



# Foster Care Standards and Oversight Committee

The mission of the Foster Care Standards and Oversight Committee is to provide oversight for and promote communication between the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Social Services and its related agencies, and the community, with emphasis on providing information and recommendations that make the system more effective and efficient.

## MINUTES

September 4, 2024

8:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Meeting held in-person for Committee Members and public.

Virtual option via Microsoft Teams for public only

### I. Call to order and introductions.

**Ed Avila**

- Meeting called to order by Committee Chair, Rosemary Alanis, at 8:15 AM with roll call by DSS Support Staff, Julia Perez.

### II. Approve Minutes for August 7, 2024 and September 4, 2024 Agenda.

- Wilma (District 5) motioned; Maisie (District 2) seconded to approve the August 2024 Minutes and September 2024 Agenda.

### III. FCSOC Annual Retreat - Speakers

#### A. FCSOC & DSS Partnership; DSS Accomplishments

**Sanja Bugay**

- Department of Social Services (DSS) Director, Sanja Bugay, provided the Committee with 2 handouts detailing Child Welfare Outcomes, Data, Initiatives and Upcoming Changes. Below are key points from the presentation.
- Elimination of case investigation backlog and timely investigations have been sustained.
- Improvements with Linkages cases, Resource Family Approval backlog, Family Time, trainings and workgroups.
- Staff Impacts include increased wages, benefits, CWS differential and internship placements. There have also been reduced Social Worker vacancy rates and caseloads.
- Statewide Impacts and Reforms include California Automated Response and Engagement System (CARES) Implementation, Foster Care Rate Reform and Foster Family Agency (FFA) Insurance Impacts.
- The DSS initiatives that will be operationalized on an ongoing basis are the Comprehensive Prevention Plan, Children's Well-Being Continuum (CWBC), Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT), Linkages training, Mod C licensing and reporting.
- New DSS program initiatives include Placement Workgroup, Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) program improvement, Case Plan redesign (involving parents and children), Family Finding, engagement efforts and Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Implementation.

#### B. Board Expectations of FCSOC

**Ari Martinez**

- District 3 Board of Supervisor Proxy, Ari Martinez, said the Board members cannot attend all Committee meetings, but encourage appointed members to reach out with updates.
- One of the ways the Committee can engage with Board staff is by having the Committee Chair reach out to the Board.
- Board staff that attend the Committee meetings also provide updates to the Board of Supervisors. The Board expressed interest in the data that is presented during Committee meetings.
- Roles/responsibilities of Committee members: listen to the concerns of the community, and fellow Committee members, and provide updates and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

#### C. Origins of FCSOC

**Cathi Huerta**

- DSS Deputy Director, Cathi Huerta, said FCSOC has had a significant impact on the Department of Social Services.
- In the early 2000s, members of the community went to the Board of Supervisors to express concerns on there being no placements for youth which led to further questions about DSS and their practice.
- FCSOC was created by volunteers willing to come together, with the support of the Board, to work with DSS to address foster care related issues.
- The FCSOC assisted with contacting the *Annie E. Casey Foundation*, who was reinventing the practice of Child Welfare at the time. The Foundation improved the Child Welfare practices at Fresno County DSS with their "Family to Family" initiative.

#### IV. Committee Member Discussion

##### A. Committee Vision

- Work closely with DSS to have open communication to ensure foster youth needs are met.
- Research ways to facilitate transportation and activities for foster youth.

#### V. Adjourn

- Next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 9:00am, in-person for Committee members and the public. Virtual option via Microsoft Teams, for members of the public only. Please note: participation in FCSOC meetings require in-person attendance. Virtual option is view-only. Meeting adjourned by Rosemary at 10:56 AM.

#### Committee Attendance

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sal Quintero <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ari Martinez (Proxy)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karina Perez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Lisitsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patti Scovill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosemary Alanis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Hancock
<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maisie Young	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Avila
<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracy Kashian	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilma Hashimoto

\* Marked Boxes Indicate Committee Member Attended

#### Attending Staff and Guests

**In Person:** Sanja Bugay, Kimberli Smith, Cathi Huerta, Rocky Vang, Shiney Thao, Julia Perez, J'Lyne Montejano, Hillary Bolger, Taylor Chavez