



The San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Council

Minutes: July 20, 2020

Call to Order: 10.50 a.m.

Present: Samantha Taylor (Star Vista), Stephanie Loera (Family Connections), Aracely Vasquez (Star Vista), Brittney Reiser (CORA), Donovan Fones (CFS), Susan Swope (JJC), LaRay Hilt (CASA), Leanne Hay IHSD), Maria Del Rio (Star Vista), Randy Torrijos (Board of Supervisors/Dave Pine), Chris Perry (SVC).

Item: Public Comment/Brown Act – No members of the public requested to comment.

Introductions – Members introduced themselves.

Agency Check-in: Jane began by updating the group on a possible presentation/moderated discussion about systemic racism and diversity in the Child Welfare System. She is working with Gary Beasley to set this up, possibly for the September 21st meeting. She also said that the Youth Commission has expressed interest in the possibility of one of their members serving on the CAPC and she is pursuing this with that Commission's coordinator. Donovan suggested that he inquire about a former foster youth also participating in the CAPC. Jane also suggested that there might be some interest in a small Peer Support Group which would meet weekly. She asked the members to consider this possibility and let her know if there is interest. Likewise, the CAPC was asked about going back to the twice monthly meeting schedule. Jane will email the group to see if there is interest in this as well.

Leanne – Reported that IHSD began in-person classes for pre-school and toddlers on May 15th. There are 10 in the preschool class and 8 in the toddler class. When surveyed only 20 families out of 200 wanted distance learning for their children. Tablets and internet connections are supplied to the families so they can attend family classes through distance learning. All classrooms will be back in-person on August 17th. The only people allowed in the classrooms are children and staff.

Randy – The Board of Supervisors is meeting tomorrow about a proposal allocating \$2 million of CARES Act money to childcare. This will be done by the Covid-19 Child Care Response Team. There will also be an update on losses of County revenue due to Covid.

Donovan – Social Workers and Psych Social Workers are now doing in-person supervised visitation. There are lots of protocols re: screening families and employees. This is further complicated because foster parents are concerned about kids leaving to visit with families and then coming back to the foster home. The Department doesn't want to put foster homes at risk but must support reunification.

Aracely – They are not doing face to face visits yet. Staff is concerned about how to handle those meetings. Families are dealing with eviction, homelessness, and immigration status. And now staff is supporting clients and preparing them for the transition as kids return to school.

Brittany – The mental health team at CORA goes through waves of having capacity to deal with the caseload and having no capacity. Sometimes they are able to take on only high-risk clients. CORA is hiring and trainees will start in August so that should improve the availability of therapists.

Stephanie – Family Connections has decided not to reopen in the Fall; they may reopen in January. They have a staff of 10 and 4 of them are high risk for the virus. They have revamped the curriculum for the pre-school programs and added a few new platforms to communicate with parents. All of their families

are underfunded, working less and running out of money. Only 2 parents of 70 are able to work from home.

Samantha – They are moving toward in-person meetings but for now it's still Zoom and phone calls. The challenge is how to support families with the start of school being so uncertain. This will be Samantha's last CAPC meeting – she starts grad school at SJSU next month.

Susan – The Commission has a strategic plan for the next 5 years. She is still working on getting the Parents Handbook printed. The Truancy Project has begun but because of the uncertainty about schools this has been a challenge. They will be doing virtual inspections of Juvenile Hall, Camp Kemp, Canyon Oaks and other facilities.

LaRay – It is ok for CASA's to resume in-person visits unless the CASA or the caregiver is not comfortable with that. CASA's must check in with their kids once a week, either in-person, by phone or Zoom. A new class of CASA's will graduate in the first week of August and they will be required to do in-person visits unless the caregiver doesn't want it.

Maria – All services continue to be provided virtually. Families are having difficulties with rent and food. One family is traveling to San Jose to get enough food to feed all of them.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53

NEXT MEETING – August 17, 2020, 10:45-12:00

Meeting Adjourned: Time

Jane Smithson, CAPC Coordinator

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