

Foster and Kinship Care (FKCE) Advisory Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 8th 2021
3:00- 4:30pm
Lake Tahoe Community College
Zoom

Attendees:

Dana McKnight, Kay Huxtable, Bill Martinez, Jennifer Pera, Amy Haynes, Mario Guerrero, Chelcee Thomas, Sara Fuchslin, Brad Deeds, and Michael Moncrieff.

Introductions & Roundtable Updates:

Brad: Winter hybrid courses at LTCC continue to run with multiple safety precautions in place. Hoping to phase more F2F classes back in Spring quarter. The college is working on providing vaccines to instructors and employees.

Amy: Behavioral Health is providing limited services- utilizing phone assessments and using TeleHealth. They have not seen an increase in child referrals, but they have seen an increase in support referrals for families such as access to food banks.

Bill: They continue to provide online services- FKCE classes have a growing attendance rate due to people having more time and better access to online trainings. Family Resource Center will no longer be doing clothing distributions but will continue the food bank.

Chelcee: LVF has been partnering with FKCE to provide classes. Overall, their phone lines have been quiet, but they are seeing more intense cases. They also have a food bank.

Jen: CPS has seen a decrease in referrals- could be due to lack of oversight. They are launching the Family Preservation Unit- focusing on keeping families out of court and keeping kids in their homes.

Michael: While there are many relative families that have approval to switch to provide shelter to other children, not a lot of homes in Tahoe have made that switch. The state has been pushing for more relative and familiar placements for children.

Mario: Working with the back and forth regulations- has noticed many kids are struggling to participate in virtual classes. CASA is working on expanding their services into the Family Law division at court.

Program Updates/Upcoming Trainings: Relapse Prevention training coming in April. The zoom format has made trainings more successful, people have better access. Kudos to all of the phenomenal trainers. Dana will be attending the Institute Training in March. May is Foster/Family Care Appreciation Month. They are hoping to find a way to recognize families. Future training brainstorm topics included: How to Reduce Burnout, Cultural Awareness.

Next Meeting will be May 4th at 2pm.

Meeting Adjourned