

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 revising 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 additional 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?

CCASSC – Directors Meeting

February 4, 2022

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Zoom

Present:

Maria Aguirre	Sanja Bugay	Yvonna Brown
Devin Drake	David Foster	Shirley Garoutte
Kathy Harwell	Donna Lutz	Deborah Martinez
Joshua Mercier	Amanda Sharp	Cindy Uetz
Chris Woods		

- I. Opening - Sanja Bugay, Chair
- II. Budget - CCASSC Focus area April 28, 2022 - What areas would you like the group to focus on. - Sanja Bugay

The Valley group does not have a chair, they rotate. Sanja Bugay and Kelly Woodard will reach out to Fiscal to get input for the April 28, 2022, agenda.

Director's suggestions for April 28, 2022, topics:

- State Budget Updates - share /highlight concerns.
- Title IV E - Enhanced funding expiring, local impact - discount rate and fiscal perspective.
- Funding on Homeless Programs. Sharing mechanisms to track funding and lessons learned. How are counties tracking on the administrative claim? How are counties claiming/tracking staff time?
- Methods to track CWS Funding - Matrix sharing
- Prevention dollar spending in CWS and FFPSA - County sharing on how counties will utilize funding and what counties are doing on prevention, including ARPA supplemental funding (prevention)
- Fiscal Meeting Structure: Valley 13 - Ask for Fiscal to present on structure/ meeting agenda's etc. Directors may want to review with the committee their Chair/Co-Chair structure like other committees (meet quarterly - who ever hosts chairs the meeting) Group selects reps for FAADs.
- Tracking of training dollars,
- Opportunities to do joint training - "academy for fiscal" - need something more specific than UC Davis fiscal training - cross collaboration amongst valley counties- note Terry just retired from Santa Barbara - David volunteered to reach out to her.

- Time Study tools - making sure time study applying dollars to specific programs in Self Sufficiency - getting more challenging in claim
- Emergency Response - when isn't it an emergency anymore? How are counties covering expenses? (EOC/Shelters/etc.)
- New CFL that came out tied to claiming buildings (lease/lease back) getting implemented this year - CWDA has some tools - impact for especially counties who lease buildings - impact current use of space etc. Change came out in 2017 now being implemented. Impact is cash flow.

III. Title IVE Follow-up – Sanja Bugay

Email from Sanja late last night: White paper on Title IVE discount rate - sent to Tom Joseph; he edited. Tom sent info on annual impact nationally in 2007 - 1.6 billion annually if problem was to be completely fixed. Price tag is large. Is there a way to do this over 9 years? In 2019 bills introduced to try to fix this issue. In Los Angeles Bobby Cagle worked on this effort as well. Does not make sense to link to AFDC. Sanja has scheduled meetings with Board members to discuss direct shift of cost from Federal to County. Sanja put together data from six Valley Counties (Kings, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Stanislaus) Non fed rates: Kings - 34%, Fresno 44%, Kern 43%, Madera 39%, Mariposa 49%, Stanislaus 41% Work with Fiscal across counties to ensure knowledge and application is consistent.

Recommendations update income level to more current factor - instead of using AFDC rates. Or continuing FMAP enhancement- currently getting 56.2% - funding at enhanced rate. Phase out of Waiver Counties - big impact related to cost impact on counties.

Action- update numbers for Central Valley. Develop some develop some ideas for a fix and talking points for legislators.

Next steps:

Continue efforts to gather data and create Central Valley average. Sanja will resend spreadsheet with instructions on from where to gather data.

Need a couple of volunteers to create a one page talking point document from the larger document. Sanja will resend the overview document. Maria also has a document that she will send. Amanda, Devin, and Deborah volunteered to help with the messaging document with Sanja. Want to get a draft completed by end of next week.

Sanja will also share Federal and State legislative platform. This will be added to April Fiscal Discussion.

IV. Training/online eligibility training/collaboration within region – Amanda Sharp, Sanja Bugay

Self-Sufficiency - lots of vacancies and new staff. Lots of errors, and more people in the lobby; same day, in person.

Induction Training Challenges: These questions asked:

How can we get staff through training?

How can we effectively deliver training due to volume and need?

Is there a way to do base line training?

How do we manage supply chain?

Is there a way to capitalize on regional structure and leverage CalSAWS materials?

We have found that there is not sufficient or enough training materials through CalSAWS. Also, virtual training is not producing as well-trained staff as in person training did. Challenge - there is just not enough capacity to train all the staff needed.

Kern County - Has online curriculum (currently have 145 vacancies) - have capacity for three training classes. Problem, they have training but cannot find people to hire. Will share virtual training curriculum and process. Kern has a trainee position.

Madera - concerned about 1 year probation period with breaking training up and ability to do full job.

Merced – Looking at reevaluating pay grade etc. Application pool is minimal. Doing hybrid training. Trainees in office now instead of teleworking.

San Joaquin - All in person training. Chris is working to get rid of EW 1 and just have an EW series. Confusing for candidates and hard to recruit at pay grade.

San Luis Obispo - Never stopped hiring. They keep trying to figure out ways to do training. Looking at how can give little bit of training, get out online - get some hands on, then bring back and give more training.

Stanislaus - We can look at ways to regionalize certain types of Trainings? How do we also develop a community of trainers along with support?

Next steps:

Leverage Kern materials and look to see for quick wins and long term - Mandy and Sanja look to identify specific things we can accomplish over the next year. Utilize educational partners to see how can assist - there are experts that convert in person training to virtual training - trainers still have hours of work to get this in place. Mandy will work with the group, CCTA will assist. CalSAWS will be included as well. Send Mandy names for work group.

V. Covid – current issues/challenges. Anita Ortiz

Counties hit hard with latest outbreak. Staffing/training/ hiring etc.

Kern has not yet opened its lobbies. Still triaging; not doing in person interviews.

Customers go to a room and use phone to talk with worker.

All other county lobbies are open.

Kings – They have banker windows; capacity expansion to minimize number of individuals in lobby. They also have phones outside.

VI. Upcoming meetings/trigger points for moving to virtual – Sanja Bugay

Trigger: Contractual issues - discuss with Chair

Sea Venture requires 30-day cancellation, if within 30 days must pay for all rooms.

April 28 & 29, 2022 – Focus Budget - Plan in person - need deadline of March 14 – go/no-go.

September 29 & 30 – Focus Adults

December 15 & 16 – Focus Self Sufficiency

Adding another meeting for the year

Everyone good with meeting schedule.