

STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

September 8, 2012

MINUTES

Roll Call.

Present: Anderson, Yolanda, Baca, Marty, Bellecy, Florence, Brannan, Bruce, Crawford, Barbara, Daidone, Richard, Endres, Arthur, Foti, Jo, Fry, John, Giaquinto, Laura, Goldberg, Carolyn, Hanson, Paul, Harrell, Nancy, Ichikawa, Dennis, Ishmael, Susan, Kimball, Peggy, Kirschbaum, Ellen, Koch, Connie, Levitan, Lori, Manring, Gene, Matthews, Tiffany, Miller, Marilyn, Molever, Nancy, Nelson, Andrea, Romanski, David, Stephens-Cortum, Jen, Sterling, JT, Tellez, Tom, Terrill, Marc, Trask, Warren, Willis, Olinda.

Excused: Bigos-Wheeler, Carol, Dansby, Karen, Deneka, John, Gasaway, Julie, Johnson, Ann, Morris, Karen, Smith, Linda, VanAuker, Valerie.

Absent: Crawford, Barbara. Lundy, Thelma

Staff Present: Caroline Lutt-Owens, Sandy Guizzetti, Linda Bednarek, Charles Gray, Natalie Foster, Karen Gilreath.

Jen Stephens-Cortum called meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: Approve Minutes from March 3, 2012. **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Bellecy, Florence, **Seconded by** Tellez, Tom.
Motion passed unanimously.

II. INTRODUCTIONS:

New Board Member introductions: Yolanda Anderson (Cochise) and Mary Baca (Pinal).

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Executive Committee: Jen Stephens-Cortum delivered the Executive Committee Report. There are a record number of children coming into care and Jen is amazed and pleased in what the FCRB staff has accomplished as these numbers keep increasing. Two attendance waivers were approved by the Executive Committee. Jen called for a motion to approve the state board goals as they stand.

Motion: Accept 2012 State Board Goals, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Bellecy, Florence, **Seconded by** Terrill, Marc.

Motion passed unanimously

B. Advocacy Committee:

Florence Bellecy delivered the Advocacy Committee report. The committee received an update from Linda Bednarek regarding legislative bills in 2012. The Governor signed four of the twenty-one bills the AOC was tracking that were of interest to the FCRB. The bills were: HB 2249 Child Protective Oversight Committee, SB 1008 Child Fatality Review Team, SB 1100 Adoption; Visitation Pending Final Decree and SB 1128 Family Adoptions; Social Studies; Requirements.

The committee will begin sending updated bill tracking lists to board members through their monthly packets. This will assist board members in tracking bills.

The committee had a demonstration on how to get into ALIS (AZ Legislative Information System). They will now create a “how to” guide that will be shared with board members, in the event they want to use ALIS. ALIS is an easy way for people to research various bills and track them as they move through the House and the Senate. The system also allows people to send emails to their respective legislators.

The committee is also looking at the resources that FCRB has available through their website/communications with local board members. The committee is trying to determine whether or not resources need to be pulled together so local board members can begin to develop an understanding how the legislative process works.

The committee discussed Finding 10. Finding 10 is a finding that evaluates service gaps and system problems. The committee has been looking at this Finding during several meetings. At the last committee meeting they decided to develop an Ad hoc committee that could go into more depth reviewing the number of elements in Findings 10. During the Ad Hoc committee meeting they came up with a recommendation on the per elements basis and made some basic decisions and moved it forward to FCRB for their review. The committee found that there were a number of elements that they believed could either be moved into a different finding, combined or omitted. Finally, the committee decided to look at their mission statement to consider what the future goals of Advocacy Committee should be. Currently their goals are aligned with the Executive Committee. The committee will continue to look at different ways to advocate for children. Board members have agreed to look at the issues of foster parents and placements. They would like to begin recruitment initiatives in that area. The committee decided to pull together a subcommittee to discuss this further.

C. Community Outreach Committee:

John Fry delivered the Community Outreach Committee update. The Phoenix office continues to work towards filling vacancies in Maricopa County. The PS who was assigned to support the Removal Review Program has been reassigned to support the activities associated with processing potential and new volunteers; specifically, the mailing of the applications and scheduling observations for prospective applicants. This change should result in the FCRB moving applicants onto boards quicker and maintaining more contact with the volunteers. The Tucson office may be adding a couple boards that will require additional volunteers. Currently there are 64 boards in Maricopa, 10 of which are Reviews without Appearance Boards. There are currently only four vacancies on these boards. Of the 54 regular boards in Maricopa County, there are only 15 vacancies. The Diversity Plan, which is a statewide goal, is in the process of being mailed to committee members so that it can be used to further define the methods and organizations that can be outreached in an effort to improve the diversity of our boards. This will be further explored during the committee's conference call in October.

D. Continuing Education Committee:

Paul Hanson delivered the Continuing Education Committee update. Due to the departure of Bruce Johnson, the FCRB website is not completely up to date. The committee is going to run a trial rollout in Tucson on the board self-assessment form. The committee has been focusing on getting people off paper packets and on to electronic packets. The good news is less than 12 people are still getting paper packets. The committee is still striving to get as much into the electronic packets in a text oriented format versus a bit format. The fingerprint process has been delayed by DPS from approximately 30 days to approximately 60 days. Because of the delay, some prospective volunteers were getting frustrated by the length of time it was taking to get through the application process. In early August a new training flyer was included in board members packets. Paper reviews are incorporating a new CPS data questionnaire which is sent out in the notification for placements for those cases that are reviews without appearances. The reviews without appearances are already established in Maricopa, Navajo and Yavapai. The reviews are being held on stable adoption cases. Only five or ten of the cases, out of the 450 cases came back as problematic. The board can complete approximately 17 cases in two hours. These reviews have also been done telephonically or by video conferencing.

The committee is still in the process of developing an introduction to foster care video. They want the video to be approximately five minutes or less.

IV. OLD BUSINESS: No old business discussed

- V. NEW BUSINESS:** John Fry expressed concern about handling cases that are part of a police investigation. A reminder to the group is that board members are not an

investigative group. They should only be considering the information presented to them and not using public access sites to gain additional information. We will reiterate this information in the volunteer newsletter.

VI. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

Sandy Guizzetti delivered the Program Manager Report:

Volunteer Acknowledgement:

FCRB has been fortunate to have 46 volunteers come into the Phoenix and Tucson offices to provide office assistance. Since mid June, those 46 volunteers have come into the office 101 times and donated 386 hours. These volunteers are going to be acknowledged in the volunteer newsletter.

Statistical update:

From the end of March to the end of July, there has been an increase in the system of almost 1110 children statewide; that equates to 11 boards. The only counties that have not been hit by significant growth are Apache, Coconino, Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Greenlee. These counties still have higher caseloads than normal, but they have not dealt with the same explosive growth as all the other counties.

Reviews without Appearances:

Staff is working to ensure that questionnaires specific to those stable adoption cases are being sent to case managers and placements so that the boards can get good and timely information since they will not have the dialogue opportunity. The group is confident that they are getting good quality reviews.

NBMO dates are updated on the FCRB website.

Jen thanked our State board members for their dedication and to pass that thank you along to their fellow board members.

VII. DIVISION/AOC REPORT:

Caroline Lault-Owens provided the following updates:

Staff updates:

FCRB is in the processing of recruiting for a FCRB Program Manager. Bruce Johnson left his position since the last time the State board met. Bruce not only facilitated some Boards, but also performed many of the DCATS functions. Since the system is an antiquated system, FCRB will not find someone to fill that position. The decision was made to downgrade that position to a PS III due to the caseload increase. Discussion is taking place regarding the possibility of spreading some of the DCATS and automation responsibilities to those who might be interested in learning how to perform certain tasks. An additional PS III position is open due to Michael Whetzel's

resignation in August. Due to the vacant positions the FCRB is currently experiencing, approval has been given to bring in two former PS III's, Lori Richart and Porscha Davis, to fill in as temps. In addition, FCRB secured funding for a new PS III and PS I position through grants. The new PS III is Belinda Olbert. The new PS I is Stephanie Ruelas, who came to FCRB from Court Improvement. Due to the continued increase in boards and adding an additional PS III position, there may be some opportunities to look at different options on how to handle/distribute boards.

In Tucson, Cheri Holgerson retired from her part-time position in late July. Doris Messinger retired 9 1/2 years ago and then came back to work at FCRB. She has now given official notice that she will retire again in November from her part-time position. We will be working to secure 1 fulltime position rather than filling two part-time positions. Finally, Maeve Robertson, PS III, is retiring September 2012. CASA hired Katie Mayer, Outreach and Marketing Specialist. A local news station is running a new campaign called 30 Days, 30 Ways to Help Your Committee, and Katie has submitted a write up for FCRB and CASA. FCRB has been notified that the station picked up Katie's write up for FCRB. Even though the news station is based in the Maricopa market, the article is written from a statewide prospective.

Georgetown follow-up:

Since the last meeting, the Arizona group submitted their application into the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare: Multi-System Integration Certificate Program for Public Sector Leaders and were accepted. The group attended the certificate program training in July, which focused on cross-over youth. As part of this program, the group is required to come up with a Capstone project that must be implemented in a year. Georgetown provides the group technical assistance throughout. The final project plan is due to Georgetown on September 21, 2012. Once the plan has been accepted by Georgetown the group can start the capstone project. The project is not yet solidified. However, the group is going to work on a financial mapping process. That will be a process that helps the group determine where all the funding streams are that impact kids that fall within both juvenile and delinquency systems. The second part is talking about possible blended funding and sees how the group can better coordinate the funding to support the cross-over population. Another piece of the project is a gap analysis. They will look at the system and talk about where the barriers are and where it's falling short. So phase one is setting the foundation and phase 2 is the implementation stage. The first major initiative under the capstone that the group is moving forward with will happen on September 28th. On September 28th, the group is putting on a one-day symposium that is going to focus on cross-over youth. The symposium is only open to stakeholders in state agencies. The morning session will be facilitated by a MSW from Nebraska who owns the Oscar Case Study, which is a case study of a young man who crossed over both delinquency and dependency. She will walk the group through that case study and discuss what went wrong in that system. In the afternoon, a consultant who is currently working with DES is going to take the case study that was worked on in the morning session and talk about what the system in Arizona should look like. No decisions are being made

during this symposium; its focus will be about discussions. Caroline extended an invitation to the group.

Jen has asked the board to consider working on bringing more diversity to the board. Sandy requested that if anyone knows of any speaking engagements that the board members could attend regarding diversity to please let FCRB know.

VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no public respondents.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn meeting, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Levitan, Lori.
Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40pm

The next State Board meeting is March 2, 2013.