



Devin Drake, Chair
Department of Social Services

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dan Dow
SLO County District Attorney's Office

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

Jill Bolster-White
Transitions Mental Health Association

Lisa Fraser
Center for Family Strengthening

Michael R. Hill
SLO County Health Agency

Ian Parkinson
SLO County Sheriff's Office

Kayla Plourde-Reynolds
Juvenile Justice & Delinquency
Prevention Commission

Robert Reyes
Probation

Dr. Penny Borenstein, MD
Public Health Dept. of SLO

Anne Robin, LMFT
Health Agency of SLO

Melinda Sokolowski
Community Action Partnership

Dawn Ortiz-Legg
District 3 Supervisor

Jon Nibbio
Family Care Network

Nicole Perotti
Court Appointed Special Advocates
(CASA) of San Luis Obispo

Linda Belch
CSN Manager

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

CSN Agenda

February 2, 2022

1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Teleconference

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89339922890?pwd=ZndES0xqTzhLMGxQSWVVdS80OERVdz09>

Meeting ID: 893 3992 2890

Passcode: 446241

One tap mobile

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General:

- Motion to meet virtually by Zoom, pursuant to AB361
- Introductions
- Announcements and Board "Round Table"
 - i. Chair, Jim Roberts has retired
 - ii. Vice Chair, Devin Drake promoted to Chair
 - iii. Theresa Tardiff has retired
- Additions to the Agenda
- Public Comment

Action Items:

- Approval of November 3, 2021, Minutes
- Election and vote for new Vice Chair
- Vote to amend the Bylaws by changing the name from CASA to "CASA of San Luis Obispo County"
- Approval of the updated CSN Bylaws with the change listed above

Information/Discussion items:

- Discussion of adding virtual meetings to bylaws – Devin Drake
- Discussion on Legislative priorities – Devin Drake
- High-Needs Shelter Care – Chair, Jon Nibbio
- Child Abuse Prevention Plan – Lisa Fraser

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

Next Meeting:

May 4, 2022

Zoom Teleconference

1:15 – 3:00 p.m.



Minutes February 2, 2022

Present:	Chair Devin Drake	Kayla Plourde-Reynolds
	Vice Chair (TBD)	Linda Belch
	Dan Dow	Ian Parkinson
	Jon Nibbio, interim CEO of FCN	Jill Bolster-White
	Melinda Sokolowski	Sarah Sartain
	DJ Pittenger	Dr. James Brescia
	Robert Reyes	Anne Robin
Excused:	Dr. Penny Borenstein	
Staff:	Linda Belch	Laurel Weir
Guests:	Nicole Perodti CASA (interim)	Cherise Day

Action Items:

1. Motion to meet by Zoom Pursuant to AB361

Motion: Dan Dow

Second: Robert Reyes

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Announcements:

CSN Chair, Jim Roberts, has terminated his position with the Family Care Network and CSN. Thus, according to CSN bylaws, Vice Chair Devin Drake will now assume the position of CSN Chair.

Teresa Tardiff has retired from CASA and will have a replacement for her position by the next quarterly meeting in May.

Additions:

Mike Hill from the County Public Health Agency has taken a position in another State, ending his position within the CSN Executive Group. The Public Health Agency remains well represented with CSN Executive members Dr. Borenstein and Anne Robin.

Public Comments:

None

Action Items:

1. Approval of CSN November 3, 2021, Minutes

Motion: Kayla Plourde-Reynolds

Second: Jill Bolster-White

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Action Items:

2. Nomination of Vice Chair

Motion: Jill Bolster-White nominates **Jon Nibbio**

Second: Dan Dow

Motion Passed: Unanimous, no opposition

Action Items:

3. Approval to change the CSN bylaws to read “CASA of San Luis Obispo County”

Motion: Kayla Plourde-Reynolds

Second: Robert Reyes

Motion Passed: Unanimous, no opposition

Information/Discussion Items: Adding Virtual Meetings to bylaws

Devin confirmed with County Counsel (CoCo) that once Governor Newsom reinstates the Brown Act regulations, thus eliminating the waiver, CSN will no longer be allowed to meet via video. There have been discussions on whether the CSN meetings should be a part of the Brown Act, however, CoCo confirms the CSN will remain a part of the Brown Act at this time, further advising against changing the bylaws to include virtual meetings.

Dr. Brescia recommended a hybrid meeting approach; however, Dan Dow reminded the members of a resolution set by a prior Board of Supervisors (BOS) when the CSN was first established. The resolution states that when a committee includes a BOS member, it must be treated as a committee of the County Government, and thusly dictated by the Brown Act. Because of the pandemic, the law could conceivably change to allow for remote meetings.

Information/Discussion Items: Legislative Priorities - Devin Drake

Previously, it was suggested a lobbyist could attend a CSN meeting to discuss legislative platform in Sacramento, and where to focus our priorities. However, it's the beginning of the year and too early to discuss bills, most of which are still pending introduction. Dan Dow will notify the committee if there are any child related legislative topics, specifically the bill to remove the statute of limitations for child sex offenders.

Devin asked the committee if there was an interest in CSN proposing a bill to a lobbyist, or if it's preferable to work through our prospective organizations? It was agreed that CSN would continue to work through their prospective organizations, since most members have multiple connections of their own, unless there was a specific need for CSN to bring forward and author.

Devin will provide further DSS legislative findings at the next CSN meeting in May. If any members want to join DSS, please send your findings to the Network Secretary, Cherise Day, who will collect the information and make a packet for the committee.

Information/Discussion Item: High Needs Shelter Care - Jon Nibbio

There continues to be a high need for shelter beds, specifically for foster kids. Currently, there are a total of 8 beds countywide, however, we would prefer to have 15 in total. We're working collaboratively with Child Welfare, Probation, and other agencies to increase recruitment. The level of collaboration is high when we pull together to meet specific needs, such as staffing assistance, or support for children and youth who need one-on-one guidance just to get through a 24-, 48- or 72-hour period, when help is needed most.

Linda Belch reports the Family Care Network (FCN) is working towards “Professional Foster Parents”, as well as continuing to recruit high-level trained foster parents to stay with the highest-needs children, 24-hours a day. We're also looking into how to build-in respite care for Foster Parents, which is a model that FCN has been successfully piloting, especially for our higher-need youth.

Standing Agenda Item: Child Abuse Prevention Plan: Lisa Fraser:

Lisa was not able to attend today, so her agenda item will appear again during the May 4th, 2022, CSN meeting.

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

SLO Co. will be conducting their bi-annual homeless Point in Time (PIT) count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. Initially set for January of 2022, the PIT was moved for February 23 due to COVID-19. Teams of volunteers, including guides and outreach workers will begin counting the unsheltered, taking census at all homeless, domestic violence and warming shelters. This count is required by the US

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to provide a snapshot of the homeless population within a 24-hr. period, primarily to gauge changes in population, as well as demographic information.

Additionally, the Homeless Services Oversight Counsel (HSOC) is requesting additional data regarding people who are not considered homeless under the HUD definition, such as those in hospitals, jails, or psychiatric institutions. The cumulative reported data is expected by June 2022.

The State has announced another round of the “Homekey Program”, which makes funding available for acquisition and conversion of properties to serve people who are homeless, such as the Motel 6, for permanent, as well as emergency shelter. SLO Co. has issued a request for proposals, for which we plan to propose a recommendation for a youth project, partnering with the Family Care Network (FCN).

Standing Agenda Item: SLO Co. CSEC Collaborative – Linda Belch

- 3 new referrals being assessed
- 5 new CW cases identified as CSEC victims
- 2 at-risk youth, tracking, but not yet identified

Program updates: The Early Intervention and Prevention Foster and Homeless Youth Education and Specialist Program position has started in CMR and expanded to all middle schools throughout the County. The program provides targeted information to middle-age children, specifically CSEC prevention and Cyber-bullying.

January was “Human Trafficking Awareness Month”, which included a BOS Proclamation and a toolkit with training resources, which Linda will provide the committee. There are no upcoming trainings, however, we’re working on finalizing the Human Trafficking assessment tool, which is expected to rollout within a few months.

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

Lisa was not able to attend today, so her agenda item will appear again during the May 4th, 2022, CSN meeting.

Round Table Discussion:

Devin Drake asked the committee to provide topics for future CSN meetings, which included:

- Legislative priorities
- Virtual Event
- Virtual educational forum and training re: Mental health impact on kids
- Fentanyl epidemic, Drug Induced Homicide.org, regarding deaths of our youth

Jon Nibbio wants to recognize the lack of a workforce at both the State and local levels, specifically those effecting children and families. The FCN is currently working through advocates regarding workforce development, retention, and livable wages, as more children and families are in crisis, including more homelessness. These issues will require a collective effort to improve.

Kayla Plourde wants to introduce **DJ Pittenger**, who will take over her position at the Juvenile Justice Commission effective in July. Kayla wanted to thank the CSN Committee Members for their continued work.

Linda Belch noted FFPSA will rollout issues regarding prevention sometime this summer to early fall.

Nicole Perodti reports as CASA goes through current employee transitions, feel free to contact her directly with any questions or concerns.

Robert Reyes reports Thomas Milder has been named the Assistant Chief of the Probation Dept. and Kyle Nancolas has been promoted as the Chief Deputy over Juvenile Services. In addition, the Division of Juvenile Justice has just discharged the last SLO Co. youth that was housed in a state facility. Coastal Valley Academy accepted an out of county youth to the CWA program.

Melinda Sokolowski confirmed the workforce dilemma, noting it's been difficult to stay in business without the ability to meet face-to-face with clients. Family support services have dwindled, but requests continue to stream into the facility.

Dr. James Brescia noted a recent and successful townhall forum, which included three physicians and was cohosted by County Government, the Office of Education, and the NAACP. This was a Q and A for families, discussing school violence, safety and moving forward to support childcare providers within the County. Jim also thanked Sherriff Parkinson for his involvement.

Jill Bolster-White mentioned the "Journey of Hope" Zoom meeting in May, saying she will send out more information in March. Transitions Mental Health is currently working to secure funding for full time text capacity for their hotline, noting that the younger generation will most likely participate by texting.

Anne Robin recognized Behavior Health's (BH) suicide and opioid prevention program, who are also working with the County on opioid settlements and how to best utilize those monies for education and support. In addition, BH has a new suicide prevention coordinator, Rita Connally, to manage several projects and trainings.

The State has approved a mobile triage unit for youth crisis in North Co., which will provide a transportation van within the next 6 months and BH is currently working with Sierra Wellness for quicker response to schools for crisis response.

Ian Parkinson reports the Sheriff's Office is working with school superintendents by updating map-specific school safety plans for training and getting all the new Chief's up to speed.

Devin Drake reports DSS Homeless Services Unit has hired Jeff Al-Mashat, who replaced Joe Dzvonick as the "Safe Parking" and "Bluebag" Program Manager. Joe Dzvonick has now replaced Carolyn Berg as the Homeless Representative, working directly with Wade Horton.

Devin recognized that when he first began as DSS Director, the number of children in congregate care was reported in the high 20s, however, under Linda Belch's leadership, she and her staff have brought those numbers down to under 10. This task required a tremendous amount of effort and community support to have the resource families available and willing to take on higher need youths.

Future Agenda Items:

1. Devin to check on Legislative Priorities
2. Human trafficking tool kit
3. Virtual educational forum and training re: Mental health impact on kids
4. Fentanyl epidemic, Drug Induced Homicide.org, regarding deaths of our youth

Adjournment:

2:17 PM

Next Meeting:

May 4th via Zoom