

STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

March 1, 2014

MINUTES

Roll Call.

Present: Anderson, Yolanda, Baca, Marty, Brannan, Bruce, Daidone, Richard, De La Cruz, Luis, Endres, Arthur, Gasaway, Julie, Goldberg, Carolyn, Harrell, Nancy, Ishmael, Susan, Johnson, Ann, Koch, Connie, Kolzow, Jakki, Lundy, Thelma, Matthews, Tiffany, Molever, Nancy, Smith, Linda, Sterling, JT, Tellez, Tom, Trask, Warren, VanAuker, Valerie.

Absent/Excused: Bigos-Wheeler, Carol, Burnell, Susan, Crawford, Barbara, Dansby, Karen, Foti, Jo, Giaquinto, Laura, Hanson, Paul, Kimball, Peggy, Kirschbaum, Ellen, McQueary, William, Miller, Marilyn, Romanski, David, Terrill, Marc, Willis, Olinda.

Staff Present: Bednarek, Linda, Christner, Kim, Foster, Natalie, Garcia, Georga, Gilreath, Karen, Guizzetti, Sandy, Lutt-Owens, Caroline, Lazere, Steve, Muniz, Kathy, Ortiz, Marta, Ruiz, Carla, Valdez, Valerie, Vance, Shasta.

Connie Koch called meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion: Approve to accept minutes from September 7, 2013, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Smith, Linda, **Seconded by** Brannan, Bruce.

Motion passed unanimously.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:

Executive Committee slate of officers was presented to the State Board for nomination:

Two representatives from District I (Maricopa)

JT Sterling

Linda Smith

One representative from District II (Pima)

Warren Trask

Two representatives from any District but I and II

Marty Baca

Jo Foti

Two representatives from any District

Bruce Brannan

Susan Burnell

Motion: To accept the 2014 Executive Committee slate of nominees, as proposed, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Smith, Linda, **Seconded by** Lundy, Thelma.
Motion passed unanimously.

No State Foster Care Review Board Chair election this year, as Connie's tenure is for two years. Chair elections will be held March 2015.

Vice Chair Nominations:

Vice Chair nominations were taken from the 2014 Executive Committee slate of officers. Ballots were passed out and voting took place. Bruce Brannan was chosen to be the 2014 State Foster Care Review Board Vice Chair.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Executive Committee: Presented by Caroline Lault-Owens

No attendance waivers were presented. The Executive Committee will be examining the way in which the state board and committees are structured. The current structure has been in existence for many years and the committee feels the need to determine if the current structure is still effective or if another structure may better serve the board's mission. A survey will be developed and sent to state board members for feedback. The results of the survey will be discussed during the Annual Strategic Planning Committee meeting. The remainder of the discussion from the Executive Committee meeting will be provided during the director's and program manager's report.

B. Advocacy Committee: Presented by Warren Trask (Chair)

The Advocacy Committee is focusing on developing a one page bullet point sheet on how to contact your legislator. The committee agreed that the primary focus of the committee is to advocate for daycare support. Daycare support for working mothers was eliminated from the budget several years ago. The committee will create a template letter that state board members can use to send to their legislator. As legislative and key issues are identified, the committee will utilize the newsletter to inform the rest of the board.

C. Outreach Committee: Presented by Linda Smith

In Maricopa County, the FCRB program is in the process of dividing up its recruitment and board staffing process amongst four program specialists. This will be completed by the end of March. The coming focus in Maricopa County will be to ensure that applicants are swiftly moved onto Boards in the coming months and that recruitment efforts are initiated to help staff the creation of four new boards that will begin meeting as early as April 2014. Some of the recruitment efforts in Maricopa County will include publishing an article about the FCRB in the newspaper, as well as placing flyers on Starbucks bulletin boards.

Efforts are also underway to meet some of the staffing needs of several rural counties that are facing expansion; the most notable from the Phoenix office's perspective is Mohave County. The Tucson office is challenged with their own caseload growth. They had a very successful TV interview recently, which generated more than 50 application requests.

The Committee is rededicating its efforts to update the FCRB Diversity plan. This will include efforts to wed demographic data from each county to demographic data pulled from the FCRB database. The committee will then identify specific recruitment entities in each county from which to pull potential volunteers to help diversify the Boards.

The committee is going to develop a survey for existing volunteers to help better assess what helps volunteers be able to meet their volunteer commitment and what options we may be able to consider to enhance their tenure.

The committee is also going to begin exploring and using existing computer technology to not only enhance its recruitment efforts (particularly in rural counties) but also to assist the committee with its monthly conference calls.

D. Continuing Education Committee: Presented by Sandy Guizzetti in Paul's absence

The committee reviewed and confirmed that the New Board Member Orientation (NBMO) training dates are on the website. They encourage state board members to talk about NBMO in their local boards and encourage FCRB volunteers to utilize the website. Most of the committee's time was spent talking about Goal 1: Volunteer Enrichment. CEC has had two subcommittees working on two factors under Goal 1. They created a temporary subcommittee to evaluate the volunteer application, interview, and orientation processes.

The second subcommittee has been working on the volunteer self-assessment process. The self-assessment will be piloted on one board in the Phoenix region and one board in the Tucson region. The boards chosen will have a member of the subcommittee who worked on the self-assessment process. There are three components of the self-assessment process: individual volunteer self-assessment, staff assessment, and board panel assessment.

The committee was very impressed with the Court Improvement training website.

Connie reminded the group to take the handout of Executive Committee members' job descriptions.

IV. OLD BUSINESS: None

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Connie thanked committee chairs for all the work they are doing. Court Improvement website is an excellent resource.

VI. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

Steve Lazere delivered the following report:

Staffing updates-

Tucson - Elis Castillo and Sharon Dalbey resigned. Marta Ortiz and Georga Garcia have filled the open PS III positions. Jenny Mackey filled the vacant administrative position. Tucson has one PS III vacancy and interviews were held this past week for that position

Phoenix - Lora Carucci PS III resigned.

Steve introduced the two new At-Large board members-Jakki Kolzow and Luis De La Cruz.

As of the end of February, FCRB serviced over 12,600 kids and approximately 7400 cases. Compared to approximately two years ago, we have seen around a 30% increase in the number of kids served. There are over 15,000 kids in foster care. FCRB is opening two more boards in Pima (27 & 28) and Maricopa County will be opening four new boards (55-58). Maricopa boards 55 & 56 were already opened but have not yet been staffed. FCRB has also seen increases in Mohave, Yuma, and Pinal County.

Sandy Guizzetti, along with a long time board member Luann Waldron, and Steve Rubin, Pima County Court Administrator, participated in an interview that appeared on TV in Pima County. They talked about the importance of the FCRB.

FCRB survey-

The survey was introduced the beginning of January for interested parties. The survey will continue through the end of June. Dr. Elizabeth Jacobs is tabulating results from the survey. The preliminary results (as of February 21) show that 600 people responded from a variety of interested parties. Eighty percent of first time attendees of a Foster Care Review Board meeting felt that the purpose of the program was clearly explained to them. Most respondents strongly agreed that FCRB members were courteous and that they listened to their comments and concerns. When asked what did the board do well, the number one answer was listened, followed by explained and clarified, questioned and probed, and being courteous and understanding. When responding to what the board can do to improve its review process, many wrote nothing or N/A, and some provided positive comments. One hundred sixty people responded to this question. The preliminary results shows the FCRB program is producing positive results. Steve will continue to update the state board regarding the survey results.

- ▶ Send link of Sandy's TV interview to state board members.

VII. DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Caroline Lantt-Owens delivered the following report:

Caroline informed the Board that the FCRB will soon undergo a 10-year Sunset Audit process, as the FCRB is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2015. A brief discussion took place regarding what a Sunset Audit entails.

Caroline was asked to provide a rundown of the committees that currently exist within CPS. The legislature established a CPS Oversight Committee a few years ago. The committee is tasked to get a report about CPS to the Governor. The next committee created was the Care Team, which was due to the 6000 cases that went uninvestigated. Not long ago, the Governor put out an Executive Order saying that they were pulling CPS out of DES and creating a new division called the Division of Child Safety and Family Services. In order for a new agency to operate, it needs to be established through statute. The CPS Reform Committee is working on logistics of creating the Division of Child Safety and Family Services. This committee is responsible for creating the bill that will establish this new agency. It is anticipated that the bill will be heard through a Special Session process.

CASA Update-

CASA of Arizona has been without a Program Manager since approximately late October. In addition, there has been some support staff turnover within the program. However, these changes have allowed the division to look at the direction of the CASA program and have some good discussions with the county CASA programs. Caroline is in the process of hiring a program manager.

DCSD is in the process of remodeling its office space. The CASA program will move its offices to the larger DCSD office space and be housed with FCRB and Court Improvement in Suite 128.

Cross Over Youth Project-

Efforts are moving forward in Maricopa. It has been about one year since they have started working on the Cross-Over Youth Practice Model and they are almost to the point of implementation. Grants have been provided in order to extend the contract with Georgetown University to continue the work that is being done in Maricopa. These grants have also allowed three new counties to join the program: Yavapai, Mohave, and Coconino. These counties will be developing practices models for their county's specific needs.

Human Trafficking-

Dave Byers tasked Caroline and Chad Campbell to look into human trafficking issues to see if there is a role for the court in this area. The court's main focus of this subject is the kids that are put into prostitution. Many of these children are picked up on the delinquency side and no one knows they are involved in human trafficking. When older children are picked up for child prostitution, they are brought in to the delinquency system and they are charge with that crime; however, no one is really looking at them as a victim. Arizona State University, through their School of Social Work, has an office on sex trafficking research. They are not only doing research on the topic, but they are working with some of the victims as well. The AOC has been working with this office. AOC held a one day symposium/training for service providers on the delinquency side to provide training and get input from them so they can assess the kids they have in their care. They can then provide non-identifying information so that the court can get a count of how many kids there are in the state getting services and who might be a victim. A quick survey was done with three provider facilities that asked them to guess how much of their population includes victims of human trafficking. The results showed that approximately 20% of their girls were victims and 10% of their boys were victims. Yavapai has a brand new detention facility that is not filled because detention numbers are going down. Yavapai is trying to figure out what else they can do with the facility. The idea was to possibly "soften" part of the facility for services to be provided to victims of human trafficking in Yavapai. At some point in time, the hope is to provide training on human trafficking for CASA and FCRB volunteers.

Legislation Updates-

SB 1365 passed Senate appropriations. The bill requires the FCRB State Board to establish one or more accountability boards. These boards would be developed to review complaints concerning the failure of the Department of Child Safety and Family Services and to comply with statutes or rules that are applicable to specific cases that arise under Title 8.

SB 1407 passed the Senate and is going to the House. This bill was introduced last year, but didn't go anywhere. This bills focus is on accelerated reviews for children three and under. The bill is meant to clarify the "when" piece. It also increases the age. It now says "a child who was under five at the time the dependency petition was filed". It also allows the court to apply the accelerated timeframe to any of that child's siblings.

Caroline briefly touched on three bills that will deal with child trafficking and prostitution. The bills identifies as victims, not delinquents.

VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no public respondents.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn at 12:48pm, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Smith, Linda.

Motion passed unanimously.

Future meeting dates:

- *Saturday, September 6, 2014 - State Board Meeting (in person)*
- *Saturday, December 6, 2014 Executive Committee only (telephonically)*