

Members Present: Lorraine Cahn, Jewel Roberts, Judy Yokel, Nancy Virostko, James Jurado, Melody St.Charles, Bill Manov, KC Culver, Lisa Todd, Francis Krebs, Karen Anderson-Gray (chair).

We reviewed the minutes from our last sub-committee meeting of March 2, 2005. I also distributed the minutes from the South County Stakeholders meeting.

As we discussed in our last committee meeting, we agreed to focus on Substance abuse assessment and treatment for parents of children age 4 and older who are in out of home foster care. We also agreed that Therapeutic visitation was a priority.

Bill Manov brought a proposal to fund one full time position and \$100,000 for treatment to meet the needs of the parent population of children 4 and older. We acknowledged that even with this expansion of current services there is still a need for more treatment dollars for the 1 to 3 age group parents and another 50 families who could benefit from substance abuse services.

The next area we brainstormed was therapeutic visitation. The two main issues that we discussed were the need to increase our visitation capacity and secondly, transportation issues associated with supervised visitation. Although we discussed the idea for a visitation center, we thought our time was better spent focusing on increasing capacity and resolving the transportation issues. We decided to put the visitation center idea on hold and a future sub-committee could explore this idea in more depth at a later date.

Ideas that we came up with to address the transportation issues are the following:

1. Pay foster parents a stipend to transport foster children to their supervised visit. (Nancy will send a letter to the foster parents in order to get their feedback on this idea)
2. Contract with our current group home contractors to use their on-call staff for transportation. Community connections could also be contracted with to provide transportation services. Cost: \$8 to \$12 an hour.
3. Use flex funds to pay for gas cards for foster parents to encourage them to transport the children.
4. Hire a transportation company.
5. Look for drivers from the Volunteer Center or from UCSC work-study program.

If we could cut back on the amount of transportation that the Supervised visitation worker provide, we would greatly increase our capacity for more supervised visits. We may not need more workers  
If we could accomplish this.

In addition to these topics, we discussed the needs for transition age youth. The following needs were identified: Job development; tutoring; housing assistance; services for pregnant youth; and independent living skills. The Caminos program was identified as a resource for Transition age youth in South County.

SB 163 was discussed as a way to meet the needs for many of the families involved with Social Services. We agreed to further research this idea as Cross Roads and Chamberlains are both group homes (level 10 and above that we could use to justify the higher level of care criteria to use 163 money.

In conclusion, our top two priorities remained as more Substance abuse assessment and treatment and increased capacity for supervised visitation.