



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

October 2, 2024

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Meeting held in-person for Committee Members and public.

Virtual option vis Microsoft Teams for public only.

I. Call to Order – Introductions – Roll call

Rosemary

- Meeting called to order by Committee Chair, Rosemary Alanis, at 9:13 AM with roll call by DSS Support Staff, Julia Perez.

II. Approve the September 4, 2024, Minutes and October 2, 2024, Agenda

- Maisie Young (District 2) motioned, Tracy Kashian (District 2) seconded to approve the September 2024 Minutes and October 2024 Agenda.

III. New Business

A. Foster Care & Dependency Court

**Hon. Mary D. Dolas, Fresno County Superior Court,
Juvenile Dependency**

- Hon. Mary D. Dolas, a Juvenile Dependency judge in Fresno County spoke to the Committee about foster and dependency court.
- The first Juvenile Court was established in Cook County Illinois in 1899, adding it was also the first Collaborative Court.
- The Dependency Court began in the 1960s. Before this court became effective, religious agencies, churches and the Social Welfare Departments were the ones who dealt with concerns regarding neglect and abuse.
- The Welfare Institutions Code (WIC) was passed in 1980. California uses this code as the rules and laws of procedure for juvenile courts, which allows the government to help youth who are involved in delinquency acts or suffering from abuse or neglect.
- Efforts have been made in Fresno County to increase courtrooms, judges, and attorneys to be able to handle the increased case load. The Juvenile Probation Department and the Department of Social Services have also updated internal policies and procedures to reduce the courts caseload.
- There are approximately 24 attorneys involved in Juvenile Dependency in Fresno County.
- In recent years, County Counsel has appeared on all Juvenile Dependency court cases to ensure appropriate proceedings.
- Ongoing training for attorneys and staff is essential and Judge Dolas would like to see more of that so attorneys are competent to ensure parents and children are receiving the best representation.
- The educational needs and outcomes of foster youth has become the courts main focus in recent years.

IV. Updates

A. Receive Report from Department of Social Services Addressing Critical Areas

Dalvin/Kim

- Child Welfare Services (CWS) Deputy Director, Kimberli Smith, provided 3 handouts to the committee, Quarter 2 Data trends from April 2024 through June 2024 and DSS CWS Data for September 2024 and October 2024. Below are key points.
- “Court Specified Home” means any court ordered home, including any relatives that may not have passed CWS recommendations.
- In the Quarter 2 Data trends, page 6, “Out of County” and “Out of State” refers to any child placed with a relative, Foster Family Agency (FFA) or Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) cleared through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) in a county other than Fresno and/or a state other than California.
- On page 2 of DSS CWS Data, “Neglect” is any perceived threat to general safety threat, making it the most common allegation in maltreatment referrals.
- Mod C received a Provisional License on September 13, 2024. The Board of Supervisors are now the Governing Board of Mod C. CWS will be presenting monthly reports to Community Care Licensing (CCL) and quarterly reports to the Board of Supervisors on Program Operations, Community Care Licensing reports, any contact to law enforcement, fiscal programs and



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audit reports, and any type of administrative actions against the licensee or employees.

- Fresno DSS CWS recently met with all transitional and temporary shelters in California.
- Due to safety inquiries by staff and youth, CWS will increase staff per shift, purchase a safety vehicle for transportation, develop a secondary Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) support unit, invest in staff debriefings, create regularly scheduled meetings with onsite security, enhance behavioral health supports, strengthen collaborations with external partners, have ongoing facility improvements, and host more targeted trainings.
- In 2025, DSS will be collaborating with DBH to move Mod C from its current location to the Heritage Building (DBH campus). The move will require approval from the State to ensure the new location also adheres to the licensing criteria for the provisional license.

V. Adjourn

- Next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 6, 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 10:06 AM.

Committee Attendance

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

* Marked Boxes Indicate Committee Member Attended

Attending Staff and Guests

In Person: Mary D, Dolas, Amina Flores Becker, Rita Bohannon, Chad Valorosi, Brian Van Anne, Rocky Vang, Rosa Aguinigi, Kimberli Smith, Cathi Huerta, Julia Perez, J'Lyne Montejano, Hillary Bolger