

**Foster and Kinship Care (FKCE) Advisory Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**3:00- 4:30pm**  
**Lake Tahoe Community College**  
**Aspen Room**

**Attendees:**

Dana McKnight, Brad Deeds, Nancy Dalton, Tammy Chako, Jennifer Pera and Sara Fuchslin.

**Roundtable Updates, What's New?**

**Brad:** Discussed the Career and Technical Education Program and gave an overview of the Pathways Project. Talked about dual enrollment classes, AP classes at High Schools converting to college credit, the LTCC Promise Program and the new housing program for students.

- Open discussion on who can benefit from these programs- Dana mentioned this creates great opportunities for high school aged foster children, Tammy thought of the AB12 youth that could benefit from being able to connect with a college education, Nancy mentioned the "Get Focused, Stay Focused" program.

**Jennifer:** Talked about the need for more foster families and resource family approved (RFA) homes in South Lake Tahoe. As an adoption worker she sees many children being placed out of South Lake Tahoe. She is currently on the committee for "On the Verge"- working to strengthen families. They are currently choosing a community project.

**Dana:** Mentioned the change in "foster parents", explained how RFA homes are unique in that they provide families with the approval to not only foster children, but to adopt them permanently.

**Tammy:** Discussed how there are only 3 homes licensed by El Dorado County. The County is working on gathering data and information and plan on taking the lead on getting more recruitment. Possibility of opening up a Foster Care Recruiter position as well as developing specialized homes.

**Program Updates/Upcoming Trainings:**

Next RFA training classes will begin January 2020. RFA training is 12 hours, with an additional 8 hours per year to maintain approval. Mario has agreed to be an instructor for RFA classes at the college. Foster & Kinship Care Trainings are open to the community, and cover a wide variety of topics. They have many guest speakers, but are not seeing the numbers they would like at trainings. Possible roadblocks include access to childcare and time conflicts.

Nico will be getting specialized training on Healthy Sexual development (SB89) and on how to work with commercially exploited children. Hopes of adding a training covering this topic, to be offered in both English and Spanish.

Spanish classes at the Family Resource Center and Bijou school continue to be successful.

**FKCE Updates:**

Rina Rojas was hired as a new Specialist. All positions are currently filled with the exception of one. They are working with a 7% budget cut and future funding will be based on a new formula.

This may impact smaller communities. Drawing in people and exposing them to the need of more RFA homes will be very important, which will require top-quality trainers.

**Closing Discussion:**

General discussion on how to provide information to younger population. Dana mentioned that Kay is reaching out to high schools and has a goal of being able to present to high school aged children. Nancy and Tammy talked about possibility of having curriculum built into High School health classes.

**Next meeting, February 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 @ 3pm:**

Jennifer Pera and Cheyanne Lane would like to attend future meetings. Extend invitation to High School Principal Carline Sinkler.