

## **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**January 25, 2001**

**Recorder: Pamm Shaw**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia Aguiar, Janet Eaton (for Kathleen Callanan), Barbara Helfing, Laurie Jordan, Jan Kearns, Patty Moore, Sherry Torok, Kate Warren

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Linda Cella, Consuelo Espinosa, Ruth Major, Melissa Ryan, Cheri Schoenborn, Terry Colborn, Greg Rose, Pamm Shaw (for Dawn Paxson)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Doug Cleveland, Juno Duenas, Teresa Duff, Bob Farran, Deidra Lowe, Beverly Morgan-Sandoz, Nancy Sager

### **I. Introductions**

Acknowledge Greg Rose for organizing foster care presentation.

### **II. Agenda Review**

Agenda was reviewed and approved.

### **III. Review Minutes**

Minutes included in packet were draft. Final version with T Grid was not included. Will be included with these minutes for follow up at March meeting.

### **IV. Review T-Grid Items for Action/Follow up**

Cheri Schoenborn participated in a discussion with the Committee to follow up on recommendations in the ICC Position Statement on Child Care and subsequent correspondence with DDS. The remainder of grid items are deferred to March 2001.

Major issues from the Position Paper include:

#### ***a) Regional Center child care policies***

Cheri reported that she has reviewed 17/21 regional center child care policies that include use, support and reimbursement for child care. Most policies are based on Lanterman and indicate that determination is based on the unique needs of child/family through IFSP process or IPP process. All POS guidelines reviewed by DDS for meeting statutory regulations.

Despite policies, Committee members acknowledge this is still a big issue for families due to both a lack of availability of appropriate child care and of appropriate training to provide care.

Committee members reported on discrepancies among regional centers in how child care is really supported, how utilized by consumers, how reported use by regional centers to determine use/need of families.

Committee members request that DDS take a proactive position with stakeholder groups and provide leadership to regional centers to standardize use and reporting of child care services.

**b) *Use of other services in place of child care***

There are differences and discrepancies in reporting respite or other services being used e.g., in home support services, skilled nursing for child care. DDS looking at issues related to child care and respite, trying to identify baseline information for what currently exists.

Cheri indicated that staff could do data run on potential use of child care based on codes that might give picture of use (service codes) and also noted that service delivery reform efforts are identifying outcome measures for consumers re: meeting needs.

Discussion regarding how regional centers paying for child care under Lanterman – costs over and above those of costs of care for “typical” children.

Largest gaps in child care for infants and school age. A letter was sent from Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council regarding the lack of child care for youth with disabilities. A copy of the letter sent to Grantland Johnson (Health & Welfare Agency) and Delaine Eastin (CDE). CDE has offered to bring parties together to discuss the issue.

**c) *Statewide system of data collection to inform planning efforts***

Acknowledge unique problems in the system and are exploring potential changes through system reform efforts first.

The Prop 10/WestEd barriers study will look to regional centers to participate in data collection efforts – e.g., collect data locally and make some generalizations about what is found re: family needs/use of child care.

**Cheri will request DDS support to participate in research study efforts to look at data collection elements by sending letter to regional centers requesting their support.**

Discussion re: FSSC role in interagency planning to bring information local that is family friendly so families can sense something is happening from the state level.

**d) *Importance of child care for families who have children with disabilities***

- Wanted DDS to know that child care is a major issue for families of children under the age of 3
- Burden on families – exacerbated by lack of child care; lack of information provided that families are legally entitled to

**e) *Role of service coordinators in helping families***

Need for improved service coordinator training that:

- Identifies community supports allowing families to make choices about what they need;
- Helps families find/fund child care;
- Provides appropriate information and referral for families with better written information regarding families’ rights;

- Discusses required vs. non-required services – how written/included in IFSP's; and
- Addresses families' needs re: work, economic self-sufficiency.

Discussion re: "unwritten" rules/practices from Regional centers – management approval process in place rather than driven by family need or IFSP/IPP.

**Recommendations:**

**DDS staff with FSSC committee will review recommendations from child care position statement in context of current initiatives.**

**Cheri will provide copy of position statement and communications related to the letter to be included in minutes.**

**V. Local presentation on Natural Environments**

Kate Warren described some of the efforts in Alameda County, in the East Bay Regional Center (EBRC) catchment area. Families have concerns about the implementation of services in natural environments. EBRC has a new director and following a corrective action plan from the state.

Kate reported that the Local Prop 10 Commission has developed a partnership among all programs serving children birth to 5. TriCities Children's Center offers an integrated child care and early intervention program. County wide, there is an increase in services to children at home vs. in segregated settings. There are moves to develop cross-disciplinary training strategies with other agencies. Looking at better mechanisms to support children with disabilities to access subsidies for child care services.

Pediatric Special Needs Task Force- subcommittee of Alameda County Prop 10 commission with FRN participation – looking at prop 10 support for service integration. Have developed *Health Risk Assessment* with points based upon needs of child (case load based on points vs. number of children). **Kate will provide *Health Risk Assessment* for FSSC.**

Pamm Shaw reported that there are two colleges (Merritt and Ohlone) participating in the Community College Paraprofessional Preparation project in Alameda County. Local Prop 10 has funded a coordinator at each college to increase training and compensation for child care providers.

Connie Espinosa and Ruth Major described the Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers Regional Training Network and their role as Regional Training Coordinators (RTC's). They are two of ten RTC's that provide training and technical assistance to child care programs serving infants and toddlers throughout California. Ruth described the work with providers to increase awareness and training re: children with special needs. They are now making stronger connections within each of their regions.

Cheri also shared that the Prop 10 Diversity Committee looking at children with disabilities vs. children with special needs.

**Pamm will provide Oregon special needs subsidy scale in packet for FSSC.**

**VI. Strategic plan for Natural Environments**

Natural Environment training is scheduled for March 8-9, 2001. Invite someone who attended that training from LA Area. **Chairpersons will follow up in finding someone from LA.**

**VII. Role and relationships with FRC's across systems**

Continuing discussion re: need for coordination amongst systems. Will remove from agenda for next meeting.

**VIII. Service Coordination and Family Support**

See IV.e. re: role of service coordinators in child care.

**IX. Other**

**A. Legislation**

Jan Kearns discussed the Figueroa bill SB 308 - Early education wage equity act. Focus on CDD funded programs to:

- Provide lost COLA (24.8% increase)
- State Preschool – remove income requirement for children with disabilities who qualify for special education
- Recommend individuals talk to local legislators re: this bill
- Look at how potentially impacts children under age 3

**B. Data collection efforts**

Discussion re: ICC committees interface in terms of similar need for collecting data by identifying data elements needed that cross committee needs and what agencies are already collecting.

DDS and CDE working on getting unduplicated count of B-3. Ken will be taking this over. DSS has a contract with UC Berkeley connecting data sources (with CYA, Vital stats)

Santa Barbara Prop 10 Commission with UC Santa Barbara has developed software for collecting data.

**C. ICC Action Item – ICC meeting schedule**

Recommend Option C so FRCN can meet on Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Action items:**

1. Kate Warren will provide *Health Risk Assessment* for FSSC.
2. Pamm Shaw will provide Oregon special needs subsidy scale in packet for FSSC.
3. DDS staff with committee will review recommendations from child care position statement in context of current initiatives.
4. Provide copy of position statement, communications related to the letter to be included in minutes.
5. Cheri Schoenborn will provide copy of position statement, communications related to the letter to be included in minutes.
6. Jan Kearns will provide article from The Preschool Report –re: children enrolled in B-3 programs nationally for FSSC.
7. Kate and Patty will bring copies of draft letter to child development community for committee review and approval.
8. Recommend committee chairs identify data collection elements that cross ICC committees (Identify what data is needed (by committee/ICC, by agency, by program– how to develop collaborative data efforts, how to frame, what is already collected and for what purposes?).
9. Cheri will request DDS support to participate in research study efforts to look at data collection elements by sending letter to regional centers requesting their support.
10. Co-chairs will follow up with ICC secretary to determine dissemination of notices about ICC meetings to Regional Centers, LEAs, and community stakeholders.
11. Greg Rose will provide copies of “FRC Best Practices” for committee members.
12. Co- chairs will arrange for local presentation on natural environments implementation from LA area.

**AGENDA for March 2001**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Materials or Resources</b>	<b>Time Needed</b>
I. Introductions	Chairs		5 minutes
II. Agenda review	Chairs		5 minutes
III. Review minutes	Chairs		5 minutes
IV. Review t-grid items for action and follow up	Chairs	T-grid	1 hour
V. Local presentation on natural environments	LA rep		15 minutes
VI. Data collection	Sherry Torok		
VII. Review FRCN and volunteer competencies (ASK)	Juno Duenas	Copies of competencies	30 minutes
VIII. Review and approve letter to	Patty Moore	Copy of draft	10 minutes

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Materials or Resources</b>	<b>Time Needed</b>
child development community to increase participation in State ICC activities.	and Kate Warren	letter	
IX. ICC consideration of developing a strategic plan related to natural environments			
X. Committee communications			
XI. Status of due process/mediation and complaints			