

Northern California CPYP Multi-County Meeting
April 29, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Alameda County, 401 Broadway, Oakland, CA

Thanks to Program Manager Jon Pettigrew and Alameda County for hosting

Next meeting: Wed., July 29. 11 a.m. -2:30 p.m. 1747 Copperhill Parkway,
Santa Rosa at Sonoma County offices (north end of Santa Rosa, almost to
Windsor) 707-565-4300

MINUTES from April 29, 2009

Participants: Alameda County: Jon Pettigrew, Fredi Juni; Aspiranet: Odessa Caton; CPYP: Eileen Johnson, Mardi Louisell; Edgewood/San Mateo: Mary Bedford-Carter, Paula Miller; Family Builders, SF: Amy Sample; Glenn County: Cheryl Harrison, Aiko Reed, Lisa Permann; San Francisco County: Dan Phillips, Arlene Hyllton (ILSP); Seneca Center, SF: Lauren Pearl; Solano County: Veronica Piper-Jefferson; Sonoma County: Karen McClure, Fred Jones, Kerry Stokes; Stanislaus County: Naomi Jimenez, Karla Self

UPDATES:

• **Alameda County, Fredi Juni:**

The Bay Area Heart Gallery will be at City Hall in June in SF, in July at Fremont/Dublin and San Mateo County. The Heart Gallery has received many referrals of older youth who want to participate but it's hard to track data on Heart Gallery results.

AAP training: part of the issue is guardianship versus adoption. There will be an AAP training for Alameda staff in a few months. As they facilitate pre-placement meetings for Dumisha Project youth, an Alameda staff person who knows both adoption and youth permanency is available as a resource. Some adoptions get stuck partway because people don't know the process. Note: in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, adoption mediators are hired to shepherd potential adoptive parents through the adoption process.

Jon Pettigrew:

Dumisha Project: Alameda continues its partnership on the Dumisha project with Family Builders.

Kinship Unit Pilot: Around July 2009, Alameda plans to turn the kinship unit into a pilot. Currently the kinship unit understands issues specific to kin placement but the caseload is as high as the rest of the department. By reducing the caseload the SWs will have time to focus on engagement work: 1) talking with the youth about what the youth wants; 2) talking with family and finding out what they're willing to do, esp. if kin is not able to make long-term commitment.

Training: Alameda will bring Barry Chafkin (who spoke at the CPYP conference) on June 2 and 3; is interested in partnering with another county on expenses.

Alameda continues the Youth-Adult Partnership (foster and former foster youth partnering with the county). Youth will do a training for adults in September.

TDMs in reunification services: Alameda is piloting permanency TDMs here.

- **Aspiranet, Odessa Caton:**

Training: Aspiranet is doing training for all their staff in California on lifelong connections. In addition, Bay Area Aspiranet staff are attending training on FEE in Solano County.

Quarterly Reports from FFA workers (Needs and Services Plan) submitted to social worker and a section on permanency is included. Question: is there anything the county social workers would want on this report? County answer: Specific permanency efforts completed for a given child; contact information if there has been contact; quantitative/ qualitative information about connections.

- **Edgewood Center, Mary Bedford-Carter.**

Edgewood has a 1-year contract with San Mateo County to do family finding for 40 youth. Of the 30 youth who chose to participate, Edgewood has located family for about 16, but all youth are not engaged with family yet. Court issues sometimes hold up the process. Update: San Mateo has stopped the project with Edgewood Center and Mary and Paula are no longer employed.

- **Family Builders, Amy Sample.**

FB is in the 3rd year of the project and added a staff person to do the family finding function, separate from FB's permanency work. FB started a school-based recruitment campaign to recruit adoptive parents from the school system and thereby keep the youth in the same school. FB is training SF social workers on engaging youth and family over the next several months.

- **Glenn County: Cheryl Harrison**

Because Glenn is a small county, the SW does all functions. One SW has all 22 emancipation age youth. Glenn is a F2F county as well as a CC25I county. Glenn assigned one SW to do permanency. Recently, their PQCR was done on permanency and with UC Davis, Glenn developed its ideas about practice. Glenn doesn't use many FFAs, places most children in county homes, so its biggest partners are foster parents and MH. Glenn has a Transition Age Youth Center, which is a MH center. Recently Glenn spent on getting ETO up and running. Glenn does emancipation conferences every 6 months for ages 14 – 18 youth. Training for foster parents and SW together is being planned.

- **San Francisco: Dan Phillips**

SF has been hit hard in terms of layoffs. SF is slowly changing the mindset from long term warehousing in placement units to looking for connections. Having received some adoptions workers in his unit, he hopes to create more change. However, attorneys often lobby against permanency – for example, a youth is 14 and at age 16 is eligible for successful ILSP program, so the attorneys don't want the youth to do permanency work.

Mardi Louisell will do case reviews with San Francisco, first with supervisors and SWs who volunteer, eventually will be randomly assigned case reviews. The case review is structured as a case consultation process to look at how permanency has been implemented (or not). So far, she has found that SW is not used to working as team and sharing the decision making process on permanency.

ILSP, Arlene Hyllton. ILSP is working to incorporate permanency work into its IL work.

- **Seneca Center, Lauren Pearl.**

For past 2 years, Seneca has been trying to integrate family finding and permanency work into all services. Seneca does a connections program through WRAP in SF. In September 2009, Seneca began a research project (as part of a Child Trends project in 12-14 sites nationally) that hopes to demonstrate the effectiveness of family finding. SF and Oregon are the only ones researching family finding at client entry point. Youth are randomly assigned to the project the first time the youth comes to the court.

- **Solano County: Veronica Piper-Jefferson**

Darla Henry will do Grief and Loss training for SW and partners May 18 and 19. SW are personally inviting partners to attend. At the last training with CPYP consultant, participants did a mock permanency team meeting with a script provided. SWs each had a part to play - it was a very successful training tool.

- **Sonoma County, Fred Jones:**

Success: one youth wanted to find his father who has a very common name and the county had only general information, including that he lived in Canada. However, with persistence on the part of the Family Finding SW, they found him through the help of a social worker in British Columbia.

Voices of Sonoma County: A youth-drive resource center, whose founders are 8 former foster youth. About 90 persons attended the opening. Sonoma County ILSP are now under the permanency supervisors (Fred Jones).

- **Stanislaus: Karla Self.**

Trying to be creative about keeping their non-case carrying position.

Have been working on data to show how it's tracking the connection work done.

CONTENT UPDATES

- **Alameda Guide: Fredi Juni**

Many agencies have adapted this, including some out of state. The update for Alameda is nearly finished and only requires a legal opinion. There have been changes in the financial chart in KinGap and financial aid for college. In the next 6 months, SF will print its own adaptation. New handouts have been developed, which are a brief version of the financial chart. If a person wants more detail than is contained in the handout, one can go to the chart.

Notes on the specifics:

- 1) KinGap rate is a special fixed rate. It will never go up, while the AAP rate is flexible. If one moves out of state, legal guardianship is not as secure as adoption.
- 2) College financial aid. There is new legislation that a youth must be in foster care on or after age 13 to qualify. If a youth wants to receive financial benefits for college, adult adoption is an option.

Stanislaus Access Database: Karla Self

Started 5 years ago, it uses a MS Access Runtime version (Microsoft has a free Runtime Version, Microsoft Runtime version 2007 that is available online). Karla uses CWS/CMS Business Objects reports to pull data from CWS/CMS to compare with the data in the Access Database. Recently she added the ability to search by connected person in addition to searching by youth and mother's name. There is also a link to family documents, obits, etc.

The Absent Parent Data Entry Form is used to document the search results from legal clerks within the Access database. The database can save prior addresses as well as current ones. She recently added the ability to automatically generate a letter to potential connections and then update the database to show that the letter was sent.

The database cannot accommodate multiple TDMs – only the last TDM meeting attended will be listed. Stanislaus has a permanency SW (Naomi Jimenez), who sits next to the TDM facilitators and gets data, enters it into the database and passes it on to Karla. Note that the Youth Connections data collection is usually done prior to the initial TDM.

Family Builders: Amy Sample.

Doing a pilot with one FB SW in SF to enter all their information directly into CWS-CMS

CD on Grief and Loss: Kinship Center, Salinas, developed this. The section with youth talking is excellent. The CD can be found on their website.

ISSUES:

- In Stanislaus, a father was unable to attain information regarding the whereabouts of his child when asking Child Support Services in another county where his support payments were being paid.

- Incorporation of permanency into meetings and reviews. Start bringing up permanency at whatever meeting. Need to physically go out to meetings with partners.

When looking at Long Term Placement, be critical about reasons why the youth is there. Use concurrent planning goals as a way to incorporate permanency.

- Barriers to concurrent planning – resistance by prospective parents. See it as a lack of support by SW for the adoption. Attorneys are resistant to talking about concurrent planning. Some SWs see discussion of concurrent planning as an indication they aren't working in good faith with the parent.

Get child attorneys to listen to former foster youth talk about emancipating without permanency. Glenn is starting a local Blue Ribbon Committee. Maybe have former foster youth present about emancipating with permanency to Beyond the Bench. Alameda partnered with the courts to get mandated training for court appointed attorneys. Offer classes for youth on what it means to be adopted. Have an adoptive parent mentor a potential adoptive parents.

•TO DO

Internet Search Engines: Send out internet Search Engine list form CPYP. (Completed).

Additional sites: mentioned in Central Valley/Coast meeting: 123people.com, Facebook social sites, Isearch.com, worknumber.com and globallocate.co, which helps to find cell phone numbers. For California Birth Defects Monitoring project: CBDM.org

Send out updated database from Karla Self. (Completed)

Let CPYP evaluator Craig Evans know about Karla Self's reports.