

CCASSC Minutes
February 3, 2022
9-12 Zoom Call

Present:

Kate Acosta	Maria Aguirre	Linda Belch	Maria Bermudez
Yvonnia Brown	Sanja Bugay	Devin Drake	David Foster
Shirley Garoutte	Kathy Harwell	Christine Huber	Donna Lutz
Deborah Martinez	Danny Morris	Joshua Mercier	Anita Ortiz
Norma Pulido	Akkia Pride Polk	Courtney Sallam	Juli Sims
Amanda Sharp	Chris Woods	Kelly Woodard	Jenell Thompson
Cindy Uetz			

1. Introductions
2. Child Welfare Power Point – Courtney Sallam and Christine Huber
 - A. Training Needs – David Foster

Training needs packet provided to all participants in earlier email. David is interested in adopting a similar model for our region. Specifically, a Training Advisory Board to help focus on regional and County needs. The Bay area has done quite a bit with data collection. Marcus Crawford did an assessment for CCASSC. The power point shows the data that can be produced annually; it was created out of frustration. It can do a retrospective analysis, SIP Analysis. It all begins with a regular group of managers and system analysis. David asked if this is doable? He would like a small group of 2-3 leaders to begin forming a regional group. CWDA regional has been helpful. The approach can be applied to adults, self-sufficiency etc. Kings felt it would be valuable and support the region. Fresno agreed it would help frame what new trainings are needed. Danny is the representative for the valley, he sees the benefits for the Bay Area. The approach would bolster regional strength.

Action - Fresno, Kern, Madera, and Tulare, volunteered for a small group. If anyone else is interested, let David Foster know.

- B. FFPSA Part I. Akkia Pride Polk & Christine Huber

Reforms - Federal Child Welfare Funding under Title IVE of Social Security. Hopeful there is funding to prevent children from entering system. Must be evidenced based; trauma informed, in home, parent skill-based programs. States must develop a 5-year plan. California submitted a plan in 2021. In Fall 2021, ACF gave feedback, they wanted more specificity; to include continuous quality improvement and outcomes. CDSS is working on revisions for their resubmittal. State has said they will share for review at the end of January or February 2022; nothing received yet. Discussion included State should contract and Regional Training Academies were suggested. Outstanding issue: where is ongoing training? California identified 10 well supported evidence-based programs in the plan submitted to

ACF i.e.: Brief Strategic Therapy, Family Check Up; Functional Family Therapy, Healthy Family America, Homebuilders, Motivation Interviewing, Multi-Systematic Therapy, Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child interaction Therapy.

Eligibility discussed, voluntary, or court ordered, probation, guardianship at risk, Indian at risk, siblings in foster care, homeless, trafficked, domestic abuse, children whose care takers experience substance abuse disorder.

Funding, through Family First Transition Act, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Family First Prevention State Block Grant. Decision to opt in has not occurred yet. Kern county has had presentations/discussions with evidenced based programs. What is the fidelity of these programs? San Joaquin started community conversations that included the Child Abuse Prevention Council. They hired a facilitator. Stake holder meeting is next month. What will final plan look like? Fresno is contracting services out to do prevention. Theirs is for Cal Works, some of the same families. Doing through neighborhood resource centers. Linda Belch brought up the County workload which will need to be considered.

Part 4, Danny Morris some STRTP's are having trouble with pay roll, shutting down. Sara Rodgers has been asked for a list of STRPTs that meet IMD requirements.

C. Capacity Building Funding, Linda Belch & Danny Morris

Child Specific Fund – ACL 21-119. County must request approval for specific youth. State requiring justification. CWDA is asking for ability to use as allocation, rather than approval. IFC's as one, individual placements, community-based treatment.

Capacity Building Funds ACL 21-143. Requires county self-evaluation. AB2063 leadership team, submit in advance, then submit proposal for how you will use allocation. One time funding for five years.

Children's Crises Continuum Pilot – ACL 21-119. RFP, complete process. One time funding to treat youth with high acuity needs.

High Need Youth – Open County Share Time:

1. Higher hospitalizations for children with Mental health needs. Less psych beds available. Minimal resources in the Central Valley.
2. Youth coming in from Probation. Start off low level crime, came to child welfare, moved to higher level crimes.
3. Opportunity to partner with the schools.
4. Kern and San Joaquin both have shelters. Report came out yesterday about phasing out shelters. Concern includes safety issues.
5. Relationship with the state has been occurring; trust is an issue in both directions. Anticipate more meetings.
6. State is placing capacity issues at the local level. "The

State is placing capacity issue at the local level; they need to be a partner.”

7. COVID positive – challenge with placements especially with this last surge.
8. Fresno recommendation- training on presenting needs of child and how to care for youth. Currently using a facility to house children that we are struggling with placement. (Over 24 hours). State appears open for Fresno to open a shelter, hard to find contractor to provide services, staffing, liability, and challenging times.
9. State sends report – licensed beds vs. capacity do not match. Counties have lots of questions about the report. Do not know the impact of staffing and IMD. STRTP youth at high end competing with youth at low end for placements. State maintains that placements is not their job. It is the county job. CWDA and CDSS convening small group to develop relationships/communication/expectations. One meeting has happened so far. Anticipate 2-3 more meetings.
10. Placement options are being place solely on the County. Due to realignment, majority funded county and federal, minimal state funds. Discussion that there is a need for high level of care above current STRTP.

Action Items

1. Revisit Rates – look at rate structure for STRTPs. Bring back to CWDA.
2. Request a commonality of needs report from the State.
3. Review ability to place children in locked facilities. Community Treatment Facilities, more are needed. Currently only 68 beds.
4. Review braiding of funding – AB 2083, with Regional Centers, Education, and Mental Health.
5. Review Impacts of Presumptive transfers as it has had a financial impact on Mental Health for counties that have high level of placements from other counties.
6. Review liability with CDSS on counties when they have youth in the office/hotel. Need guidance and assistance when there is not a placement option.
7. Discussion, as a region would we support going together with a regional plan to get a regional placement facility through RFP. Recommend getting together ad a subgroup to evaluate opportunity. Flush out what would make the most sense. Fresno, Kern, Kings, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, expressed interest. Check with CWDA on legislative efforts.

D. Homeless – Projects, Work in the Region – Linda Belch

Tulare - Superagency. Homeless team is under Behavior health. Focus is on different areas of programs that offer homeless funds. Utilize braided funding. Child welfare, agreed to meet with homeless lead to serve child welfare and community at large. Focus to include identify a process for referrals and improve communication.

San Luis Obispo – Housing Support Project, Temporary Assistance, Bringing Families Home. Opted in foster youth vouchers. Biggest barrier is funding for case management, long term.

Stanislaus - has a division for homelessness. Coordinated with Planning. They facilitate the Continuum of Care. Collaborative applicant, COC, HDAP, HSP, APS and CPS funded programs. They are revisioning how to utilize low barrier shelter. They have a navigation center. Bringing groups together to improve outreach. Standardization. Migrant housing used in the winter for families. Shelter services for COVID exposure, Home Key through City of Modesto, permanent supportive housing through Home Key, integration with CalAIM – respite, sobering centers; working with Health Plans.

Kings- has a housing division. They have HSP, Bringing Families Home, Room Key, etc. They are a Whole Person Care County; Board just approved three agreements. THP plus Is included. Getting the other players involved is complex. They are interested in lessons learned from others. Kings has two home key projects. They created a funding matrix to understand and use as a tool to track/on how they are using funding.

Kern – Contracts the service.

Mariposa – moved to having a housing team. They have a contractor helping. They have a pending Home Key application. They are spending time working on infrastructure, roads, power lines etc. Without these, it makes it difficult to develop/build housing. They applied for HDAP; have not heard back. The plan was to have grants to develop additional

Merced – they have a Housing and Homeless Services Branch. Collaborating on vouchers. Provide outreach and engagement, affordable housing, Operation Safe Harbor – COVID, No Place like Home, Home Key, and Veterans. Rescue Mission for respite from the hospital. Working on expanding housing vouchers; goal to provide an addition 205 units.

Madera – chose not to pursue CalAIM housing. Waiting on Bringing Families Home. Created a flow chart of all homeless programs. This is helpful for staff.

Fresno, Home Key managed by an analyst. They purchased two motels, one for CalWORKS. The other for the community. Working well. Community helping families.

Action: Donna Lutz will send a resource list to the group.

E. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Work in the Region – Courtney Sallam

Tulare – Child Welfare. CCTA is working with manager level. Started with CPM; mini sessions tied to open and honest dialogue. Six mini sessions over time. Over zoom it is being built right now. Kate Acosta is working with them. They are having a conversation with their HR people, tied to conscious bias.

San Joaquin – having a training with Margaret Jackson, to do two different trainings. Racial Sobriety, Courageous conversations. They will be in person. Small groups. Explore what they need to do moving forward. Child Welfare, Disproportionality, and engaging fathers, part of SIP. They want to implement a cultural broker program. They are looking at RFPs to determine how language can be included in contracts.

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Stanislaus, DEI is included in the SIP. Looking at data analysis and develop plans. Engage groups in the community from neighborhood to nonprofit. Collecting data now. Combining with FFPSA Part 1 outreach to look at and gather information about needs in community. Working with CFPIC to provide consultation and leadership in agency.

Madera – looking at system, Dad's involvement, disproportionality, support children of colors in system, improving relationships with tribes. Staffing and who is promoting. Kings – they are still working on data, understanding their data. Not clear the kind of data, is it the correct data, across systems. Still navigating.

Kings – keeping conversation going. Working on data collections. Still looking to identify data need and data sets. Is it captured, is it accurate is it a mandatory field for all programs?