

Foster and Kinship Care (FKCE) Advisory Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 10th 2020
3:00- 4:30pm
Lake Tahoe Community College
Room A106

Attendees:

Dana McKnight, Brad Deeds, Nancy Dalton, Sara Fuchslin, Kevin Hill, Sabrina Owen, Mario Guerrero, Kay Huxtable, Laura Salinas and Bill Martinez.

Introductions & Roundtable Updates:

Mario: A few events coming up for CASA include the Box Lunch Day on April 2nd, a fundraising event. April 16th marks the day for the “Connect for a Cause” Mixer and will be held at Idle Hour. New advocate training will also take place in the month of April.

Laura: There are free WiFi hotspots available for former foster care youth to use, and are good for a year.

Brad: Explained the Career and Technical Education and pathways program grant, which is working toward better resources for instructors in teaching online courses. There will be an advertising campaign focusing on the following programs: Real Estate, Computer Cyber Security, and Criminal Justice.

Bill: There are new employment opportunities at Tahoe Family Resource Center, including a full-time therapist. Their Cinco de Mayo fundraiser will be held on May 1st in the California Lodge at Heavenly. They are looking for volunteers to help at the event.

Program Updates/Upcoming Trainings:

RFA classes have been scheduled through 2020 and will be reaching to the Truckee area through collaboration with Sierra Child & Family Services. The English-language and Spanish-language trainings continue to have great attendance. The challenge of providing child care to increase attendance at classes and trainings continues. Dana and Kay have been working with Tahoe Soroptimist and Kiwanis Club for possible funding. Nancy mentioned looking in to the Tahoe Women’s Community Fund.

Some upcoming events include “Day of the Young Child” - theme will be “mindful experience”; plan to have yoga, peaceful music and activities in an effort to promote the process of healing. The South Lake Tahoe Police Department will be speaking on gang activity concerns. Other Safe Talks include topics such as suicide prevention, LGBTQ awareness, and the effects of domestic violence on children. Mario encouraged everyone to reach out to him if you have any ideas or topics you would like to see, and he can work on finding speakers.

FKCE Updates:

Kudos to Kay for doing amazing work to help grow the program! Kay is happy to see growth and is enjoying seeing what works and what doesn’t. Dana will be at the FKCE Institute in March and will have updates at the next meeting. Additional mid-year funds have been requested.

Closing Discussion:

General discussion on new ideas and topics for classes. In addition to internet safety and sexting, interest in culture sensitivity was also expressed. Michael Moncrieff continues to provide a positive presence when working directly with El Dorado County foster homes and RFA training. Having a positive experience with a CPS Social Worker can help de-bunk common misconceptions about the agency. Sabrina mentioned that Behavioral Health will be having a guest speaker on Complex Trauma on February 19th.

Next meeting, May 11th 2020 @ 3pm:

Cheyenne Lane would like to be invited to the next meeting.