

Quad-COUNTY MEETING
JAN. 20, 2009
Location: San Luis Obispo County

Attendance: San Luis Obispo; Summer Frappier, Katie McCain, Kern; Kristie Esquivel, Joanna Hunt, Angela Look, Kathy Lochrie; Fresno; Veronica Salmeron, Rosalio Garcia, Danielle Gonzalez, Madera; Donna Lutz, Mark Koch (CDSS Adoptions) and CPYP-Cheryl Jacobson (chair)

The next meeting date was scheduled: April 24, 2009 in Kern County.

Because CPYP will be ending December 31, 2009, it is important that the counties take over the role of facilitating this meeting so it will be assured of continuation. Each county was asked to designate a scribe to take minutes of their own county presentation. (See their reports below).

Agenda Development: Cheryl Jacobson showed a tool to use in grief and loss work, "Piecing Together the Past" a pre-cut puzzle for youth to write/draw on. Order it at www.compozapuzzle.com. She reported on the conference, the Task Force meeting was reviewed, and because there have been many changes in the four counties since the last multi-county meeting, the counties wanted to hear updates from one another. They report that the information they hear from one another has been instrumental in some of the activities that they initiate in their own counties. It was suggested that during the reporting that questions and discussions regarding development and implementation of actions take place. The following information was reported:

Fresno County:

Changes

- Veronica moved from WRAP to ILP Supervisor
- Rosalio Garcia is now the permanence consultant
 - He is following the steps that Veronica has already put in place
 - Continue Family Finding
 - Hand over case to case worker
 - Follow up with case worker in a month or so
- Each ILP social worker in Veronica's unit will be carrying a family finding case.
 - Beginning with 1 and eventually, 3 cases per worker
- ILP is now three separate units
 - Educational SW for Fresno School District under Dalvin Baker
 - Educational SW for Clovis and Central School District under Patrick K
 - ILP main office SW for after care and out of county under Veronica

WRAP

- Possible permanency case workers under Family First

- Family First is committed to help with family finding
- Family finding will hope to continue even after grant expires
 - Family First and EMQ have merged together
- Golden State is interested in supporting Family Finding
- Family First would be interested in taking over sibling connection
 - They would initiate the activities to be planned

Heart Gallery

- Moved from Sierra Vista Mall to the Woodward Park Library
 - The gallery will be moved to each library within Fresno County
- 7 children were the first children to be selected for the gallery
 - 4 of the children have inquiries to be adopted
- The open house will be held on February 13th for the Heart Gallery
 - Hope to have news media there
- More children are in line to become part of the heart gallery

Rosalio Garcia

- Oversees the intern doing most of the family Finding
- He will take the lead once the intern leaves
- Administration will look into how much time should be spent on Family Finding

ILP Unit

- The agency and the unit have been hit with personal and professional losses recently
 - Loss of a child in ILP
 - Loss of a child within child welfare system
 - The unit has stuck together and holding strong

- New worker will come into the unit
- Aspira is trying to bring back Camp to Belong
- LBGTO Task Force lead by Veronica
 - Training will start soon for the rest of staff
 - The task force will be used as case counselors
- Old Case → Boy visited family in Oklahoma
 - Will be 18 in a few months

San Luis Obispo County:

Revised Desk-guide for Family Finding and Engagement used by social workers, supervisors and permanency case managers. It outlines the 5-step model and the responsibility for social workers and supervisors. In addition, there is a referral form for social workers to fill out and turn into permanency case managers when referring youth

to explore permanency options. 12 spots are available for each permanency case manager and a waiting list will begin if no spots are open.

Permanency Case Managers have begun going to unit meetings with the social workers and supervisors. At the unit meeting permanency is discussed as a general topic (no case management). They are working on spreading the philosophy of permanency and concept throughout department of social services. Training on the desk guide and referral form takes place at the unit meetings.

ILP has had staff changes: Katie has moved over to the direct service side of ILP and no longer has a caseload. Jo-Jo is a new hire as permanency case manager and will begin on February 9, 2009! Summer is holding down permanency and is trying to keep the momentum going that has been created over the last 3 years.

Resource Handbook is complete! It is the same format and model from Fresno and Alameda County. A design firm and printing firm created it and DSS and Cuesta split the cost of the entire handbook. The resource handbook will be used to train DSS staff, foster parents, community agencies and foster youth about permanency and the different options and possibilities for permanency.

Permanency Case Managers continue to speak at trainings. Below is a list of speaking engagements:

- Foster Parent Information Sessions (for those interested in fostering or adopting)
- PRIDE trainings
- Unit Meetings
- Social Worker Inductions

Permanency Case Managers have a few different avenues for discussing case management:

1. Every other Monday for an hour and a half PCM discuss numerous cases with DSS staff, Regional Manager and Program Manager. Bring cases forward to brainstorm creative ideas for each youth and to get approval for travel.
2. Regional Staff Meetings are held monthly at each regional office in the county. There is a diverse group of DSS staff including supervisors and regional managers. It is a good venue to talk about permanency as a big picture but can be difficult to focus the conversations around permanency.
3. Team Meetings will be held monthly for each youth on the PCM case load. All the team players that are working with the youth are invited and encouraged to attend. It is up to the team if the youth attends. These meetings can be tied in with WRAP meetings or Team Treatment Meetings. It is important that permanency is discussed and mentioned at every meeting. It is difficult to coordinate with everyone's schedules.

Permanency Advisory Board takes place quarterly. An agency presents at each meeting and discusses what permanency looks like in their agency and identify what the barriers might be if permanency is not addressed. Then there is a roundtable discussion about

differing topics regarding permanency in the community and how to spread permanency to all agencies working with youth.

Madera County:

Darla's training was held on Jan 8th and 9th and was well attended. Partners assisting are Aspira and State Adoptions. Aspira has already begun Life Books for some youth. There will be one more session with Darla on April 28th.

Kevin Campbell trained on family finding and engagement. The group home is interested in doing family finding. The permanency committee has created a "connections tree" in the meeting room that is used the most.

Staff vacancies are impacting the county. One of the two Program Managers has been on medical leave since April. Four out of six supervisors are or have been out on leave. There are only four permanency workers and caseloads have had to be increased to cover the vacant positions. The Director position will be vacant in March and they are seeking a new person for this position.

Kern County:

- Kristie currently has 23 cases.
- Training is happening with OYA workers in FFE: Including 3 primary workers and 3 secondary workers.
 - They meet twice a month
 - We have OYA staff meetings
- Kristie is training on FF&E and doing consulting with the OYA worker
- Focus is on the things that are happening on a monthly basis. EX: Trips, visits
- In December Kristie got the ok to do FFE group in FS. There will be 14 people.
- FFE will continue in PP
- The goal is that 14 people in FS will slow down cases to PP
- There are transitions in the department and there are new hires starting in PP and moving into different department areas.
- Kristie is training in induction training
- Kristie is still getting referrals and there are more coming in from new workers
- Trees launch
- Theme: Everyone has a family our kids do too!
- Staff making tree out of fabric.
 - 5 youth per tree
 - committee putting on leaves
 - leaves will be put on in a progression, so progress can be seen.
- Greg (intern) is working on FFE in ER, working on getting workers to have thirty names in the file.

- OYA contract up in 12/09, trying to get it extended. This is paying for trees, travel, etc.
- Kristie is permanent position
- Permanency committee meets monthly
- FFE included in OYA contract initially, but not initially done.
- Focus is on what the child wants, finding their identity
- October: Dream Center Launch. Foster Youth Employed in coffee shop. Emancipated ILP worker is there as well as ACT out and probation also there.
- Christmas holiday party: 100 youth, turkey dinner, DJ, graffiti t-shirts, giveaways
- Heart Gallery at the fair: 90 inquiries
 - Those people are going to FP orientation
- Recruitment for FP has changed a little for recruiting for permanency focused
- Yu working with Jamison center staff and TDM people on FFE
- Changing launch of HG so youth are only there for part of the time

3-5-7

- No meeting in December
- Co chair changed to Tennille Green-Wood
- Darla was here on 1/7/09
- Currently 13 cases
- Angela and Tennille are meeting with the training unit and ask to start working on 1 case
- Next step is to go to FS training meeting
- Going to FFA consortium, hopefully will train on FFA a month
- Pilot over in March 2009
- There were six criteria for kids in pilot
- Biggest problem: Kids choose group home staff and the staff doesn't follow through with the life book
- would have liked the therapist to do 3-5-7
- Kathy Lochrie- new to group
- Youth success-visited in December, spent 2 days in Chicago. Then J.F. went to Stockton for a visit. Visits had some difficulty
- Also, for another- boys visit went well and they met there mother in Vallejo. Oldest is emancipating and has family to go to