



CSN Agenda

August 5, 2020
1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Dan Dow, Chair
SLO County District Attorney's Office

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Roberts, Vice Chair
Family Care Network, Inc.

Dr. James Brescia
County Office of Education/
Latino Outreach Council

Jill Bolster-White
Transitions Mental Health Association

Devin Drake
Department of Social Services

Lisa Fraser
Center for Family Strengthening

Michael R. Hill
SLO County Health Agency

Bruce S. Gibson
2nd. District Supervisor

Ian Parkinson
SLO County Sheriff's Office

Kayla Plourde-Reynolds
Juvenile Justice & Delinquency
Prevention Commission

Jim Salio
Probation

Elizabeth Steinberg
Community Action Partnership

Teresa Tardiff
CASA

Linda Belch
CSN Manager

Cherise Day
Network Secretary
cdlay@co.slo.ca.us

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[NaODFJSW1MUjMxQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88645240675?pwd=OFR1anQ5dzZuY3NaODFJSW1MUjMxQT09)

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General:

- Introductions
- Announcements and Board "Round Table"
- Additions to the Agenda
- Public Comment

Action Items:

- Approval of May 6, 2020 Minutes

Information/Discussion items:

- High-Needs Shelter Care – Jim Roberts
- Child Abuse Prevention Plan – Lisa Fraser
- Preventative Health Grant update – Kayla Plourde-Reynolds

Standing Agenda Items:

- Priority: Homeless Services for Children and Families – Laurel Weir
- SLO County CSEC Collaborative – Linda Belch
- Child Advocacy Center of SLO County – Lisa Fraser

Future Agenda Items:

Next Meeting:

November 4, 2020
DSS Empleo
3563 Empleo St.
San Luis Obispo
1:15 – 3:00 p.m.



Minutes August 5, 2020

Present:	Chair, Dan Dow – District Attorney	Teresa Tardiff - CASA
	Vice Chair, Jim Roberts - FCN	Elizabeth (Biz) Steinberg - CAPSLO
	Dr. James Brescia – Office of Education	Kayla Plourde-Reynolds – Juvenile Justice
	Devin Drake – DSS Director	Lisa Fraser - CFSSLO
	Jim Salio – Probation Chief	Anne Robin – Behavioral Health
	Michael R. Hill – Co. Health Agency	
Excused:	Ian Parkinson – Sheriff	Dr. Penny Borenstein – Public Health
Staff:	Linda Belch – DSS	Cherise Day - DSS
	Laurel Weir - DSS	
Guests:	Melinda Sokolowski – CAPSLO/First 5	Shane Meserve – Consultant Strategies 2.0
	Belinda Benassi - DSS	

Introductions, Announcements, Critical Issues and Additions to the Agenda:

Chair Dan Dow called the meeting to order at 1:16 P.M., via video conference, followed by introductions.

Announcements:

Belinda Benassi announced a training conference featuring Dr. Ken Ginsburg, who is internationally known for specializing in Adolescent Medicine and has developed a multi-media kit with resources and videos. His focus will be on placement stability, providing services and resources for adolescents. The conference will be held on August 24th from 1:00-5:00 PM via Zoom. Fliers are available upon request and will be sent to all attendees. This conference was developed as a collective approach for agencies to maintain consistent messaging.

Additions:

None

Public Comment: Shane Meserve

Ms. Shane Meserve represents a statewide training organization, titled **Strategies 2.0**. Shane announced that during the next 6 weeks, there will be several virtual training sessions available at no cost to employees. The classes are also offered in Spanish and include: Self-care, Trauma Informed Training, Case Management, Facilitating Change, Protective Factors and more. Please visit www.strategiesca.org for more information.

Public Comment: Elizabeth (Biz) Steinberg

Biz Steinberg of CAPSLO announced that while the Head Start Program has reduced to smaller groups, with fewer children and essential workers, she urges members to continue directing families in need to the program to fill out an application. They may also contact the Head Start Program directly at (805) 594-1752.

Action Items: Approval of CSN May 6, 2020 Minutes

- **Motion:** Chair, Dan Dow, asked for any corrections of the minutes and confirmed there were none.
- **Motion Passed:** Per “Robert’s Rules of Order”, with no additions or objections, the motion was passed.

Information/Discussion Items: High Needs Shelter Care – Jim Roberts

During this time of financial uncertainty, it’s not possible to move forward with the High Needs Shelter. Recently, the CCL visited the Juvenile Hall to assess its usable viability. Due to departmental cuts, it was determined not to be fiscally sound, with no clear path on how any new plans could be implemented at this time. Probation has been creative by providing short-term solutions, but a long-term shelter is the end goal. We will move this item to a standing agenda item for the interim.

Information/Discussion Item: Child Abuse Prevention Plan – Lisa Fraser

The Child Abuse Prevention Plan (CAPP) is currently on pause, focusing on reorganization with the help of DSS personnel Linda Belch and Belinda Benassi. As of this date, the Summarized Substantiated Child Abuse Statistics in SLO County are trending the highest in the Northern part of SLO County. CAPP is deciphering the effect of these statistics, as well as how to organize them as they pertain to the program. In addition, CAPP is awaiting the announcement of their new Office of Child Abuse Prevention Consultant.

Dan Dow confirmed his request of 2020 child abuse statistics from DSS, to compare with stats prior to the shelter-in-place proclamation. Currently, San Diego County is reporting stats which are 10% below normal. Dan believes these numbers are low, due to the fact that children are not in school, and without teachers or care providers to report the signs of abuse, the numbers are most likely incorrect. If the stats come back significantly higher, Dan will report to CSN, or request an off-schedule meeting to discuss further. Jim Roberts anticipates an increase of clients and reports as hospitalization of children increases. Anne Robin will confirm the numbers.

Biz Steinberg is working with DSS on supervised visitations for children who are not currently with their families, due to COVID-19. CAPSLO is actively looking for unique ways for families to reconnect, either virtually or outside, by providing PPE to families. Family advocates are also working with undocumented families, reporting an increase in rental assistance. Many referrals are coming from schools, or head-start contacts. Over \$150,000 has been spent between agencies, to fast-track the growing need for this community.

Lisa Fraser reports that since COVID-19, “Prevention Work”, which helps prevent families from entering the CWS or Probation systems, is currently taking place through Family Resource Centers. Since school closures, the Link Family Resource Center, as well as CAPSLO Family Advocates, are seeing an increased need for family advocate services. When school starts again, there will be a greater need for help and for more families.

Anne Robin wants CSN members to know that CenCal has two new levels of care called “Family Therapy Benefit” and “Evidence-based Parenting Benefit”, both administered through the Holman Group. These are similar to the “Mild to Moderate Health Benefits” administered through CenCal, which is managed care for those with Medi-Cal and live in SLO or Santa Barbara Counties.

Information/Discussion Items: Preventative Health Grant Update – Kayla Plourde-Reynolds

The Preventative Health Grant Committee met later than expected due to the virus, therefore extending the application filing deadline. The committee made several recommendations, however, they received new reduced numbers because of the fiscal impact of COVID-19. Although there was an overall decrease in the amount of the grant, the two SAFE programs were funded slightly higher than past years.

Standing Agenda Item: Priority: Homeless Services for Children and Families – Laurel Weir

The EOC has been working with SLO County homeless shelters and domestic violence agencies, ensuring sufficient staffing and PPE to operate within the COVID-19 guidelines. They’re also creating new guidelines and controlled procedures, specifically on how to check-in/out of the shelters. As of this date, neither ECHO nor CAPSLO has had a Coronavirus outbreak. Public Health will be testing the shelters over the next few weeks and trailers have been placed at both sites for possible outbreaks. This will ensure isolation of those who are symptomatic. Public Health will then test for the virus, and if any test positive, the County will place them in Motel rooms to quarantine until cleared to return.

SLO County has received funding for Homelessness Prevention and Short-term Rental Assistance. Some of the funds have been awarded to several Homeless Services Agencies, with a second wave of funding from the CARES Act expected for homelessness prevention, rapid-rehousing and other homelessness assistance. Shelters are reporting fewer families coming into the shelter, suspecting they’re sheltering with relatives. However, the rapid-rehousing groups are seeing an increase in funding needs from families. For example, the 5 Cities Homeless Coalition was reporting a maximum request of \$5,000 for housing, but since families have fallen behind on their rent, they’re now requesting upwards of \$7,000 per household. There’s a portion of the population becoming homeless for the first time, and for whom we cannot assist. These are families that have been doubled-up together, but due to the pandemic, have either been asked to leave or evicted. This population will need to be assisted by the short-term rental subsidy.

Standing Agenda Item: SLO County CSEC Collaborative – Linda Belch

CSEC is continuing to see on-line exploitation as a theme amongst referrals. Since the last quarter, CSEC has received 3 new referrals: One was a previously opened case, while two are new referrals. Currently there are 5 open CSEC cases, all are females with the following statistics:

- 4 are under the age of 18 (between 13-16) and placed out of County to support needs and services.
- 1 is a non-minor dependent and former Foster Youth who opted to continue service to age 21.

A program regarding CSEC and Labor Trafficking was presented at the June Human Trafficking Taskforce, where a CDSS grant was renewed with funding approved for the next year. However, the planned mentor position, which was to be co-funded with the County Office of Education has been paused until the budget needs have been assessed. Linda Belch then asked Dan Dow if he would comment on the press release, regarding the recent sex trafficking arrests in SLO County:

- **Dan Dow:** The DA's Office participated in a statewide sting titled "Operation Reclaim and Rebuild". This Law Enforcement operation was geared towards finding individuals looking to buy commercial sex, as well as those trafficking adults and minors. Agents provided decoy information on commercial sex sites, where police intercepted, then arrested participants for solicitation. The demand for adult commercial sex is very high, however, many these roles are being filled by minors. The purpose was to arrest purchasers and publicly announce their names and charges via the media. Most who purchase sex don't understand the connection between their actions and the victimization of those being trafficked. The goal was to deter purchasers, then educate them on the connection. Dan has created a "deferred entry of judgement program", where would-be purchasers must participate in a 6-month program. However, if a purchaser has a prior conviction, he/she would not be eligible to participate.

Standing Agenda Item: Child Advocacy Center of SLO County – Lisa Fraser

The CAC is creating a multiple Case Review Process, working with the Department of Social Services to establish compliance within MDT guidelines, thus allowing confidential information to be shared through a permissible channel. By establishing the Case Review Process as a site-specific MDT model, the CAC will be allowed to share and follow-up on cases. This process is currently pursuing court approval. An additional team will be dedicated to collecting data, connecting the CAC by gathering information via the Kate and SART exams. A new program named "Collaborate" will be used as a confidential tool to increase the efficiency of communication between agencies, following the path of families and increasing support, as well as providing healing treatment options. The CAC received a grant from the Victims of Crime to help fund a full-time family advocate. The advocate will work in partnership with the DA's Victim/Witness Program and will be responsible for a complete follow-up on families, connecting them with healing and treatment services, which will now include faith-based treatments.

Additional Item: Schools re-opening in SLO County – Dr. James Brescia

Dr. Brescia is working closely with Dr. Penny Borenstein on how to proceed with schools re-opening. Currently, the Grizzly Youth Academy saw cadets returning to school, however, one platoon was sent home due to challenges with positive COVID-19 tests. We're pleased that all faculty and staff have tested negative and are practicing due diligence. Maintenance teams, most facilities and LEA's throughout the county are still working, with most staff staggered shifts.

Additional Item: Multi-Service Release of Information 815 – Belinda Benassi

The Multi-Service Release of Information form 815 is being revised and will return to its previous format. Please advise all staff who uses this form that after August 14th, they will no longer need to identify all individuals who will receive the information.

Future Agenda items:

CASA Presentation by Teresa Tardiff

FFPSA Power-Point Presentation by Jim Roberts, February 2021

Adjournment:

2:21 P.M