

**Foster and Kinship Care (FKCE) Advisory Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**3:00-4:00pm**  
**Lake Tahoe Community College**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Dana McKnight, Brad Deeds, Mario Guerrero, Sasha Davila

**Introductions & Roundtable Updates:**

**Sasha:** The counseling department at LTCC has been very busy due to registration opening last week. There has been a huge boost in enrollments, and she has been working on more outreach to students as well as trying to do more with foster youth outreach and collaboration.

**Mario:** CASA has been busy as well. They have been working with the community on their Giving Tree for the holidays and working with Laura Salinas at LTCC to put together a gift wrap party. They are starting to see an increase in both dependency and delinquency cases. The Juvenile Treatment Center is the busiest it has ever been in the last 4-5 years. He has noticed an increase in the number of issues and allegations that are involving weapons, guns, and knives. Mario shared information about the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDP) that he is a member of. The JJDP works closely with local judges and probation departments and provides feedback to support juvenile justice in El Dorado County. If you know anyone that is passionate about youth and delinquency prevention, please send them his way!

**Brad:** The Housing Project at LTCC is on-track and is set to open in Fall 2025. LTCC offers a lot of support to students and would be a great option for foster youth making that transition to living independently. The Promise Program offers free tuition for up to 3 years for first-time and full-time college students, and now with the on-campus housing students can stay close to home. Low-income students will also have priority in housing placement. LTCC has been working more closely with the Juvenile Treatment Center, and recently offered a Leave No Trace course this quarter. It has been exciting to work with students interested in Wilderness and/or Forestry, seeing them really engage with the program, and being able to provide them with supplies such as backpacks. The Forestry program has continued to be successful in year 2- it draws students from all over the state. LTCC is also working on expanding the Credit for Prior Learning program- which can really help people to receive credit for previously learned and demonstrated skills without having to take certain courses. The Fire Academy has recently been redesigned to allow student to graduate from the Academy earlier in the year. This allows graduates to be available for work in the busy fire months. Another great fast-track option for students is our EMT program. Students are eligible for hire immediately after completing the course and earning their certificate. LTCC is a great place for students to come build their career path and make important connections in a small community.

**Program Updates/Upcoming Trainings:**

- Zoom RFA -Resource Family Approval Trainings- Collaborating with Folsom College. Providing for the Eastern Slope & South Lake along with Amador County families. Scheduled RFA classes through June 2024 scheduled providing weekly Monday night classes and Super Saturday once a month (attendance numbers increasing)
- Working Collaboratively with Sierra Child and Family and El Dorado County to provide RFA training and In Service English Language training hours on Zoom. Determining class subjects based on survey results and curriculum road map
- Continuing on-going training in Spanish on Zoom, 2 hour classes, 2 times a week, Tuesday and Thursday nights.

**FKCE Updates:**

- On-going monthly Chancellor's office Zoom meetings with weekly email updates. Mandated State Institute will be 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week in March 2024. May be face to face.
- Approved for our FKCE allocation to stay the same for 23-24 and 24-25 fiscal years. Regional Design will be implemented 25-26 with many unknowns. Program plan due 11/30/23 and still waiting for budget expenditure forms to complete 23-24 budget. Many unknowns about how that will look and discussions are on-going.
- Continuing collaborate with Sasha Davila with providing YESS/ILP classes for age 16-21 foster youth or prior foster youth, Next Step participants.

**Closing Discussion:** Mario mentioned that he would love to see a collaboration between FKCE and the Juvenile Treatment Center- that population might be interested in attending some of the trainings provided.

**Meeting adjourned.**