

Child Protective Services Oversight Committee

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 | 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Child Abuse Prevention Center

4700 Roseville Rd, North Highlands, CA 95660

MEMBERS

Present	Present	Present
Alexander, Roy	X Felion, Sister Jeanne	Saika, Tony
X Alvord, Karen	Ferreirae, Holly	X Zone, Sharon
X Bell, Michelle	X Johnston, Maynard (Chair)	
X Claar, Jane	X Maulfair, Virginia	
X Edison, Joni	X Ore, Chris	
X Powells-Mays, June (Counsel)		
X Nosce, Abigail (Staff)		

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:10 pm. Quorum was established.

Review Meeting Minutes

The May 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed. **Motion was made by Gini Maulfair, and seconded, to approve the May 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried.**

Award Presentation

Gina Roberson was presented an award from the CPS Oversight Committee in recognition of her many years of service as the previous Chairperson.

Brown Act Discussion

Sacramento County Supervising Deputy County Counsel June Powells-Mays gave a presentation about the Brown Act and answered questions from committee members.

- The Brown Act is California's open meetings law which provides legal minimums for transparency in the decision-making of public bodies. It applies to governing bodies (Board of Supervisors) as well as their subsidiary bodies (Children's Coalition) and their standing committees (CPS Oversight, Children's Trust Fund, Policy & Advocacy, and Executive Committees).
- For open meetings, the public has the right to:
 - Receive agenda materials and notice of meetings
 - Attend meetings
 - Record meetings (photography, film and audio included)
 - See how each member votes (no secret ballots)
 - Comment at meetings regarding items on the agenda before action is taken, and/or items off the agenda (provided it is within the body's jurisdiction) during the public comment section of the meeting.
- Pre-meetings (of members), post-meetings and serial meetings regarding items that are on an agenda or likely to be placed on a future agenda are prohibited. "Serial meetings" are a series of meetings conducted through direct communications, intermediaries or technological devices.
 - Discussing procedural issues is not prohibited.
 - Individual member discussions with constituents are permissible.

- Staff briefings where staff speak to individual board members about matters pending before the board are permissible to answer questions/provide information to members if staff does not communicate the comments of one member to the other members of the public body.
- Very limited circumstances in which closed non-public discussions may occur when discussions pertain to real property and labor negotiations, personnel actions, or legal advice from counsel regarding pending, potential or reasonably anticipated litigation.

Discussion: Continuum of Care Reform

Doug Johnson of California Alliance of Child and Family Services and David Ballard of Children's Receiving Home provided an introduction to California's Child Welfare Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).

- Senate Bill (SB) 1013 (approved in June, 2012) required that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) consult with a number of stakeholder organizations to develop recommendations for revisions to the State's current system serving youth in foster care.
 - CDSS produced a report in January 2015 outlining a series of inter-dependent recommendations to improve assessments of children and families in order to make more informed and appropriate initial placement decisions, emphasize home-based family care placements of children, appropriately support those placements with available services, change the goals for group home placements, and increase transparency and accountability for child outcomes.
 - These recommendations would shift the purpose of group homes away from providing long-term placement for foster youth, to providing short-term residential treatment as an intervention. It would also provide targeted training and support to families who provide foster care so they are better prepared to care for youth living with them.
- Assembly Bill (AB) 403 (approved in October, 2015), also known as the Stone Bill, adopted and created a timeline to implement the recommendations from CDSS' 2015 report.
- The premise is that children who must live apart from their biological parents do best when they are cared for in committed, nurturing family homes. The goal for all children in foster care is normalcy in development while establishing permanent life-long family relationships with people who prepare them for a successful transition into adulthood.
 - One of the goals of CCR is to reduce placements in group homes and instead place youth in home-based family care with specially trained "Resource Families".
 - Group homes would be transformed into Short-Term Residential Treatment Centers (STRTC) where youth who are not ready to live with families can receive short term, intensive treatment.
 - Statewide implementation of the Resource Family approval process will improve selection, training and support of families under a streamlined process for approving families (including relatives) seeking to care for a child in foster care, whether on an emergency, temporary or permanent basis. All families will receive training, services and supports by a Foster Family Agency (FFA).

Member Discussion - Issues of concern around implementation of CCR were discussed. Questions were addressed.

- The plan is to implement this effort on January 1, 2017. This does not allow much time for providers to apply/become approved for FFA and STRTC status by the implementation date.
- Agencies currently providing temporary/emergency shelter for children may have their operations impacted if they are unable to become certified by the deadline.
- There are not enough resources to serve the current need for foster placement/temporary shelter; this shift could exacerbate the situation – at least in the short-term.

- Unintended consequences could include: resistance to change, loss of provider agencies, and disincentive for providers to do the work.
- Implementation may be a challenge due to the high needs of the youth stepping down from group homes into home-based family care. It may be a challenge to recruit people to do the level of work needed – both in the service provider and Resource Family realms.
- Where does the funding for this reform come from?
 - The State has set aside General Fund dollars based on their cost estimates (new rates paid to providers will be higher than current rates). The theory is that over the long term, the costs will be around the same. It will cost more up front but the net cost should not be higher – and better outcomes for children and families would be achieved. Additional County General Fund dollars have also been requested.

CPS Deputy Director Michelle Callejas and/or her designee will be giving a presentation at the July 20, 2016 Children's Coalition (SCCC) General meeting on the work Sacramento County has been doing around this issue. Oversight Committee members were invited to attend the meeting to learn more information.

2015 Annual Report

- The SCCC Executive Committee reviewed and approved the final draft of the 2015 Annual Report at their June 6, 2016 meeting.
- The PowerPoint presentation attachment to the report was reviewed by the Oversight Committee and suggestions for changes were made. Dr. Johnston will finalize the presentation this week.
Motion was made by Sister Jeanne Felion, and seconded, to approve the 2015 Annual Report with attachment and to authorize Dr. Johnston to make additional changes to the PowerPoint presentation, as discussed. Motion carried.
- The report is scheduled to be presented at the July 26, 2016 Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting. [Post-meeting update: the presentation was rescheduled to the August 9, 2016 BOS meeting.] SCCC Chair Mel Knox will introduce Dr. Johnston who will give the presentation.
- Dr. Johnston, Sister Jeanne Felion, Roy Alexander, and Mel Knox will meet with the BOS Chiefs of Staff on July 14, 2016 to provide an overview of the report and highlight areas of particular interest.
- The Board Letter to the BOS is still being finalized. Abigail will email it to the group for review as soon as it is complete and will receive feedback. Dr. Johnston will approve the Board Letter after the committee has reviewed it and suggested changes have been made.

Discussion: SCCC Recommendations to BOS 6/14/16

The SCCC Policy & Advocacy Committee submitted a letter to the BOS identifying recommendations to consider for the FY16/17 budget, based on findings in their work on the SCCC 2016 Work Plan, so far.

- The letter summarized preliminary findings of gaps in services to youth and highlighted identified needs such as the development of services that are "youth friendly" so that they are more effective and appealing to youth; the need for existing services to become more known to the Sacramento community and for County line workers to be educated on the existence of these services so that referrals can be made; and the need to find ways the County can diversify funding for life skills services to youth so that more youth are eligible to receive the more intensive services available to only a select population.
 - Some of these issues were identified in the Oversight Committee's 2015 Annual Report, the Human Services Coordinating Counsel's State of the Safety Net Report (2014), as well as through members providing direct services to youth.
- A list of known-agencies providing life-skills services to Transition Age Youth (TAY) was developed by the SCCC. Agencies will be interviewed by SCCC members and invited to present at future SCCC

General Meetings so that the group may learn about and assess the landscape of life skills services available to TAY in Sacramento.

- The Policy & Advocacy Committee may write a follow-up letter to the BOS providing additional findings as more information is received.
- The Oversight Committee may follow up on the recommendations in their 2016 Annual Report.

Membership

- Three new members have joined the SCCC. All SCCC members are required to join a committee, so there is potential that one or more of them may consider joining the Oversight Committee. Dr. Johnston will try to recruit them.
- Joni Edison has decided to remain on the Oversight Committee as a representative from the Community-at-Large.
- Committee members were asked to think about people they know who may be interested in joining the Committee and the Children's Coalition.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm