



The San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Council

Minutes: August 17, 2020

Call to Order: 10.54 a.m.

Present: Donovan Fones (CFS), Susan Swope (JJC), Maria Del Rio (Star Vista), Alondra Salgado (Family Connections), Giannina Cadenas (Family Connections), Rosie Gutierrez (Family Connections), Tadora Mederos de Cardenas (Family Connections), Chris Perry (SVC).

Item: Public Comment/Brown Act – No members of the public requested to comment.

Introductions – Members introduced themselves.

Agency Check-in: Jane began by saying that for now CAPC will meet once a month; the next meeting is September 21st. The October meeting will be a moderated discussion of systemic racism in the Child Welfare System. The September meeting may be a presentation but if not it will be an agency check-in.

Donovan – The Department is integrating the Child Adolescent Needs Strengths (CANS) into the Child Family Team Meetings. This is a good tool to add more voice and choice for the families before the meetings. CANS allows people to meet earlier so everyone comes into the larger meeting on the same page. CFS is also hiring two more facilitators for the Team Meetings in addition to the three they already have. Psychiatric Social Workers are also doing a lot of work with families and providing direct clinical support.

Maria – CAPS is hosting parent workshops in partnership with the San Mateo County Libraries. They will be held on a monthly basis beginning this week with a Spanish Session followed by an English session. The first topic will be Parental Stress. Positive Discipline and Parenting Styles are future topics. The workshops are free and open to the public but registration is required. The link will be sent out to the CAPC email list.

Susan – The design for the Parent Guidebook should be finished this week and then it will be translated. There will be 2500 hard copies printed in English and 2500 in Spanish and the it will also be available online. Traditionally, the mission of the Commission has been inspections which are mandated by law but with the new 5-Year Strategic Plan the group is becoming more proactive and doing more on delinquency prevention.

Yadira – Family Connections' pre-school program (birth-5) and their Young Scholars program (kindergarten-5th grade) will be meeting virtually beginning September 4th. There is a Redwood City site and an East Menlo Park site and there are 20-25 families in each class. The programs offer family engagement, pediatrician and dental appointments and a clinician to support the families.

Giannina - The Young Scholars program is for kids who have completed the Family Connections pre-school program. During the pandemic it has been challenging to keep families learning and not to overwhelm them. Once school starts it will be easier to plan online activities to complement the school program.

Alondra – She is the Family Connections Home Visitor and just beginning with the agency and getting the program up and running. Visits will be virtual for now; she is making sure families have online

resources so they can get support.

Rosie – New to Family Connections and just getting started.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36

NEXT MEETING – September 21, 2020, 10:45-12:00

Meeting Adjourned: Time

Jane Smithson, CAPC Coordinator

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