

Foster and Kinship Care (FKCE) Advisory Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 4th 2021
3:00- 4:30pm
Lake Tahoe Community College
Room A106

Attendees:

Dana McKnight, Sara Fuchslin, Kevin Hill, Mario Guerrero, Chelcee Thomas, Chris Kernes, and Bill Martinez.

Roundtable Updates:

Mario: CASA has a new executive director. CASA workers are able to make their own choices on how comfortable and safe they feel face-to-face vs working with clients virtually and they take into account how the child/family feels as well before making a decision. CASA had a successful box lunch event. Continue to provide virtual trainings to the community.

Bill: FRC is continuing to provide online therapy- have had some challenges with cut back of hours.

Chelcee: Live Violence free has a mix of in person and online services. Currently not taking walk-ins, but anyone is welcome to make an appointment. Supervised visits are back up and running on the weekends and there will be trainings and webinars coming up soon.

Chris: Behavioral Health is not fully open to the public yet, although some clients are able to come in for appointments if needed. Trying to provide in-person services to those isolated at home, or who need the social interaction. Alternating clients in cohorts. Will continue to follow CDC guidelines.

Kevin: CPS is working on partnering an in-house hotline with Behavioral Services to answer after hour calls. Referrals are still low, but starting to pick up with kids being back in school. Staff is working 50% in the office, 50% at home.

Sara: The college continues to have some hybrid courses with hopes to offer more full face-to-face classes come Fall quarter. Safety protocols remain in place.

Program Updates/Upcoming Trainings:

-Have had to cut back due to budget cuts. Looking at new options, such as working with AmeriCorps as well as making internal changes.

-Goal is to go hybrid with classes/trainings, but for now they remain virtual

-Trainings and classes have amazing attendance and community guest speakers and interesting topics have helped to draw larger attendance numbers.

-Focusing on mental health and adolescents. May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

-Discussion on adding a training or class around open adoptions and kinship adoptions