

# STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

March 2, 2013

## MINUTES

**Present:** Anderson, Yolanda; Baca, Marty; Bellecy, Florence; Brannan, Bruce; Daidone, Richard; Endres, Arthur; Foti, Jo, Fry, John, Gasaway, Julie, Giaquinto, Laura; Harrell, Nancy; Ichikawa, Dennis; Kimball, Peggy; Koch, Connie; Levitan, Lori; Lundy, Thelma; McQueary, William; Manring, Gene; Matthews, Tiffany; Miller, Marilyn; Nelson, Andrea; Romanski, David; Smith, Linda; Stephens-Cortum, Jen; Tellez, Tom; Trask, Warren; VanAuker, Valerie; Willis, Olinda.

**Absent/Excused:** Bigos-Wheeler, Carol; Crawford, Barbara; Dansby, Karen; Goldberg, Carolyn; Hanson, Paul; Johnson, Ann; Kirschbaum, Ellen; Molever, Nancy; Sterling, JT; Terrill, Marc.

**Staff Present:** Bednarek, Linda; Devlin, Karla; Foster, Natalie; Gilreath, Karen; Gray, Charles; Guizzetti, Sandy; Lauth-Owens, Caroline; Lazere, Steve; Olbert, Belinda; Vance, Shasta.

**Local Board Members Present:** Burnell, Susan.

**Jen Stephens-Cortum called meeting to order at 12:42 p.m.**

### I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

**Motion:** To approve minutes from September 8, 2012, as is. **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Brannan, Bruce, **Seconded by:** Endres, Arthur.  
Motion passed unanimously.

### II. INTRODUCTIONS:

Staff: Shasta Vance-Program Specialist, Karla Devlin-Program Specialist, Belinda Olbert-Program Specialist, Karen Gilreath-Supervisor, Linda Bednarek-Supervisor, Charles Gray-Supervisor

At-Large Member: Bill McQueary

**Chair Announcements:** Jen announced that her family has relocated to California and that this is her last meeting. She thanked the State Board for supporting her and for all that she learned while serving on the Board.

Caroline thanked Jen for her service over the years.

### III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:

The slate of potential officers was presented to the Board. There were enough interested candidates from each district to fill the statutory requirements. The Board will need to approve

the two candidates from District 1, one candidate from District 2, and two candidates from any District, except I and II.

**Motion:** To approve the two representative from District I, Tiffany Matthews-Manuel and Linda Smith; one representative from District II, Warren Trask; two representatives from any District but I and II, Marty Baca and Jo Foti; two representatives from any District, Bruce Brannan and Connie Koch. **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Tom Tellez, **Seconded by:** Linda Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Executive Committee:** Jen Stephens-Cortum delivered the following report: The committee recognized the commitment the staff and volunteers have to the Foster Care Review Board. The number of children in care continues to rise. Each committee needs to work with the other committees because there is a lot of overlap. The staff has been very thoughtful and strategic in the way they are rolling out the State Board's new initiatives programs. The committee approved three attendance waivers. The committee is analyzing the way they look at continuing education (training credits) for members on a leave of absence or attendance waiver. The committee also discussed the potential of professional and personal events that may qualify for FCRB training credit.
- B. Advocacy Committee:** Florence Bellecy delivered the following report: The committee looked at many of their goals that they formulated in 2012. Some of those goals were: to provide a new mission statement for Advocacy, improve communications between local board state board members and FCRB at the state level, motivate members to advocate more on behalf of the children, improve information regarding advocacy on the legislative front and in the direction the committee plans to go. Today they looked at the current Advocacy committee mission statement, which states; *The mission of the FCRB Advocacy Committee is to create positive social change through legislative and administrative advocacy efforts.* The committee will begin work on a more focused mission statement. The committee also discussed what FCRB is currently doing to develop a community resource website. Steve Lazere is working with CASA to develop that site. Initially, the target audience will be staff and volunteers. Advocacy will provide feedback to Steve regarding links that should appear on the website. Steve is also looking into training for new case managers coming into CPS to help them learn more about FCRB. Finding 10 has been streamlined and is now with FCRB for feedback. The legislative session is running again and the Advocacy committee has developed an article that will be placed in the volunteer newsletter.
- C. Outreach Committee:** Linda Smith delivered the following report: The committee discussed and focused on the diversity plan that was created in 2009. Addressing the diversity plan is a 2012 state board goal, which will be readopted for 2013. They will be updating the diversity plan to include updated numbers within the plan, as well as the potential entities through which they can recruit volunteers for the program. In addition, the committee will seek to expand and update the diversity plan to include age, gender, socio-economic, and sexually orientation as part of the commitment to diversity. This effort is somewhat complicated by vacancies on boards, which creates

an immediate need. The committee will seek strategies to keep this from trumping the ability to diversify the boards. The committee will focus on the following: speaking to social work and family law classes at local colleges, speak with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, seek engagements on the Indian reservations communities, seek radio spots on Hispanic radio stations to recruit bilingual volunteers, and reach out to television. In Tucson, Sulphur Springs Electric Company may do an outreach for FCRB through their client distribution newsletter. Pima is opening an additional board and have current board members volunteering for six months to get it up and running. Steve did a presentation last November to AZ Serves, which is an outreach statewide to faith based communities. They have volunteers in every county throughout the state that can reach out and attract volunteers to whatever the cause may be. Sandy will be speaking to the person that provides that oversight in the Governor's office. 30 ways in 30 days generated the most application requests, around 200.

**D. Continuing Education Committee:** Art Endres delivered the following report: The mission of the committee is to enhance the credibility and effectiveness of the Foster Care Review Board members through education. During their committee meeting they discussed training opportunities, 2012 board goals, and volunteer mentoring. Guidelines and protocols should go to new board members, even before they attend New Board Member Orientation, so that they are aware of what is expected and what is going on. The committee would like for the state board chairman and vice chair to assist in monitoring new board members. They would like to have guidelines presented to chairman and vice chair. The committee would also like guidelines printed on the board packets as to who or who may not be in attendance and what kind of protocol the board has. The CEC feels there should be an Ad Hoc committee appointed for board assessment evaluation and an Ad Hoc committee for volunteer application reassessment.

## **V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:**

**Chair Nominations:** Nominations were taken from the floor (Linda Smith and Connie Koch). After committee vote, Connie Koch has been nominated as the Chair.

**Vice Chair Nominations:** Nominations were taken from the floor (Tiffany Matthews-Manual and Linda Smith). After committee vote, Tiffany Matthews-Manual has been nominated as the Vice Chair.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS: none**

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS: none**

## **VIII. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Steve Lazere delivered the following report:

The Phoenix office is fully staffed (Norah Rosenbaum joined FCRB in January). Tucson lost an administrative support staff member (Julie Benner) and they are currently working on recruiting for that position.

FCRB has 7,000 active cases under review, involving about 12,000 children. Those numbers have been holding steady for the last 5-6 months. CPS has over 14,000 children in foster care and the numbers continue to rise. There has been approximately a 35% increase in the number of kids in care from 2008-2012. CPS is making many efforts to reduce the number of kids in care and they're focusing more on prevention. In the whole system, including kids in in-home care, there are over 16,000 kids involved in the dependency system. Last year, FCRB reviewed over 13,000 cases, involving approximately 22,500 kids.

Recently, FCRB developed a relationship with Maximus to help attract volunteers in the Phoenix area. Maximus has a contract with the State of Arizona to provide employment services for individuals on public assistance. FCRB had a person start in December who has been invaluable to the FCRB program. They are hoping to add a second volunteer from Maximus. The company that does the same kind of work in Tucson is called ResCare, and FCRB staff has reached out to them to get volunteers in their office. Steve thanked all volunteers that have helped in the FCRB offices. Currently, Phoenix has two BSW students from ASU working in the program and are doing a great job. Both interns will be facilitating boards in the near future. Steve is proud to announce that we had almost a 150% increase in volunteer training compliance hours between June 1 and December 1. Special thanks to Sandy for sending out the challenge to make that happen and to all others for helping in this effort. Phoenix will host training on the public behavioral health services on March 11 and Tucson will host the same training on April 29. The training will be 1 ½ hours. In order not to exclude the rural areas, Steve will be reaching out to rural agencies to provide volunteer training in their areas. Gila boards have been transferred from Tucson to Phoenix in January. An all-staff (Phoenix and Tucson) meeting was held at the end of January, in Phoenix. During the meeting, staff had an opportunity to provide suggestions on what could be done to help increase efficiency and effectiveness. Steve spoke to the development of a web page within the FCRB website to provide helpful links (i.e., behavior health, advocacy, etc) for resources statewide. The CASA program is assisting him with this project. They will be forming a work group to provide new CPS Case Managers with FCRB guidelines. Steve attended a CPS Program Manager's meeting recently and CPS said they were very impressed with the number of volunteers that responded to the pilot case plan. They had more responses from FCRB members than anyone else.

## **IX. DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A budget request was submitted for FY 2014 requesting three additional staff for FCRB. The request made the Court's priority list and is being considered by the Legislature. Caroline acknowledged that the FCRB staff continually looks at ways they can do things differently to continue maintaining the case loads and meet statutory time frames. She asked that board members do the same and let staff know if they have any ideas on how to improve and streamline processes. In March, FCRB will be doing a pilot program with one board in Yavapai County. During the review, the PS will take notes, as they currently do; however, they will no longer be doing the read back. The PS will no longer be wordsmithing what each person says. This will save some time during the review, but even more time when the PS returns to the office. There will be logistics to work out. Steve will be going up with Paula, the PS assigned to the board, in March to observe the new process. They will pilot this process for several months, make necessary revisions, and then roll it out to a second board. The group discussed some of the pros and cons of the pilot. The Crossover Youth program is moving forward and in the process of entering into a contract with Georgetown University. Georgetown will provide technical assistance for the next year and help in developing a Crossover Youth Practice Model. The practice model will be used to help the court address the needs of the cross over population

by ensuring the two systems (delinquency and dependency) work together. They are looking at three counties as possible pilot sites and will know by March 7<sup>th</sup> who the pilot sites will be. Parent representation is another effort being addressed. Several years ago they undertook a project to develop guidelines for child representation in dependency cases. The result of that project was a court rule and administrative order. Currently, they don't anticipate the work being done for parent representation to become a court rule or order, but more along the lines of best practices and guidelines. As they move forward with the guidelines, they will be coming back to the state board for feedback.

**X. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no public respondents.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:** Motion to end the meeting, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Smith, Linda, Motion passed unanimously.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:13pm**

**Future meeting dates:**

- *Saturday, June 1, 2013 Executive Committee only (telephonically)*
- *Saturday, September 7, 2013 - State Board Meeting (in person)*
- *Saturday, December 7, 2013 Executive Committee only (telephonically)*