

Foster and Kinship Care (FKCE) Advisory Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 9th 2020
1:30- 3:00pm
Lake Tahoe Community College
Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Dana McKnight, Kay Huxtable, Chelcee Thomas, Sara Fuchslin, Bill Martinez, Brad Deeds, Michael Moncrieff, Laura Salinas, and Mario Guerrero.

Introductions & Roundtable Updates:

Mario: It continues to be a challenging time for CASA. Restrictions are impacting their ability to meet with children; however, they are encouraging interactions with phone calls and zoom calls. The ability to connect has decreased. He has heard of kids struggling with school on Zoom, they are out of their routine and are experiencing many challenges and aftereffects of Covid.

Bill: The FRC has noticed that new stress on children is apparent. Some classes are seeing increased participation (FKCE classes included). Tahoe Magic is helping with funding for rent assurance. They currently have a food giveaway for their client list- they have seen concerns over housing and food. Nico is doing specific trainings for Covid-19 and how to cope.

Laura: Equity Program has seen an increase in former Foster Care youth but has struggled with ways to support the. They have had to figure out how to connect them with financial aid virtually and a more streamlined application process. They continue to support students by mentorship, connecting them with counselors, access to the food pantry. They are helping to spread the word about FKCE trainings to those who may need the support. They look forward to providing a higher touch with former Foster Care.

Brad: The college has been providing students with hot spots and Chromebooks and continue to work to provide more and better resources. There has been increased dual enrollment, however more D's and F's- which may be due to a lack of space and resources. The college is offering excused withdrawals with more flexibility. The college made it through Fall quarter with all classes running, and Winter quarter will look similar. Spring might be a little different, however most classes will remain as distance education. There is a process in place for all hybrid students- including an orientation, a campus safety app, waivers, temperature checks and new procedures in order for a student to access campus.

Sara: Feels like the college has learned a lot from Fall quarter and continues to be impressed with everyone's positivity and resourcefulness. Everyone is willing to come together and make things work.

Chelcee: They are offering remote and virtual services at Live Violence Free, including Crisis-Intervention Training.

Michael: CPS has seen child abuse referrals go down by about 50%, which is most likely due to a loss of mandated reports. They are grateful that classes and trainings are able to run virtually. They have seen more placement stability- as there is more "family time" with everyone being home. They are preparing for more strict restrictions and a possible second shut down.

FKCE Program Updates/Upcoming Trainings:

Flash drives are being mailed to families in place of training binders. Classes are typically 2 hours long to avoid Zoom-burn out. Training turn out numbers have increased, which means they are able to offer more. There is at least one training every week! Kudos to Live Violence Free for their amazing training they recently offered- great feedback was received. January will have CSEC training, and in February a sensory training will be offered. FKCE also plans to have a presentation on how they serve the community. The State Institute training will be held March 10-12th and will be virtual. The budget has been cut, but with no registration fees or travel fees they have been able to save money.

Closing Discussion:

Brainstorm on some possible topics for future trainings and classes: Local Resource in El Dorado County, Self-Care trainings, Nurtured Heart in Spanish, focus on mental health, Suicide Safe talks, burnout, relapse risk during this time of isolation and loneliness, using the internet for strength and resilience.

Meeting adjourned.