



# 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 6, 2023

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.

Wilma Hashimoto

- Meeting called to order by Wilma Hashimoto (District 5) at 9:15 AM with roll call by DSS Staff Support, Julia Perez.

### II. Approve Minutes for November 1, 2023 and December 6, 2023 Agenda.

- Maisie Young motioned; Rosemary Alanis (District 4) seconded to approve the November 2023 Minutes and December 2023 Agenda.

### III. Updates

#### A. Receive Report From Department of Social Services Addressing Critical Areas

Dalvin

- Child Welfare Services (CWS) Deputy Director (DD), Dalvin Baker brought up the Native American Celebration held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Adoption Day Celebration was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> was the Transgender Day of Remembrance.
- On December 14<sup>th</sup>, DSS Child Welfare will be hosting a holiday event for youth and their resource parents. This is an opportunity for families to come together and participate in various events at DSS.
- December 15<sup>th</sup>, DSS will be hosting a holiday party for the Independent Living Program (ILP) youth.
- Dalvin mentioned Committee member Pam Hancock's suggestion for the DSS Data trends to be provided on a quarterly basis. He said they are still working out how that will be presented.
- Dalvin confirmed that all staffing data presented at the FCSOC meetings are Child Welfare Allocations.
- Social Worker I employment was offered to 32 individuals and 25 accepted the position.
- Social Work Practitioner positions were offered to 7 individuals and 3 accepted the position.
- If all 39 accept positions with the Department, that would drop the vacancy rate for Social Workers and Practitioners from 13% to 5%.

#### Public Comments:

- Maya Daugherty, SEIU organizer, said LOAs are being interpreted in the data as if there are active members working, but LOAs are not actively working, which means caseload is increased for active staff. Maya would like to know why this data has not been updated for accuracy. Dalvin said this will be looked into in with the Department Personnel unit.
- Brian Van Anne (Transitions Children's Services) asked if there an expectation on FURS response time after the initial call is placed, seeing as 40 minutes is a long wait. Brian would like to see data on how many calls turned into a field visit.

### IV. New Business

#### A. Vote on New Chair and Vice-Chair for FCSOC

Wilma

- The Brown Act requires voting to be public for transparency purposes. A motion to nominate and second needs to be made before voting can occur. 4 affirmative votes are required for the motion to pass.
- District 4 Committee member, Rosemary Alanis, made a motion to nominate herself for Committee Chair. Karina Perez (District 1) seconded the motion. Rosemary received a unanimous vote of approval. The motion passed.
- Rosemary nominated District 5 Committee member, Ed Avila for Vice-Chair. Ed seconded the motion. Wilma abstained from the Vice-Chair vote. Ed received 5 votes of approval. The motion passed.
- Rosemary will serve as FCSOC Chair and Ed will serve as Vice-Chair for the 2024 calendar year.
- Kevin Lisitsin (District 2) suggested having a discussion in the future about the voting process so members know what to expect the next time voting takes place.

**B. Receive and Discuss the Results from the DSS Employee Survey**

**Wilma**

- Members were provided with the DSS Employee Survey summary and were given some time to review.
- Kevin asked Dalvin if there are plans to revisit the survey later. Dalvin said the Department would be open to having more discussions. He emphasized that DSS only facilitated the process for the Committee but agreed to discuss further if needed.
- Rosemary complimented the Ad Hoc Committee for their work on the survey.
- The survey summary will serve as an addendum for the FCSOC 2022-2023 Annual Report.

**Public Comments:**

- Maya would like the Committee to understand that the Social Workers are here to advocate for the children. She believes communication issues are not being brought up for consideration within the Department. She would like the Committee to understand how children are affected by decisions made on the management side.
- [Regarding item 44 on the FCSOC Survey Results Summary] Patti Scovill said if children are returned home too soon or if inadequate assessments take place, it could lead to the child being moved around again, which is cause for concern.

**C. Annual Report Board Date: December 12, 2023**

**Wilma**

- The FCSOC Annual Report will be presented on December 12, 2023 at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting. The BOS meeting will begin at 9:30 am. All Committee members are invited to join.
- Ed would like to share the FCSOC Annual Report with the Juvenile Justice Commission. Wilma offered to present.

**Public Comments:**

- Maya wanted to know why the final draft of the 22-23 Annual Report did not have retention of staff, increased pay/benefits and caseload adjustment as one of their recommendations to the BOS. Wilma responded that the Committee does not have oversight on the county’s budget to recommend something like that, but the Committee does support the recommendation and it will be verbally stated at the BOS meeting.

**V. Subcommittee Update**

**A. Education**

- DSS and Education are working together to improve the ward of the court letter process needed to complete the financial aid applications for college. When the correct or no social security number is entered into the FAFSA the first time a student is completing an application, the student is then required to take all the documents to the college financial aid office, which creates a huge barrier for students.
- Fresno County Superintendent of Schools and CASA are collaborating with the Bulldog Bound Program Administration at California State University, Fresno (CSUF) to create a system of referring foster youth to the program. When a student meets the requirements, there is a guaranteed acceptance to CSUF. The Bulldog bound Program is supported by many districts.

**VI. Public Comments**

- Patti suggested college preparedness should be introduced as early as 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**VII. Adjourn**

- Next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 9:00am in-person for Committee members and the public. Virtual option via Microsoft Teams, for members of the public only. Please note: FCSOC meetings require in-person attendance in order to participate. Virtual option is view-only. Meeting adjourned by Wilma at 10:11 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karina Perez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Lisitsin	<input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosemary Alanis	<input type="checkbox"/> Pamela Hancock
<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maisie Young	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Avila
<b>Vacant</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tracy Kashian	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilma Hashimoto

\* Marked Boxes Indicate Committee Member Attended

**Attending Staff and Guests**

**In Person:** Dalvin Baker, Julia Perez, Taylor Chavez, Hillary Bolger, Rebekah Eropkin, Brian Van Anne, Amina Flores-Becker, Patti Scovill, Maya Daugherty, Sing Syrisack, Rocky Vang, Esther Franco, Simone Cranston-Rhodes