



The San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Council

Minutes: June 15, 2020

Call to Order: 10.52

Present: LaRay Hilt (CASA), Randy Torrijos (Board of Supervisor Dave Pine), Aracely Vasquez (Star Vista), Maria Del Rio (Star Vista), Donovan Fones (CFS), Susan Swope (JJCC), Araceli Garcia (Star Vista), Brittney Reiser (CORA), Jeffrey Devers (Star Vista), Omar Sanchez (Family Connections), Sonia Cardenas (CASA), Chris Perry (SVC).

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

Introductions and Agency Check-in:

Susan – The handbook prepared by the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission is going before the Board of Supervisors for approval on 6/23 or 6/30. She is now working on truancy issues; it appears that the SARBS in the county are not working well.

Araceli Garcia – Still working online and engagement has been the biggest challenge.

LaRay – There has been one case assignment since CASA has been working virtually. Some CASA's have been able to have in-person visits with their kids – going on hikes, or for walks around the child's neighborhood.

Donovan – His unit is still working on the Child-Family Team Meetings. Staff has been certified in CANS (Child Adolescent Needs Strength Assessment) which is used as a tool for the meetings. This allows for much more team interaction prior to the meeting. Staff is also using the online CARES system although there have been issues with translation. Most staff is working virtually but some supervised visits are happening in person.

Jeffrey – New Star Vista Case Manager. This is his first CAPC meeting.

Brittney – CORA offices opened for limited services are June 1st. The Crisis Line team is in the office. There are very few in-person meetings with clients – just if something needs to be signed. Walk-ins are not encouraged but there is some flexibility if they occur. They are running lots of groups for kids and adults.

Randy – The Board met last Friday to start to move into late phase II in conformance with the state guidelines. The Board passed the resolution and it needs to be approved by the State. Initial budget hearings begin on 6/23 but the actual budget won't be arrived at until the Fall.

Omar – Family Connections had two car parades to celebrate the end of the school year. Registration for the Fall begins in July. There has been a need to carefully schedule in-person contacts because the office is small and it is difficult to socially distance.

Sonia – Virtual summer training for new CASA's begins in July. There are 15 volunteers ready to start including one Board member and two Staff. Twenty-six interviews are scheduled in the next couple of weeks so there could be a class of over 30.

Maria – The first group for the community will begin on June 24th. It is in Spanish. An English one may start in July. She will send flyers and the request for signatures for the Operational Agreement.

Presentation – Laray and Sonia gave a presentation on the CASA program. The history, mission and make-up of the agency were covered. This agency is so important to children and youth in San Mateo County and there is a waiting list for CASA's for kids. Sonia said that participation in today's training would qualify as a program orientation in case anyone would like to volunteer as a CASA.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00

NEXT MEETING – July 20, 2020, 10:45-12:00; This will be a Go To Meeting.

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