

CCASSC Agenda Virtual Meeting  
December 17, 2020  
1-3 PM

Present:

Katie Baker	Linda Belch	Tracey Belton
Maria Bermudez	Sanja Bugay	Yvonnia Brown
Marcus Crawford	Devin Drake	David Foster
Shannan Gadd	John Garcia	Tricia Gonzalez
Jamie Johnson	Amy Krueger	Mitzi Lowe
Donna Lutz	Deborah Martinez	Danny Morris
Delfino Neira	Anita Ortiz	Terri Perisan
Courtney Sallam	Denise Seabert	Kristi Snell
Cindy Uetz	Elise Vigil	Chris Woods
Kelly Woodard	Martha Vungkhanching	

I. **Child Welfare Updates** – Regional Chairs, Christine Huber/Courtney Sallam

- A. **Non-Minor Dependent (NMD) Visits** – Christine Huber & Maria Bermudez. Flexibility from the state regarding visits ended on July 1, 2020; unless someone has Covid19. If this is the case, then a video conference can be used. The State is now looking at flexibility tied to the statewide tiered system. The courts, Chief Justice, are not planning to issue orders. Counties can request what they think they need to their court. Staffing has been impacted along with Cal/OSHA, Covid-19 leaves, and needs with families and children. The region has been having monthly meetings and this helps with learning from each other.
- B. **Courts** - are concerned with quality visits, reasonable services, and reunification. In the region, services are being done virtually from: mental health, doctors' visits, and schools. Most regional counties are in the Purple tier. Caseloads are growing. This is presenting challenges for communities tied to the level of care that can be provided.

Regional Child Welfare met today. The group discussed how cases are more complex and the caseloads have grown. The complexity of investigations along with the caseload increases has presented challenges. In September, increase; and there has been an increase in emotional neglect case.

Fresno - Tricia Gonzalez. In March, their courts closed for six weeks; they did not have detention hearings. The department dealt with the backlog six weeks later. When they came back, they did phone and then video hearings. Adoptions has been impacted. They did however have an Adoption Day. The county is now having a push back tied to reasonable services. The department is not getting minute orders etc. timely from the court.

Tulare – Courtney Sallam. Their County has weekly “strike calls”. This helps them keep up with office closures, positive tests results and immediate needs. This has been a very high stress time. Child Safety is the most important issue. Their Emergency Response program is still making face-to-face contacts. The stress with staff is tied in part to Covid-19 exposures and staff departures.

Covid-19 Exposures and leaves has impacted the region. The group discussed the fact that their staff are first responders. They are seeking advocacy from CCASSC to support having the Social Workers treated as “first responders” in this Covid-19 environment.

Kings – Sanja Bugay said she testified at the Senate Hearing on November 18, 2020. Bobby Cagle also testified at the hearing. This helped with advocacy for Social Workers. Sanja asked the group its thoughts on advocacy issues for Child Welfare. Most “asks” have been around flexibility and guidance on traveling out of state. The state provided some guidance; however, in other areas it has taken too long to obtain guidance and answers. Maria suggest one area for advocacy could be Non-Minor Dependents because the AB12 extension ends June 2021. These are vulnerable young people. These youth are facing homelessness amongst other struggles. They are not prepared for the extension to end. Delfino Neira advised the Deputies have a good list. Concern voiced that the State Director of Social Services may think things are “rosy”. Help is needed to ensure the impacts

San Benito - Tracy Belton. Public Health in their county had to submit a PH plan to the state. Their county should have started yesterday. Sub tiers for social workers. Social workers should be higher on list. Martha Vungkhanching advised that the State of Washington has made Social Workers, essential workers.

Action: Courtney Sallam and Christine Huber to put a list of issues together

- C. **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)** – Casey and Andrea Sobrado had three sessions. Second session will focus on the State plan/feedback; due in 30 days. It was agreed sequentially the information would first be

released first to the counties then communities. Child and Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC) helped with the big picture discussion. The coordination with Child Abuse Prevention; counties can opt in or not. State communication is not solid. The regional group is not clear what the plan is for what the counties must implement by October 2021. Concern expressed that they do not want to scramble when this is released.

Christine Huber discussed the services piece. It is her understanding that Medi-Cal will continue to fund; and if not, then child welfare funding can be used. Cal-Aim got sidelined with COVID. Billing has been an issue. Danny

marginalized populations expected to be impacted. What will Cal-Aim take care of remains the question? Amy Krueger said that at a December 16 meeting, they were trying to figure out how to figure out how expenditures/funding would work. Definition of candidacy will be the same as Voluntary Family Maintenance; caseloads will grow. They advocated for a CBO to assist. Another discussion included moving 4b to 4e funding and candidacy.

Action. Courtney Sallam and Christine Huber develop a list of needs and dates ASAP.

- D. **Core Practice Model & Racial Equity** – Courtney Sallam, CFPIC is partnering with them on Racial Equity. The focus has included how and when to have these discussions. The focus has also included approaches for feeling competent when engaged in racial equity discussions. Currently, they are working on next steps. Courtney advised that they are taking a deeper dive on how to move forward. The region discussed barriers and challenges. They recognize a lot is happening right now. What do next steps need to be? Anita Ortiz, Tulare, said pre Covid-19, this was a hot topic; this needs to be a focus again. How do we ensure, agencies are not racist? What should be done next at the management and above levels. Sanja Bugay shared that she does not want to lose this this moment.

Kathy Harwell discussed the need to be intentional. County Directors spent a significant amount of time of this topic; goal is not to become siloed in the approach to change. “Covid-19 cannot be the reason for not moving forward”. She also said this should not just be the focus in child welfare. CWDA supports this work. Kathy also advised that UC Davis is opening an anti-racist practice series.

- II. **Budget/ Membership** – David Foster & Kelly Woodard. Discussion of the reserve. How does the group want to use funds in the reserve? A Regional

approach was discussed tied to Racial Equity. Devin suggested a CCASSC work group would be convened, avoiding overlapping work in this area. The CWDA conference person was excellent. The following people agreed to be on the work group: Andrea Sobrado, Anita Ortiz & Marcus Crawford, Deborah Martinez.

Action: Kelly Woodard will convene a work group to discuss/develop a proposal for the use of the reserve.

**Membership/Dues** – Kelly Woodard. List of dues was provided. The membership agreed to dues at the 2020 level for calendar year 2021. Invoices will be sent out.

**Chair & Vice Chair** – Kelly Woodard. Deborah Martinez is the Chair for calendar year 2021. A Vice Chair needs to be selected. Sanja Bugay was suggested/volunteered to be the Vice Chair for 2021.

**Upcoming Meetings** – Kelly Woodard. Discussion of upcoming meetings.

through April 2021. The Directors want extra time built into January 2021 for Director only discussion. They also agreed to monthly meetings through April 2021. Further, the group wanted in person meetings calendared for the second half of 2021. Kelly will send out two doodle polls for zoom meetings through April, and in person meetings for balance of the calendar year.

Action: Kelly Woodard send out two doodle polls for Calendar year 2021.

- III. Fiscal – CFL 20/21-38. Sanja Bugay will investigate this item and get back to the group.
- IV. **Family Urgent Response System** – Sanja Bugay added this to the agenda. First deadline January 15, 2021. You can ask for an extension. Baljit Hundal, Mariposa, was looking at a regional approach with other small counties, near them. After a couple of calls, regional did not appear to work, so now looking at a standalone county. Madera is planning on doing the program internally. You must have a plan in place regardless of if you got an extension. Merced

Adjourn