



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

December 4, 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/DSS Support Staff

- Meeting called to order by Committee Chair, Rosemary Alanis, at 9:08 AM with roll call by DSS Support Staff, Julia Perez.

II. Approve Minutes for November 6, 2024 and December 4, 2024 Agenda.

- Minor edit made on Agenda regarding upcoming meeting date.
- Patti Scovill (District 3) motioned; Wilma Hashimoto (District 5) seconded to approve the November 2024 Minutes and December 2024 Agenda.

III. Updates

A. Receive Report from DSS CWS Addressing Critical Areas

DSS Deputy Directors

- Welcome Home Celebration will take place on December 11, 2024 at 2:00 PM in Hope Plaza. The event celebrates families who have reunified in the last quarter.
- Child Welfare Services (CWS) Deputy Director, Dalvin Baker, highlighted various data comparisons for November 2023 and November 2024:
 - November 2023 had a 13% staff vacancy rate; November 2024 had a 5% staff vacancy rate.
 - In November 2023 the Department was responsible for 2,275 youth; in November 2024 the Department was responsible for 1,745 youth. (Note: "Responsible for youth" refers to the number of youth in foster care in Fresno County.)
 - November 2023 had 1,831 children in placements (e.g., with a relative, in a Foster Family Agency (FFA), Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP); November 2024 had 1,349 children in placements.
 - November 2023 had 70 children placed in STRTPs; November 2024 had 32 children placed in STRTPs.
- A request was made to have the CWS data demonstrate annual trends for 2022, 2023 and 2024.
- A follow up inquiry was made on how many eligible youths (aged 3-4) are taking advantage of attending Pre-School. Data on this topic is expected in March 2025.

IV. FCSOC Annual Report Discussion

Rosemary

- The last Annual Report noted that working with the Board of Supervisors and recruitment of additional Resources Parents would improve the Foster Care System. Wilma mentioned the Department of Social Services (DSS) has demonstrated improvements related to this.
- The discussions held at last Annual Planning Session had contributions from Committee members' interests (e.g. Education, Mental Health, Court, and Housing). A selection of various Committee members will provide information on Education and Mental Health for the upcoming Annual Report.
- Previous court related backlog concerns are no longer an issue. The Committee is looking to receive semi-annual updates from Juvenile Dependency Court Judge, Mary Dolas. It was not established that this would necessarily be a goal written on the upcoming Annual Report but will be something the committee plans to focus on.
- It was mentioned that the recent DSS Transitional Shelter Care Facility licensure may be noted as an accomplishment for foster youth.
- Supervisor Quintero shared foster youth age out at the age of 18, but the Department continues to work with them until age 24, which could be something to note for the Annual Report.
- Annual Report information regarding education would detail graduation rates and recommendations on keeping students in their school of origin and information regarding courts would be specific to adoptions, family reunifications, and the amount of youth aging out of the system.
- There were recommendations to keep the "activities for youth during school breaks" as a goal and the Committee believes the City Center could serve as a resource to accomplish this.

V. Subcommittee Update

A. Education

- On behalf of Pam Hancock, Wilma shared that graduation rates have increased each year over the last 3 years. Goals being met: Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) has continued to work with the Network Improvement Community (NIC) and the literacy rate has also increased. Regarding activities for youth, there are many summer programs that caregivers are receiving funds for to have youth participate in the programs.

VI. Announcements

- The ad hoc committee plans to move forward with distributing the new CWS Staff Survey soon. Final review of the survey questions is pending.

- VII. Adjourn:** Next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 9:00am, in-person for Committee members and the public. Virtual option via Microsoft Teams, for members of the public only. Please note: participation in FCSOC meetings require in-person attendance. Virtual option is view-only. Meeting adjourned by Rosemary at 10:08 AM.

Committee Attendance

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

* Marked Boxes Indicate Committee Member Attended

Attending Staff and Guests

In Person: Dalvin Baker, Kimberli Smith, Julia Perez, J'Lyne Montejano, Taylor Chavez, Brian Van Anne, Rocky Vang, Chad Valorosi, Amina Flores-Becker, Eric McIntosh-Madrigal