

RESOURCE FAMILY RESOURCE STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Facilitator:	Belinda Benassi	Time & Date: 8/21/13 from 2:00-4:00pm
Recorder:	Linda Belch and Sandra Jimenez	Location: San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services / Higuera Room: 115
Attendees:	See Pages 5 and 6 for partial list	

AGENDA ITEMS	COMMENTS / CONCLUSIONS / ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
Introductions	Belinda Benassi welcomed the group and addressed housekeeping announcements.	
Introductory Remarks	<p>Tracy Schiro welcomed the group and acknowledged that the stakeholders group had representatives from Department of Social Services, CDSS, County Probation, Family Care Network Inc, Aspiranet, Family Connections, Kinship Center, Cuesta College, and Foster Parents. In all over 40 people attended.</p> <p>She acknowledged what a phenomenal job San Luis Obispo County Social Workers were doing in placing children with Relatives or Extended Family Members at least 50% of the time or more before placing them in a FFA.</p> <p>Tracy provided some background information about the Melding Project that began in 2006, and how it has evolved into the current Resource Family Approval (RFA) process.</p>	
Resource Family Approvals	<p>Patrick Considine presented a power point overview of the Resource Family Approval process.</p> <p>The power point reviewed that all initial placements after October 1, 2013 will follow the new RFA process. There will no longer be a separate approval processes for Relative/ NREFM Homes, Licensed Homes, and Adoptive Homes. The Resource Family Approval Mandated by AB 340 was explained in which this process was implemented.</p> <p>The purpose behind this change is to eliminate duplication of efforts, and to raise the quality of homes available for children placed in an out of home care.</p> <p>See Power Point attached – Resource Family Approvals Stakeholders Meeting 8/21/13.</p>	

<p>RFA Application Timelines</p>	<p>Lynn Juel reviewed the draft form that will be part of the application process for RFA applicants. This form outlines all the requirements new RFA applicants must complete, and gives them a target timeline of what requirements should be completed in the first 30, 60 and 90 days after application.</p> <p>Lynn indicated this draft form will be further discussed in the Forms and Packets Work group.</p> <p>Action Item: Timeline will be further reviewed and revised in the Home Approval/ Home Study Work Group.</p>	<p>Home Approval/ Home Study Work Group</p>
<p>Brochures for RFA</p>	<p>Linda Klintworth presented two draft brochures developed to support RFA.</p> <p>One is geared toward new RFA applicants to give them a brief overview of what RFA requires.</p> <p>The other is geared toward currently approved homes to let them know how RFA affects them and to invite them to participate in RFA.</p> <p>Action Item: Brochures will be further reviewed and revised in the Renewal Process and the Home Approval/ Home Study Work Groups.</p> <p>Action Item: Probation requests assistance drafting a similar brochure tailored to their needs.</p>	<p>Renewal Work Group and Home Approval/ Home Study Work Group</p>
<p>Subcommittee Sign-ups</p>	<p>Sandra Pendell presented an overview of the Subcommittees/ Work Groups that are scheduled to meet in the upcoming weeks.</p> <p>These Subcommittees will be focusing on specific tasks to examine current processes, what changes RFA will require, and to make recommendations for how to proceed.</p> <p>Out of these Subcommittees, the implementation steering committee will approve changes to current Policy and Procedure to correlate with RFA.</p> <p>Sign up sheets were passed around and invitations will be sent to those who signed up for the individual committees. The handouts given have the location, times and dates for the following meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval Process/Home Study • Renewal Process • Forms and Packets • Complaints and Investigations <p>Action Item: Program Review Specialist (PRS) staff will contact those who signed up for the Subcommittees and invite them to the scheduled meetings. PRS staff will create agendas and be responsible for reporting to the implementation steering committee results from the subcommittee to which they are assigned.</p>	<p>The PRS assigned to Work Groups</p>

	<p>Action Item: A request was made to have call-in access available for partners who want to participate but may be located out of the area or otherwise unable to attend in person.</p>	
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Belinda Benassi spoke to the group and let everyone know that the Subcommittees/ Work Groups are scheduled and will be meeting in the next few weeks.</p> <p>After their recommendations are made, the Implementation Steering Committee will meet on September 4th to finalize the RFA Implementation Plan and with the CDSS's approval move forward towards Implementation on October 1st.</p> <p>A second Stakeholders Meeting will be held in September to provide an update on the progress made and discuss collaborative implementation and training efforts.</p> <p>Training to Staff and Community Partners will be rolled out at the end of September, and implementation goes live on October 1, 2013.</p>	
<p>Round Table Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Nibbio from Family Care Network Inc identified that providing Wraparound services to out of county children (either SLO children placed out of county or out of county children placed in SLO) has been an ongoing challenge. He indicated he hoped this could be addressed and alleviated in the new RFA guidelines. • April Franks asked about families who self identify as not wanting to the permanent plan, and whether they would still have to go through RFA. Tracy answered that yes, all families caring for children in out of home placement will have to go through RFA after October 1, 2013. This is because families often change their minds about being a permanency option, and we want to have everyone be permanency ready. • Teresa Owensby from California Department of Social Services (CDSS) stated that RFA includes the core Health and Safety requirements from Article 3 of the Foster Family Home Regulations (Title 22) and an assessment (psychosocial evaluation). • Holly Presenti-Prieto from Department of Social Services (DSS) and Mimi Feliciano-Hix from Cuesta College both spoke about PRIDE Classes. Currently PRIDE Classes are being offered regionally and covers 27 hours of training, which is sometimes expanded to 30 depending on the needs of the group. They expect they will need to expand PRIDE classes' to accommodate RFA, and are ready to do so. Additionally they are preparing to specifically address the needs of relatives (such as grandparents) who now find themselves in the role of parenting the children, and how that will affect the family dynamics. • A question came up if the PRIDE classes were available in Spanish and Holly stated they were. 	

Round Table
Discussion
(continued)

- April Franks expressed a concern that families may have transportation challenges to get to the PRIDE Classes. This is a topic the Steering Committee will support and look into.
- Anita Ruggles identified that she sees a challenge in getting relatives to comply with RFA timeline requirements. The group discussed and stated that it will be different at first, but it's a change in business process and the County is prepared to work with relatives to guide them through the new process.
- Tracy Schiro and Patrick Considine spoke about the use of the Partnership Agreement tool drafted by the QPI work group and how this tool can be used to provide clarity and transparency to caregivers about the scope of what is expected of RFA providers.
- Kimberly Wrigley from California Department of Social Services (CDSS) stated they are working on creating a website to host RFA information and the hope is to have this available to access soon. She will contact us when it is available for use.
- Anita Ruggles asked if there would be funding available to help offset the cost of becoming an RFA (such as assisting to pay for fingerprinting, TB tests, or medical exams). This will be discussed as part of the application in the Home Approval Subcommittee/ Work Group and next Steering Committee Meeting.
- Carol Bishop from Kinship Center asked if Relative Homes have the same support as FFA Homes and if most children are dependants of the court? Tracy Schiro commented that yes, we most likely have detained the children and placed them in out of home placement and the courts are involved. A Relative /NREFM Home do not get all the services as a FFA Homes does but with this new RFA Process, once a home is approved, they will be eligible.
- MaryLud Baldwin, a Foster Parent, asked what happens to homes if they receive an Emergency Placement and they don't follow through on the RFA process. Kimberly Wrigley from CDSS stated this has been a big point of discussion at the State and they are continuing to talk about this issue. Tracy Schiro pointed out that the families would have to be made aware that placement could be jeopardized if the family refuses or fails to comply with RFA, but that all efforts will be made to assist them in working through whatever barrier is preventing them from complying. Tracy Schiro also stated that this discussion would be happening during the placement and again at the Team Decision Meeting (TDM), and that the conversation should be exploring who is willing and able to commit to the full RFA approval process.
- Christopher Monza stated that the County will be further exploring Family Finding and Engagement Efforts in order to fully identify as many relatives as possible to invite to the TDM to explore placement options and RFA.

<p>Round Table Discussion (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher Monza stated we are very fortunate in this county because San Luis Obispo has a portable Live Scan and if a lot of people need to get fingerprinted, they can come to a certain location. • Teresa Owensby from California Department of Social Services (CDSS) stated that the State has been working on this internally for about a year and has been trying to main stream all three processes. Very impressed with the work that San Luis Obispo County has done and this will help the other four Counties who will implement this process January 1, 2014. The directives can change as the process is being implemented to address the counties needs. • David Platt indicated that he is excited about the increase in the quality of placements up front and that he sees this as positively impacting the stability of placements and decreasing placement disruptions. • David Platt also expressed his gratitude to everyone who attended this meeting from our internal department, to our Community Partners. He thanked Teresa Wright and Kimberly Wrigley who traveled from out of town and representing CDSS. He could not believe how quickly this process is moving forward and thanked the Program Review Specialists and Program Managers on the implementation and could see a light at the end of the tunnel. 	
<p>Attendees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debbie Aiello DSS - Charles Alexanian Probation - Amy Allen FCCA - MaryLud Baldwin DSS-FP - Linda Belch DSS - Belinda Benassi CWS - Carol Bishop Kinship Center - Nancy Born Aspirant - Sabrina Cortez Probation - Barbara Edmonston DSS-FR/FM - Terry Elfrink Foster Parent - Mimi Feliciano-Hix Cuesta College - Jennifer Finocchio DSS-Placement - April Franks CWS - Brad Gingg CWS-Placement - Gail Gordon CWS - Diana Horn DSS - Lisa Huet FCNI - Sonia Hurtado DSS-HIC - Sandra Jimenez DSS - Lynn Juel DSS - Ben King DSS - Linda Klintworth DSS - Sharon Lovelady Probation 	

Members Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tom Milder Probation- Christopher Monza DSS- Nancy Murphy Kinship Center- Jon Nibbio FCNI- Diane Niswander FCCA- Teresa Owensby CDSS CCLD- David Platt CWS- Sara Price Aspirant- Holly Prieto CWS, Shari Robertson CWS- Anita Ruggles DSS- Flora Sanchez DSS- Tracy Schiro DSS-AD- Hillary Trauth CWS- Connie Willard DSS- Kim Wrigley CDSS	
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