

RFA STAKEHOLDER MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Facilitator:	Belinda Benassi	Time & Date: 10/28/13 from 2:00-4:00pm
Recorder:	Sandra Pendell	Location: San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services / Higuera Room: 101A
Attendees:	See below	

AGENDA ITEMS	COMMENTS / CONCLUSIONS / ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
Attendees	<p>Teresa Owensby, CDSS Kim Wrigley, CDSS Linda Klintworth, DSS Jo Ellen Smelcer, DSS Mimi Feliciano-Hix, Cuesta College Tom Milder, Probation Amy Krueger, Santa Barbara DSS Lynn Juel, DSS Judy Baer, Family Connections Nancy Murphy, Kinship Center Michelle Hofstetler, Kinship Center Jennifer Finocchio, DSS Linda Belch, DSS Dana Nichols, Family Care Network Diane Niswander, Family Connections</p> <p>Sharon DeRego, CDSS Sara Price, Aspiranet Diana Horn, DSS Patrick Considine, DSS Shari Robertson, DSS Sandra Jimenez, DSS David Platt, DSS Suzanne Garcia, DSS Holly Pesanti-Prieto, DSS Arya Jones, DSS April Franks, DSS Anita Ruggles, DSS Sonia Hurtado, DSS Belinda Benassi, DSS Sandra Pendell, DSS</p>	
Introductory Comments	Belinda Benassi, DSS, welcomed the stakeholders and expressed thanks to the collaborative efforts of the community in developing and implementing the Resource Family Approval process in San Luis Obispo County. It was noted that representatives from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) were in attendance and available for questions.	
ReCap of 1 st RFA Stakeholder Meeting (8.21/13)	Patrick Considine, DSS, provided a review of the 1 st RFA Stakeholders meeting and overall RFA requirements.	
Acknowledgment of Subcommittee Activities and Outcomes	Belinda Benassi reported out on the various subcommittees that had worked on various topics. The subcommittee meetings were comprised of individuals from various County of SLO departments and individuals from partner agencies. The meetings were highly productive. The meeting agendas for each were standardized to (1) Review of RFA Directives, (2) review of current processes, (3) identification of where the Directives were already being met and (4) identifications of changes needed to meet the Directives.	

<p>Overview of DSS Activities since 8/21/13</p>	<p>Belinda Benassi reported out on DSS activities since the last Stakeholders meeting. DSS has reviewed all existing Policy & Procedures and identified over 60 in need of at least some revision due to the impact of RFA. In addition, a database has been developed to track RFA applicants' progress. DSS has worked with Cuesta College to include RFA requirements in PRIDE classes.</p>	
<p>Review of State Implementation Plan</p>	<p>An Implementation Plan was written and submitted to CDSS; it was learned that morning that the State had accepted SLO County's RFA Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan will likely be used by other RFA early implementation counties as a framework for their own.</p>	
<p>PRIDE Training and Assistance for RFA Applicants</p>	<p>Patrick Considine and Holly Pesenti-Prieto discussed steps that had been taken to facilitate RFA applicants in completing program requirements. The PRIDE training program will include time for working on RFA paperwork. The training schedule has been set up to allow new applicants to enter the program at any time. DSS will obtain DMV records on behalf of the applicants. DSS has taken steps to have Live Scan and physical screening assessments done at the PRIDE site.</p> <p>Discussion was held regarding the overall RFA process in relation to relative and non-relative extended family members. It was noted that once the relative/non-relative has completed the RFA process, they are eligible to provide care as a foster parent, legal guardianship or adoptive parent.</p>	
<p>Adoption</p>	<p>David Platt, DSS Adoptions Unit Social Worker Supervisor, indicated that RFA processes will have minimal impact on the adoption unit's current practices or processes. He noted that adoption social workers will be assigned sooner in the life of a case. He noted that RFA will result in a larger pool of well qualified families who are adoption ready.</p>	
<p>Probation</p>	<p>Tom Milder expressed gratitude for the support of DSS in preparing Probation for RFA. He reported that he and his staff had participated in the Implementation Steering Committee and various subcommittees. He noted that youth being placed by Probation typically are related to their caregivers; Probation has very few instances of unmatched placements.</p>	
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Belinda Benassi reported that in November a regional outreach would be held to introduce RFA to existing homes. DSS will participate in a CDSS webinar scheduled for mid-November. The RFA Implementation Steering committee will continue to meet to evaluate progress. Progress reports will be submitted to CDSS. The DSS CWS RFA webpage will be updated on a regular basis and the most recent version of the RFA Directives will be uploaded soon.</p>	

Roundtable / Q&A	<p>CDSS representatives expressed their thanks and mentioned they were surprised at how well and quickly SLO County had prepared for RFA early implementation. CDSS will remain available to support SLO County in the RFA processes and are open to suggestions for any needed changes. Other California counties will be looking to SLO County's program. CDSS has an e-mail address dedicated to RFA; it is rfa@dss.ca.gov. CDSS will continue to post Frequently Asked questions to their webpage. It was noted that RFA forms and certificates of approval will be fillable forms and available on the CDSS website in a variety of languages.</p> <p>Discussion was held regarding the need to prepare a MOU between SLO County DSS and CDSS. In addition, existing MOUs between SLO County DSS and the cooperative agencies will need to be revised.</p> <p>Clarification was made regarding the RFA training scheduled for 10/29/13; the training will be for DSS and Probation staff only.</p> <p>A question was raised in regards to placing SLO County children in non-RFA counties. Discussion was also held regarding placing children from outside SLO County in SLO county homes. ICTs and ICPCs are two areas still being looked at by CDSS and will be discussed further at the 11/19/13 CDSS webinar.</p> <p>It was noted that applicants whose applications are denied will be referred to the Fair Hearing if they object to the denial. In addition, RFA approved homes whose approval is subsequently rescinded will also have the right to request a Fair Hearing.</p>	
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