Summary/Action Minutes

I. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Update – continued from October 26, 2015

Patti Castro, Director, Workforce Investment Board, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Alameda County Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

The Alameda County Workforce Investment Board (ACWIB) is a private sector led policy and oversight body dedicated to workforce development in Alameda County, excluding the City of Oakland. There have been major changes in the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act, which streamlines membership requirements for state and local workforce boards while maintaining a majority of business representation. Additional changes include:

- Requires certification and continuous improvement of the one-stop centers by the Chief Elected Officials and the workforce boards
- Renames the local boards as workforce development boards
- Greater Alignment and integration of Federal programs

Current Challenges
- Program alignment and coordination
- Increasing access points
- Reduced funding and limited resources
- Technology
- Maintaining service quality while in transition
- Regional planning versus local planning

Current Opportunities
- Leverage strategic partnerships for services
- Greater connectivity to CBO’s providing supportive services
- Sector partnerships and employer engagement
- The use of data to drive solutions for clients
- Organizational changes
- Advocacy to combat wage stagnation

The Workforce Investment Board will return to the Social Services Committee to report on measures and outcomes of their priority populations in the Workforce Investment programs.

Purpose:
☑ Report progress
☐ Advocacy or Education
II. Overview of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Plan

Michelle Love, Director, Children & Family Services, Social Services Agency, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the County’s Commercial Sexually Exploited Children Program.

On average the Alameda County Assessment Center sees approximately seventy-five to one hundred children in the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Program per year. The West Coast Children’s Clinic provides specialized mental health services for over 100 children per year. Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting & Serving Sexually Exploited Youth (MISSSEY) provides survivor informed community advocacy, case management and drop in services for approximately 200 youth annually. SafetyNet has served 508 sexually exploited and at-risk youth.

There is new federal and state legislation to assist this population.

H.R. 4980 – Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (May 2014)

This legislation mandates that states must develop policies to identify, document and determine appropriate services for CSEC or at risk youth. In addition it requires that states report within 24 hours children that are identified as CSEC to law enforcement. Additional requirements include:

- Requires states to report total number of CSEC to the US Department of Human Services
- Requires reporting of CSEC via the Adoption & Foster Care Analysis & Reporting System (AFCARS) of youth victimized before and while in the foster care system
- Requires state to develop procedures to locate children missing from foster care, determine what occurred and screened for CSE
- Requires state agencies to report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Crime Information Center

SB 855 – Commercial Sexually Exploited Children’s Program

This legislation updates the Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) to include sexually exploited children (SEC) as a population falling under the jurisdiction of child welfare. It also creates a voluntary CSEC program for counties who choose to participate in the development and implementation of a CSEC “opt-in” Program. It provides funding of $5 million for FY 2014/15 and $14 million annually beginning in 2015/2016.

In response to SB 855, the County’s Department of Children and Family Services has formed the Social Services Agency DCFS Interagency CSEC Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is led by the Department of Children and Family Services and co-facilitated by West Coast Children’s Clinic. Additional partners include: Probation, Juvenile Court, County Counsel, Law Enforcement, Office of the Public Defender, District Attorney, Behavioral Health, Public Health and community based organizations that serve CSEC.

The CSEC Steering Committee began meeting in February 2015 and his since drafted and submitted a CSEC program proposal and memorandum of understanding outlining protocols to the State. The County has been awarded $1.1 million for CSEC supports and services. The Committee expects to begin the roll out of the protocols in 2016.

Purpose:
☑ Report progress
☐ Advocacy or Education
☐ Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
☐ Other:
This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

III. Title IV-E Waiver Update

Michelle Love, Director, Children & Family Services, Social Services Agency, presented a PowerPoint presentation to update the Committee on the Title IV-E Waiver.

The Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project has been renamed the California Well-Being Project and it provides participating counties with the flexibility to invest existing resources more effectively in proven and innovative approaches that better ensure the safety of children and the success of families. This flexibility enables the opportunity to reinvest resources into more cost efficient approaches that achieve better outcomes.

The Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project was renewed October 1, 2014. There are now nine counties participating. Program requirements for participation include the Safety Organized Practice for Child Welfare and Wrap Around for Probation. Each county was allowed to add two additional programs; the Demonstration has now been rebranded the California Well Being Project;

New waiver objectives include:

- Improve the array of services and supports available to children, youth and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile probation systems;
- Engage families through a more individualized casework approach; that emphasizes family involvement
- Increase child safety without an over reliance on out-of-home care
- Improve child and family well-being and decrease recidivism and delinquency for youth on probation

New waiver interventions include:

Safety Organized Practice: An approach to day-to-day child welfare casework that is designed to focus on assessing and enhancing child safety at all points in the case process. The expected outcomes include increasing the percent of children safely and permanently reunited with families; reduce the number of children re-entering foster care and parent participation in the case plan.

Evidenced Based Parenting Program

The Evidence Based Parenting Program has been shown to reduce entries into the child welfare system. Expected outcomes of this practice include: increased parent competence in promoting healthy development, recued parents’ use of coercive and punitive methods of discipline, decreased child behavior problems and reduced parental stress associated with raising children.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

CSEC youth are a high-risk population needing additional services. By better identifying these youth and providing targeted services, the Department of Children and Family Services hopes to increase child safety, improve permanency outcomes and decrease recidivism and delinquency.

The State Department of Social Services will be conducting a statewide evaluation of Safety Organized Practice in addition to conducting several smaller studies regarding programs in the waiver.

Purpose:

☑ Report progress
☐ Advocacy or Education
☐ Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
☐ Other:
This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

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