

**Public Child Welfare Training Academy
TPC Meeting**

**May 5, 2005
1 PM – 3 PM**

**Hilton Garden Inn –Carlsbad Beach
6450 Carlsbad Boulevard
Carlsbad, CA 92009**

Present: Don Dudley (Academy), Anita Aldrich (Academy), Andy Anderson (CSUSB), Sayori Baldwin (Riverside Co.), Jennifer Baum (Academy), Genevieve Bromley (SD Co.), Mickey Castro (Imperial Co.), James Coloma (Academy), Beth Crawford (Academy), Sylvia DePorto (Riverside Co.), Terry Forrester (Loma Linda Univ.), Lisa Fulmore (SD Co.), Jim Hollis (SB Co.), Nancy Kail (Academy), Tuey Lee (Orange Co.), Roy Lipshin (Orange Co.), Bett McDade (Academy), Tilisha Martin (Academy Contractor), Amy Okamura (SDSU), Donna Pence (Academy), Peggy Price (Imperial Co.), Liz Quinnett (Academy), Daniela Sisneros (Academy), Lisa Shiner (Academy), Pamela Stewart (SB Co.), Linda Walker (Academy)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by Linda Walker.

Introductions: All present introduced themselves.

Announcement: Linda announced that Mickey Castro has been appointed as the Deputy Director for Children's Services in Imperial County.

**Presentations/Discussion of Universities Providing Social Worker Education,
Relating to the Academy**

Terry Forrester, Loma Linda University Dept. of Social Work: Terry discussed a power point presentation on the Loma Linda University Department of Social Work. In order to be admitted into the program students must interview 1:1 with faculty and have a GPA of 3.0 or above. The program consists of 78 units. The 1st year the students learn practice skills and the 2nd year they declare a concentration. The school is in the process of expanding their PhD program to offer a clinical emphasis. Students who are IV-E have more classes focusing on child welfare. A discussion arose about students not having good writing skills and how this issue should be dealt with. (Riverside County is excluding some potential staff because of this problem.) Loma Linda students are now required to have a 2-unit writing skills class. During the summer session they have 3 weeks of court report writing class. They may have a written statement done by the potential student during the interview. It was suggested that field instructors assist students in writing skills.

CSUSB requires that students have a writing course or have to pass a writing test before entry to the school. They are still having problems with students not being prepared. It

was suggested that their “writing shows more about the writer than who they’re writing about.”

Lisa suggested development of a writing curriculum with the universities.

Sayori pointed out that basic writing skills are needed at the time of hire.

Don pointed out that this is a long-term process, with feedback needed.

Pamela described a writing course with modules that is available at San Bernardino County. It is completed in 10 weeks – not all in class. Those completing the course did better. Linda agreed to email Pamela’s material to those signing up indicating they would like a copy.

Amy suggested that the push for this has to come from the workplace. She indicated that using the GRE this part analytical writing test is helpful; writing samples are at GRE.org.

Andy indicated that field instructors can observe and make this part of the field evaluation. In New Mexico (where he was previously part of the faculty), students get help at the learning center – but couldn’t do that at the agency.

Terry feels that the universities should get together with the counties to establish standards.

Genevieve pointed out that there are prompts included in hidden texts in the cms/cws system, but are often not followed.

Donna mentioned the need for social workers to write accurately and use bias-free terminology.

Lisa suggested an **action step** that would include giving responsibility to field instructors. It was agreed to set up a work group to define what we are looking for, and include university partners. The following individuals agreed to participate: Pamela, Amy, Sayori, Terry, Andy, Bett, Vi, and Carrie (for lit review). Bett will facilitate. Genevieve and Roy will review materials that are developed. The counties will provide samples.

Roy indicated that Orange County develops training when something becomes an issue. They mentioned that Orange County recently had over half of their applicants who were unable to pass their written test.

Amy Okamura, SDSU School of Social Work IVE Liaison: It was pointed out that many graduates of the IVE program at SDSU get jobs in San Diego County. This allows the school to keep track of these students and their performance.

Andy Anderson, California State University San Bernardino, Dept. of Social Work: Spoke about Cal State San Bernardino emphasis on DSM IV, use of self, and fairness and equity issues. Students who are IV-E are required to submit a written statement in order to assess their writing skills. The school also conducts a pre and post test to assess how much students have learned since they first began the program. The program has IVE students in the same cohort; students move through the program together, having the same classes all throughout the program. During the 1st and 2nd year focus on child welfare issues. They can work on their focus area all during the second year. Also, their field seminar is CWS focused. Child welfare competencies are tied to their curriculum (these were passed out). There are 20 IVE full-time students. Part-time IVE MSW students are limited to county staff. The school is currently in the process of starting a BSW program with full accreditation. The BSW program will have a maximum of 20 students.

Sayori questioned whether there was data regarding ethnicity. All three schools indicated they track this. IVE awards give priority to persons of color.

Fairness and Equity Sub-Contract on Disproportionality of Placement of Children of Color

Tilisha Martin, Esq., MSW, Consultant: Ms. Martin previously worked as a child welfare social worker in San Diego County in the Indian Specialty Unit. She is currently an attorney with the San Diego County Public Defenders Office. The Academy is studying what disproportionality looks like in Imperial, Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino, and San Diego County through a sub-contract with CalSWEC (UC Berkeley). Interviews with social workers from four of the five counties (San Diego County declined to participate) and focus groups with various cultural groups in all five counties, as well as an interview regarding history of this issue with Judge Napoleon Jones (previous two-term Presiding Judge of San Diego's Juvenile Court) are being, or have been, conducted throughout these counties to understand this issue. The goal of this study is to summarize findings and make recommendations for follow-up.

A copy of the power point presentation was included in the packet.

Sylvia asked how the "Hispanic" population is being defined, since there are many sub-groups within this population that have specialized cultural traditions and definition.

Discussion concluded that it was important to review sociological issues.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.