



The San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Council

Minutes: January 23, 2023

Call to Order: 10:50 a.m.

Present: Melissa Guariglia (Family Connections), Donovan Fones (CFS), Gina Quiney (BOS), Susan Swope (JJDP), Jessica Gonzalez (Star Vista), Araceli Garcia (Star Vista), Karen Pisani (First 5), Michael Coutts (Star Vista), Carine Verduco (CFS), Allison Bettner (PHN), Louise Robaina (BHRS)

Public Comment/Brown Act – No members of the public requested to comment. The group also voted on a Resolution to meet in January virtually due to COVID 19. Susan so moved; Donovan seconded. The resolution passed. The January meeting will be held using Zoom.

Introductions –

Members introduced themselves.

Prevention Planning –

Carine reported that the County now has a consultant – Social Change Partners. A team of three will be working directly with SMCO. The state has extended the due date for CCP – it is now due at the end of July. The SIP has been submitted to the state. Right now the process is to leverage lots of information and to that end there will be a Cross Sector Collaboration meeting this week. This group will meet on a monthly basis. They will be planning to set the ground work for what is to come in the next 3-5 years.

Community Update -

Jane reported that in-person CAPC meetings will begin with the March meeting which will be on March 13, 2023. The location for the meetings is 400 Harbor Blvd., Belmont, Building B, Bali and Belize rooms. The last Zoom CAPC meeting will be on February 27, 2023. There will be a presentation by Mina Fisher on Eating Disorders.

Gina introduced herself – she is the aide for the new Board of Supervisors' liaison assigned to CAPC, Noelia Corzo. She said children's issues are important to the Supervisor and to her staff. It is hoped the supervisor will be able to attend a meeting and introduce herself to the group.

Donovan said that his program continues to be hiring new staff for a couple of programs. He shared the link for the application with the group.

Karen said First 5 is in the middle of a five-year strategic plan – the first three years have been completed and now they are deciding what to do over the next two years. The agency hopes to have recommendations for this process in the next month or so.

Susan said that discussions are continuing with SAM TRANS to restore bus service to the Juvenile Court building and the Youth Services Center. One of the issues that is impacting the situation is a shortage of drivers who have passed the background check. Peer Point is getting closer to starting its pilot program at M-A. This program should eventually be available to any child in danger of being expelled from school.

Michael reported that the program is continuing to monitor who comes into the program and the wait list spaces. Star Vista is offering Acceptance and Commitment training. There was a low-key but very positive Christmas party for the youth in December at one of the facilities.

Melissa said she started with Family Connections just before the holidays. To celebrate, 100% of families received Target gift cards, pajamas for the kids and toys. Home visiting services are

now being held in the home for the first time since COVID. The agency has hired a mental health consultant and they are looking to partner with Palo Alto University to kick off parenting services in March.

Allison reported that her unit is hiring nurses, and working on quality care measures. Nurses are being certified on Safe Care which is an 18-hour parenting education program. The goal is to have the whole unit certified.

Araceli reported that Star Vista has partnered with a Social Worker from the County who is in charge of housing vouchers. Youth exiting from Star Vista programs can qualify for vouchers which can last for 3-5 years. She is encouraging youth to apply. The state has approved an extension to THP housing for all students. The agency is determining how this will affect the Step Down rental assistance program. Programs for Host Housing and Scattered Housing are taking local kids. There is a wait list for out of county kids.

Louise said her team has been going through changes with lots of hiring to be done. They are working on a program to comply with Pathways to Well-Being, and seeking a consultant to help with that. BHRS is doing some school visiting with kids but also sees kids in the home or in clinics when CFS can provide transportation.

Jessica is working on helping youth who are having trouble applying for jobs. San Mateo Community College district is now tuition-free and parking is free as well.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

NEXT MEETING – February 27, 2023

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