

Foster and Kinship Care (FKCE) Advisory Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 11th 2020
3:00- 4:00pm
Lake Tahoe Community College
Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Dana McKnight, Sara Fuchslin, Sabrina Owen, Kay Huxtable, Jennifer Pera, Brad Deeds, Michael Moncrieff, and Mario Guerrero.

Introductions & Roundtable Updates:

Sabrina: Behavioral Health has been adjusting with more telephone appointments and new ways of working in the field. Some clients like it more, since they are able to stay at home. It has been a hard transition for clinicians- they are really missing the face-to-face interactions with clients.

Michael: The RFA unit has been working remotely, but are still doing home inspections. Referrals are down by 50%, however this is due to less mandated reporters being at work. Everything (like evaluations) is being done by video at the moment. The RFA team is very grateful for the continuation of FKCE trainings being offered through Zoom.

Jennifer: Things have changed for the adoptions unit at CPS as well, home visits are now being done over video. There is a back log at court and adoptions are being delayed. There has been a lot of waiting as things are backed up and the court is only hearing emergency hearings. Child Protective Services continues to do placements and detentions.

Sara: A lot of changes have been happening at the college, with changing all of the classes to distance education or enhanced virtual education for spring quarter. She has enjoyed seeing the creativity and positivity as her co-workers learn to adjust as well.

Brad: He has been surprised by at how quick staff and faculty have adapted at LTCC. The plan is to provide virtual education through the fall. Fire Academy and EMT, and some health care areas may be allowed to perform lab portions of their courses f2f. Enrollments are staying strong. Shout out to everyone who is continuing to provide essential services.

Kay: There are 5 new families taking resource family trainings. They continue to have positive collaborations with a number of agencies. Trainings include topics around anxiety and uncertain times.

Mario: CASA is very grateful to be able to continue to work during COVID. The coronavirus has presented a lot of barriers and it is very different that the in-person experience. They have been adapting to Zoom and video calls and it has been inspirational to see CASA adapting.

Program Updates/Upcoming Trainings:

FKCE has been happy to convert classes to Zoom. Spanish classes have adjusted to evenings, and the English classes continue to be doing well. It has been a positive experience to both classes. They are keeping it interactive, and they have found that many people no longer need to find a babysitter to attend class. Additionally, they can also be in the comfort of their own homes. They continue to follow the Chancellor's office guidelines in regards to HIPPA. Karen G will be providing a CSEC and SB89 training this Saturday.

FKCE Updates:

Dana explained changes in the budget. There has been a one-time allotment of rollover of funds. This means extra funds! They will continue to do Zoom trainings, but are looking at what they can start to do in person again. They are hoping to be able to add back some face-to-face classes and are always looking for class topic suggestions. Some ideas the group had were “life balance”, “staying sane”, and “mental health”.

Closing Discussion:

Kudos all around to everyone doing a great job- making lemonade out of lemons! Please email Kay if you have any more suggestions for training topics.

Meeting adjourned.