

CCASSC Minutes
December 12, 2024
San Luis Obispo County Office of Education
3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo
Focus Topic – Child Welfare

Present

Reuban Addo	Dalvin Baker	Tracey Belton
Maria Bermudez	Pollie Bith-Melander	Yvonnia Brown
Sanja Bugay	Christine Chung-Camacho	
Katherine Coggin	Monica Conner	Jeff Davis
Devin Drake	Sydney Forga	David Foster
Christine Huber	Nancy Kuster	Donna Lutz
Nickie Matus	Deborah Martinez	Francena Martinez
Josh Mercier	Lito Morillo	Courtney Mummert
Celeste Ortiz	Wendy Osikafo	Akkia Pride-Polk
Socorro Saavedra	Amanda Weeks	Kelly Woodard
Christopher Woods	Kim Smith	Cindy Uetz

1. Welcome & Introductions – Chair Tracey Belton

2. Student Stipend Presentations

Courtney Mummert MSW – Building Bridges and Strengthening Support: Establishing an LGBTQ Multidisciplinary Team In Stanislaus County. Works for Stanislaus in Child Welfare. Project sent via email. Discussion on training for foster parents. Discussion LGBTQ/MDT discussed. They have 3 organizations that are participating. Discussion of bringing regional resources together. Yvonnia suggested working with her team. The data is national. Data collection is very difficult with this community. Fresno discussed the need for more training. Discussed core training needing this. David, It is in core, with so many other areas, it needs more to do Justice. Courtney and coworker created a training.

Morgan Brass MSW – Dynamics of Resource Parent Biological Partnerships Focus on Family Reunification Rates. Presentation is being rescheduled.

3. CANS – Implementation & Strategies Monica Connor and Kim Smith

Discussion CANS Assessment Tools/Overview. The alignment was discussed as a concern. Additional packet provided at the meeting.

Working on how to link to rate structure. The impact of turnover. They provided the scoring piece CANS 50. If MH is not using IP CANS there will be difficulty inputting CANS in CARES live. CANS is now replacing the child's SDM strength and needs assessment.

CANS time frames discussed. More detail in the packet. There is an ACL for IP CANS. Rate reform requirements included in the document as well. Discussion of the Draft ACLs. Shift to rate structure and IP CANS and fidelity. They are hearing they are going to start auditing; possibly next Summer. Discussion of allocation being wrapped into

CFT. CANs time frames discussed. It was suggested that we read the draft ACLs on permanent rate structure and New Foster Care Tiered Rate Structure. Discussed a survey they sent out; discussed where counties are...San Joaquin has contractor enter information. Not sure rates can be inputted by contractor. Kern trained all staff six years ago and staff turnover has them training again. They are Looking at using CBOs.

4. Cal-Aim- Maria Bermudez & Nancy Kuster

Discussion opportunity for Improved Cares. Risks data Security and Privacy; Risk Work Force capacity. Worries and challenges: Lack of Clarity, signing the MOU, quality improvement, dispute resolution, and compliance; children who enter care with MCP are switched to FFS services; resolution has not been found in MEDs; Continuity of health care; and the deadline to sign MOU by years end. Medical rights holder and the plan were discussed.

5. Wrap Around Services – Jeff Davis & Group Discussion

History of Wrap Around Services started in 1997. Jeff Davis worked in the program from the beginning. Historically they would do a wrap plan yearly. 2017 Wrap and STRPT rate started being the same. Discussed Stanislaus County wrap program and history. They have had Family maintenance, AAP Slots, non EPSDT slots. I started working with Child Welfare, Probation and Behavioral health. Walked through how leadership structure worked.

Discussion on how financially wrap works. Discussed After Care Wrap. Power Point has detail of the above. Wrap funds go into reinvestment fund. They work with Aspira net. Decisions on how to spend money are done yearly with the three departments. Family Slots, Kinship center, Resource Parent Mentors are covered with Reinvestment funds. Funding is flexible. Rate system information in packet is not correct. They are considering community wrap around. Does not intersect with QI.

6. FFA Insurance Crisis- Maria Bermudez

AB246 Liability of FFA, can be held liable for damages caused by their negligence. Worries: insurance is cost prohibitive. Some insurance requires a pre-Occurrence Policy. These are more expensive. Some may not be able to sustain higher cost of insurance. FFAs may close or limit placements they will take. Insurance is limiting coverage of homes with pools. FFAs provide auxiliary services. These contracts may be lost. Counties are having to change their insurance limits on MOUs/contract. Solutions. A work group is being coordinated by CDSS. Increasing FFA Administration rates. Providing an incentive rate.

7. Presumptive Transfers with STRTP's- Akkia Pride-Polk

Established in 2015 tied to AB 1299. Modified in 2011, tied to transfer requirement for youth in certain out-of-county placements. July 2024 changed when a child or youth in foster care is admitted to a STRTP outside their county of original jurisdiction. The responsibility to provide or arrange and pay for SMHS, shall remain with the mental health plan in the county of jurisdiction unless a specified exception applies. Concern

child welfare has limited input. Barriers, STRTPS want a contract directly with county MHP. Single Fee Agreement or contract directly with STRTP; some youth have been placed at STRTPS pending the “30” day notice. These youth do not receive services until contract signed. Possible Solutions Revert back to prior Presumptive Transfer; Have Uniform MOUs; Encourage MHPs to do single fee agreements with STRTP provides. Other suggestions discussed.

8. Group Discussion on Fiscal Allocations- All

Excellence in Family Finding Allocation- how is it be used.

San Luis Obispo, they have one full time Social Worker assigned. They help with their assist case load. Focus on long term and congregate care cases. They help facilitate permanent connections. They pay for this activity. Madera has one social worker assigned. Looking at a program assistant to help in this area. They have seen family connections. They opted to handle it internally. They added Probation to their agreement. Mariposa has a half position dedicated. Kern is looking at using CASA to expand family finding. San Joaquin has a CBO to do family finding; along with their staff. They also are doing a cultural broker program. Concern tied to access to CWS and entry into their system discussed as a concern. Fresno has expanded family findings to 4 which include clerical support. Ventura has been identified as a model family finding county. Tracking is a recent discussion. San Benito advised they were told they cannot use Bente. CARES sent them a letter that said they can do a little bit of work.

FFPSA Block Funding.

Parent Child Interactive Therapy is being implemented in Madera. Working towards sustainability and billable Medical site. Looking at a family Spirit program. Kern, uses for differential response, protecting our young feather, for tribal youth. Worked with providers of Black Infant Health project; working on disparity. They have expanded. San Joaquin – their focus is African American and Latino children. High and very high-risk youth. They have a voluntary Family Maintenance worker tied to preventative wrap around services. Contract started June 1, 2024; Parents by Choice and Victor.

Realignment going down – Kelly share with fiscal.

9. University Reports

Reuben Addo, PhD, California State University Fresno. Current Chair going on a Sabbatical. Helen Miltiades is working on a Certification Coach Program. Will allow students who graduate to work with youth on non-clinical interventions.

Pollie Bith Melander PhD, California State University Stanislaus. They are doing a feasibility study for a BA program. Also they are working on an expansion for the Stockton campus for MSW.

CCASSC Minutes

December 13, 2024

Sea Venture

100 Ocean View Ave

Pismo Beach CA 93449

Present:

Tracey Belton

Sanja Bugay

Sydney Forga

Donna Lutz

Lito Morillo

Kelly Woodard

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Christopher Woods

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Devin Drake

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Amanda Weeks

1. Roundtable Table Directors

- A. Cal Saws is a conflict for the CCASSC June 27, 2025, meeting. It was agreed the meeting would be moved to July 18, 2025, with reservations for the evening of July 17, 2025. The Sea Venture reserved the new dates.
- B. CWDA- New Executive Director Carlos Marquez III will be coming for February 28 CCASSC meeting; he can only attend Friday's meeting. Topics for discussion explored:
- C. Carlos Marquez, CWDA.
 - What is he seeing in Sacramento?
 - Budget changes mid- year?
 - Uniqueness of the Valley. Why is it unique?
 - Friday Vision moving forward, Carlos, getting us back on track.
 - CWDA Structure. Not clearly defined.
 - What the group would like to see strengthened.
 - What do you want CWDA to do for you:
 - Discuss of policy advocacy v. budget advocacy v. operationalizing programs. Priorities.
 - Relationships with CDSS, DHCS and any affiliate organizations.
 - Information sharing with counties/productive conversations. Need pre-meets Behavior Health. Better informed conversations.
 - How do we help him be successful?
 - Action: Kelly Woodard, pull together Director meeting to finish developing an agenda for February 28, 2025.
- D. Regional Group: discussion points for February 27, 2025.
 - LAO Report – Provide key points and impacts. What are key differences between the Governor's projections in January Budget?
 - Review January Budget and key differences Governor's projections in January budget.
 - Federal side, look at the federal report and provide any additional insight on federal side, review the report, and provide insight on how federal policies would impact California revenues and programs.
 - Farm Bill Reauthorization & reconciliation process
 - Action: Kelly Woodard will share these topics with the regional Fiscal Chairs.
- E. CACI – reconciliation.
Grievance review officers in Academy. The counties have an agreement with CCTA. Noticing reduction in hearings. Gomez vs. Saenz hearing trainings. CWS does not

save the CACI form, needs to be fixed. The perpetrator must be interviewed. Must ensure that it had been mailed, logged in.

Stanislaus was part of first Audit. Some referrals are old and practices have changed.

2. Managed Care MOU – Group

Carry-over from last meeting. Stanislaus on a standstill with Mou. Data sharing is the issue. Working with Baljit. Kings, they have not signed the MOU. They still have concerns. San Benito, only one plan, making progress. Possibly one county has signed the MOU.

3. Update University – David Foster

Dr. Kara Zografos has been appointed the new Dean of the College of Health and Human Services Department.

Child Welfare training has two relatively new staff. They know CWS/CMA. They train CARES.

Jennifer Buchholz is the new Director of the Bay Area Academy.

Donna Lutz Is now CCTA Training Academy Director, Christine Camacho is now Director over Adults. David Foster is now the Executive Director. This aligns with other academies CDSS has been moving a lot of duties to training academies and CFPIC. Workload has grown.

4. Cal-WISE – Overview/Update – Donna Lutz

Moving to Cal Academies. Donna discussed a power point. Includes Cal Academies, Cal Eval, Cal IV-E, CACWT. Compared to the former CalSWEC. How will this approach input of information and receive information? Alison Book is meeting with many entities to include Universities and CWDA. Each of the areas get pass through IVE dollars. This sits with Dave McDowell. This is where academies receive dollars. CACWT belongs to CDSS, statewide. Academies meet at least monthly with the State.

5. Suggested Spring Leadership Topics discussed as follows:

Data Systems Integration

Building Frameworks

Navigating Political Spheres

CalAIM – Capitalization

Workforce Development Part 2

How to implement policy

Quality Supervision and Accountability

Self-Care

Using AI to Support work

Breaking down the silos.

Linkages

The group discussed bringing leadership to a big training. Child Welfare, Adult and Self Sufficiency together. The group discussed How to implement policy; Focus Implementation Science with an evaluation approach. The reserve could possibly be used for this.

6. Space Options Close to Sea Venture & CCASSC Promotional Items – Donna Lutz & Kelly Woodard Discussion on the Hilton Garden space. It can meet the needs. They want a price for Verspera, and The Community Center in Arroyo Grande. It was agreed we would try to make arrangements Hilton Garden for next meeting. Amanda will pursue.
7. Discussion on Special Projects for CCASSC – Kelly Woodard
See above Item 5.

Adjourn

Upcoming meetings:

February 27 & 28, 2025– Fiscal

April 24, 25, 2025 – Adult Focus

July 18, 2025 – (spending night July 17, 2025).

September 18, 19, 2025 – Self Sufficiency Focus

November 20 & 21, 2025 – Child Welfare Focus.