



The San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Council

Minutes: November 15, 2021

Call to Order: 10.50 a.m.

Present: Donovan Fones (CFS), Gina Almaraz (Family Connections), Jazz Lamadoro (CFS), Karla Santiago-Reyes (Family Connections), Araceli Garcia (Star Vista), Alyssa Canfield (Star Vista), Patricia Dalao (Star Vista), Christine Peterson (CORA), Susan Swope (JJDPCC), Chris Perry (SVC).

Public Comment/Brown Act – No members of the public requested to comment. The group also voted on a Resolution to meet in January virtually due to COVID 19. Susan moved to accept the resolution, Donovan seconded and the motion passed. The January meeting will be held using Go to Meeting.

Community Updates –

Araceli reported that there are opening in the single site housing unit and the overall program.

Alyssa added that with the AB12 extension ending they are expecting an increase in numbers. The goal is to have youth come to Star Vista for services once the extension ends and to have this be a seamless transition. They are also gearing up for an increase in needs during the holidays which can be a difficult time for youth.

Patricia introduced herself – she is new to the Transitional Youth team and will be working with Araceli and Alyssa.

Susan said that JJDPCC is moving toward Delinquency Prevention and to that end is putting together a Peer Court. It will actually be a restorative circle and is being led by a High School Senior who is on the Commission. It is modeled on a similar program in Marin County. This program has the support of the Board of Supervisors and the Boys and Girls Clubs are offering sites for the meetings. They hope to be up and running in April 2022. Susan will explore bringing the leadership group to CAPC.

Christine reported that CORA has hired a Child Advocate to do case management on a full-time basis. CORA held an event last month, Voices in Unity which was a survivor panel – it was a very powerful experience. This week they are hosting Gratitude with Arts and Crafts.

Donovan said that this week the agency is beginning to transition to a return to the office. This will be two days a week until January and then increase to three days a week. The agency is looking at a balance of working from home and being in the office. The Child and Family Team Meetings are continuing and there is an effort to stay in compliance with state requirements.

Jazz echoed Donovan's remarks stating that the return to the office plan will be a hybrid model. Referrals have increased, particularly in September, but most have been "evaluate outs". There is an increase in serious injuries and allegations in the 0-5 age group. November is Adoption Awareness Month.

Gina reported that Family Connections has closed it's Menlo Park site and now has a site in East Palo Alto. Classes are up and running, two in Redwood City, two in EPA and two virtual

classes. Parents are experiencing a lot of stress and the agency is trying to address this to prevent any abuse of the children.

Karla is working with the Director of Family Connections to create a curriculum for emotional learning. The 33 families in her group have been split into two separate groups and Family Connections is searching for a good curriculum on social and emotional learning to adapt for their audience. They are also working with local agencies in the area and will be hosting a Hygiene Event.

Mandated Reporter Training –

Jane asked if there is an interest in a discussion/presentation of issues about Mandated Reporting. The group was enthusiastic about this. The plan is to have a monthly meeting dedicated to a Mandated Reporting Q and A, and have some hypotheticals that members can discuss during the meeting. And, if there are specific issues that come up Jane will bring people to future meetings to give a presentation on that issue. This is a subject of continuing interest and can be approached in several ways.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – January 24, 2022

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