



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Minutes of April 26, 2024

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS
First District

JOEL ANDERSON
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY-STEPPE
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

Members Present:

Alethea Arguilez, First 5 San Diego
 Patricia Boles, Foster Parent Association
 Hon. Judge Ana España, San Diego Superior Court
 Beth Ploesch, Children's Legal Services of San Diego
 Erin Gospodarec, Congregate Care Provider
 Aimee Zeitz, District 2 Appointee
 Simone Hidds-Monroe, San Pasqual Academy
 Chief Tamika Nelson, San Diego County Probation
 Jeff Wiemann, Foster Family Agency
 Steven Gachette, Social Worker
 Dr. Eric McDonald, County Health and Human Service Agency
 Diana Venegas, Individual with Lived Experience
 Dr. Gloria Ciriza, San Diego County Office of Education
 Joseph Robinson, Individual with Lived Experience
 Melissa Villagomez, Individual with Lived Experience
 Dr. Kimberly Giardina, Child and Family Well-Being Department
 Stephanie Gioia-Beckman, Rady's Children's Hospital
 Stephanie Ortega, Polinsky Children's Center/Promises2Kids

Members Not Present:

Joy Singleton, District 3 Appointee
 Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc
 Shea Prophet, Child Abuse and Juvenile Justice
 Adam Reed, Dependency Legal Services
 Dr. Patricia Fernandez, District 1 Appointee

Staff Present:

Sandra McBrayer, The Children's Initiative
 Torrey Giaquinta, The Children's Initiative
 Kyle Sand, County Counsel

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Judge Ana España called the meeting to order.
- A quorum was present.
- She welcomed the Advisory Board and asked them to introduce themselves.
- There were two new members present at the meeting: Joseph Robinson and Dr. Gloria Ciriza.

2. Public Comment

- There were two requests for public comment:
 - The first was someone who had been involved in the child welfare system as a parent. He discussed the history of systemic racism in child welfare and posited that voluntary actions by parents are not really voluntary when faced with removal of their children. The parent would like to be on the CFSAB and believes there needs to be more lived experts (children and parents) in the space.
 - There was public comment from a representative of YMCA and Children First Collective of San Diego. She thanked CFSAB members for their concern around child well-being, child abuse prevention, and the Child Care Blueprint. The

Collective is concerned with the funding cliff facing First 5 San Diego and mental and behavioral health services for 0–17-year-olds. They would like funding for children to be earmarked in budget conversations.

3. Approval for the Statement of Proceeding/Minutes for the meeting of January 26, 2024

- A motion to approve the 1/26/24 minutes was made by Dr. McDonald, seconded by Jeff Wiemann, and passed with all members present voting aye.

4. Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) Presentation – Becky Lanier and Rachel Swaykos

Staff from Child and Family Well-Being Department presented on the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength tool.

- *Tool:* Staff discussed the tool, going over the separate domains for children ages 0-5 and 6+ (item 4 in the meeting materials). There are 7-10 items under each domain. For example under the ‘Behavioral/Emotional Needs Domain’, some of the items included are ‘Psychosis’, ‘Depression’, and ‘Substance Use’.
- *Scoring:* Staff explained the scoring system for the domains as well as the adverse childhood experiences (ACES) section. Needs and strengths are scored from 0-3; any need with a score of three is addressed during the meeting. The tool looks at the ‘what’ not ‘why’ of behaviors. The ‘why’ is taken into account when developing the case plan. The ACES section is scored ‘yes’ or ‘no’.
- *Timing:* The initial CANS should be completed within 30 days of opening a case and then be updated every six months. The CANS reports go to the court and are used to develop the case plan. Although the needs and strengths section of the CANS looks at the last 30 days, the ACES section considers the child’s entire life. CANS can be completed more frequently upon request.
- *Preparation:* CANS is completed during Child and Family Team Meetings (CFT). Children over the age of three are included in the CFT-CANS discussions. Children have the option of attending the meeting themselves, speaking, or asking someone to speak for them. Prior to the CANS meeting, the case worker gathers information from the caregiver, child/youth, and parents.
- *Meeting:* Laminated CANS forms and manuals are available to team participants so they can follow along and make notes. There are posters describing the scoring system and process flow on the walls of the meeting room.
- *Scoring in the meeting:* CANS scoring is made through consensus, any items/domains that do not have consensus are noted in the report. Each item in each domain is not discussed, the conversation will typically cover the same items previously covered, or the items raised in the pre-meeting conversations. The facilitator will ask if any additional items should be discussed.
- *After the meeting:* Participants should leave the meeting with a summary. If the meeting is happening via Zoom, the facilitator will often share their screen so participants can see what is being typed. The youth’s case worker or attorney should go over the CANS with the youth after the meeting. Results should be shared with all team members including the foster family agency. Board members asked CFWB staff to ensure the results are written in a trauma informed, non-jargon manner consistent with the youth’s reading level.
- *Follow Up:* The presentation made mention of positive feedback from staff and families regarding CANS. CFSAB members asked if the feedback process is continuing and if so, asked for updated data. A comment was made that the surveys completed at the end of a CFT are emailed to the address that was used to connect to the meeting (in an STRTP this is often a staff member), thus, the youth may not be receiving the surveys.

- *Note:* The CANS drives the tier structure for the new proposed permanent foster care rate (see agenda item 6b).

- 5. Presentation of Work Group Action Plans – Jeff Wiemann and Patty Boles, Placement and Caregiver Support Work Group; Simone Hidds-Monroe, Lived Expert Action Partners Work Group; Aimee Zeitz and Stephanie Gioia-Beckman, Child and Family Well-Being Work Group.**
- The three CFSAB work groups were tasked with developing two-year action plans with measurable goals and objectives, that have a clear focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities, and that share ownership and participation across stakeholders. The chairs of each of the work groups presented their group’s action plan (the plans are included in the meeting materials as items 5a.1, 5b.1, and 5c.1). A call to action was made to board members to encourage them to participate in the work groups, use their influence, and identify action items they can lead.

Summaries from the February and March work group meetings were provided in the meeting materials as 5a.2, 5a.3, 5b.2, 5b.3, 5c.2, 5c.3.

6. Child and Family Well-Being Director’s Report

a. Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities

Dr. Giardina thanked board members for all the posts, press conferences, and activities hosted to celebrate Child Abuse Awareness Month in April. At 10am the Board observed a moment of silence for California’s Children’s Memorial Flag Day which signifies the children who have lost their lives due to abuse or neglect.

Next month, May, is National Foster Care Month. CFWB is hosting a banquet for resource families on May 3rd.

b. Update on Rates Proposal

Dr. Giardina shared the March 2024 proposed rate structure (meeting material 6b). This document includes the proposed rates as well as the tier structure. There is still advocacy happening around the funds and a trailer bill is likely to come in August or September. The new rate proposal is due by January 2025. The rate proposal will go into effect in January or October 2026.

c. Update on FFPSA Claiming

The proposed interim FFPSA (Family First Prevention and Services Act) claiming process has received a tentative yes. The responsibility of converting the data from the interim system to the statewide system implemented in 2026 will be on the counties participating in the interim system. The next step is to get a cost estimate for that work.

d. Mandated Reporter Online Portal Going Live

The Mandated Reporter Online Portal is going live on July 1st. The Portal is for non-urgent reports only. The system is being piloted currently. As part of the goal of the Portal is to reduced wait times for reporters using the phone reporting line, reporters are asked not to call the reporting line to confirm if their online report was submitted.

e. COSD Operational Plan

The proposed County operational plan will be available for review in early May. CFWB is adding two positions related to the Child Care Blueprint. No other changes are proposed. The Board of Supervisors will be holding community engagement sessions on the budget.

f. Upcoming Board letters:

i. 05/21/2024 - Kinship Support Services

It is time to reprocur the kinship support services contract. The letter to the Board allows CFWB to start the process.

ii. 06/25/2024 - RFA Legal Representation

If potential resource families are denied approval, or if approval is removed from a resource family, an appeal can be made at the state level. The letter to the Board is for the memorandum of understanding that is needed for the agency to be represented during those appeals.

7. Advisory Board Member Updates:

- **Jeff Wiemann**, foster family agency representative, reported that due to California's shrinking insurance market, there is only one agency that provides liability insurance for FFAs. That agency has notified Angels Foster Family Network, that they will no longer cover caregiver families whose homes are close to bodies of water (pools, rivers, fountains etc.).
- **Patricia Boles**, foster parent association representative, shared that CFWB placement staff is at Straight From the Heart on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The staff has been able to help and answer questions from caregivers and has been beneficial.
- **Stephanie Gioia-Beckman**, children's health care professional representative, shared a flyer regarding the advocacy work Rady Children's Hospital and others are doing around funding children's behavioral health. The success of Proposition 1 and other efforts have increased the funding going toward adult behavioral health. The group does not want those mandates to cause a reduction in funds going to children's behavioral health and are asking for children's funding to be held harmless.
- **Simone Hidds-Monroe**, San Pasqual Academy representative, reported that a SPA alumni meet and greet event is happening on May 6th at 5:30pm on campus. This will be the start of a series of student and alumni engagement events.

8. FY24-25 Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for the CFSAB and the three work groups were included in the meeting materials as item #8.

9. Adjournment

Staff will ensure there is a presentation on how feedback on the CANS assessment is gathered along with any associated data.

Next Meeting of the Advisory Board: Friday, July 26, 2024, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Meeting minutes were submitted by Torrey Giaquinta. Please contact Torrey Giaquinta at (858) 581-5893 if you have corrections or suggested revisions. She may also be contacted for agenda items or general information.



San Diego County EMS Corps Program

San Diego County Emergency
Medical Services Office, A
Division of San Diego County Fire

Background



- The EMS Corps Program:
 - EMT Training
 - Student Financial Support
 - Wrap Around Services:
 - Case Management
 - Mentorship
 - Healing Circles
 - Life Coaching
 - Job Readiness



EMS Corps Program Success in Alameda County



- Public Works Alliance and Alameda County's EMS Corps Program
 - 400+ young adults have graduated in it's 16 years of operation
 - 86% NREMT Pass Rate (Outperforming national average 71%)
 - Job Placement and Mentorship
- California Employment Development Department (EDD) Funding EMS Corps Expansion
 - \$1.3m to San Diego



The Need for EMS Corps in San Diego County



- Exposure to the EMS Field for Transitional Age Youth
- Job placement for graduates
- Overall benefits to the local economy



Who Is Eligible?



TAY Youth Between the ages of 18-26



Local Planning Efforts & Community Engagement



- Internal and External Partner Cooperation and Coordination by County Fire
- Temporary Expert Professional Project Manager
- Technical Assistance from PWA and Alameda County

Launch Group 2

August 30, 2024	EDD requirements due
Sept 3 – Sept 18	Application and readiness packet reviewed by EDD
Sept 19 – Oct 18	Grant approvals and site notification
Oct – Jan	Contracting
February 1, 2025	Estimated start date
January 31, 2027	End of contract



THANK YOU





Creating a Kin-First Culture in CFWB



Advantages of Kinship Care



Minimizes Trauma



Improves Behavioral
and Mental Health
Outcomes



Stabilizes Placement
and Time to
Permanency



Preserves Cultural
Identity



Kin-First Culture



A kin-first culture exists when all levels of leadership within a system promote policies, practices and training to ensure that when children and youth experience traumatic events at home and the child welfare system intervenes, every effort across the system of care is made to keep them safely in their home. And, if the child must be removed from their home, they live with relatives, extended family or other loved ones.

A kin-first culture gives families and communities the opportunity to heal from trauma together.

Kinship Care Addresses Equity

Kinship care is a longstanding tradition in BIPOC families. In fact, extended family networks can ameliorate “racial weathering”.

In Black households, relative caregiving is common and the reason for the low number of formal adoptions (13%). Black families often chose informal caregiving.

In almost all Native cultures, extended family kinship structures prevail. Cousins may refer to one another as brother and sister. Aunts and uncles may be called mom and dad. A grandmother’s first cousin might be called uncle.

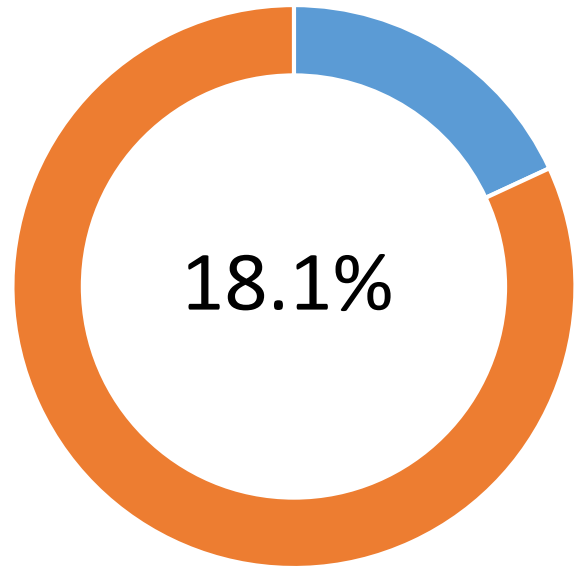
Asian and Latino populations overall are growing more rapidly than their white counterparts, and are more likely than white non-Latino to live in multigenerational family households.

Latinos have a long history of helping raise children in need of temporary or permanent families. The Latino concept of “familismo”/familism extends beyond blood relatives and includes friends, neighbors, and compadres/comadres (godparents).



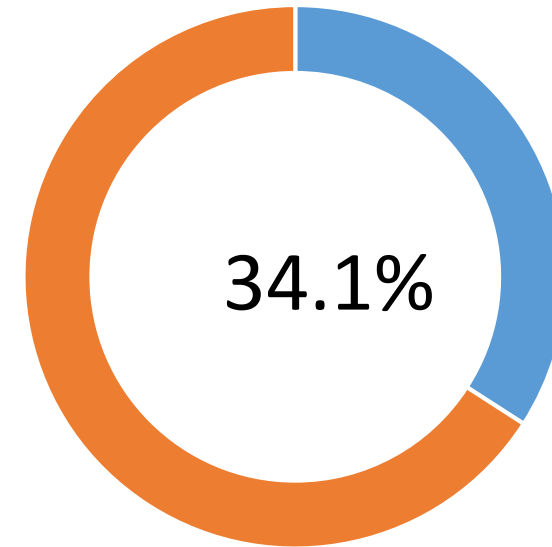
San Diego Placement Rates – FY 22/23

First Placement with Kin



■ First Placements ■ Other Placement Types

Overall Kinship Placements

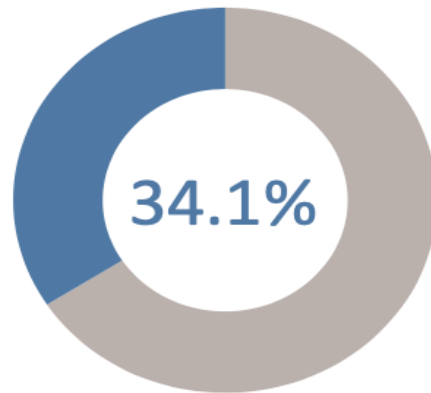


■ Kinship Placements ■ Other Placement Types

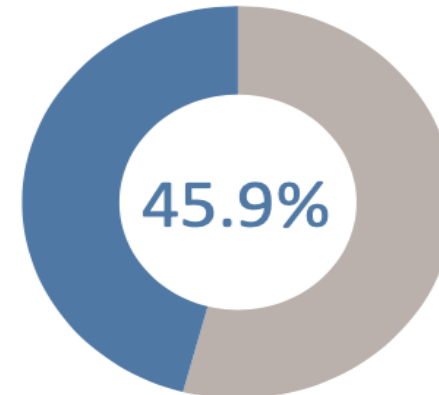
- Initial placements with kin has risen from its lowest in FY 2019 when it was 5%. In the previous ten years, initial placements with kin have not been greater than 18%.
- Overall placements with kin has risen from its lowest in FY 2019 when it was 27%. In the last ten years, overall placements with kin has not been over 43%.

California Kinship Placement Rates

First Placements with
Relatives in California (Jan
23-Dec 23)



Predominant Placements
with Relatives in California
(Jan 23-Dec 23)



Data Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), University of California at Berkeley
California Department of Social Services, Research and Data Insights Branch

San Diego County has been performing below State averages in terms of initial and overall placements with kin, which indicates that there are improvements that can be made despite the barriers that kin face to taking placement.

Barriers to Kin Placements

Family Finding



Tight legal deadlines



Lack of trust



Complex family dynamics

Preparation



Criminal or child welfare history



Housing



Upfront and ongoing support



Family Finding & Engagement Efforts in CFWB

Excellence in
Family Finding,
Engagement, &
Support
Funding Opt-In

Justice Partners
Collaboration

Bridging
Systems for
Kinship Families

BINTI Family
Finding Module

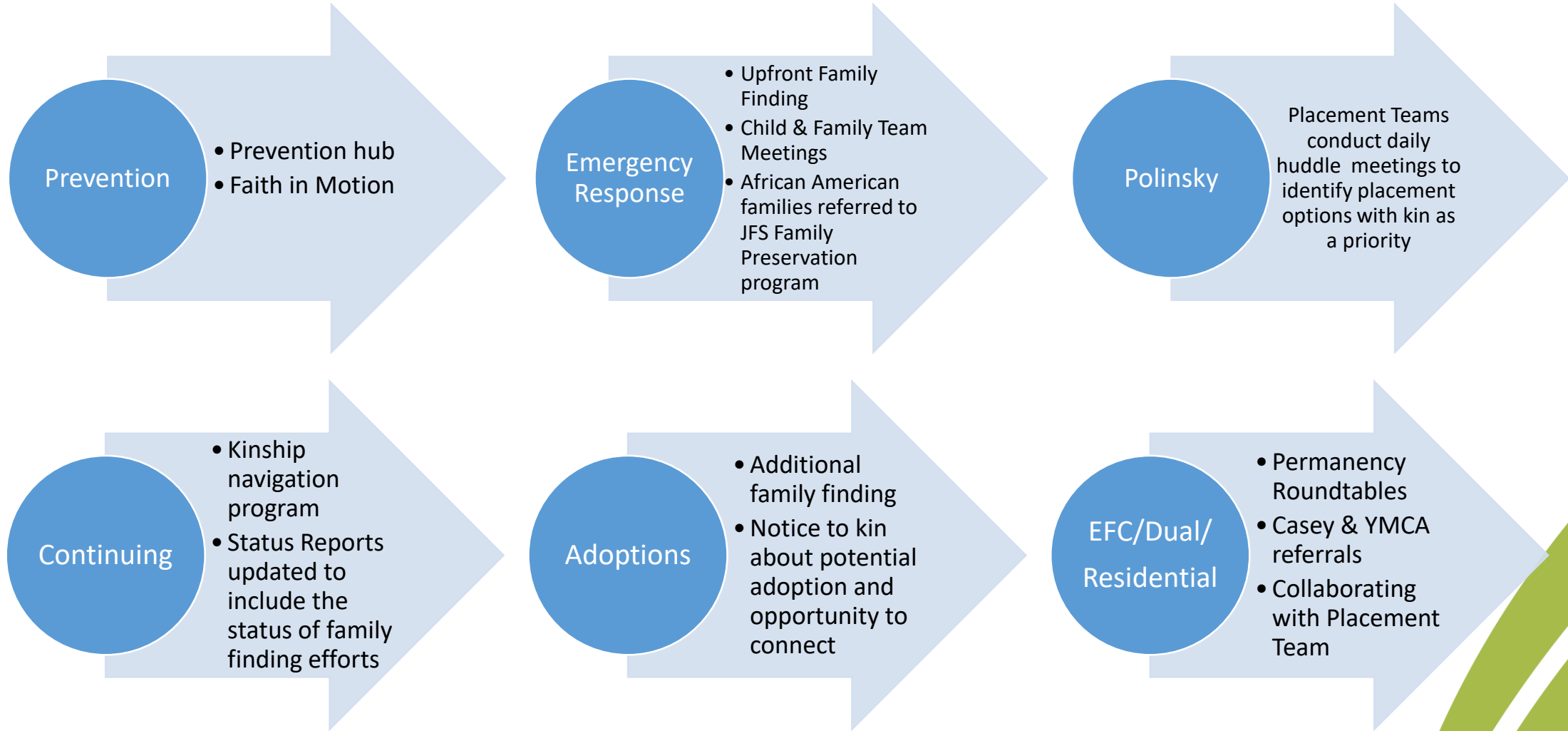
Harvard University
Government
Performance Lab TA

Kin-First Accelerator
Program

Flexible Family Supports and
Home-Based Foster Care Funding



Family Finding & Engagement Efforts in CFWB by Program



Early Indicators of Success

Family Finding Processes

- Exploring ways to involve the Placement team earlier in collaboration with ER
- Identified training opportunities to build common understanding of a kin-first culture
- Six new Family Finders (SWIIs)

Justice Partner Collaborations

- Court reports contain more robust analysis of kin as placement options
- Court aligned to ask about kin as a placement option

Data

- FY 2023-2024 predominant kin placements is 44%, a 10% increase from last fiscal year
- More detailed tracking of initial placements and overall placements by race and region will be tracked.



Questions?

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HHSA, Child & Family Well Being
Alfredo.Guardado@sdcounty.ca.gov



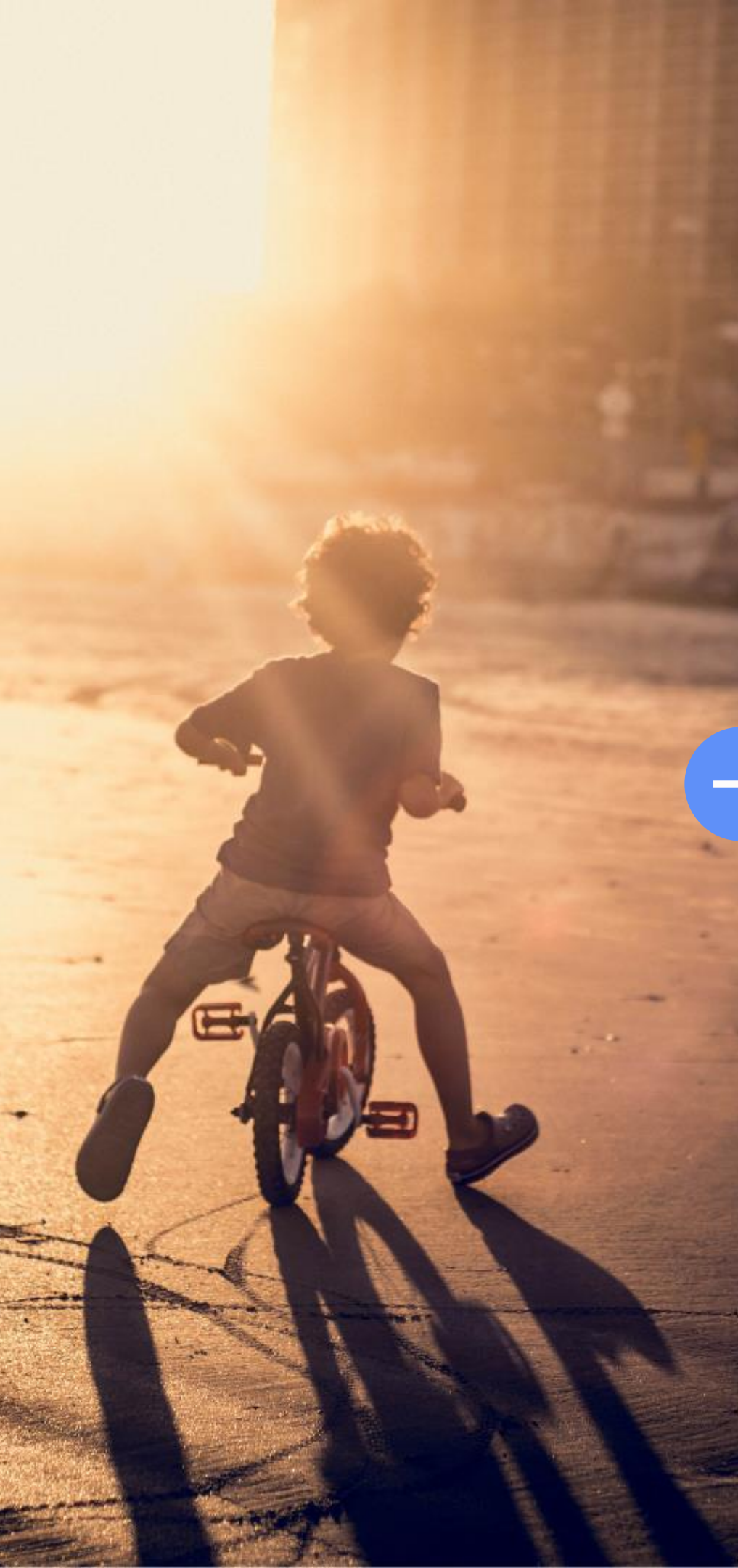


PROMISES 2 KIDS

Creating a Brighter
Future for
Foster Children®

July 9, 2024

Youth2Youth Peer Mentors



Youth2Youth History

San Diego's foster youth identified a need for **more information regarding what life is like after foster care** and what skills will be needed to succeed independently.

To address the needs of current foster youth and to assist them in developing goals and skills that will help them succeed after foster care, the Youth2Youth Program at PCC, in collaboration with Casey Family programs and the County of San Diego, was established in October 2000. Promises2Kids then partnered with Access to continue the program and in 2012, Promises committed to the entire budget and began expanding the program.



Youth2Youth employs former foster youth to provide peer support, mentoring, and advocacy for current foster youth.

“Research indicates lived experience provided services, particularly peer roles, contribute to an improved sense of hope, empowerment and social inclusion for those accessing services”

a lived experience



Why a mentor is important!

74%



of those who had a meaningful mentor say that person contributed significantly to their success later in life.

85%



of young people with a mentor say this key relationship has helped them with issues related to school and their education.

58%



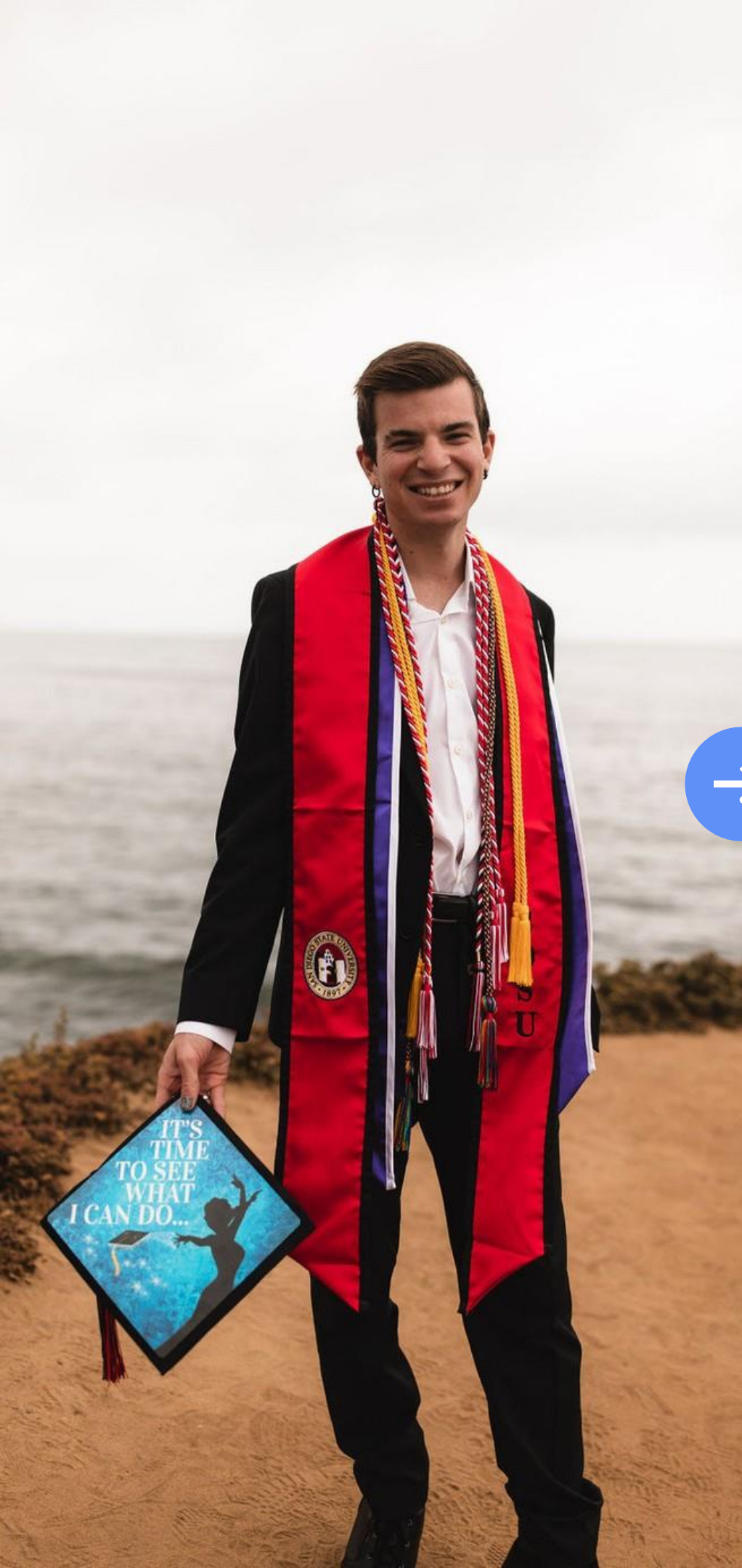
of young people say their mentor has supported their mental health.

60%



of those under 40 years old are still drawing advice from their childhood mentors.

Most importantly... Our Youth asked for it.





Mentoring at Promises2Kids

- Help current foster youth develop successful strategies for coping with the complexities of the foster care system.
- Motivate current foster youth to complete high school and pursue career goals.
- Promote active participation in the programs, services, and resources available to foster youth.
- Help former foster youth obtain work experience, develop job skills, earn a livable wage, and broaden their own life skills.



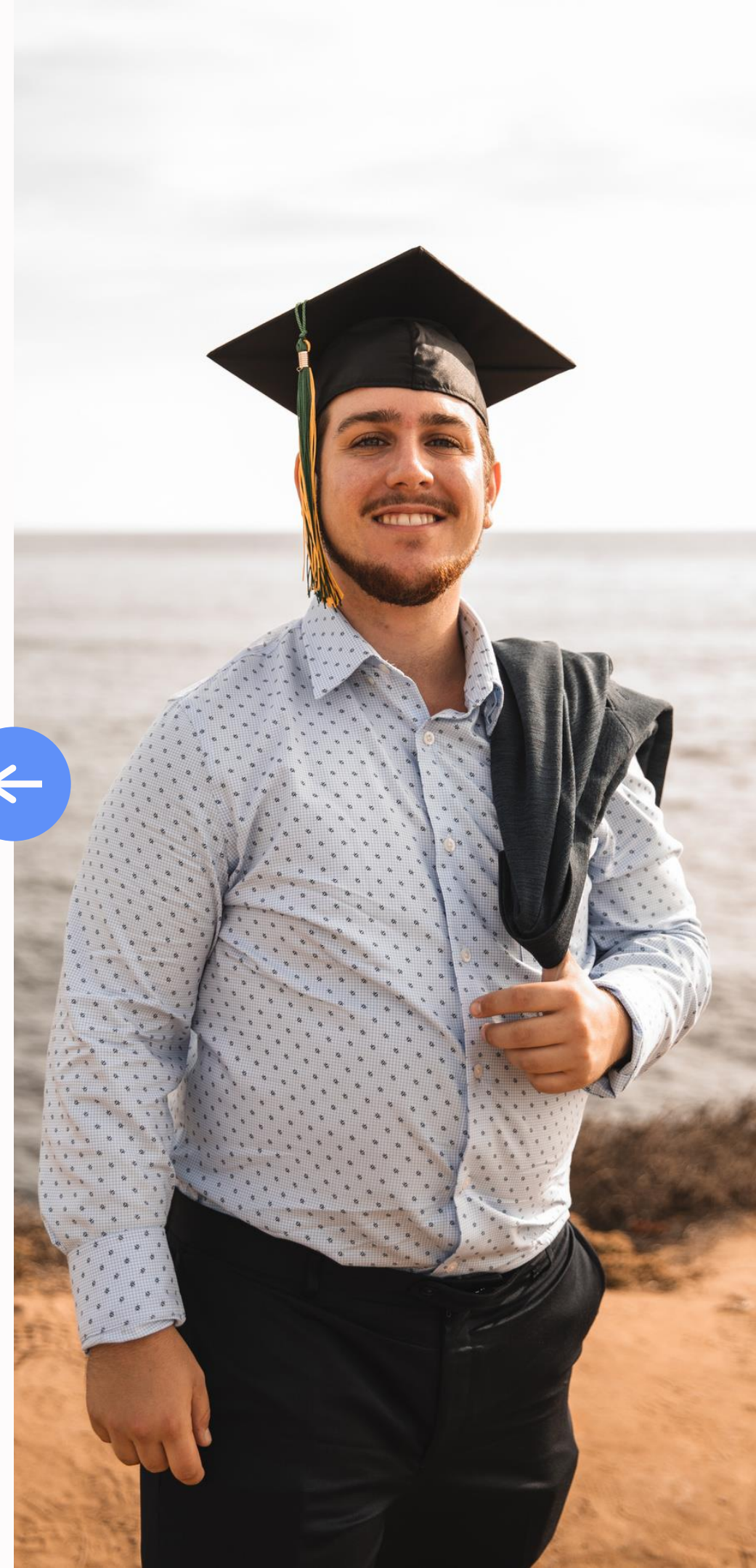


Polinsky Childrens Center

Youth2Youth mentors work in the teen girls and boys cottages to support young people in transition with making good choices, exploring future program and services, and providing guidance during their stay at Polinsky Children's Center.

Youth2Youth mentors support the cottage daily with engaging activities that encourage open lines of communication.

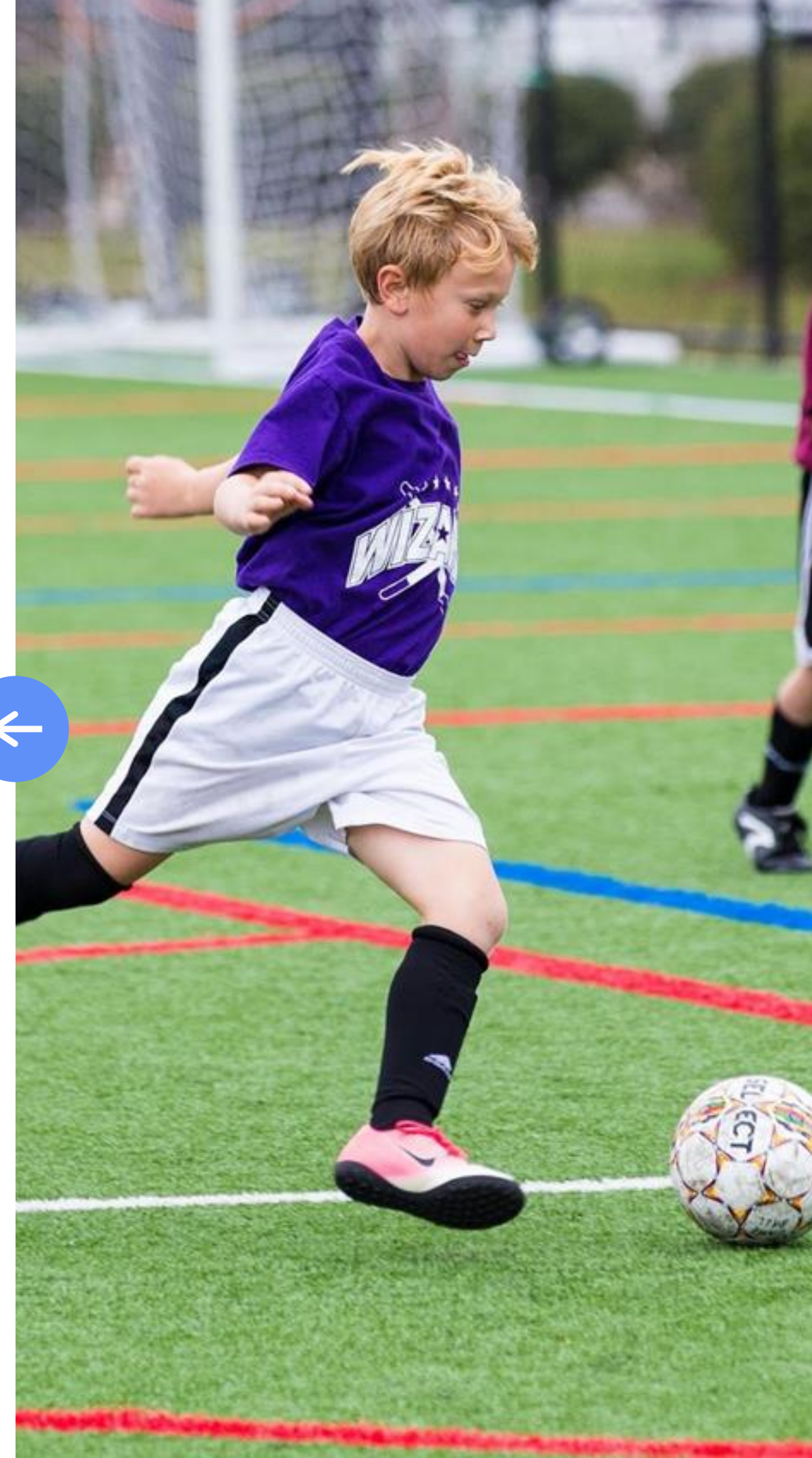
**"Over time, youth in foster care who experience positive relationships with mentors and others can alter their working models of relationships to enable them to form healthy relationships. "-
National Mentoring Resource Center**





Success Story

Andres is apart of the Youth2Youth team. During his time at PCC, he has been adamant about getting the young men outside and active. He has led the young men in weight training and in basketball. During one of his weight training sessions, a young man opened up about wanting to leave because he was frustrated about having to stay at Polinsky. Andres was able to talk to him about how he managed stress and his frustration. The youth did not leave and ultimately spent the next four days training with Andres as a form of stress relief.





Guardian Scholars

One on One Mentoring

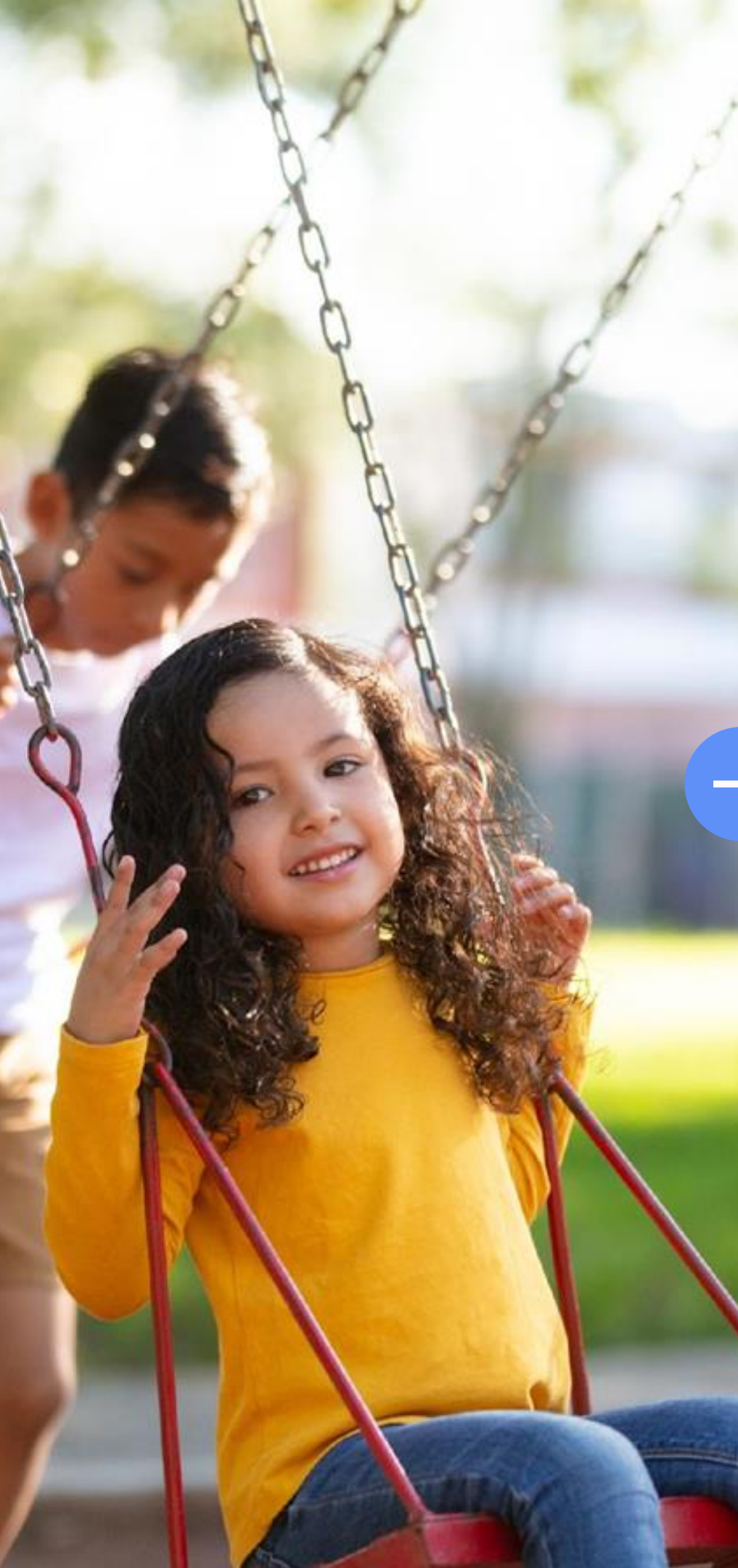
Extended Foster Care

Youth2Youth mentors each work independently with up to ten youth enrolled in Extended Foster Care.

Time Commitment

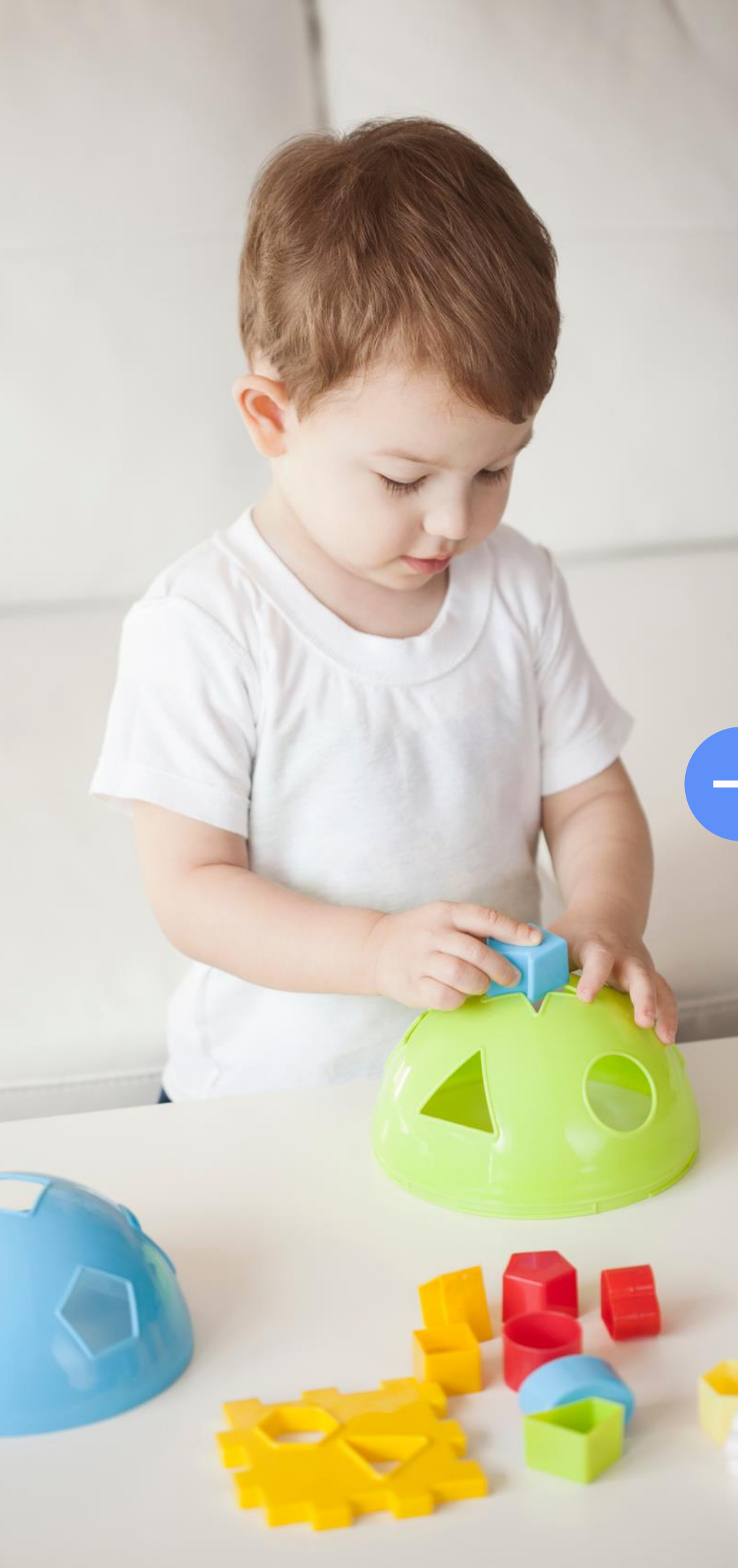
- Meet 1 -2 times a month with students
- Meet with Coordinator once a Month .
- Attend mentor trainings and mentor/mentee group events.





Youth2Youth & High School Students

- Partnering with FASE Social Workers.
- Supporting all students at San Pasqual Academy and Seniors at Casa De Amparo
- Career planning, social emotional learning, and high school graduation support.



Grub & Grinds

- Groups focus on Social Emotional learning and needs that arise at the time.
- There are 4 groups that happen each month
- Mentor Department will check in with mentors once a month
- Provide dinner, games, and peer group learning



Youth2Youth

Youth2Youth employs former foster youth to provide peer support, mentoring, and advocacy for current foster youth.

“Research indicates lived experience provided services, particularly peer roles, contribute to an improved sense of hope, empowerment and social inclusion for those accessing services”



a lived experience



Realistic/Unrealistic Expectations

My mentee will change right away!

If the mentee is not changing, then nothing is happening.

If I make mistakes, I am letting my mentee down.

My mentee will be grateful and will tell me thank you.

I should not expect an immediate transformation.

Lack of outward response does not reflect your impact.

I can make mistakes, as long as I try from the heart.

I need to see mentoring as a gift with no strings.



Contact Information



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Website
www.Promises2Kids.org

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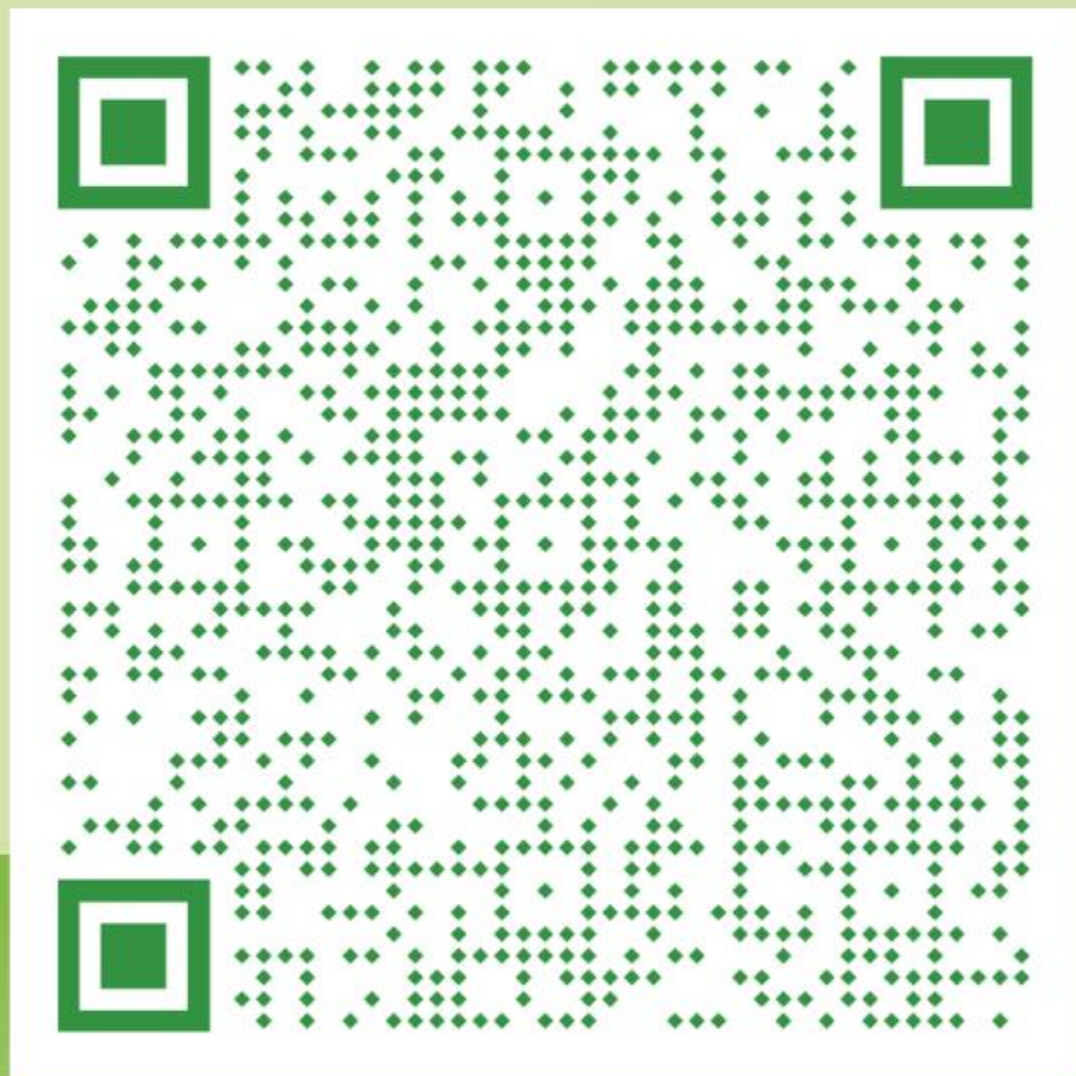
@Promises2Kids



CHANGE4CHANGE



**SPARE CHANGE CAN
CREATE BIG CHANGE
FOR SAN DIEGO FOSTER YOUTH!**



PROMISES2KIDS

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Lived Expert Action Partners Work Group

A former foster youth led work group that advances and supports youth voice and experiences on issues related to the care and support needed for current and former foster youth and their families. Lived Experts Action Partners is responsible for a two-year action plan that includes goals, measurable outcomes and a timeline that supports current and former foster youth. The Action Plan includes a focus on racial disparities, equity, diversity, and inclusion and alignment with the Advisory Board's mission.

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024

Chair: Simone Hidds-Monroe

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 18 attendees, Board Members: Simone Hidds-Monroe, Melissa Villagomez, Stephen Moore.

1. *Welcome:* Simone Hidds-Monroe welcomed participants to the meeting and explained the role of the work group. All attendees introduced themselves.
2. *Review of current activities:*

Flex funds focus groups: Carolyn Travis, area representative from California Youth Connection, and Simone discussed the flex fund focus groups that LEAP facilitated during May and June. The County of San Diego received funds for placement supports, a large portion of those funds is earmarked for extracurricular and enrichment activities that support youth well-being. CFWB and LEAP decided to ask current foster youth, caregivers, and residential staff what types of activities the funds should be used for and what the process should be for accessing those funds. LEAP and CYC facilitated nine focus groups. LEAP is working on a report with recommendations that will be presented to CFWB. The facilitators and participating youth were compensated for their involvement.
3. *San Pasqual Academy:* There has been a lot of progress in working with SPA since the last meeting. Lawrence Howell, Executive Director with Rite of Passage, and Simone discussed the four current areas of engagement.

Meet and Greet: Last week, a meet and greet was held at SPA for alumni. About 20 alumni gathered on campus to learn about the new contractor and socialize. The event had the feeling of a reunion.

Senior Events: Also happening last week was the first of the senior/alumni panels. Fourteen seniors met with three alumni. The alumni answered questions about transitioning out of SPA/CFWB custody. These panels will continue with the current students every other week through graduation. After graduation, the student population will switch to the incoming senior class.

Foster Youth and Alumni Advisory Board: There was a meeting on this topic earlier today. The group has drafted an application for youth and alumni to apply to be on the Advisory Board. Once the application is finalized, we will create and distribute a QR code. By-laws for the Advisory Board have also been drafted. Serving on the Advisory Board will give youth and alumni experience and allow them to learn the policies and procedures of this kind of work.

Alumni Housing: Simone discussed the Alumni Housing policy. She shared the contract information for alumni that are interested in housing. Alumni must be under 24 years of age.

4. *Two-Year Action Plan:*

Present final action plan and timeline: Simone presented the final action plan along with a timeline of when each strategy will be addressed. A focus for LEAP is to engage youth currently involved in the system. To do that we will need the ‘why’ for youth involvement, that is the answer to the question of how participation in our work will benefit youth.

Identify partners and next steps for Q4 efforts. Carolyn Travis mentioned the Foster Greatness App for youth and the Riverside County Housing application as two existing entities we may want to look at as we work on our goals. The meeting ended with a call to action, attendees were asked to think of who they know, what strategies they want to be part of, and what work they are willing to do to accomplish our action plan.

5. *Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, June 20, 2024, 6:00pm*



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024

Chair: Simone Hidds-Monroe

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 19 attendees, Board Member: Simone Hidds-Monroe.

1. *Welcome:* Simone Hidds-Monroe welcomed participants to the meeting and explained the role and history of the work group.

2. *Review of current activities:*

Flex funds focus groups: The recommendations for how to use and distribute the flex funds were submitted to CFWB. The recommendations were based on the focus groups facilitated by LEAP. One of the identified barriers to participation in extracurricular activities was transportation. Participants brainstormed transportation options.

SPA enrichment activities, update: There are a handful of alumni who are interested in participating in the senior & alumni panels to serve as supportive adults/mentors to current SPA youth. Participants mentioned the need to include in the panels alumni who have struggled to show students struggle and perseverance. The plan is to have a panel every couple of weeks. A panel has not been held recently because the seniors were busy preparing for graduation.

The changes to the alumni housing contract suggested by Beth Ploesch and Simone Hidds-Monroe have been incorporated. The updated form was sent out during the meeting.

3. *Two-Year Action Plan, Q4, 2024:*

Identify lead partners for youth and alumni survey: James Hidds-Monroe shared a google form

participants can use to identify which of our strategies they are interested in participating in or leading. The results were shared with Torrey Giaquinta.

SPA:

Review By-laws: The proposed by-laws for the SPA foster youth and alumni advisory board were shared. Participants discussed whether having three alumni and three current students was sufficient to reflect the diversity of SPA experiences. Rites of Passage committed to have the advisory board application finalized by June 26th ahead of the SPA graduation ceremony on June 28th.

Discuss communication strategy: This agenda item was not discussed.

4. *Two-Year Action Plan, Q1 2025:*

Identify lead partners for facilitation trainings: See agenda item 3. Google interest form was created.

5. *Announcements*

Lived Expert Compensation Model Work Group: Both LEAP and the Child and Family Well-Being Work Group had a strategy involving a compensation model for lived experts. A sub work group on this topic is being created with participants from all three work groups. Participants who are interested in being on that sub work group were asked to identify themselves in the chat.

Chair's remarks: Simone Hidds-Monroe shared that this will be her last meeting as chair of LEAP. At the next CFSAB meeting in July, she will be resigning her seat. Numerous participants expressed interest in the chair and seat. Per the CFSAB by-laws, the chair of the work group needs to be a board member. Participants were encouraged to apply for the SPA seat and to let Torrey know when they do so she can make sure the applications get to the right office.

Participants praised the work and dedication Simone has had for lived experts.

6. *Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, August 15, 2024, 6:00pm*



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Child and Family Well-Being Work Group

A work group that uses a multi-level approach to identifying and removing systemic barriers in the community for children, youth, and families prior to and/or during involvement with our child welfare and juvenile justice systems. This multilevel approach includes *primary prevention* that is directed at the general population to prevent maltreatment before it occurs; *secondary prevention* that is targeted to individuals or families in which maltreatment is more likely; and *tertiary prevention* that is targeted toward families in which maltreatment has already occurred. This work group looks through the lens of prevention and intervention supports that children, youth, and families may need to live healthy, safe, and thriving lives. This workgroup is responsible for developing a two-year action plan that includes goals, measurable outcomes, and a timeline that supports prevention and intervention efforts. The action plan includes a focus on racial and economic disparities, access to resources, equity, diversity, and inclusion and alignment with the advisory board's mission.

Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Co-Chairs: Aimee Zeitz and Stephanie Gioia-Beckman

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 17 participants, Board Members: Stephanie Ortega, Aimee Zeitz, Stephanie Gioia-Beckman, Shea Prophet, Steven Gachette, and Diana Venegas.

1. *Welcome and Introductions:* Aimee Zeitz and Stephanie Gioia-Beckman welcomed participants to the meeting. Each participant introduced themselves and what brought them to the meeting.

2. *Two-Year Action Plan:*

- a. *Present final action plan and timeline.* The action plan was presented to the full CFSAB in April. Each of the goals and strategies were reviewed along with the timeline.
- b. *Identify partners and next steps for Q4 efforts:* The efforts for this quarter are Strategies 1.1 Conduct map & gap analysis of current services, and 2.1 Develop, adopt, and implement compensation model for lived expertise involvement across work groups.

For Strategy 1.1, attendees identified additional partners (e.g. San Diego Regional Center, Family Justice Center), and areas for evaluation (trafficking, juvenile justice involvement). The need for a framework was also addressed, attendees mentioned a couple models during the conversation and will email Torrey other possible frameworks.

For Strategy 2.1, attendees identified if they were interested in being part of a group working on a compensation model. That group will meet outside of the work group meeting to develop the model.

3. Date of Next Meeting – June 12, 2024

4. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Co-Chairs: Aimee Zeitz and Stephanie Gioia-Beckman

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 22 participants, Board Members: Stephanie Gioia-Backman, Shea Prophet, Stephanie Ortega, Joseph Robinson, and Alethea Arguilez.

1. *Welcome and Introductions:* Each participant introduced themselves and shared what brought them to the meeting.
2. *Two-Year Action Plan: Q4 2024 strategies*
 - *W2.1 Develop, adopt, and implement a compensation model for project specific activities to be used consistently across all work groups.*
 - i. *Update on sub-group meeting*
A sub-group of attendees identified at the last work group meeting in May met on June 5th to discuss developing a compensation model for lived experts. As the compensation model will be used by all three work groups, the next step will be to identify interested persons from the other two work groups. Considerations discussed at the June 5th meeting were:
 - Principles for determining who gets compensated and for what.
 - Rate scale (focus group, survey, program design) and avoiding competition.

- Method of compensation: gift card, check, honorarium/stipend, employment.
 - Meeting logistics: time of day, in-person or remote, childcare, food, location.
 - Value of compensation, value of volunteerism.
 - Support for lived experts.
- *W1.1 Conduct a map and gap analysis to evaluate the availability, effectiveness, and accessibility of current services.*
 - i. Discussion of frameworks*

Attendees discussed possible frameworks. The social ecology model and the social determinants of health frameworks were presented. Attendees suggested looking at the ecological framework as well as the framework developed by First5 California. Attendees reiterated the importance of including when participation in child welfare is an eligibility criterion. Attendees discussed map and gap analyses that have been done or are in process.
 - ii. Solidify partner engagement strategy*

Attendees reviewed the partner list made at the last meeting.

3. *Date of Next Meeting – August 21, 2024 11am-12:30pm*

4. *Adjournment*



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Placement & Resource Family Support Work Group

A workgroup that focuses its efforts on best and promising practices for all out of home placement options for children and youth in San Diego County. These options include Polinsky Children's Center, resource family homes, kinship foster care, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), San Pasqual Academy, or any other out of home placement setting. This workgroup is responsible for a two-year action plan that includes goals, measurable outcomes, and a timeline that supports out of home placements. The action plan includes a focus on racial disparities, equity, diversity, and inclusion and alignment with the advisory board's mission.

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024

Time: 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Co-Chairs: Jeff Wiemann and Patty Boles

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 16 attendees, Board Members: Patty Boles, Jeff Wiemann, and Stephanie Ortega.

1. *Welcome and Introductions:* Jeff Wiemann and Patty Boles welcomed participants to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. *Two-Year Action Plan:*

Present final action plan and timeline: Jeff went over the three goals for the work group: Implement the Kin-First Model, Increase Placement Options for Youth in Specific Populations, and Increase Retention, Support, and Services for Caregivers.

Identify partner and next steps for goals: Some clarifications were made to possible partners for the goals. The goal we are working on during this quarter is Implement the Kin-First Model, specifically the strategy around transition plans. Jeff shared a draft transition plan document and asked for feedback by the next work group meeting. Quality Parenting Initiative has done some work on transition planning and warm handoffs that may be useful. Grossmont College's training includes information on the triad relationship (youth-parent-caregiver). Attendees suggested a training about the triad be developed specifically for kin placements.

The next strategy we will work on has to do with sharing knowledge with caregivers. The first step will be reviewing what information caregivers are allowed to have under current policies and laws. The CFWB staff members who will work on this endeavor were identified.

As part of the third goal, Increase Retention, Support, and Services for Caregivers, Jeff asked attendees to email Torrey any and all surveys that have been conducted with caregivers. Those surveys will be posted to the shared drive. The intention is to use those surveys to identify the supports and needs of caregivers.

3. *Date of Next Meeting – June 27, 2024 at 11:00 am*



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Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024

Time: 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Co-Chairs: Jeff Wiemann and Patty Boles

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 27 attendees, Board Members: Patty Boles, Jeff Wiemann, Erin Gospodarec, Beth Ploesch, Joseph Robinson, Adam Reed, and Stephanie Ortega.

1. *Welcome and Introductions:* Jeff Wiemann welcomed participants to the meeting and went over the agenda.
2. *Two-Year Action Plan:*
 - *Kin Transition Plans: feedback on draft shared in May, update on next steps (sharing).* Lisa Castagnola and Aisha Pope shared an updated transition plan draft. The first eleven pages of the document include the different areas the transition plan should address, school, medical, etc., and some considerations to be discussed in each area. The results of those discussions are then entered into the actual transition plan on pages twelve and thirteen. They decided to have one document for all ages rather than separate documents understanding that results in some questions not being applicable to all.

The document has been shared with the Lived Expert Action Partners Work Group who will be providing feedback.

CFWB has a child transition form they use per policy. Other group members did not know there was a transition plan form and did not recall having seen one. The form is from 2006 and includes the child's likes, dislikes, and routines. There is also a needs and services form that is required to be given to caregivers. That form includes any

medications or upcoming appointments. There are other current forms such as placement agreements and health passports that social workers are required to complete. There was a question of which, if any, of those documents are provided to the court and attorneys. The court will need less detailed information than the new caregiver. Do we want different forms? Can all of these forms be combined into one or two?

The group then discussed when the transition plan would be completed and by whom. In the original idea, the transition plans would be completed by behavioral health therapists, however, not all children in care have therapists. The idea is that the transition plan is always up to date. We will want to make sure social workers can handle the volume if they are the ones responsible. Adoption workers are good at scaling up changes in placement. Should placement changes be a unit? There is a transition planning group working with QPI.

Next steps: create a sub work group and meet before the next work group meeting in August. Lisa and Aisha will co-chair this sub work group.

- *Solidify sub group for Strategy P3.1: Clarify state and county policies to understand the roadblocks to giving caregiver families information they need to provide the best care for the child and identify tools to navigate the system.*

Next, we discussed the information sharing strategy. There was debate on whether attorneys should be involved, and at what stage. County counsel will need to be consulted as they will be the ones advising CFWB staff. Jessica Heldman and Laura Neal will co-chair this sub work group.

3. *Announcements:*

- *Lived Expert Compensation Model Work Group*

Torrey described the work the Child and Family Well-Being Work Group is leading on developing a compensation model for lived experts. As that work will extend to all three work groups, members of each work group were asked if they are interested in being part of the sub work group.

4. *Date of Next Meeting – August 22, 2024 at 11:00 am*