



Devin Drake, Chair
Department of Social Services

Jon Nibbio LMFT, Vice Chair
Chief Operating Officer, Family Care
Network

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dan Dow
SLO County District Attorney's Office

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

Ian Parkinson
SLO County Sheriff's Office

Jill Bolster-White
Transitions Mental Health Association

Robert Reyes
Probation

Dr. Penny Borenstein, MD –
Health Officer
Public Health Director

Lisa Fraser
Center for Family Strengthening

Melinda Sokolowski
Community Action Partnership

Dawn Ortiz-Legg
District 3 Supervisor

Marina Bernheimer
CASA of San Luis Obispo County

Kayla Plourde-Reynolds
Juvenile Justice Commission

Star Graber, Ph.D., LMFT
Behavioral Health Director

STAFF

Linda Belch
CSN Manager

Joe Dzvonik
Homeless Services

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

CSN Agenda

Date, 2023

1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

3563 Empleo St., Conference Room #1
San Luis Obispo, CA
or

Zoom Teleconference option:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89339922890?pwd=ZndES0xqTzhLMGxQSWVvdS80OERVdz09>

Meeting ID: 893 3992 2890

Passcode: 446241

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,89339922890#,,,,*446241# US (San Jose)

**** Please see the rules regarding Zoom vs. in-person meetings before choosing the Zoom option ****

General:

- Welcome **Star Graber**, who is replacing retired Behavioral Health Administrator, Anne Robin and welcome back **Kayla Plourde-Reynolds**, replacing DJ Pittinger.
- Introductions
- Announcements
- Additions to the Agenda
- Public Comment

Action Items:

- Approval of February 2023 Minutes

Information/Discussion items:

- New Brown Act Regulations – Devin Drake
- SLO County Child & Family Wellness Collaborative update – Lisa Fraser
- Update on FFPSA Prevention Efforts – Linda Belch
- Updates on continuum of care grant for Foster Youth – Linda Belch

Standing Agenda Items:

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

Board Round Table:

Future Agenda Items:

Next Meeting:

November 1, 2023
DSS Empleo Office
3563 Empleo St., Conf Rm #1
San Luis Obispo
1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Rules regarding Zoom vs. in-person meetings

Beginning January 1, 2023, the legislative body of a local agency can use teleconferencing without noticing each teleconference location or making it publicly accessible, provided at least a quorum of the body participates in person at a single physical location that is identified on the agenda, open to the public, and within the boundaries of the agency, and provided that other requirements regarding accessibility are met. However, an individual member of the legislative body may participate remotely only in one of two circumstances:

1. With “just cause”, the member can participate remotely after giving notice as soon as possible. AB 2449 defines “just cause” as (a) a family childcare or caregiving need; (b) a contagious illness; (c) a need related to a physical or mental disability that is not otherwise accommodated; or (d) travel while on official business. The bill also limits a member to participating remotely under this provision to two meetings per calendar year.
2. In “emergency circumstances,” defined as a physical or family emergency that prevents the member from attending in person, the member can participate remotely by requesting approval to do so from the legislative body. The legislative body may take action on the request as soon as possible, including at the beginning of the meeting, even if there was not sufficient time to place the request formally on the agenda.

Under either circumstance, the member in question must give a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely, but need not disclose any medical diagnosis, disability, or other confidential medical information.

In addition, AB 2449 provides that a member cannot participate solely by teleconference under the new teleconference framework for more than 3 consecutive months or more than 20 percent of the agency’s regular meetings (more than two meetings if the agency meets fewer than 10 times per year).

Outside of the limited circumstances authorized by AB 2449 (and until January 2024, AB 361) public meetings can still occur via teleconference if the legislative body complies with the general (pre-pandemic) agenda, notice, and quorum requirements of the Brown Act.

The new statutory authorization expires by its own terms on January 1, 2026. At that point, absent further legislation, the Brown Act’s teleconferencing provisions will revert to essentially the same language as before the pandemic.

(AB 2449 amends Sections 54953 and 54954.2 of the Government Code.)



August 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Present:	Devin Drake – Chair	Robert Reyes
	Jon Nibbio – Vice Chair	Lisa Fraser
	Dan Dow	Kayla Plourde-Reynolds
	Dr. Jim Brescia	Dwan Ortiz-Legg
	Jill Bolster-White	Melinda Sokolowski
	Ian Parkinson	
Excused:	Dr. Penny Borenstein, MD	Star Graber
	Joe Dzvonik	Marina Bernheimer
Staff:	Linda Belch	
	Laurel Weir for Joe Dzvonik	
	Cherise Day	
Guests:	Jeff Carlson	

Introductions:

Those in attendance introduced themselves and welcomed returning to in-person meetings after Covid-19.

Welcome: Star Graber, who is replacing Anne Robin, and Kayla Plourde-Reynolds, replacing DJ Pittinger. Jeff Carlson recently moved to the SLO area and is glad to be a part of the FCN.

Announcement: Jill announced TMHA and SLO Behavioral Health Dept. have engaged Capstone Solutions to conduct a behavioral health gaps analysis of the adult system of care. Capstone is starting to analyze the youth behavioral health system. Please accept email from Capstone and participate in the assessment process.

Public Comments: None

Action Items:

1. **Approval of February 2023 Minutes** (note: the May 2023 meeting was cancelled)

Motion: Jill Bolster-White

Second: Melinda Sokolowski

Abstain: Ian Parkinson, Dan Dow, Robert Reyes and Kayla Plourde-Reynolds

Motion Passed

Discussion items:

- New Brown Act Regulations – *Devin Drake*

Devin reminded members of the new Brown Act regulations sent from County Counsel regarding requests to continue meeting via Zoom. The requirements include providing “just cause” to the legislative body, or stating an “emergency circumstance,” which will not require personal details. Meetings via Zoom are available only twice a year *per* option, however, in order to vote on any topic, you must be in-person.

A discussion ensued regarding the necessity of the Brown Act for future CSN meetings. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg offered to research the possibility of separating CSN from the restrictions of the Brown Act, specifically since there are no funds being distributed, and no voting other than the approval of minutes. Devin also volunteered to take this issue to the County Council to ask if CSN could remove the Brown Act restrictions, since CSN has never dispensed funds. Sheriff Parkinson reminded the group that if there are no action items, there should be no need to have a quorum, and if there are no items on which to vote, a “listening session” should be offered as an option to appearing in person.

- SLO County Child and Family Wellness Collaborative update – *Lisa Fraser*

The Child and Family Wellness Collaborative evolved as a child abuse prevention team, formed to offer a comprehensive prevention plan. While there are many roles within the child abuse prevention council, there needs to be a collaborative plan to develop local prevention services. In addition, the role of the Resource Center should have the capability to reach schools and every resource agency within the community. This ability would support the health and wellness of children and their families. There are many families only touch the “system”, but the goal is to have a formal product in front of the Board of Supervisors for a more proactive impact. Prevention is the key to keeping children out of the system.

- Update On FFPSA Prevention Efforts – Linda Belch

SLO received a grant to fund the position of Coordinator for the Center of Family Strengthening. We’re currently drafting a contract and collecting information to confirm the impact of collaborative data. The grant will also co-fund a SAFE System of Care manager position.

Training for Motivational Interviewing will be available for up to 250 staff members who are interested, with in-person and virtual training available in September. We’ve seen the neurofeedback feedback from Behavioral Health, which confirms a 60% reduction of suicidal ideation. By retraining the brain from traumatic “brain on fire”, you can calm the brain without children having to relive and/or articulate trauma.

SAFE services are affirming family empowerment, by having schools refer families and to keep them out of the formal system. Motivational Interviewing allows staff to work with families and kids to understand the impact on the child’s safety. The interviews can be delivered by case managers across many systems and would provide a common language, similar framework, and would empower the family to make their own decisions.

Updates On Continuum of Care Grant for Foster Youth – Linda Belch

We received funding from the State of California in recognition of those not served by the system, bringing all kids who are currently out of state back to SLO Co. We applied for a 10 yr. grant; however, we were awarded a 3-year grant in the amount of \$3.5 million. We’re currently assessing how to best utilize the funds.

Standing Agenda Items:

- Priority: Homeless Services for Children and Families – Laurel Weir for Joe Dzvonik

The Homeless Services Division (HSD) applied for youth homelessness and urban development grants, similar to COC housing. This would include permanent and host homes for youth, also allowing funding for trafficked youth to be considered “homeless”. There will be 16 communities selected within 8 months to develop a plan and provide data from youth who have actual “lived experience”. We also want to have several agencies participate in planning, specifically probation and CSN, to provide guidance with grants for youth services. The 2 yr. grant would be added to the grant cycle for continuum of care, with formal MOUs between COC and other systems. HSD is looking to put forth a MOU for homeless education and rights, including early childhood education, making changes to the coordinated entry system and permanent supportive housing, which we’d like to integrate with CSN.

- Child Advocacy Center of SLO County – Lisa Fraser

Funding from the January 2019 Victims of Crime Act will help form a CAC collaborative along with the DA’s office. We’re taking the service out of the courthouse with funding from Family Advocates Services. We will offer interviews and medical exams at the Behavioral Health Center, with the intent to reduce the amount of people which traumatized children are expected to speak with. Our real goal is to find a brick and mortar site where children aren’t expected to go through a security line, they can meet with investigators in a kid-friendly area and to lessen their overall trauma.

- SLO County CSEC Collaborative – Linda Belch
Linda will send sign-up information for CSEC training 101/102, which will include the “Cool Aunt” series of youth friendly and youth driven personal stories. Please contact Linda to provide access at no charge. We’re also looking at the Sticks and Stones Program, which is a school based counseling program for prevention and intervention for children exposed to violence and trauma in Monterey County, which includes mindfulness, relaxation and art.
- Round Table Discussion –

Devin noted the DSS Participant Services unit is currently training for the rollout of the new CalSAWS program, which will go live on Oct. 30th.

Dawn confirmed they’re working on a new ADU unit interface to understand how far we’ve come with the homeless population and is excited for the new housing project at the DSS Higuera location.

Dan noted that prior to the Covid-19 outbreak in the Spring 2020, the DA’s office had a lead project created within the 5th grade curriculum, giving exposure to how criminal justice works, including mock trials and playing different roles within the legal process. With the return of in-person learning, we’re reengaging the program in January, which will begin in Oceano and Paso Robles, where there are a higher number of Spanish speaking youth who have higher statistics of joining a street gang. Studies in Los Angeles show the positive effects of prevention.

Jon confirmed that the “Home Key” grant has been a very long process. They’re currently working with Atascadero City for zoning and re-zoning residential facility categories, including additional funds to redo the plumbing and electrical system for a 4 plex to redo to accommodate 7.

Melinda is happy to announce they have opened a Family Resource Center in Paso Robles for community partners to utilize.

Jim noted there were 75 at-risk youths, all from community schools, who participated in the summer jump start work skills. There were many employers on-site and 43 youths were offered employment.

Future Agenda Items:

Jill: Impact and CAPSLO for Bezos update

Please note the updated location for the next CSN Meeting:

November 1st

DSS 3433 S. Higuera St., San Luis Obispo

3rd floor, room #358

**Children's Services Network
Executive Council
Attendance August 2, 2023**

REPRESENTATIVES	
Board Members' Names:	Sign-In Sheet
Devin Drake – DSS Director (Chair)	
Jon Nibbio LMFT – Chief Operating Officer, FCN (Vice Chair)	
Dan Dow – District Attorney	
Dr. James Brescia – COE/Latino Outreach Council	
Ian Parkinson – SLO County Sheriff	
Jill Bolster- White – Transitions Mental Health	
Robert Reyes – SLO County Probation	
Dr. Penny Borenstein, MD – Public Health Director	
Lisa Fraser – Center for Family Strengthening	
Melinda Sokolowski – Community Action Partnership	
Dawn Ortiz-Legg – SLO County District 3 Supervisor	
Marina Bernheimer – CASA of San Luis Obispo	
Kayla Plourde-Reynolds – Juvenile Justice Commission	
Star Graber, Ph.D., LMFT – Behavioral Health Director	
Guests & Observers:	Sign-In Sheet
Linda Belch – CSN Manager	
Joe Dzvonik – Homeless Services	
Cherise Day – Network Secretary	
JEFF CARLSON CEO FCNI	
Laurel Weir	