## MINUTES

December 7, 2022

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Meeting held In-person with Teams option

1. **Call to order and introductions. Wilma**

Meeting called to order by Wilma Hashimoto at 9:04 AM with roll call by Julia Perez.

1. **Approve minutes for *October 5, 2022*.**

* Kevin Lisitsin (District 2) motioned; Rosemary Alanis (District 4) seconded to approve November 2, 2022, meeting minutes and current meeting Agenda.

1. **Updates.**
   1. **Legislative Updates. Elected Official Representative and DSS**
      * Dan Moreno, representing Assemblyman Jim Patterson’s office, shared that new legislation began 12/5/2022. They are still looking for any ideas for legislation, feel free to reach out with any inquiries at: [dan.moreno@asm.ca.gov](mailto:dan.moreno@asm.ca.gov)
   2. **Department of Social Services Addressing Critical Areas. Dalvin/Kimberli**
      * The Children’s Crisis Continuum Pilot Grant project was brought up and DSS Deputy Director Dalvin Baker shared that a proposal was submitted to the State last week. This grant is centered around how DSS CWS is working with the community to get children/youth with complex needs the support needed for them to be more successful. They are awaiting feedback from the application submitted.
      * Child Welfare enhancement workgroups are still moving forward, current updates can be obtained at a later date to share with the group.
      * Social Worker recruitment just opened, there are 47 open positions. Recruitment closes in 2 weeks, December 19th.
2. **New Business**
3. **Presentation by Robert Dutile, CEO of the new River Vista Behavioral Health Clinic Robert Dutile**

* Opening has been delayed due to construction and has been pushed back to May or June 2023.
* The clinic has partnered with Valley Children’s Hospital and are located on their campus.
* Clinic will have 128 beds able to serve ages five and up, there is no cap on age.
* Specialties are still TBD for various age groups; staff are working with the community to get input on what the needs are. Current plans are to have 4 units that can be broken down or shifted according to the specific needs at any given time.
* The clinic will open to adults only initially and is anticipated to open to children and youth sometime in the Fall 2023 once complete funding and staffing is finalized.
* The need for multi-cultural staffing has been identified in anticipation of best serving the community.
* Robert can be reached by email for any additional comments or concerns at: [Robert.dutile@uhsinc.com](mailto:Robert.dutile@uhsinc.com).

1. **Review of the DSS data being requested by FCSOC Dalvin/Kim**
   * + Dalvin went over the DSS CWS data points as a continuation from the past several months. A handout was provided for the in-person attendees as well as an attachment added to the Teams invite for any virtual guests. Bullet points for the data shared are as follows:
       - Child Welfare staff: 474 total positions
       - Child Welfare job classifications: 9
       - Child maltreatment referrals (October): 1,541
       - Child Welfare caseload (October): 3,301
       - Entry into placement in Fresno County in the last 12 months: 969
       - Placements from removal to end placement date in October: 2,433
       - Dependency Court Stats: Average of continuances for all courtrooms is 12.1%
       - Mod-C Entries in October: 33 youth

* DSS Deputy Director Kimberli Smith elaborated on the data points requested by the Committee stating that neglect is the highest rated referral allegation across the board.
* Kim was asked to explain how these rates are calculated, she shared that under the Emergency Response (ER) referrals are calculated per family, regardless of number of children involved, whereas other areas such as caseloads and placements are calculated per child.
* When comparing the County vs. State placement percentages, Kim gave an example of a challenge seen when trying to place a child with a relative being criminal backgrounds checks that can keep a placement from happening.
* Investigative Social Workers (SW) have a process when presented with a situation where a child could potentially need to be removed from a home for safety reasons. The first step would be for the SW to find out if there is a safety plan that would allow for the child not to be removed from the home. Then to follow up with a Team Decision Making meeting (TDM) which is a child-family meeting to determine if there is a relative or mentor with whom the child could be placed, taking into consideration input from both the parent(s)/guardian and the child(ren). It isn’t until the time of removal that the SW begins gathering the specific information needed so that the emergency placement procedure can begin.
  + A more efficient method would be to begin criminal background checks, child welfare searches, and home environment checks immediately and simultaneously. After the emergency placement, an RFA Application needs to be submitted within 5 days.

1. **Review of Action Items. Wilma**
   1. **Vote on Attendance Options for February 1, 2023 Meeting**

Kevin Lisitsin (District 2) motioned; Rosemary Alanis (District 4) seconded the motion regarding the February 1, 2023 attendance options: in-person attendance is strongly encouraged for Committee members but may attend virtually via Teams as long as they are on camera and the Committee was given prior notice of the Member’s virtual attendance location. Members of the public will continue to have the option to attend in-person or virtually via Teams.

1. **Subcommittee Updates.**
   1. **Education Pam**
      * No updates presented
   2. **Children’s Mental Health Wilma**

* No updates presented

1. **Round Table Discussion by members. All**

* Ed Avila asked during Kim’s presentation if ethnicity stats are kept for referrals of abuse and what ethnicity had the highest numbers. Kim responded that those stats would take more time to pull, but that she believes that Indian and African American are at the top of the referral rates.
* Kevin shared a concern for the lack of Resource Families and asked if there is anything that is being done to improve the situation. Kim responded by stating that the County is in the process of working on getting a new software program that can improve the process for Resource Families to complete applications and gain RFA’s.
* Specializations are being accessed to see how they meet the needs of the community and if they are still functional. There has been a good amount of progress in this area and assessments will continue.
* It was asked if CWS currently tracks the number of reentries into the care and if not, to add that to the data points shared regularly at FCSOC meetings. Dalvin shared that reentry within 12 months is being tracked and that category will be added into the spreadsheet.
* Mod-C entry rates are affected by the AWOL entries. This happens more in the colder seasons when children are runaways and in need of warmer living conditions.
* Mod-C staff are selected in large part due to their skill sets and abilities to relate to the youth there. It is believed that the youth who end up staying at Mod-C beyond the 2-day average do so because of the trust they have in the staff on-site.
* There was a suggestion that CASA be called as soon as a hard-to-place youth enters Mod-C for an opportunity to match them with an advocate early on.

1. **Public Comments.**
   * + Brian Van Anne asked how many of the 1,718 referrals in September and the 1,541 referrals in October turned into actual placements and if that information can be shared.
     + Pat Scovill (Former CASA Advocate & Foster Youth Advocate) brought up the idea to form a committee to investigate the successes in other Counties/States for youth placements in long term-facilities and implement the strategies found into Fresno’s processes.
2. **Adjourn Wilma**

Next meeting will be on February 1, 2023, in-person (Committee members and the public) and virtually via Teams (camera-access required for Committee members). Meeting adjourned by Wilma at 10:35 AM.

**Committee Attendance**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **District 1** | **District 2** | **District 3** | **District 4** | **District 5** |
|  |  | Sal Quintero  Ari Martinez (Proxy) |  |  |
| Karina Perez | Kevin Lisitsin | James Martinez | Rosemary Alanis | Pamela Hancock |
| Wendy Yribarren | Maisie Young | Elizabeth Thomas | Richard Bailey | Ed Avila |
| Jill Stepke | Tracy Kashian | Patricia Miller | Connie Waldrop | Wilma Hashimoto |

**Attending Staff and Guests**

In Person: Kim Smith, Dalvin Baker, Elizabeth Bell, Julia Perez, Sonia Dosti, Pat Scovill, Brian Van Anne, Robert Dutile, Chad Valorosi, Catherine Huerta | Teams: Dan Moreno, Kimberly Hazelton, Krystal Kwartz, Rebekah Rodriquez, Ronald Alexander, Christie Lee, Mary Sanchez, Miriam Flores, Rocky Vang