

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Child and Family Strengthening
Advisory Board
Minutes of September 9, 2022

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS
First District

JOEL ANDERSON
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Third District

NATHAN FLETCHER
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

Members Present:

Supervisor Nora Vargas, County Board of Supervisors
Aimee Zeitz, District 2 Appointee
Joy Singleton, District 3 Appointee
Maddy Kilkenny, District 5 Appointee
Judge Ana España, Juvenile Court
Kimberly Giardina, Child Welfare Services
Chief Tamika Nelson, San Diego County
Probation
Alethea Arguilez, First 5 San Diego
Jeff Wiemann, Foster Family Agency
Cheryl Rode, San Diego Center for Children
Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc
Carolyn Griesemer, Children's Legal Services of San Diego
Adam Reed, Dependency Legal Services
Mara Madrigal-Weiss, San Diego County Office of
Education
Sandy Mueller, Children's Health Care Professional
Sade Burrell, Former Foster Youth
Melissa Villagomez, Former Foster Youth
Simone Hidds-Monroe, San Pasqual Academy
Jessica Heldman, Polinsky Children's Center

Members Not Present:

Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, County Board of Supervisors
Nick Macchione, County Health and Human Service Agency
Khylan Bolden, Former Foster Youth
Patty Boles, Straight from the Heart, Inc.

Staff Present:

Brook Smith, The Children's Initiative
Emily Lay, The Children's Initiative

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Supervisor Vargas brought the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
- A quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

- Supervisor Vargas asked if any members of the public wished to address the Advisory Board.
 - One member of the public suggested it would be beneficial to prioritize housing for individuals and families within the Behavioral Health and Child Welfare systems, specifically focusing on those involved with reunification.

3. Authorization of Teleconferencing Meeting Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and Advisory Board members reconsidered the current State of Emergency as well as the ongoing recommendation from local officials to promote social distancing.
- A vote was conducted via role call by Brook Smith in conjunction with the roll call. The motion passed with all present members voting aye.

4. Approval for the Statement of Proceeding/Minutes for the meeting of July 8, 2022

- Maddy Kilkenny made a motion to approve the recommendations. Seconded by Judge Ana España.
- Motion passed with 11 ayes and 6 abstains for the July minutes.

5. County of San Diego Child Welfare Services Update

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Child Welfare Services (CWS) Acting Director, Kim Giardina. Kim gave a brief breakdown of average wait times for the 0-5 cohort for Community Services for Families (CSF) and Developmental Screening and Evaluation Program (DSEP).
 - Supervisor Vargas requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - Carolyn Griesemer asked for clarification on how long the wait times are for services once a youth has been screened and assessed.
 - Joy Singleton asked for additional information regarding wait times that fall outside of the 30-day time period. She also asked for clarification on which groups provide services for CWS and if CWS can look to other service providers to decrease the wait times. Kim clarified that the longest wait time for services is 45 days. She stated the goal is to decrease wait times and if other providers are available to provide services needed, CWS will look into those as they arise.
 - Alethea Arguilez commented that the shortage of clinicians and behavioral health workers for the 0-5 cohort make it difficult to maintain reasonable wait times.
 - Aimee Zeitz commented that a lack of proper organization across sectors and service providers has made it difficult to ensure the best types of services are used for each youth.
 - Jeff Wiemann asked for clarification on whether the data provided is the most current data available and suggested inviting some of the service providers to speak at the next meeting. A member of the public shared that wait times for services after the initial assessment are longer than wait times for assessments. She stated Rady Children's Hospital (RCH) actively looks for open spots with service providers, but many providers have contingencies, such as no sibling sets, cannot be involved with the perpetrator, etc., that make it difficult for the services to be implemented.
 - Carolyn Griesemer commented that children who must wait for services are exposed to additional trauma, and placements are often postponed due to a lack of services. She suggested quicker turnaround times on services provided after assessments would minimize the additional trauma incurred by these children.

- Simone Hidds-Monroe reiterated that the wait times for services can negatively impact placement. She asked for data regarding placement for youth awaiting services. Kim commented that stable placement can be difficult for children who need regional center services or additional resources.
 - Supervisor Vargas opened the item to public comment.
 - No members of the public wished to address the Advisory Board.

6. First 5 Update

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and turned it over to First 5 Commission Executive Director, Alethea Arguilez. Alethea shared an overview of Healthy Development Services (HDS) and First Steps.
 - Supervisor Vargas opened the item to public comment.
 - A member of the public shared that data for wait times are often deceptive because they do not account for issues such as staffing issues and levels of care given. He commented that proper communication and coordination between organizations can aid in diminishing the length of wait times for children within CWS.
 - A member of the public shared RCH and DSEP providers have great collaboration and communication across organizations, however, services outside of DSEP contractors often take longer than services provided in-house.
 - Supervisor Vargas requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - Joy Singleton asked if First 5 is limited in the number of children they can serve for services with low wait times. A member of the public responded that while service providers would serve as many children as possible, the lack of staff available to provide these services make it difficult to ensure that wait times are kept low.
 - Jeff Wiemann asked if the goal of HDS and First Steps is to screen or assess every child within San Diego County, and if there is any data on the children who have not been screened. He suggested using the current workforce in a different way to combat the burdens felt by clinicians, case workers, etc. Alethea responded all children within San Diego County are able to participate in HDS and First Steps, with children who are referred by CWS taking priority. She clarified that First 5 further evaluates children who are flagged for developmental issues.
 - Cheryl Rode commented Cal Aim's enhanced case management (ECM) with managed MediCare for children, which will launch in July 2023, and an increased access to behavioral health services without having a mental health diagnosis will provide many opportunities for services. She agreed that leveraging the current workforce would be beneficial in holding service providers accountable.

7. Subcommittee/Ad-hoc Updates

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Brook Smith, who shared updates from the Race & Equity Ad-hoc Committee that took place on August 10, 2022, and shared the minutes for the three meetings were included in the meeting materials. The agenda item was then turned over to Simone Hidds-Monroe, who shared the FAYCES Subcommittee from August 18, 2022. The agenda item was then turned over to Carolyn Griesemer, who shared the updates from the Child and Family Services Subcommittee that took place on August 25, 2022.
 - Supervisor Vargas requested any comments from members of the Advisory Board.
 - No members wished to address to Advisory Board.
 - Supervisor Vargas opened the item to public comment.
 - No members of the public wished to address to Advisory Board.

8. Director's Report

- Supervisor Vargas introduced the agenda item and turned it over to CWS Acting Director, Kim Giardina. Kim shared a brief overview of the five Board Letters that will be going to the Board of Supervisors meeting on September 27th.
 - Contract with YMCA of SD for Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for children in Foster Care and Grant Agreement for Subsidized Child Care Vouchers for Families Reunifying
 - This item will extend the existing Child Care Bridge Program with YMCA and will request funds for childcare vouchers for children and families who are reunifying.
 - Agreement with the San Diego Workforce Partnership for the Career Pathways for Foster Youth Program
 - This item will initiate the agreement between CWS and San Diego Workforce Partnership to add and expand to the existing Career Pathways Program.
 - Competitive Solicitation for Child Care Workforce Investment Program
 - This item is aimed at procuring more early education and childcare workers, expanding the education of current workers, partnering with local colleges to gain more future childcare providers, and providing sustainable wages for childcare providers.
 - Competitive Solicitation for Child Care Shared Services Alliance Grant Program
 - The item will support the business infrastructure for childcare providers.
 - SPA Transition Update and Establish Appropriations
 - This item will update the Board of Supervisors of the current procurement process, with Rite of Passage being awarded the contract. Rite of Passage will now need to obtain state licenses before proceeding with the SPA transition. This item will also request authority for the next two components of SPA, the addition of a short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) and a transitional housing program.

9. Advisory Board Member Updates


- Supervisor Vargas opened the floor to Advisory Board members to share any updates.
 - Alethea Arguilez shared that the First 5 Commission meeting is on October 13th and welcomed members of the Advisory Board and the public to attend.
 - Simone Hidds-Monroe reminded members that the SPA Student Experience Survey is currently going out to individuals, and anyone interested in helping get the survey to current and former foster youth can reach out to her directly.

10. Adjournment

- Supervisor Vargas closed the meeting.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2022

Meeting minutes were submitted by Emily Lay. Please call Emily Lay at (858) 581-5892 if you have corrections or suggested revisions. She may also be contacted for agenda items or general information.



County of San Diego System Transformation

Child and Family Well-Being Department



Setting the Stage to
Strengthen Families &
Support Communities

U.S. Children's Bureau's Priorities

- Prevent children from entering foster care
- Support kinship caregivers
- Ensure youth leave foster care with strengthened relationships, holistic supports, and opportunities
- Invest in child welfare workforce



SAN DIEGO'S PREVENTION DEFINITION



Prevention means families thrive in a *connected community* that enhances and restores nurturing and responsive relationships and environments. It involves aligning impact on multiple levels so that all *children* are safe and cherished, all *families* are nurtured to build up protective factors, and *systems/structures* create equitable pathways to wellness.

Building Better Health, Living Safely and Thriving

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Shift toward prevention for child welfare

Prevent the need for families to ever make formal contact with the child welfare system

Prevent entry or re-entry into foster care

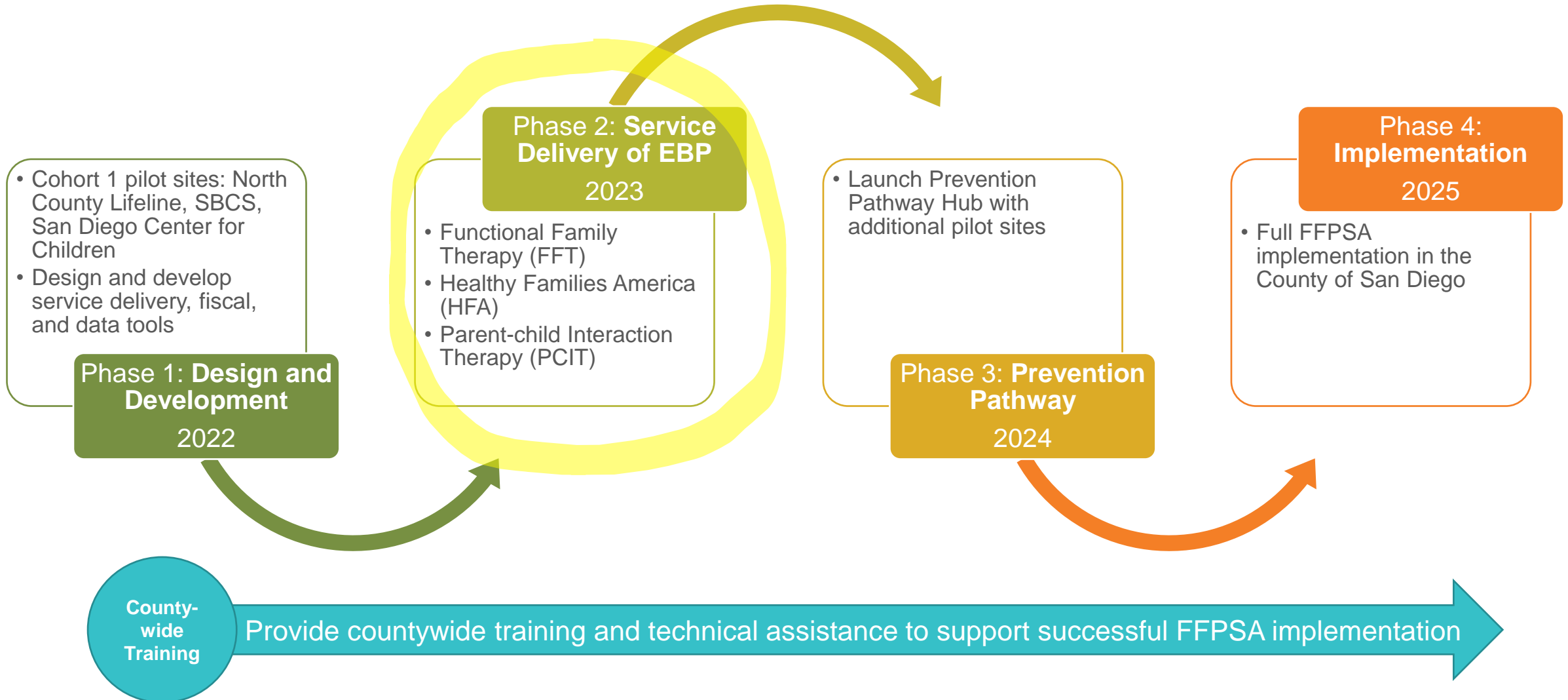
Provides opportunities for jurisdictions to create their own prevention pathway

Funding is available to agencies providing evidence-based programs (EBP) for eligible candidates



**Title IV-E Prevention Services
CLEARINGHOUSE**

STATUS OF FFPSA IMPLEMENTATION



Reflection & Conversation

What needs to be present in a community to support families?

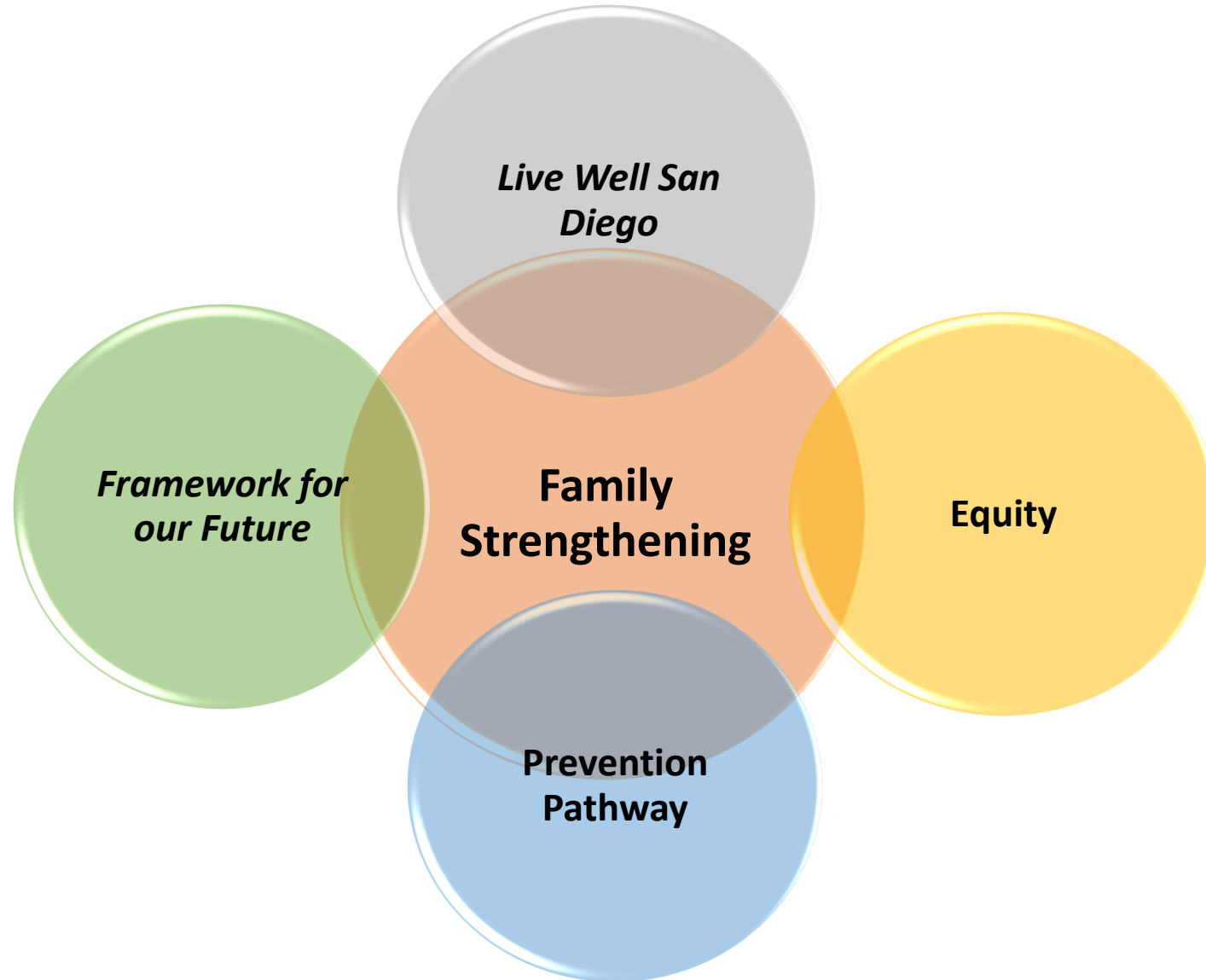
What does a thriving family look like to you?



County of San
Diego Agency
Transformation



DRIVERS FOR FAMILY STRENGTHENING

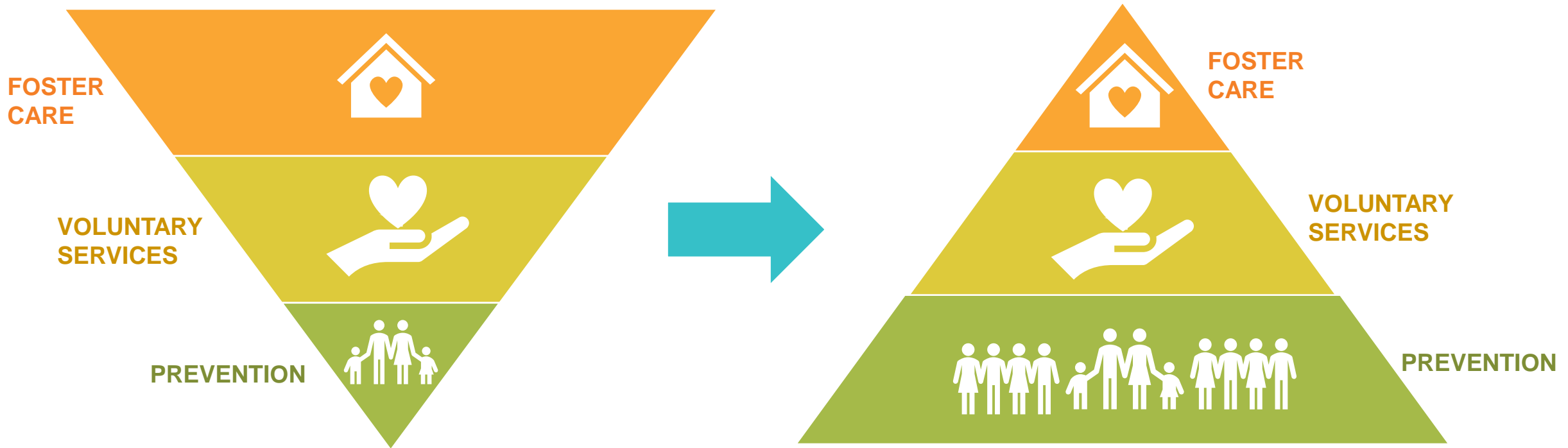


Intended Outcomes of Transformation

- Increase supports for families
- Promote family strengthening efforts
- Reduce the impact of trauma, adverse childhood experiences, and child maltreatment
- Move toward an equitable, prevention-focused operating model focused on early interventions



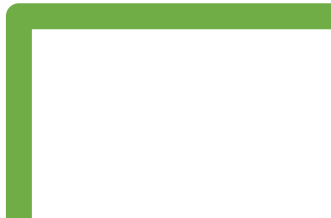
FAMILY STRENGTHENING FOCUS



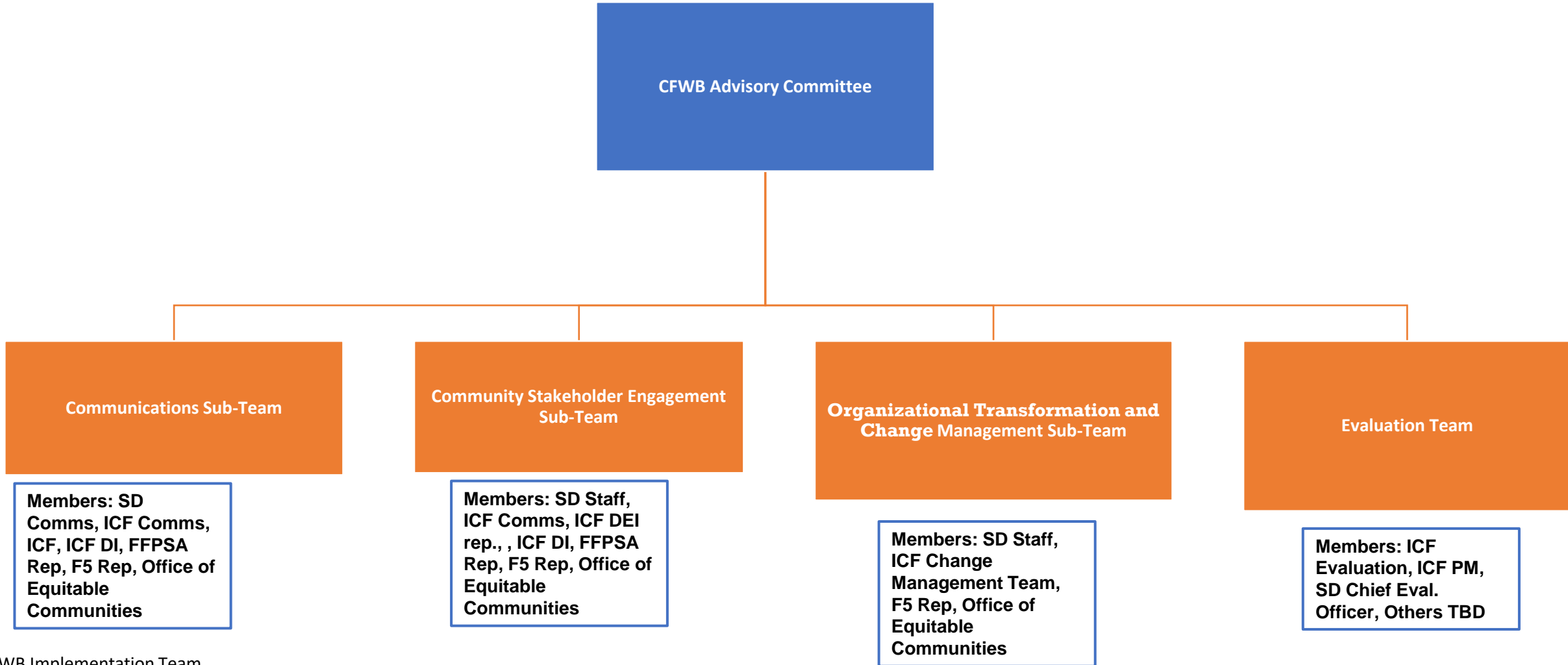
Since 1998, San Diego Child Welfare has decreased the number of children in care by **64%** from almost 7,000 children to just over 2,300 through family strengthening efforts and enhanced engagement. The CFWB structural transformation will support families and communities in becoming stronger and resilient so that even fewer children will be negatively impacted by trauma experienced through systemic inequities.



Supporting the Transformation Process



Teaming Structure



- CFWB Implementation Team
- August 15, 2022


Information Gathering

- Information sessions with CWS and First 5 managers & staff
- Community Organizations
- Community Members
- People with Lived Experience





Reflection & Conversation

- 
- What is most relevant to you as a community member, agency leader or resident of San Diego?
 - Do you have thoughts on how you and your organization can play a role in the transformation?

Would you like to
request a presentation
for your organization?

Please scan the QR code to make a request



THANK YOU!



CWS CLINICIANS



Clinician Type	Program	Staff Number
Clinician* *Consists of MFT, ASW, APCC, LMFT, LCSW, LPCC, and Psy. D	Center for Positive Changes	5
	NA Kenora	1.5
	NA So. Campus	7.5
	New Haven	1
	Varsity	2
	Comprehensive Assessment and Stabilization Services	9.5
	NA Polinsky	5
	Incredible Families	11.6
	Casa de Amparo STRTP	7
	Circle of Friends	3
	Fred Finch STRTP	2.5
	Milestone House	1.5
	SDCC STRTP	5.45
	SDCC FFAST	9
	SDCC WrapWorks	25
Fred Finch Wrap Connections	24	

CWS CLINICIANS



Clinician Type	Program	Staff Number
Mental Health Rehab* *typically have a B.A. in a major related to Psychology, Sociology, etc. or 4 years of direct service with youth in congregate settings	Center for Positive Changes	5
	NA Kenora	1
	NA So. Campus	8
	New Haven	1
	Varsity	2
	NA Polinsky	2
	Circle of Friends	2
	Fred Finch STRTP	2
	Milestone House	2
	SDCC STRTP	4.95
	SDCC FFAST	4
	SDCC WrapWorks	32.6
	Fred Finch Wrap Connections	24

CWS CLINICIANS



Clinician Type	Program(s)	Number
Parent Partner	Incredible Families	2
Engagement Specialist	Incredible Families	4
Case Manager (Master's level)	Therapeutic Behavioral Services	16
Coach	Therapeutic Behavioral Services	44

CWS CLINICIANS



TERM

Adults	Children & Adolescents	Adults AND Children & Adolescents
<p>86 providers treat adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 of 86 providers treat older adults (ages 60+) 	<p>79 providers treat children and/or adolescents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71 of 79 providers treat children (ages 0-3, 3-5, and/or 6-12) • 76 of 79 providers treat adolescents (ages 13-17) 	<p>60 providers treat both adults and children/adolescents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 of 60 providers do not treat children (ages 0-3, 3-5, and/or 6-12)

CWS CLINICIANS



OTHERS

Program	Clinician Information
Community Services for Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 clinicians 	LCSW LMFT CSF does not use clinical interns
Rady's/Victim Services	LMFT Rady's does not use clinical interns
Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 clinicians 	Does not require licenses and no staff are licensed. Requires a Bachelor's degree for a Developmental Specialist position Requires a Master's degree for a Behavior Specialist position DSEP does not use clinical interns



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Ad-hoc Committee Meeting

Ad-hoc Committee:

Race & Equity	1:00 - 2:30 pm
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Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitators: Stephanie Heying

Meeting Staff: Emily Lay, D’Andre Brooks

Race & Equity Ad-hoc Committee Summary: 40 attendees took part in the Ad-hoc Committee.

Advisory Members Participating: Jessica Heldman, Stephen Moore

Stephanie provided a brief overview of the agenda and the purpose of the Ad-hoc committee. Stephanie then explained how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and provided attendees multiple ways to ask questions during the meeting. Lastly, Stephanie encouraged participation from all attendees.

Data Review

Stephanie opened the agenda item and turned it over to Dr. Balambal Bharti to present on the agenda item.

- Dr. Bharti gave an overview of mothers who have lost their parental rights.
 - Termination of parental rights (TPR) increased in 2020-21, mostly likely due to the pandemic.
 - TPR decreased in 2021-22, from 301 terminations in 2020-21 to 159 terminations in 2021-22.
 - Overall, the distribution of TPR across ethnicities has not changed over the last three years.
- Questions:
 - Babbi Winegarden asked for clarification on if the TPR information is inclusive of different groups. Dr. Bharti clarified that the data is pulled from Child Welfare Services (CWS) and is based only on CWS data.
 - Jessica Heldman requested data that show how many families, broken down by ethnicity, who are involved with CWS result in TPRs.
- Dr. Bharti then gave an overview on hotline calls not referred for investigation.
 - There were no major differences between the reporter type for hotline calls not referred for investigation and hotline calls referred for investigation.
 - Dr. Bharti clarified that hotline referrals can include multiple children with different ethnicities.
 - Of the 18,073 children not assigned for investigation, 46% were Hispanic, 27% were White, and 10% were African American.

- Overall, there were no major differences in ethnicity between hotline calls referred and not referred for investigation.

Targeted Recruitment and Retention Plan

Stephanie opened the agenda item and turned it over to Diana Macias to present on the agenda item.

- Diana gave an overview of the Foster and Adoptive Resource Family Services (FARFS), focusing on recruitment and retention.
 - Recruitment:
 - Goals of Recruitment for Resource Family's and for specific children.
 - Examples of recruitment methods include, but are not limited to:
 - Attendance at community booths/events such as PRIDE events, Juneteenth, Special Needs Foundation events, etc.
 - Social media ads
 - Keeping the Heart Gallery up to date
 - Retention:
 - There are a wide variety of support services for Resource Families, including, but not limited to:
 - Respite care
 - Medical and dental insurance for children and youth
 - YMCA Services
 - In-home based services for children, youth, and resource parents

Faith in Motion Presentation

Stephanie opened the agenda item and turned it over to Diana Macias to present on the agenda item.

- Diana gave an overview of Faith in Motion, a collaboration between CWS and faith-based organizations in the community.
 - The goal of Faith in Motion is to support and enhance permanency for children and youth in foster care, support placement stability in resource homes, and to remove barriers that may preclude youth from being placed in family settings.
 - There are approximately 30 faith-based organizations currently involved, with regional meetings held bi-monthly with faith-based leaders.
 - In November 2022, CWS will attend the Faith and Foster Care Conference to highlight Faith in Motion and the contributions faith-based organizations have made to the community.
 - CarePortal, a platform that connects faith-based organizations with foster and resource parents in need, is set to launch in early 2023.

Setting Goals for Recruitment of more Families of Color

Stephanie opened the agenda item and opened the item up for discussion.

- A participant asked where in the community CWS is going to recruit more families of color. Diana Macias responded CWS tries to attend all community events, such as Juneteenth and visiting the Martin Luther King library. The participant asked if CWS is partnering with African American owned or run organizations to reach more families. Diana replied that the pandemic minimized many partnerships with organizations, but CWS is currently working to reestablish those partnerships. She mentioned CWS is always welcome to suggestions and would appreciate any additional information members can provide.
- Stephen Moore asked if there was a brief overview of how resource family recruitment is progressing (are we in need of more families overall, are there gaps in coverage of resource families, or are there enough resource families to cover the children in the system). Lillian Asoera commented there has been a drop in resource families willing to care for children with complex

needs. Diana Macias commented CWS is transparent about what the needs of these children are, but that individual's applying to become a resource parent are not always looking for care for a child or children with complex needs.

- Stephen Moore asked if the new Assembly and State bills have impacted the number of individuals applying to become resource families/parents. Lillian commented that she has seen an increase in waivers need for individuals who were not previously eligible to become resource parents.

Goal for Ad-Hoc Committee – Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in CWS – Moving forward

Agenda item was moved to the December meeting.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2022, 1:00 pm

Stephanie concluded the meeting by reviewing agenda items for the December meeting.

- Setting goals for recruitment of more families of color.
- Eliminate disproportionality with a targeted goal.
- Data on families within CWS resulting in TPR



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Ad-hoc Committee Meeting

Ad-hoc Committee:

Race & Equity	1:00 - 2:30 pm
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Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Location: 5560 Overland Ave., Room 171
San Diego, CA 92123

Facilitators: Stephanie Heying

Meeting Staff: Emily Lay

Race & Equity Ad-hoc Committee Summary: 19 attendees took part in the Ad-hoc Committee.

Advisory Members Participating: Stephen Moore, Kristen Garrett proxy for Carolyn Griesemer

Stephanie provided a brief overview of the agenda and the purpose of the Ad-hoc committee. Stephanie then explained how the meeting was being conducted in-person due to the recent motion made by the Board of Supervisors regarding teleconferencing. Lastly, Stephanie encouraged participation from all attendees.

Data on Families within CWS Resulting in TPR

Stephanie opened the agenda item and turned it over to Laura Cazarez-Machado to present.

- Laura gave an overview of families within CWS who have lost their parental rights.
 - Data can be viewed in a variety of ways, with this data focusing on new opened cases and number of cases that resulted in termination of parental rights (TPR) during fiscal year 2020-21 and fiscal year 2021-22. The data is based on the primary ethnicity of the mother.
 - During fiscal year 2020-21, there were 1,096 new cases opened and a total of 262 cases resulting in TPR.
 - New cases and TPRs are not exactly 1:1 in 2020-21.
 - Hispanic families represent 40% of new cases and TPRs.
 - Black families represent 15% of new cases and 14% of TPRs.
 - White families represent 33% of new cases and 37% of TPRs.
 - During fiscal year 2021-22, there were 930 new cases opened and a total of 158 cases resulting in TPR.
 - New cases and TPRs are not 1:1 in 2021-22.
 - Hispanic families represent 41% of new cases and 35% of TPRs.
 - Black families represent 14% of new cases and 19% of TPRs.
 - White families represent 36% of new cases and 37% of TPRs.
- Questions:
 - Stephen Moore asked for clarification on whether the 262 TPRs or roughly 24% of cases in 2020-21 resulted in TPR. He asked of the 1,096 opened cases in 2020-21, did 262 of these cases result in TPR. He inquired how many WIC §366.26 hearings occurred to result

in 262 TPRs. Laura clarified that some cases could have opened in 2019-20 that resulted in TPRs in 2020-21, and some cases could have opened in 2020-21 that did not result in TPRs; she stated the data is representative of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years and focuses on new cases and new TPRs within those years. Lillian Asoera stated that court dates often do not coincide with when the families come into the system. Laura clarified that not all hearings result in a TPR start date, and the data is reflective of TPRs with start dates.

- A participant asked for clarification on what a TPR start date represents. Laura responded that TPR start dates are the dates when TPRs are assigned. It is possible to have a TPR date without parental rights having been terminated.
- A participant commented that there was more disproportionality in the Black population in 2021-22 compared to 2020-21.
- Stephen Moore asked if the pandemic had an impact on the numbers being reduced from 2020-21 to 2021-22. Laura responded that she did not have exact numbers, but that courts being closed in 2020 did have an impact on new cases and cases resulting in TPRs.
- A participant stated the data on the Native American population in 2021-22 looks as if 100% of new cases resulted in TPR. Laura clarified that the data in the bar graph is representative of the total count of new cases and TPRs, meaning Native Americans made up 1% of new cases and 4% of TPRs in 2021-22.
- A participant clarified that Native American families are sometimes allowed to opt for a Tribal Customary Adoptions, where parental rights are not terminated through the courts.
- Laura stated previous State data collection methods often defaulted ethnic data toward the Hispanic population. She shared that collection methods have been changing over the past year, and ethnic data will become more reflective of the State populations.

Setting Goals for Recruitment of more Families of Color

Stephanie opened the agenda item and opened the item for discussion.

- A participant mentioned that physical space requirements within the home are often barriers to recruitment. She suggested that changing some of the logistical space requirements might entice more families to become Resource Families.

Goals for Ad-hoc Committee-Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in CWS-Moving Forward

Stephanie opened the agenda item and posed several questions to the group.

- How do we strengthen families and what can be done to support them before they interact with CWS?
- What are some of the things the County can do or should be doing as it moves from mandated reporting to mandated supporting?
- What are some of the things that can be done to help the Ad-hoc subcommittee to its goals in reducing and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in CWS?
- Discussion:
 - Stephanie asked the subcommittee items that they would like to see on the February agenda.
 - A participant suggested a set of action steps based on the data presented over the last year would be beneficial in guiding the group toward eliminating disparity.
 - A participant asked if there has been an analysis of the data given to the group over the past year. She suggested an analysis of the data could better guide future action steps.
 - A participant recommended getting feedback on how to eliminate disparity from

community members and other systems of care.

- A participant suggested hosting subcommittee meetings within the communities that are most impacted.
- A participant reiterated that the physical space requirements for new Resource Families need to be address, as changes to the requirements could entice more families to apply.
- Stephen Moore asked how much advocacy for Resource Family Approval (RFA) requirements takes place between the County and the State levels. Lillian Asoera stated there are statewide meetings that include all jurisdictions in the State. He asked who is on the opposition side of making requirements more lenient to encourage new Resource Families to sign up. Lillian stated she does not believe there is an opposition, but rather a lack of availability of services.
- Stephen Moore shared that there are many children who are not able to reunite with their families because of physical space requirements, such as not being able to walk through one bedroom to get to the second bedroom. Lillian stated there have been many changes to RFA requirements over the last few years with many children being able to find placement or reunify. RFA is statewide, but placement requirements may differ depending on where the child is being placed.
- A participant commented that there is a potential for bias when a placement assessment is being done. One assessor may deem a home/neighborhood fit, while another might think the same home/neighborhood is unfit. Lillian stated cases are frequently reviewed to provide objectivity and to eliminate biases.
- A participant asked if RFA has made it more difficult for family members or relatives to be approved for placement.
- Stephen Moore asked if there have been changes made to environmental requirements for placement, such as the “only same sex children can share a room” requirement, yard requirements, bedroom cut-through requirements, etc. Diana Macias responded that changes are being made to environmental requirements, for example, under RFA, the same sex room requirement has changed from 5-years-old to 8-years-old. She suggested the bedroom cut-through requirements are in place to protect the personal rights of the individual whose bedroom is being used as a walkway.
- A participant asked if any targeted outreach is being done in communities that are willing to participate in RFA but do not believe they will qualify. Lillian clarified CWS does do targeted outreach at sites such as LiveWell Centers and YMCAs in addition to their partnership with Faith in Motion.
- A participant suggested a barrier to recruitment is the constant government presence in the home.
- A participant asked how we recruit families for youth in need, older youth, sibling-sets, youth with mental health issues, etc.
- A participant asked how long the process takes to become a Resource Family. A participant responded that the process often depends on the family completing all the necessary requirements. Some families will take several months to complete one step in the process, which prolongs the entire approval process.
- Stephen Moore asked what resources are being used to communicate the ease of becoming a Resource Family or Parent; do people have to read through a document with specific terminology or is there something more used that is easier to digest, like a short video. Diana Macias clarified that CWS workers are provided with a slideshow during their training that summarizes the steps to become a Resource Family. Stephen suggested turning this slideshow

information into a commercial that would be more accessible to a larger population.

- A participant recommended pushing for more kinship placements to reduce the need for more Resource Families, increase reunification rates, and keep youth in their communities.
- A participant asked how we can support social workers on the front end to help them understand that their work is critical to the youths' wellbeing.

Next Meeting: February 8, 2023, 1:00 pm

Stephanie concluded the meeting by reviewing agenda items for the February meeting.

- Action Items



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Subcommittee Meeting

Subcommittee:

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES)	6:00 -7:30 pm
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Date: Thursday, October 20, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitator: Stephanie Heying

Meeting Staff: Emily Lay

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee Summary:

32 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Carolyn Griesemer, Simone Hidds-Monroe

Stephanie Heying opened the meeting and recapped that the meeting is a subcommittee of the larger Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board. Stephanie reviewed how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and provided attendees multiple ways to ask questions. Stephanie encouraged participation via the chat and raise your hand feature. She also reminded current foster youth to turn off their camera for confidentiality purposes. Stephanie then turned it over to Simone Hidds-Monroe, who reviewed the goals of FAYCES.

Child Welfare Services System Improvement Plan (SIP)

Stephanie opened the item and turned it over to Jennifer James of Harder and Company, Nikki Kelsay of Child Welfare Services (CWS), Delona King of San Diego Probation, and Simone Hidds-Monroe. Jennifer gave an overview of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), the California Child and Family Services Review (CA-CFSR), and the County Self-Assessment (CSA).

- Simone shared that FAYCES was an active participant in the CSA, specifically in the community forum and focus group steps.

Jennifer then gave an overview of the CA-CFSR process, including the SIP. She shared results of the CSA, with a focus on increasing permanency in 12 months from both CWS and Probation.

- Simone asked if the CWS data presented shows that the federal standard is 30% of children in foster care or youth involved with CWS will result in permanency in 12 months. Jennifer clarified that the federal standard is 40.5%.
- A participant asked for clarification on what type of placement is considered permanent. Nikki clarified that any child or youth that has reunified or achieved permanency through guardianship or adoption is considered permanent placement. She stated the reentry rate is tracked separately and not considered in this data.

Jennifer shared observations of the peer review, focusing on themes that are both strengths and challenges within Probation and CWS, including but not limited to Social Workers and Probation Officers (POs) are generally well trained, skilled at tools and engagement, and use a variety of

assessments/support plans.

- A participant asked for clarification on the definitions and roles of Emergency Response (ER), Court Intervention (CI), and Continuing Support (CS) social workers. Nikki explained ERs investigate referrals, CIs walk youth through the court system, and CSs help work on reunification between youth and parents.

Jennifer then gave an overview of themes commonly listed during the system partner/community-based organizations forums, focusing on themes that work well and themes that need improvement. Ashlyn shared feedback and recommendations from several focus groups, with a focus on resource families, tribal partners, and parents. She shared common themes from the focus groups, including but not limited to a preference for one case worker to follow the case from beginning to end and a lack of services/resources available. Simone shared feedback and recommendations from the foster youth focus group, which closely aligned with the feedback from the other focus groups. She reiterated that transparency, accessibility, and clear communication are key to helping CWS, Probation, and resource families work together to provide the best outcome for each youth.

- A participant shared that the bureaucratic nature of CWS and Probation make it difficult for resource families and others to assist youth in their care.

Jennifer then gave an overview of the SIP areas of focus for San Diego County. She explained the performance outcome would focus on permanency in 12 months, while the systemic factor would focus on service array and resource development. Delona further explained the strategies for Probation, clarifying what current efforts are in place to support SIP strategies, such as increased utilization of the Interagency Placement Committee/recertifications, increased collaboration with the Child and Family Team, and placement matching. Nikki explained the feedback from the CSA greatly influenced the CWS strategies. She shared CWS plans to increase permanency in 12 months by improving parent/child interactions and strengthening social work engagement; CWS also plans to increase prevention services and implement a Prevention Hub in order to improve service array and resource development.

- A participant shared that the CWS strategies are broad, but many FAYCES members would be willing to assist in discussing recommendations to improve these focus areas.

Update on SPA

Stephanie opened the item and turned it over to Valesha Bullock. Valesha shared that Rite of Passage has officially been selected as the new provider for San Pasqual Academy (SPA). She shared concerns from youth currently on campus that a switch in providers could negatively impact their day-to-day activities. Valesha mentioned Rite of Passage has begun to meet with collaborative partners, including court partners and partners on campus. She stated Rite of Passage still needs to obtain licensure in order to operate SPA, but that the documentation has been submitted.

- A participant emphasized the original goal of FAYCES was to be able to partner with CWS and other entities that may have influence over SPA as decision-making partners. He recommended that FAYCES members be invited to participate whenever CWS meets with current youth on campus and reiterated that FAYCES are decision-making partners. He mentioned that a conflicting message coming from CWS and FAYCES can cause distrust from current SPA youth.
- Simone shared FAYCES and SPA alumni should be the first line of communication with current SPA youth. She shared concerns that Rite of Passage has already been to the campus, but that they have not met with alumni or FAYCES. She requested that any presentation given by Rite of Passage is presented to FAYCES before the end of October. Valesha shared that a meet and greet occurred with Rite of Passage and the current operators of SPA. Rite of Passage was given a very brief tour of SPA but were not permitted to interact with any youth or New Alternatives staff. She stated she would collaborate with Rite of Passage to coordinate a date for a meet and greet with FAYCES.
- Carolyn Griesemer asked whether the current SPA youth and SPA alumni will be able to provide feedback to Rite of Passage for the new vision of SPA. Valesha responded that the goal is to have

current SPA youth and alumni, but the process is just beginning, so that has not been scheduled yet.

- Simone asked for an update on when FAYCES will be able to go to SPA to connect with the current youth. She asked for a timeline on when FAYCES can expect dates to visit the campus. She expressed concern that the current youth and alumni are not being prioritized in the conversation. Valesha responded that there is no update, but she will follow up to see when a date can be selected. She agreed that the current youth are a priority and shared that both New Alternatives and Rite of Passage has expressed interest in keeping the current youth and alumni involved.
- Carolyn Griesemer asked for a copy of the SPA Student Experience Survey to be able to view the survey from a trauma-informed lens. She suggested that it might be easier to bring the current youth voice and alumni voice to Rite of Passage by partnering with CWS and Children's Legal Services to disseminate the survey.
- A participant asked for additional context on trauma-informed survey questions. Carolyn stated questions developed over a year ago were asking about a hypothetical change at SPA, whereas the current youth are going through a transition at SPA. She suggested a fresh look at the survey questions could be helpful in gathering information relevant to what current youth and alumni are feeling today.
- Simone commented that the survey has evolved with the transition of Rite of Passage. She responded that the survey is current and relevant to the experience current youth are having on campus and was designed for current youth and alumni to have a voice in what does and does not work on campus.
- A participant was unclear why FAYCES are not allowed at SPA, as many FAYCES members are alumni of SPA. She stated that as an alumnus, she is free to go to campus and interact with youth, but there is a disconnect between why FAYCES members cannot visit the campus.

Update on SPA Student Experience Survey

Agenda item was moved to the December meeting due to time limitations.

FAYCES 2022 Priorities Discussion

Agenda item was moved to the December meeting due to time limitations.

Date of Next Meeting – December 15, 2022



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Subcommittee Meeting

Subcommittee:

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES)	6:00 -7:30 pm
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Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022

Location: 5560 Overland Avenue, Room 171
San Diego, CA 92123

Facilitator: Stephanie Heying

Meeting Staff: Emily Lay

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee Summary:

16 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Jessica Heldman, Simone Hidds-Monroe, Stephen Moore

Stephanie Heying opened the meeting and recapped that the meeting is a subcommittee of the larger Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board. Stephanie encouraged participation via the chat and raise your hand feature for those participating via Zoom. She also reminded current foster youth to turn off their camera for confidentially purposes. Stephanie then turned it over to Simone Hidds-Monroe, who reviewed the goals of FAYCES.

Results of the SPA Student Experience Survey

Stephanie opened the item and turned it over to James Hidds-Monroe. James shared the initial findings from the SPA Student Experience Survey. He shared the data presented is based on 200 completed surveys, with 15 surveys from current SPA students and 185 surveys from alumni and past SPA students. James then shared the following survey results:

- Demographics:
 - Gender: 70% female, 26% male
 - Ethnic Identity: 31% Hispanic/Latino/Spanish, 26% Black/African American, 20% White/Caucasian, and 14% Biracial/Multiracial
- Siblings:
 - Approximately 81% of respondents have siblings that also entered foster care.
 - Approximately 54% of respondents have a sibling who was also placed at SPA.
- Previous Placements:
 - Approximately 41% of respondents had 0-3 placements before SPA.
 - Approximately 33% of respondents had 4-7 placements before SPA.
- Housing:
 - On average, those surveyed lived at SPA for 3.5 years.
 - 33% of alumni respondents have utilized alumni housing.
 - Approximately 70% of respondents lived in 1-2 housing units.

- Approximately 30% of respondents lived in 3-4+ housing units.
- Approximately 91% of respondents had house parents in their housing units.
- Regarding overall household safety and learning, 66% of the responses fell under the “often/almost always” category.
- Education:
 - 79% of respondents attended school on campus, with 20% of respondents having attended both on campus and off campus schools.
 - Of the 185 alumni and past SPA students surveyed, 71% obtained their high school diploma or GED.
 - Regarding overall frequency of academic support and confidence, 54% of the responses fell under the often/almost always category.
 - Regarding overall satisfaction with education and academic resources offered on campus:
 - 47% of responses fell under the “very/extremely satisfied” category
 - 24% of responses fell under the “somewhat satisfied” category
- Employment:
 - 79% of respondents had or obtained employment while at SPA.
 - 53% of respondents were employed on- and off-campus.
 - Regarding overall agreement with work readiness and financial literacy, 52% of responses fell under the “agree/strongly agree” category.
- Relationships:
 - Regarding overall satisfaction with relationships, 57% of responses fell under the very/extremely satisfied category.
 - The top 5 most important relationships include:
 - House parents
 - Peers on campus
 - Housemates
 - Off campus relationships (friends, biological family, etc.)
 - SPA grandparents
- Health, wellness, and safety on campus:
 - Regarding overall frequency of health, wellness, and safety, 63% of responses fell under the often/almost always category.
- Permanency at SPA:
 - 32% of respondents were removed from or left SPA.
 - Approximately 30% of those who were removed/left SPA returned to SPA after leaving.
 - Reasons for leaving SPA:
 - 26% turned 18-years-old
 - 26% chose other
 - 23% chose to live at a different placement
 - 18% were either kicked out or reunited with their biological families
- Overall impact:
 - 73% of respondents said SPA had a positive impact on their life.
 - 14% of respondents said SPA had no impact on their life.
 - 83% of respondents shared interest in being an active part of a SPA alumni community.
- Questions and comments on the presentation:
 - Stephen Moore asked if there are any plans to discuss the results of the survey with Rite of Passage (ROP). James clarified that they are working with ROP and other interested parties to share the results of the survey, but a date for this meeting has not yet been determined. Stephen questioned if there was a correlation between the overall impact

of SPA on students and the years in which they were students at SPA. James responded this data is based on initial findings, and further analysis will be conducted to determine any correlations. Stephen inquired what percentage of the population of students at SPA during the years in question participated in the survey. James shared a challenge they are experiencing is identifying who has lived at SPA and what years they lived at SPA and that further data would be needed to determine that information.

- Simone Hidds-Monroe commented there are aspects of SPA that could benefit from further exploration and collaboration, such as financial literacy and education. She shared her surprise that only 33% of SPA alumni utilized alumni housing and wondered why so few alumni utilize this benefit. James suggested the numbers may be skewed due to underreporting from SPA alumni.
- A participant commented there was a high percentage of overall satisfaction, but there was a distinct lack of satisfaction surrounding education.
- Simone Hidds-Monroe commented the data on relationships was interesting, as peers on campus was ranked as the second most important relationship to SPA students, but only 49% of responses were very/extremely satisfied with their relationship with peers on campus. She suggested there are opportunities to support peer to peer relationships on campus.
- A participant shared there was high turnover at SPA and there could be a correlation between educational dissatisfaction and principals who were present during the high turnover period. He suggested there is a need to navigate post-secondary educational aspirations with credit recovery.
- A participant asked if the survey was broken down by consecutive years or if the questions applied to all years a youth was on campus. James clarified that the questions were setup as “check all that apply.”

Update on SPA

Stephanie opened the item and turned it over to Valesha Bullock. Valesha shared that ROP has submitted their application for license. She mentioned Child Welfare Services (CWS) is working with ROP to setup a date to get on campus to start learning more about SPA and the youth on campus. Valesha commented ROP is ready to engage with any partners who are involved with SPA and are using this time before the transition to hire additional staff. She shared there have been many events at SPA to help prepare the youth for the holiday season.

- Questions and comments on the presentation:
 - A participant asked which current SPA staff will transition with ROP and how FAYCES recommendations on staff are considered in the process. Valesha stated CWS is not involved in ROP’s hiring process and does not have input on who is or is not hired.
 - Simone Hidds-Monroe asked who to follow up with regarding the Alumni and Youth Advisory Board listed in the request for proposal (RFP). She also asked for information regarding current youth on campus: how many are on campus, are the numbers increasing from previous years, etc. Valesha suggested following up with ROP regarding the Alumni and Youth Advisory Board and mentioned ROP would likely share the information with CWS after consulting with current youth on campus to see what they would like to do. She shared she believes there are approximately 50 youth on campus, but she will clarify that information.

System Improvement Plan (SIP) – FAYCES Recommendations

Stephanie opened the item and turned it over to Simone Hidds-Monroe, Aaron Adkins, and Caitlin Radigan. Nikki Kelsay of CWS provided a brief overview of the SIP and reiterated the main goal of the SIP is reunification within 12 months. Simone shared the intention of FAYCES on the SIP is to contribute lived

experience and expertise, provide youth-centered solutions, and advocate for a community-based approach to support system-involved youth and families.

- FAYCES Recommendations for SIP Strategies:
 - Probation Strategy 1: Build effective relationships and individual plans and responses to maximize the opportunity for youth success
 - Connect youth with Lived Experience Coach.
 - Develop trainings to include child/adolescent development, communication skills, etc.
 - Have youth complete aptitude tests to explore with Lived Experience Coach.
 - Have youth complete the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Quiz within the first week of arrival.
 - Recognize mental wellness and offer therapy to youth.
 - Probation Strategy 2: Match youth with the most appropriate services to support permanency in a timely manner and reduce re-entry into care
 - Youth/Lived Experience Coach's develop the youth's growth plan.
 - Provide a pipeline to services that are inclusive of youth's disabilities, mental health needs, crime-related experiences, etc.
 - Develop an incentive/reward for good behavior and progressing in their growth plan.
 - CWS Strategy 1: Increase prevention services
 - Include aptitude tests for children/families to incorporate in goal setting and action plans.
 - Develop listening/communication training that focuses on active listening as a foundational relationship practice.
 - Partner with diverse resource providers that are culturally representative of the population and selected by the children/families.
 - Invest in resources for children/families to have the means to live sustainably in San Diego County.
 - CWS Strategy 2: Improve parent-child interactions
 - Provide transportation assistance to increase visitations.
 - Formalize a partnership with community-based organizations to encourage and support father engagement.
 - Offer neutral, culturally, and demographically appropriate therapy to help children and families heal and communicate.
 - CWS Strategy 3: Strengthen social work engagement practices
 - Implement paid, Lived Experience Coaches involved with CWS.
 - Develop/implement standards for case file documentation that is trauma informed, and clearly written and accessible for children and families while engaging with CWS.
 - Implement a digital communication platform that is shared for case file notes, meeting dates, and important documents.
 - Develop cultural competency for rapport building between youth and social workers.
 - CWS Strategy 4: Implement Prevention Hub
 - Offer operating hours beyond the traditional business hours.
 - Operate by community-based organizations to reflect a community approach.
 - Have support and resource available in real-time (i.e., crisis intervention, counseling services, etc.)
 - Include private rooms for confidential conversations.
 - Provide onsite childcare for families who apply for and utilize the resources

provided.

- Questions and comments on the presentation:
 - A participant commented the strength-based and relationship-based nature of the recommendations will be beneficial to all the youth and families involved. He shared a Lived Experience Coach would be a great resource if they are given the tools to deal with the work that needs to be done.
 - Stephanie Heying commented the FAYCES recommendations align well with the new therapeutic model within the Probation department. She shared San Diego County Office of Education and local community colleges have funds to aid justice-involved youth with secondary education. She mentioned Probation is in the process of developing a behavioral incentive program both inside and outside the facilities.
 - Nikki Kelsay shared the FAYCES recommendations have been shared to departments and groups within CWS that might be better equipped to handle some of the specific recommendations. She commented some of the recommendations will be easier to establish, and others might take some time to develop and implement.
 - Simone Hidds-Monroe asked if Probation would be interested in participating conversations to implement these recommendations. Nikki clarified the SIP is one report, but each department provides and implements sections of the report within their department.

Date of Next Meeting – February 16, 2023, at 6:00pm



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Subcommittee Meeting

Subcommittee Committee:

Child and Family Services	11:00 - 12:30 pm
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Date: Thursday, October 27, 2022

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Facilitator: Stephanie Heying

Meeting Staff: Emily Lay

Child and Family Services Subcommittee Summary: 45 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Adam Reed, Ana Espana, Cheryl Rode, Jeff Weimann, Joy Singleton, Sandra Mueller, Stephen Moore

I, II. Stephanie Heying opened the meeting and provided a brief overview of the agenda. She explained how the meeting was being conducted via the Zoom platform and encouraged participation.

III. Child Welfare Services System Improvement Plan (SIP)

Stephanie opened the agenda item and passed it on to Laura Kryzwicki of Child Welfare Services (CWS), who introduced Nikki Kelsay of CWS, Casey Mackereth of Harder and Company, and Delona King of San Diego Probation. Casey, Nikki, and Delona gave the following update:

- The Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and the California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR):
 - Overall goals of the CFSR:
 - Ensure conformity with legislation.
 - Determine what is happening to children and families.
 - Enhance capacity to improve outcomes and systems for children and families.
 - The ultimate goal of the C-CFSR is to have a plan that guides the county for the next 5 years.
 - The C-CFSR process:
 - Begins with the County Self-Assessment (CSA), which reviews outcome data on children and families collected by CWS and Probation and aims to understand some of the trends happening over time. This information is used to guide community engagement efforts.
 - Moves to the Peer Review, which reviews cases from CWS and Probation to identify areas of improvement and areas of success. These recommendations are included in the CSA.
 - CWS and Probation will then identify strategies to address the core concerns highlighted in the CSA. These strategies will become the SIP.
 - CSA and SIP Areas of Focus:

- Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care.
 - Service array and resource development.
 - CWS will focus on 4 strategies and Probation will focus on 2 strategies.
 - Feedback from the CSA and strategies for the SIP:
 - CWS:
 - Feedback includes but is not limited to:
 - Relationships with social workers are important.
 - Individualized services are needed.
 - Cultural awareness from service providers is needed.
 - Strategies include but are not limited to:
 - Improving parent-child interactions.
 - Strengthening social work engagement practice.
 - Increasing prevention services.
 - Probation:
 - Feedback includes but is not limited to:
 - Developing and connecting youth and families with community-based services is valuable.
 - Specialized services and supports for families are needed.
 - Strategies include:
 - Matching youth with the most appropriate services in a timely manner and reduce re-entry into foster care.
 - Ensuring youth are referred to services that are appropriate, trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and easily accessible.
- Questions and comments on the SIP presentation:
 - Laura Kryzwicki clarified that CWS and Probation are seeking feedback and input on the SIP strategies from the group because of their unique expertise.
 - Nikki Kelsay shared that the meeting materials give a snapshot of the SIP and can be helpful to understanding the process.
 - A participant asked for clarification on if the requested feedback should be specific to population each participant serves and how that tie into the SIP. Nikki clarified that they are requesting feedback on the SIP strategies, specifically focusing on the strategies that are currently being developed, through each participant's unique expertise. She suggested feedback should focus on: are the strategies applicable; should different strategies be developed to focus on a different action item; and are there any action steps that could be taken to accomplish these strategies.
 - A participant commented that there has been an increase in child abuse cases since the pandemic began, with many youth removals occurring without any intervention with the parents. She suggested a specialized training on divorced families and families with a parent who has a mental illness would be beneficial.
 - Jeff Wiemann commented that a barrier to improving visitation and the parent-child bond is how ready the parents and child are to participate in visitation. He suggested a way to avoid this barrier is to ensure the Protective Services Workers (PSWs) are clearly communicating with the parents of the child. He also suggested that Resource Families having open communication with the parents of the child would encourage and support the SIP strategies.
 - A participant commented that flexibility is important in increasing the success of visitation. Many parents must travel long distances and experience many unintended barriers, such as lack of gas/travel money, that minimize flexibility for the parents. She suggested providing resources, such as gas station gift cards, or services that help minimize those barriers.

- A participant commented that many resource parents do not provide visitation, making it difficult to improve the parent-child bond. She suggested finding ways to minimize this barrier would be beneficial to the child and the parents.
- Cheryl Rode shared that many referrals for wrap-around services are coming from CWS, whereas in the past most referrals came from Probation. She commented that referrals for wrap-around services early in each case can be beneficial in making parents and youth more comfortable.

IV. Workgroup Recommendations

The agenda item was moved to the December meeting.

Stephanie concluded the meeting by reviewing items that will be discussed during the December meeting.

- Family's First Update
- Breakdown of total children and youth at PCC with stays longer than 10 days
- Data of total children and youth at PCC with stays longer than 10 days from January-June 2022 for comparison
- Educational and Mental Health services at PCC
- Length between arrival at PCC and assessment of children and youth by Qualified Individuals (QIs)
- Workgroup Recommendations

Stephanie then reminded everyone of the upcoming full advisory board meeting occurring on Friday, November 18th at 9:00 am.

VII. Next Meeting: December 22, 2022, 11:00 am



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Subcommittee Meeting

Subcommittee Committee:

Child and Family Services	2:30 - 4:00 pm
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Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022

Location: 5560 Overland Avenue, Room 171
San Diego, CA 92123

Facilitator: Stephanie Heying

Meeting Staff: Emily Lay

Child and Family Services Subcommittee Summary: 22 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Carolyn Griesemer, Cheryl Rode, Jeff Weimann, Joy Singleton, Sandra Mueller, Simone Hidds-Monroe, Stephen Moore

I, II. Stephanie provided a brief overview of the agenda and the purpose of the subcommittee. Stephanie then explained how the meeting was being conducted in-person due to the recent motion made by the Board of Supervisors regarding teleconferencing. Lastly, Stephanie encouraged participation from all attendees.

III. Educational and Mental Health Services at PCC

Stephanie opened the agenda item and passed it on to Norma Rincon of Child Welfare Services (CWS). Norma gave a brief overview of Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) and the goals of PCC. Norma then gave the following update:

- Behavioral Health Services at PCC
 - Services are offered through New Alternatives, Inc. (NAI).
 - Services include:
 - Diagnostic and treatment services
 - Crisis Intervention
 - Psychosocial and psychiatric assessments
 - Medication support and management
 - Therapy
 - Intensive services
 - In Home Based Services (IHBS)
 - Intensive Care Coordination (ICC)
 - Rehabilitative services
 - Telehealth After Care services
 - Child and Family team (CFT) meetings are held to help with placement decisions, transitions, and big picture items.
 - Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings are held weekly with various PCC staff, nursing

- staff, and psychiatrists to collaborate on care, case planning, and interventions for individual children.
- Peer Partners are available to connect with youth to support them through PCC.
 - PCC Community Collaborations:
 - Recreation/Music Therapy
 - Pet Therapy
 - Achievement Center
 - Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Services
 - Education at PCC
 - Many youths at PCC go to off-site schools.
 - San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) provide on-site schooling/education at PCC.
 - SDUSD's PCC school curriculum adheres to the California Common Core Standards and is provided for grades K-12.
 - The school is staffed similar to an off-site school. PCC school staff include, but are not limited to:
 - Site administrator (Principal)
 - Special-Education teacher
 - School Psychology
 - School Nurse
 - Speech/Language specialist
 - The PCC school provides many services to youths including but not limited to:
 - Special Education
 - Tutoring
 - Implementation of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
 - Requests for educational records from prior schools
 - Educational team meetings to collaborate regarding students who are struggling
 - PCC Educational Liaison:
 - Employed by San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE).
 - Helps promote school stability.
 - Collaborates in CWS meetings such as CFT meetings and Treatment Team meetings.
 - Arranges school transportation, facilities enrollment, disenrollment, and online learning.
 - Identifies and assists with educational rights holders.
 - Help youth with returning to their school of origin.
 - Questions and comments on the presentation:
 - Joy Singleton asked what behavioral health services are provided to help reduce calls to law enforcement. She asked what percentage of calls to law enforcement are for youth who leave the facility. She also asked for examples of types of interventions that might be used to support the youth at PCC. Norma shared that PCC is required to make a call to law enforcement if any youth leaves the facility without permission. She stated many youths that arrive at PCC have complex mental health needs and trauma that require PCC to call law enforcement due to insistence from Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT). She commented that rehabilitative staff are assigned to residential cottages and are trained to deescalate a variety of mental health triggers as well as educate the youths on coping skills.
 - Joy requested data on the number of calls to law enforcement for AWOLs vs. assault calls. Norma shared that there were 97 youth in 2020-21 who AWOL'd and 56 youth in 2022-

23 who have AWOL'd.

- Stephen Moore asked if the 97 cases of AWOL in 2020-21 were duplicated. Norma clarified that the data is reflective of 97 children, not cases, meaning 97 children AWOL'd during that time period. It is possible that they could have AWOL'd more than once.
- Carolyn Griesemer asked how quickly mental health services are assigned to each youth. She asked if the NAI satellite sites were still operating during the pandemic. Norma responded services are typically assigned within 24-48 hours of the youth's arrival at PCC, and NAI sites were operational during the pandemic.
- Simone Hidds-Monroe asked how youth and their families can request family therapy, and how many youths are currently participating in family therapy. She asked how behavioral services change or address recurring AWOLs. Norma stated youths and their families are allowed to request family therapy in collaboration with a social worker during CFT meetings. She clarified there are no youth currently participating in family therapy, but that that could be due to shorter stays at PCC. She stated many youths develop relationships with PCC staff that make it easier to address recurring AWOLs; when youth feel comfortable expressing their concerns/frustrations/emotions to PCC staff, the staff is able to connect with clinicians to support the youth through their emotions.
- A participant shared Peer Partners are helpful in reducing AWOL numbers because they work closely with the youth to ensure they are being safe (i.e., where they will be staying, what type of food is available, etc.). She stated having a Peer partner who has spent time at PCC is beneficial because they are familiar with PCC and challenges youth may face while at PCC.
- A participant asked if volunteers continued to help during the pandemic. Norma shared that many PCC volunteers are older retirees, and the pandemic impacted the volunteers' ability to come to PCC. Currently, there are a few volunteers willing to come back, but recruitment efforts for more volunteers will begin after the new year.
- Stephen Moore asked what the process is to determine educational needs for each youth, and if there are classrooms for each grade. Norma shared PCC must quickly determine whether a youth needs to attend off-site school or not. A good portion of the PCC youth who do not attend off-site school do not attend because of safety concerns. She stated the PCC school is no different than a regular, public school. The PCC school provides K-12 academic programs, and cohorts are grouped together; meaning high schoolers are often grouped together, middle schoolers are often grouped together, etc.
- A participant asked if the PCC school is designated as a home-hospital setting, and if that information needed to be included on an IEP. Norma clarified that PCC is a county facility that allows SDUSD to occupy some of the space. The PCC school is not licensed under Title 22 regulations but is regulated and operated by SDUSD. She stated the home-hospital setting would need to be included on any IEPs.
- Carolyn Griesemer asked if IEP assessments are done at PCC to assess each youth's educational needs. Norma shared that IEP assessments are being worked on at PCC but have not been incorporated into the initial assessments completed when youth arrive at PCC.
- A participant asked what the longest stay for a youth at PCC. Norma stated the current average length of stay is 10 days, but during the pandemic the average length of stay was longer.
- Simone Hidds-Monroe asked how many youths end up emancipating out of PCC. Norma explained that youth who are 16 and a half are transferred to extended foster care (EFC), where they are paired with an Independent Living Skills (ILS) worker and an EFC worker to help the youth work on their transition plan.
- Cheryl Rode commented San Diego County is lucky to have a facility like PCC to be able

to support our youth in need. She asked what PCC is doing to prepare for the future of PCC and congregate care. Norma explained PCC is adding more programs and partnerships with community organizations to further support youths at PCC, but many youths at PCC need more than typical behavioral and educational services.

IV. Family's First Update

Stephanie opened the agenda item and passed it on to Nikki Kelsay and Rachel Swaykos of CWS. Nikki gave a brief overview of the Family's First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), which is a funding source that provides funds to the state and the county to help develop prevention services and congregate care.

Rachel then gave the following update:

- Qualified Individual (QI):
 - CWS works closely with Behavioral Health Services (BHS) to complete QI assessments.
 - QI Definition and Purpose:
 - Trained, professional or clinician mental health professionals.
 - Determine whether a placement setting meets the treatment needs and goals of the youth.
 - Review reports related to youth's functioning.
 - Recommend appropriate placement settings and identify treatment goals.
 - QI Assessments:
 - Assessments are required when:
 - CFT's recommend placement in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) or Community Treatment Facility (CTF) setting.
 - Changes of placement in STRTPs.
 - A youth is AWOL from a STRTP facility for more than 14 days.
 - A youth's anticipated placement is an STRTP or CTF.
 - STRTP/CTF Placement:
 - There are three bodies needed to approve an STRTP placement:
 - QI Assessor
 - Interagency Placement Committee (IPC): Determine whether youths meet base-level criteria for STRTP placement.
 - CFT's
 - The QI Assessor has 30 days from the time of referral to submit the QI Assessment Summary Report.
 - The social worker (SW) assigned to the case will then request an STRTP placement hearing, which is held within 60 days of placement.
 - QI process completion:
 - From January-July 2022:
 - 29 initial STRTP referrals were made with an average completion time of 25 days.
 - Of the 29 referrals, 1 assessment was completed on day 31.
 - 28 change of placement (COP) referrals were made with an average completion time of 25 days.

V. Workgroup Recommendations

Stephanie opened the agenda item and passed it on to Nikki Kelsay of CWS. Nikki shared the following update:

- There were 88 workgroup recommendations when the subcommittee started.
- In August 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the workgroup recommendations as complete.
- Some of the recommendations are ongoing:

- Placement Integration
- Open Case Investigations (OCI)
- Questions and comments on the presentation:
 - Joy Singleton suggested providing an update on transitions and transition planning. Nikki shared that change of placement and reentry rates, but transition planning has many facets making it more difficult to track for data purposes.
 - A participant asked information on change of placement, specifically for youth with multiple changes in placement.
 - Joy Singleton asked if CWS is still sending out real-time surveys via text message. Alfredo Guardado stated he does not believe the surveys are currently being sent out.
 - Carolyn Griesemer suggested information on workforce development and retention, and how it has been impacted by the pandemic, would be beneficial. She stated secondary trauma from the pandemic could be impacting retention. Nikki shared that CWS is looking at secondary trauma and how supervisors can support staff by helping staff process trauma they are experiencing. Alfredo shared there have been many positive results regarding the secondary trauma support.
 - Joy Singleton asked PCC could present on their Peer Partners program with Promises2Kids.
 - A participant commented that data on youths with multiple placement changes could shed light on supports that are needed but not available.
 - Cheryl Rode suggested data on length of stays in STRTPs in-county and outside of county would be helpful.

Stephanie concluded the meeting by reminding everyone of the upcoming full advisory board meeting occurring on Friday, January 13th at 9:00 am.

VII. Next Meeting: February 23, 2023, 11:00 am



SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES MEMBER ROSTER REPORT

CHILD AND FAMILY STRENGTHENING ADVISORY BOARD OF SAN DIEGO

Contact Person: Emily Lay

The Children's Initiative: 3625 Ruffin Rd, Ste 100
San Diego, CA 921023

Phone: (858) 581-5892

<p>Member Name: Vargas, Nora Term: CONCURRENT Nominated By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Requirement: Member of the Board of Supervisors who serve as Co-Chair Comments:</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 1</p>	<p>Expiration: INDEFINITE Appointed: 1/5/2021 MO: 2</p>
<p>Member Name: Fletcher, Nathan Term: CONCURRENT Nominated By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Requirement: Member of the Board of Supervisors who serve as Co-Chair Comments:</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 2</p>	<p>Expiration: INDEFINITE Appointed: 3/26/2019 MO: 11</p>
<p>Member Name: Zeitz, Aimee Term: CONCURRENT Nominated By: District 2 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Requirement: Supervisorial District Representative Comments:</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 3</p>	<p>Expiration: 1/6/2025 Appointed: 8/31/2021 MO: 17</p>
<p>Member Name: Singleton, Joy Term: CONCURRENT Nominated By: District 3 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Requirement: Supervisorial District Representative Comments:</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 4</p>	<p>Expiration: 1/6/2025 Appointed: 3/2/2021 MO: 25</p>
<p>Member Name: Kilkenney, Maddy Term: CONCURRENT Nominated By: District 5 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Requirement: Supervisorial District Representative Comments:</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 5</p>	<p>Expiration: 1/2/2023 Appointed: 4/30/2019 MO: 26</p>
<p>Member Name: Espana, Ana Term: CONCURRENT Nominated By: PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE JUVENILE COURT Appointed By: PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE JUVENILE COURT Requirement: Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court or designee Comments:</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 6</p>	<p>Expiration: INDEFINITE Appointed: 2/10/2020 MO:</p>
<p>Member Name: Macchione, Nick Term: CONCURRENT Nominated By: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY DIRECTOR Appointed By: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY DIRECTOR Requirement: Health and Human Services Agency Director or designee Comments:</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 7</p>	<p>Expiration: INDEFINITE Appointed: 6/11/2019 MO:</p>



SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES MEMBER ROSTER REPORT

<p>Member Name: Giardina, Kimberly Term: CONCURRENT Nominated By: CHILD WELFARE DIRECTOR Appointed By: CHILD WELFARE DIRECTOR Requirement: Child Welfare Director or designee Comments:</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 8</p>	<p>Expiration: INDEFINITE Appointed: 5/29/2019 MO:</p>
<p>Member Name: Nelson, Tamika Term: CONCURRENT Nominated By: CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER Appointed By: CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER Requirement: Chief Probation Officer or designee Comments:</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 9</p>	<p>Expiration: INDEFINITE Appointed: 9/09/2022 MO:</p>
<p>Member Name: Arguilez, Alethea Term: CONCURRENT Nominated By: FIRST 5 SAN DIEGO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Appointed By: FIRST 5 SAN DIEGO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Requirement: First 5 San Diego Executive Director or designee Comments:</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 10</p>	<p>Expiration: INDEFINITE Appointed: 5/23/2019 MO:</p>
<p>Member Name: Bolden, Khylan Term: 4-YEARS Nominated By: District 1, 4 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Requirement: Former Foster Youth Representative Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 11</p>	<p>Expiration: 4/30/2025 Appointed: 4/6/2021 MO: 31</p>
<p>Member Name: Boles, Patricia Term: 4-YEARS Nominated By: District 1, 4 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Requirement: Foster Parent Association Representative Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 12</p>	<p>Expiration: 4/30/2023 Appointed: 4/30/2019 MO: 26</p>
<p>Member Name: Wiemann, Jeff Term: 4-YEARS Nominated By: District 1, 4 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Requirement: Foster Family Agency Representative Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 13</p>	<p>Expiration: 4/30/2023 Appointed: 4/30/2019 MO: 26</p>
<p>Member Name: Rode, Cheryl Term: 4-YEARS Nominated By: District 1, 4 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Requirement: Congregate Care Provider Representative Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 14</p>	<p>Expiration: 4/30/2023 Appointed: 4/30/2019 MO: 26</p>
<p>Member Name: Moore, Stephen Term: 4-YEARS Nominated By: District 1, 4 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Requirement: Court Appointed Special Advocate Representative Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p>	<p>BCC Position: Seat: Seat 15</p>	<p>Expiration: 4/30/2023 Appointed: 4/30/2019 MO: 26</p>



SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES MEMBER ROSTER REPORT

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|--|---|---|
| <p>Member Name: Griesemer, Carolyn
 Term: 4-YEARS
 Nominated By: District 1, 4
 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Requirement: Legal Counsel for Minors in Juvenile Court Representative
 Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p> | <p>BCC Position:
 Seat: Seat 16</p> | <p>Expiration: 4/30/2023
 Appointed: 4/30/2019
 MO: 26</p> |
| <p>Member Name: Reed, Adam
 Term: 4-YEARS
 Nominated By: District 1, 4
 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Requirement: Legal Counsel for Parents in Juvenile Court Representative
 Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p> | <p>BCC Position:
 Seat: Seat 17</p> | <p>Expiration: 4/30/2023
 Appointed: 4/30/2019
 MO: 26</p> |
| <p>Member Name: Madrigal-Weiss, Mara
 Term: 4-YEARS
 Nominated By: District 1, 4
 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Requirement: San Diego County Office of Education Representative
 Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p> | <p>BCC Position:
 Seat: Seat 18</p> | <p>Expiration: 4/30/2025
 Appointed: 4/6/2021
 MO: 31</p> |
| <p>Member Name: VACANT
 Term: 4-YEARS
 Nominated By: District 1, 4
 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Requirement: Juvenile Justice Community-Based Organization Representative
 Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p> | <p>BCC Position:
 Seat: Seat 19</p> | <p>Expiration:
 Appointed:
 MO:</p> |
| <p>Member Name: Mueller, Sandra
 Term: 4-YEARS
 Nominated By: District 1, 4
 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Requirement: Children's Health Care Professional Representative
 Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p> | <p>BCC Position:
 Seat: Seat 20</p> | <p>Expiration: 4/30/2025
 Appointed: 4/6/2021
 MO: 31</p> |
| <p>Member Name: VACANT
 Term: 4-YEARS
 Nominated By: District 1, 4
 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Requirement: Social Worker Representative
 Comments: Nominated by the Co-Chairs and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors</p> | <p>BCC Position:
 Seat: Seat 21</p> | <p>Expiration:
 Appointed:
 MO:</p> |
| <p>Member Name: Burrell, Sade
 Term: 4-YEARS
 Nominated By: District 1, 4
 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Requirement: Individual with lived experience who reflect over-represented populations in the system with a preference for former foster youth
 Comments:</p> | <p>BCC Position:
 Seat: Seat 22</p> | <p>Expiration: 11/19/2023
 Appointed: 11/19/2019
 MO: 25</p> |
| <p>Member Name: Villagomez, Melissa
 Term: 4-YEARS
 Nominated By: District 1, 4
 Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 Requirement: Individual with lived experience who reflect over-represented populations in the system with a preference for former foster youth
 Comments:</p> | <p>BCC Position:
 Seat: Seat 23</p> | <p>Expiration: 11/19/2023
 Appointed: 11/19/2019
 MO: 25</p> |



SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES MEMBER ROSTER REPORT

Member Name: Hidds-Monroe, Simone
Term: 4-YEARS
Nominated By: District 1, 4
Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Requirement: San Pasqual Academy
Comments:

BCC Position:
Seat: Seat 24

Expiration: 11/19/2023
Appointed: 11/19/2019
MO: 25

Member Name: Heldman, Jessica
Term: 4-YEARS
Nominated By: District 1, 4
Appointed By: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Requirement: AB & Jessie Polinsky Children's Center
Comments:

BCC Position:
Seat: Seat 25

Expiration: 11/19/2023
Appointed: 11/19/2019
MO: 25