia reported she has had to pull support staff to help with emergency response and mandated contacts.
- Tricia shared the challenges with placing the high needs youth.
- Tricia explained the Family First Prevention Services Act going into effect Oct 1, 2021 will have an impact on STRTP placements, such as the possibility of losing funding for certain facilities.
- Tricia stated children in care were high in May and June, there was a little decrease in July, but with the decreased staff, the workers have sustained a busy work load. There are about 2,700 children currently in care.
- In response to Wilma's question regarding the new Department of Social Services Child Welfare building, Tricia reported the department is about 6 months away from moving in. The move into the new building will allow the current seven functions to be condensed into 1 building. The department is preparing by purging old files, going paperless, and transitioning to laptops for all staff.
- Legislatively, the budget has been passed but any other updates will be obtained in the coming weeks.

V. New Business:

A. Fresno County Superintendent of Schools: iPlan Education Resource Guide 2021-22

- Pam Hancock presented a PowerPoint briefly explaining the resource guide and how it is used to help guide students through the education process based on their goals.

B. Selection of speaker for the next meeting

- Pam explained she could invite the district liaisons for anecdotes regarding students' transition back to school.
- Wilma reported she could invite a senior CASA advocate to share experiences.

C. Discussion of time and format of meeting

- Committee elected to continue with in-person meetings with the Zoom option (Hybrid) at 9:00AM and allow for some to be late.

VI. Review of Action Items.

None.

VII. Subcommittee Updates:

A. Education.

Advisory committee meeting and subcommittee meeting have been combined. Pam shared dorm deliveries are being made due to students beginning college this semester.

B. Children’s Mental Health.

- Due to the pandemic and unemployment all agencies are attempting to close gaps in services.
- Organizations are trying to be mindful of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). CBOs and medical providers are working together and referring out children with high trauma to Behavioral Health.
- The Fresno Chaffee Zoo event was successful.

VIII. Round Table Discussion

- Tracy Kashian shared her foundation is creating the Kashian Family Dream Center as a “one stop shop” for foster kids to obtain information.
- Brian Van Anne explained Transitions FFA is hosting a Golf Tournament Fundraiser to help kids transitioning out of the foster care system.
- Ed Avila reported the Juvenile Justice Commission is looking for new members.
- Wilma shared CASA is always looking for advocates and the 22nd Crab Feed is September 10, 2021.

IX. Public Comments:

None.

X. Adjourn: 10:19 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Bailey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Avila
<input 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

Tricia Gonzalez, Erica Lozano, Susana Morales, Brian Van Anne, Chad Valorosi, Danielle M.-NSFC, Karel Gonzalez, Sonia De La Rosa, Dalvin Baker, Laura Lopez, Shawn Payvandi, Bernia Walker.