



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Child and Family Strengthening
Advisory Board
Minutes of July 28, 2023

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS
 First District

JOEL ANDERSON
 Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
 Third District

VACANT
 Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
 Fifth District

Members Present:

- Hon. Judge Ana España
- Dr. Eric McDonald, County Health and Human Service Agency
- Kimberly Giardina, Child and Family Well-Being Department
- Chief Tamika Nelson, San Diego County Probation
- Alethea Arguilez, First 5 San Diego
- Jeff Wiemann, Foster Family Agency
- Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc
- Carolyn Griesemer, Children’s Legal Services of San Diego
- Melissa Villagomez, Former Foster Youth
- Simone Hidds-Monroe, San Pasqual Academy
- Jessica Heldman, Polinsky Children’s Center
- Adam Reed, Dependency Legal Services
- Patricia Boles, Straight from the Heart, Inc.
- Stephanie Gioia-Beckman, Rady’s Children’s Hospital

Members Not Present:

- Aimee Zeitz, District 2 Appointee
- Joy Singleton, District 3 Appointee
- Mara Madrigal-Weiss, San Diego County Office of Education

Staff Present:

- Sandra McBrayer, The Children’s Initiative
- Brook Smith, The Children’s Initiative
- Chyann Cox, The Children’s Initiative

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Judge Ana España called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.
- A quorum was present.
- She welcomed the Advisory Board and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. Public Comment

- Judge Ana España asked if any members of the public wished to address the Advisory Board.
 - One member of the public stated that she believes the protocols of the Child and Family Well-Being Department are not being followed.

3. Approval for the Statement of Proceeding/Minutes for the meeting of March 10, 2023

- Melissa Villagomez made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2023 meeting, seconded by Patricia Boles.
- The motion passed with all present members voting aye.

4. CFSAB Structure

a. Ordinance No. 10851

- Kyle Sand with San Diego County Counsel explained the structure of the Advisory Board, in relation to Ordinance No. 10851. The changes include an appointment by

each Supervisorial District; the consolidation of the Polinsky Children's Center Advisory Board and San Diego County foster care services, which will now be under the jurisdiction of this body; a dedicated seat on this Advisory Board for Polinsky Center (with a preference for a representative from Promises 2 Kids).

- Sandra McBrayer shared that Seat #14 adds language to include parents of foster children.
- Carolyn Griesemer asked when the transition of the new seats will take effect. Sandra McBrayer answered that it would be when the term of the current member in the PCC seat expires.
- Carolyn asked if the new ordinances address any attendance requirements for members. Sandra McBrayer answered that this has already happened and will be addressed later during this meeting.
- Kyle Sand added that in terms of expiration, a member can continue to sit on the Advisory Board until their term has expired.

b. Chair and Vice Chair

- The updated CFSAB structure now includes a Chair and a Vice Chair (in place of the prior requirement of two co-chairs).
- Carolyn Griesemer nominated Judge Ana España for Chair of the Advisory Board., seconded by Alethea Arguilez.
- Dr. Eric McDonald was asked to serve as Vice Chair while he is the interim Director of the County Health and Human Services Agency, seconded by Chief of Probation Tamika Nelson.
 - Simone Hidds-Monroe asked if this seat is open to the community or just County members. Sandra McBrayer answered that it is open to both. Simone shared that she is interested in exploring the possibility of recruiting a permanent Vice Chair.
- All present members voted aye on the above nominations.

c. Membership

- Sandra McBrayer explained the new membership guidelines:
 - There will be one representative appointed from each Supervisorial District.
 - Sandra McBrayer and County Counsel are currently working with the Clerk of the Board on filling vacancies within the next few weeks, to submit to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
 - Simone Hidds-Monroe inquired whether her San Pasqual Academy seat should be occupied by a representative who has a more current understanding of the daily operations of San Pasqual Academy. She also inquired about the number of lived experience seats on this Board.
 - Stephanie Gioia-Beckman asked if there are term limits for the seats, to which Sandra McBrayer answered that the term limit is two years.

d. Meeting Schedule

- Sandra McBrayer shared that the recommendations included having the work groups create two-year action plans with goals and measurable objectives.
 - To meet this goal, it was recommended that the full Advisory Board meets quarterly, and the work groups meet for two consecutive months in order to meet and measure the goals of their action plans.

e. Work Groups

- Child and Family Well-Being: focuses on support and assistance in the community for children, youth and family's needs prior to and/or during involvement with our child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Work group will look through the lens of prevention and intervention services for children, youth and families.

- Placement and Resource Family Support: focuses efforts on best and promising practices for all out of home placement options for children and youth in San Diego County.
 - Kim Giardina shared that the Polinsky Children’s Center resources would fall under this work group. Sandra McBrayer added that San Pasqual Academy would also be included within this work group.
- Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Services (FAYCES) to remain the same.
- Sandra McBrayer stated that all three work groups will be looking at reducing racial and ethnic disparities.
 - Adam Reed asked about the state’s push for kin first placement and kin first culture in the child welfare system and which of the three work groups would focus on this area. Kim Giardina answered both the Child and Family Well-Being and Place and Resource Family Support work groups.
 - Carolyn Griesemer asked about young people with lived experience who experience homelessness after exiting the system, and Kim answered that this would fall under the Child and Family Well-Being work group.
- Sandra McBrayer stated that a description of the three workgroups and their focus will be sent out to the CFSAB listserv.

5. Trust Fund Review

- Kim Giardina reported that the work group voted for 3 of the priorities to remain the same: 1) voluntary guardianship services and special education legal advocacy; 2) kinship care giver support; and 3) and pre-petition legal advocacy, which is still under procurement. She further shared that one new priority will be funding resources for the prevention hub in the amount of \$300,000. The discretionary fund of \$50,000 for this Advisory Board remains.
 - Jessica Heldman asked if the unspent monies in the discretionary fund will remain in the fund, Kim Giardina answered that yes, any unspent dollars will remain in the fund. Sandra McBrayer stated that this work group included the following non-interested parties: Melissa Villagomez, Patricia Boles, and Mara Madrigal-Weiss. She added these recommendations were made for a 3-year funding cycle to allow for better security for the programs to continue year to year. She also mentioned the conversations that FAYCES has been having regarding what services and support their families needed that might have prevented them from entering the child welfare system. The Board will be able to use these conversations and suggestions for what resources should be made available at the prevention hub.
- Carolyn Griesemer asked about the \$300,000 for pre-petition services that wasn’t spent last year. Kimberly Giardina answered that the funds will remain in the Trust Fund.
- Stephanie Gioia-Beckman asked if there could be tracking of these dollars so that funding can be organized and efficiently utilized. Sandra McBrayer stated that a description of the Trust Fund will be sent out with the work group descriptions.
- Carolyn Griesemer asked if there could be a report about the money that is spent with impact data. Kim answered that that information is available in the Board letter and will also be shared with the CFSAB.

6. Subcommittee/Ad-hoc Updates

- a. FAYCES (4/20/23 & 6/29/23)
 - Simone Hidds-Monroe provided an update from the last FAYCES meeting. This work group has been working to establish a partnership between community partners, system partners, and lived experts. Simone shared that the circle of influence and the focus for this group is to move beyond just being heard and be more actively involved in decision making and implementation.
- b. Child and Family Services (4/27/23 & 6/22/23)

- Jessica Heldman provided an update from the last CFS meeting, where they discussed the new structure of the full Advisory Board and had a presentation on the Short-Term Therapeutic Placements (STRTP) landscape here in San Diego County. She highlighted the importance of looking at the local data.

7. Developmental Screening and Enhancement Program (DSEP) and Healthy Development Services (HDS) Follow-up

- Kim Giardina provided a follow-up presentation on the DSEP
 - 51% of children referred to DSEP and were scheduled for a screening, within 30 days of referral.
 - 23% of children referred to DSEP are scheduled for a screening.
 - 26% of children referred to DSEP are scheduled for a screening, over 45 days of referral.
 - Referrals may exceed 30 days due to: awaiting child social worker consent, placement changes causing scheduling delays and caregiver info updates, and increased in-person screenings by DSEP, causing travel and availability issues.
 - Length of time for DSEP services after recommendations were reviewed with caregiver were: Behavior Services – 23 days, Child Enrichment Services – 23 days, Infant Massage – 25 days
 - Average wait times for DSEP services after completion of DSEP screening were: Behavior Services – 35 days, Child Enrichment Services – 38 days, Infant Massage – 39 days
- Alethea Arguilez provided a follow-up presentation on Healthy Development Services (HDS) within First 5 San Diego.
 - These are no cost developmental screenings, assessments, and treatment for children birth to 5 years old.
 - Countywide services are available via: Family Health Centers of San Diego, Palomar Health Inc., Rady's Children's Hospital, South Bay Community Services
 - Alethea also provided a demographic overview of HDS clients served in fiscal year 2022-2023 quarters 3 and 4.
 - Alethea stated that the average wait times for these services through June 2023 is as follows:
 - Dev 1 & 2 (group classes, 1:1 consults): 3 weeks
 - Dev 3 (speech, OT, PT): 3 weeks
 - Beh 1 & 2 (group classes, 1:1 consults): 3 weeks
 - Beh 3 (clinical treatment): 5 weeks
 - Referrals are also impacted by capacity and service provider availability, high demand for a specific service, and scheduling conflicts between availability of appointments and the client's schedule.
 - The Advisory Board members discussed the discrepancy in services between gender, wait times, and outreach.

8. Child Welfare Services, Director's Report

- a. San Pasqual Academy Update: Kim Giardina provided an update that 15 youth recently graduated from SPA. Currently, there are 36 referrals.
- b. Upcoming Board Letters:
 - Administration for Children and Families Congressionally Directed Community Projects Federal Funds
 - San Diego has been given two federal earmarks for this funding for targeted campaigns and partnerships around recruitment, specifically for youth with complex behavioral or health needs, and culturally matched homes.
 - The second earmark will be focused on expanding anti-racism training to deepen their efforts around equity.
 - Complex Care Capacity Building State Funds

- Crisis Continuum
- Capacity Building
 - Resource parent coaching and mentoring
 - Substance use disorder treatment in STRTPs
 - Relative care support for families that choose to stay a County approved home as opposed to an FFA
 - Certification for additional providers to conduct NMT and the cost of referrals
- c. Child and Family Well-Being Update
 - Child Welfare Services is now officially called the Child and Family Well-Being Department.
 - Comprehensive Prevention Plan has been approved. The focus of the agency is to shift to a prevention-based model, with both prevention and intervention practices currently being implemented.
 - Childcare Blueprint has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors and First 5 is already working with the local planning council to for implementation.

9. Advisory Board Member Updates

- No member gave public comment.

10. Adjournment

- Sandra McBrayer concluded the meeting by summarizing the agenda items for the next meeting:
 - Description of the work groups
 - Description of the trust fund and outcomes
 - Regulations and limits on the Advisory Board's discretionary fund
 - SPA membership seat
 - Presentation on Medi-Cal enhanced case management
 - Updates for SPA: Youth and Alumni Advisory update, collaboration between partners, and movement of justice involved youth
 - DSEP description
 - Broadening the age
 - Data on 0-5
 - Movement of youth
 - Social worker approval
 - Data outcome
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM by Judge Ana España.

Meeting minutes were submitted by Chyann Cox. Please contact Chyann Cox 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

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Work Group

Work Group:

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES)	6:00 -7:30 pm
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Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Sarah Mostofi, Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Chyann Cox

FAYCES Summary: 34 attendees took part in the Subcommittee.

Advisory Members Participating: Simone Hidds-Monroe, Judge Ana España, Carolyn Griesemer

1. Welcome

Simone opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. She then provided a brief overview of the purpose of FAYCES, which is the first workgroup dedicated to the lived expertise of current and former foster and system impacted youth. Simone gave a brief overview of FAYCES and shared the vision and mission of FAYCES is to improve the experiences of those impacted by the foster care and juvenile justice systems in San Diego County and throughout the state of California through lived experience and expertise.

2. Work Group Structure

a. Co-Chair

- Each work group will have two Co-Chairs. Simone Hidds-Monroe will remain the Chair of FAYCES, until the second lived experience seat on the full Advisory Board is filled.

b. 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

- The full Advisory Board will meet quarterly, and each work group will meet for two consecutive months.

c. Name of Work Group

- The group discussed potential names for the FAYCES work group (e.g. Foster Alumni, Former Foster Youth, Lived Expert). They also discussed the importance of inclusivity, particularly for dual-status youth involved in both foster care and the juvenile justice system.

d. 2 Year Action Plan

- Each of the 3 work groups will a two-year action plan that will have goals and measurable objectives.
- The meeting schedule was changed to allow each work group adequate time to develop and implement the work group’s action plan.
- Members discussed the importance of both prevention and improving the foster care system in supporting youth and families. It was emphasized that there needs to be a

therapeutic and rehabilitative approach, as well as the positive impact of mentorship.

- The group discussed the importance of involving current youth and alumni in decision-making processes and creating advisory boards to elevate their voices.
- The group discussed various ways to engage current youth in system change and collaborative impact, including incorporating lived expert influence in independent living skills programming, and providing more resources and services for juvenile justice-involved youth. They also emphasized the need to support youth attending continuation schools, and their transition back to regular schools.

3. Lived Experience Seat on CFSAB

- Simone Hidds-Monroe informed FAYCES that there is an open lived experience seat on the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board and invited lived experts to pursue this seat, as well as the position of Co-Chair of FAYCES.
- Members discussed the importance of having former foster youth on the board to make meaningful changes in County and state policies. They highlighted the example of influencing the 10-day rule at Polinsky Children's Center to allow for more flexibility in placing sibling sets, based on former foster youth lived experience.
- In the discussion, a concern about the representation of different types of lived experiences on the work group, suggesting the need for more specific categories.

4. Child and Family Well-Being Website

- The group discussed the launch of a new website for the Child and Family Well-Being Department, with Simone Hidds-Monroe sharing a link for feedback. They discussed the intention of the website to be a public resource hub and sought input on its usability and navigation.
- Members discussed their initial thoughts and recommendations on a website for the Child and Family Well-Being Department. Website enhancement suggestions included: making the website more user-friendly, providing clear information on the department's purpose and services, etc.
- Simone Hidds-Monroe discussed the possibility of sharing a document for feedback and scheduling a Movement Meeting to thoroughly review it. The group also discussed the importance of including relevant links on a website to make it a useful resource for community members.

5. Date of Next Meeting – September 21, 2023 at 6 PM

6. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Work Group

Work Group:

Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES)	6:00 -7:30 pm
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Date: Thursday, September 21, 2023

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Sarah Mostofi

FAYCES Summary: 26 attendees took part in this work group meeting.

Advisory Members Participating: Simone Hidds-Monroe, Judge Ana España, Carolyn Griesemer

1. Welcome

Simone opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. She then provided a brief overview of the purpose of FAYCES, which is the first workgroup dedicated to the lived expertise of current and former foster and system impacted youth. Simone shared the vision and mission of FAYCES is to improve the experiences of those impacted by the foster care and juvenile justice systems in San Diego County and throughout the State of California through lived experience and expertise.

2. Child and Family Well-Being Website Recap

- The participants discussed the ease and transparency of the Child and Family Well-Being Website. Recommendations included: message from Kim Giardina on why department change was made, clearer language to understand purpose of website, become more accessible and user friendly for families, youth, and the community to contact staff, better description of resources, and place to allow youth and families to voice questions.
- Participants also discussed rebranding the "Prevention Hub" name.

3. CFSAB Advisory Board

a. Open Seats

- Participants discussed the current seats open on the CFSAB Advisory Board for those with lived experience. The Board of Supervisors will review all applications. Participants expressed that individuals across all forms of lived experience should have an opportunity to be seated in an advisory board position.

4. 2 Year Action Plan

a. Existing San Diego County Plans

- Sandra explained that the existing San Diego County 5-year plan Child and Family Services System Improvement Plan, Childcare Blueprint, and San Diego Comprehensive Plan may be

used as reference for developing each of the work group goals and objectives. Participants are encouraged to read through the plans to voice their ideas, gaps within the plans, what aligns with their mission/goals, and what they want to prioritize for the 2-year plan.

b. Consultant

- Sandra notified participants that a consultant may be hired to collaborate with all three workgroups to develop each 2-year plan. The plan will consist of goals, measurable objectives, and a timeline. Overreaching goals for each work group is to work to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the child welfare system.

5. Potential Ideas

- The participants discussed how to improve work groups participation.
- Participants discussed how to define accomplishments and set targeted goals.
- Simone discussed potential topics that participants with lived experience are passionate about influencing, including: Polinski Children’s Center, Dual status youth, career pathways for foster youth, and services for youth transferred out of the county.
- A question was asked regarding the support services available for refugee and immigrant youth and whether the Prevention Hub will be providing resources and services for this population as well. Valesha shared that the Child Welfare has an International Liaison, that supports refugee and immigrant families interacting with child welfare. Participants also stated that maybe several presentations could help to inform the discussion of potential goals including:
 1. Presentation from the Prevention Hub with Sarah Glass and ICF on the progress to date, purpose and services of the Prevention Hub, including potential names for consideration for the Prevention Hub.
 2. Presentation on the SD RTP landscape.
 3. Presentation on the San Pasqual Academy updated protocols for alumni housing and grandparents on campus.

Members were encouraged to review the County Plans highlighted earlier and to brainstorm some ideas for our next meeting regarding goals for this workgroup to address in the development of a two year plan.

6. Date of Next Meeting – November 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM

7. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Work Group

Work Group:

Placement & Resource Family Support	11:00 - 12:30 pm
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Date: Thursday, August 24, 2023

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Chyann Cox

Child and Family Services Subcommittee Summary: 54 attendees took part in the Work Group.

Advisory Members Participating: Adam Reed, Patricia Boles, Jessica Heldman, Simone Hidds-Monroe, Judge Ana España, Melissa Villagomez

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Sandra McBrayer from The Children’s Initiative opened the meeting and invited participants to introduce themselves.

2. Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Placements (STRTPs) Landscape Questions

Jennifer Williams provided answers to questions that were asked at the last meeting, which were:

- a. What unique services are provided in San Diego County that lead children to be placed within our County for care?
 - Some facilities in SD accept LGBTQIA+ youth
 - Some facilities in SD have on-site schools
 - Some youth are placed in SD to be closer to family and other supports
 - Some youth are placed in SD to help them transition to a larger campus
 - Children who have had involvement with gangs/Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) should be placed further away from the community/area where they had gang/CSEC connections
- b. What services are not provided in San Diego County that lead children to be placed outside our County for care?
 - No placement options for children under 12
 - No placement options - youth are placed out of county if they have exhausted all local options
 - Currently San Diego STRTPS only have off-site substance abuse treatment programs. Youth must go out of County for on-site substance abuse treatment programs
 - Youth might be sent out of our County to specialized behavioral/mental health programs
 - Children who have had involvement with gangs/Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) should be placed further away from the community/area where they had gang/CSEC connections
- c. What services do we provide when a child has been placed outside San Diego County in a STRTP?

- Virtual weekly contact between youth and relatives/Non-Relative Extended Family Members (NREFMS)/other supports
- In-person visitation between youth and relatives/NREFMS/other supports
- Virtual family therapy sessions

Several participants discussed the challenges of finding appropriate placement options for children in San Diego County. They explored the need for out-of-county facilities due to limited local options. In the discussion, Nikki Kelsey provided data on the number of youth placed out of county, with the majority being probation-involved. Some members discussed the challenges of getting high complex needs kids in juvenile hall exited to specific programs that better meet their needs. A member requested data on the number of children who have been adopted and then placed out of County or State to receive intensive mental health treatment. The group discussed the importance of including youth voice in the evaluation process of STRTPs. The group discussed requiring exit interviews with youth as part of County contracts for STRTPs.

3. Child & Family Well-Being Workgroup Descriptions Agenda Item not discussed at this meeting

4. Work Group Structure

Sandra McBrayer explained that the Placement and Resource Family Support Work Group is one of the newly formed work groups of the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board and has taken the place of the Child and Family Services Subcommittee.

- a. The Co-Chairs of this Work Group are Patricia Boles and Jeff Wiemann
- b. The Work Group will meet for two consecutive months on the fourth Thursday of the month
- c. The Work Group will create a two-year action plan with goals and measurable objectives

5. Potential Focus Areas

Sandra McBrayer invited the work group to discuss potential focus areas with remainder of the meeting time.

- Need for a comprehensive support system for families, a one-stop location for visitations and parent-child interactions and prioritizing the placement of children with complex needs.
- The growing trend of using art as a tool to connect with young people and promote social-emotional learning.
- Accessing funding for foster care programs, noted to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Improving the services and support for youth in programs, including addressing turnover and training of direct service staff, ensuring ongoing efforts to find alternate placements for youth, improving access to consistent mental health care, focusing on kinship care and permanent connections, and evaluating the impact and accountability of San Pasqual Academy for older youth.
- The lack of foster homes for teens and the need for better support and services for foster parents and resource families.
- The need for better placements for dual-status or probation youth.
- The challenges of finding permanent homes for children and teens in foster care, especially those with complex mental health needs.
- Participants discussed additional topics including funding streams, youth that are in STRTPs that have not been adopted, placement of youth with complex needs, mental health care, and kinship care.

Date of Next Meeting – September 28, 2023, at 11:00 am

Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Work Group

Work Group:

Placement & Resource Family Support	11:00 am-12:30 pm
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Date: Thursday, September 28th, 2023

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Roxanna Barajas-Arenas

FAYCES Summary: 31 attendees took part in the Work Group.

Advisory Members Participating: Jeff Wiemann, Patty Boles, Simone Hidds-Monroe

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Jeff opened the meeting and welcomed all participants, introduced co-chair Patty Bowles and provided a brief overview of the opportunity of system improvement and shared information through collaboration. Patty then welcomed participants and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Need for Funding for Pro-Social Activities for Foster Youth

a. Specialized Care Incentives and Assistance Program (SCIAP)

- Norma Rincon provided a presentation and update regarding prosocial activities. Norma shared that Specialized Care Incentives and Assistance Program (SCIAP) can be used for pro social activities such as uniforms, athletic fees, equipment, yearbooks, graduation expenses, prom expenses, music lessons, dance lessons, etc. for children in out of home care. As many SCIAP requests as needed can be submitted. SCIAP can also provide various services and cover medical services or equipment that is not covered by medical or dental services such as eyeglasses or contacts. Those eligible for SCIAP are resource family homes, relative (non-parent), non-relative extended family member, non-related legal guardian, tribally approved homes, and foster family agency resource parents.

b. Children In Need

- Children In Need is a non-profit charitable corporation organized by employees of the Health and Human Services Agency and partially funded by County employee contributions. The program is open to all children in SD County, with income requirements. If families qualify for CalFresh, they qualify for this program. Requests for funds can be submitted by case workers or family members. There is currently \$20,000 available. Maximum distribution is typically \$100 per child per year; exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis. Application can be accessed at: <http://www.childreninneedsd.org/request-assistance.html>.

c. PROMISES2KIDS

- PROMISES2KIDS has the Something Special Fund is open to children under the age of 18, with open dependency cases who are in out of home placements in SD County. Distribution maximums are \$250 for general expenses and \$500 for extracurricular activities (requests above the maximum may be approved). There is a \$750 maximum per child per fiscal year. General expenses include cameras, musical instruments, art supplies, bikes, and amusement park passes. Extracurricular activities include uniforms or equipment, soccer, cheerleading, swim lessons, martial arts, sports registration fees, music lessons, etc. have something special funds for general requests and extracurricular activities that youth are eligible for. Social workers, care givers, CASA, attorneys, and youth can request the funds directly at 858-278-4400. Also hosts back to School Shopping, Holiday Shopping Spree and Camp Connect.

d. New Funding

- Flexible Family Support Funding will become available because of AB179 Which appropriated \$50 million in one time general funds for county child welfare and probation. San Diego County was approved for nearly \$2 million for their child welfare department. Norma shares the purpose of the funding is to support caregivers to reduce the change of placements, increase lifelong familiar connections , and provide support to youth. Norma suggested that the funding could be used for prosocial activities to enhance the child's self-esteem or relationships or to facilitate a placement.

3. 2 Year Action Plan

a. Review and Evaluate Existing County Plans

- Jeff discussed the three reports that were sent out to participants. Jeff explained that it is the work group's responsibility to take the knowledge from the County's action plan and see what they can improve on. Sandra explained the Child and Family Services System Improvement Plan, Childcare Blueprint, and San Diego Comprehensive Plan will be used as references for developing goals and objectives. Participants are encouraged to read through the plans to voice their ideas, gaps within the plans, what aligns with their mission/goals, and what they want to prioritize for the 2-year plan.

b. Consultant

- Sandra notified participants a consultant will be hired to collaborate with all three workgroups to develop a 2-year plan. The plan will consist of goals, measurable objectives, and a timeline. The consultant will collaborate with the group to develop a 2-year action plan.
- Jeff encouraged participants to read the existing San Diego County 5-year plan Child and Family Services System Improvement Plan, Childcare Blueprint, and San Diego Comprehensive Plan before the next meeting.

4. Potential Focus Areas

- Jeff opened the floor for discussion about potential focus areas. Some of the topics included:
 - Recruiting 200-500 additional resource families with a focus on families in the neighborhoods children are removed from. S
 - Resource family retention.
 - Listening sessions with specific communities such as children with special needs or Black communities.
 - Relative first placement model brings additional services and support to those relatives.
 - Therapeutic services and how to bring therapeutic services into placement homes.
 - The challenge of finding teenagers placements and developing homes for teen.

- Research is needed on messaging about the challenges and needs of the foster care system
- Giving platforms to people with lived experience in the foster system, such as parents who regained custody of their children, resource parents, and children.
- Parenting coaches for parents.

5. Date of Next Meeting – Nov 16, 2023 at 11:00 am

Jeff and Sandy encouraged participants to read the existing San Diego County 5-year plan Child and Family Services System Improvement Plan, Childcare Blueprint, and San Diego Comprehensive Plan before the next meeting.

6. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Summary of Work Group

Child and Family Well-Being	10:00 am -11:30 am
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Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Sandra McBrayer

Meeting Staff: Sarah Mostofi

Child and Family Well-Being Summary: 32 attendees took part in this work group meeting.

Advisory Members Participating: Joy Singleton, Aimee Zeitz, Carolyn Griesemer, and Stephen Moore

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sandy opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. She then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Child and Family Well-Being Work Group Descriptions

- Sandy provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Child and Family Well-Being Work Group, which is a work group dedicated to support and assist the community, families, and youth prior or during involvement with the child welfare system and juvenile justice system. Sandy shared that the goal of the work group is to provide children and families with what they need to prevent children from coming in contact with systems, such as the child welfare system and juvenile justice system and if they do, discussing how to provide assistance to minimize involvement.

3. Work Group Structure

a. Co-Chairs

- Aimee Zeitz from the YMCA was introduced as one of the work group co-chairs, along with Stephanie Gioa-Beckman from Rady Children’s Hospital.

b. 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

- The full Advisory Board will meet quarterly, and each work group will meet for two consecutive months.

c. 2 Year Action Plan

- Sandra notified participants a consultant may be hired to collaborate with all three workgroups to develop each of the 2 of -year plans. Each plan will consist of goals, measurable objectives, and a timeline. An overarching goal of each work group is to support the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities in the child welfare system.

4. Potential Focus Areas

- Aimee Zeitz opened the floor for discussion about potential focus areas for the work group. Some of the topics included:
 - Accessibility to more concrete resources, including housing and transportation specific resources, and referral pathways to those resources.
 - A hotline for parents to call for services such as legal assistance before they come on contact with the child welfare system.
 - Access to affordable and neighborhood childcare.
 - Access to informal therapeutic support systems (i.e., coaches/mentors)
 - Access to and needed equipment for enrichment activities for children who are outside of the foster care system.
 - Development of community engagement strategies to better describe and explain the shift from mandated reporting to community support.
 - Collaborating with the San Diego Workforce Partnership for early workforce development
 - Leveraging funding across systems.
 - Review of current prevention and intervention programs to identify gaps.
 - Develop a campaign to build trust within the community.

5. Date of Next Meeting – November 15th, 2023, at 10 am

6. Adjournment