

Foster Youth Advisory Board Committee Meeting

April 17, 2015

Attendees: Antoinette Gonzalez, Clark Burton, Jamie Bettencourt, Bradley Bisquera, Will Bruce, Kim Davis, Naomi Estrada, Sheryl Fitt, Beverly Garcia, Marie Hughes, Jay Allen, Jose Gonzalez, Amy Krueger, Carissa Perales, Alex Spiess, Rosa Valle-Rico, Kiri Villa, Edwin Weaver, Pam Wood, Melanie Barket, Veronica Reyes

- SB1023 Explanation: Money for Foster Youth in EOPS in a program similar to CARE. The Bill passed but it is still unfunded.
 - It has been recommended that the committee and any other supporters send letters in support of the SB1023 funding. The will also support that Allan Hancock College (AHC), EOPS Program, be one of the designated districts to receive funding. The letters of support will be sent to Senator Liu; Amy Lemley, John Burton Foundation Policy Director; Colleen Ammerman, Foundation for California Community Colleges Program Director; and Joyce Roys-Aguilera, Legislative Aide.
 - **Kiri motioned to send letters of support. Kim seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.**
- Counselor – A part-time counselor has been hired with CTEA funding. A full-time counselor will be funded from Student Equity funding next fiscal year.
- Members Updates –
 - Marie Hughes – TAY FAP Conference training will provide information on preparing K-12 students in preparation for higher education.
 - Kim Davis – Exec director – Due to AB 12 CASA workers can now work with foster youth through age 21. The hope is the CASA workers can work more collaboratively with AHC to help integrate foster youth students into higher education.
 - Melanie Barket - SLO CASA Director – 22 students transitioning with new program.
 - Barton Clark – Probation – works collaboratively with Los Prietos – He assists with field trips to AHC – He provided information regarding a resource center at Carmen Lane that provides training on resumes and will assist with registering students for classes.
 - Jose Gonzalez – Righetti High School/Fighting Back – Assists students with mental health services, CalFresh referrals and high school retention.
 - Antoinette Gonzalez – Fighting Back – Reported on work with migrant students
 - Edwin – summer program – Reported on summer camp boot camp at the South Valley – UCSB affiliates will be doing a statistical report based off of the program. Also reported on possible Hero's program that helps foster youth to develop better soft skills and be better students.
 - Discussion of College Now GPA requirements. Students who fall below a 2.5 GPA will be referred to EOPS for the appeal process.
 - Rosa Villa-Rico – Reports that a lot of reasons for the low GPA is frequent displacement of foster youth, hard to track transcripts, and disruption of core curriculum.
 - Alex Spiess – ILP Santa Barbara (North County) – Collaboration between the EOPS and CARE programs have been very supportive. Also reported that iFoster meetings are held regularly. She is working with Lompoc youth and is trying to bridge services.
 - Sheryl Fitt – DSS, Santa Barbara County – The County provides workshops to foster youth. Attendance is low and they are considering the use of gift cards as incentives to encourage students to attend. iFoster – month – Focus for computers – low cost computers can
 - Multiple members discussed and provided the following information:

- Exploration Station in Grover Beach desktop computers for a \$25 application fee. Students must be referred. CARE students may also apply.
 - *ACTION ITEM: Marie Hughes will send information regarding Exploration Station to the committee.*
 - Santa Barbara County also provides computers to underrepresented students and gave out 56 this year. They will renew the contract for this coming year.
 - Cheryl Fitt – Santa Barbara County has opted in to support AB 12 initiative that extends THP Plus housing through the age of 25 as long as the student is a full-time student.
 - Discussion occurred regarding non-duplication of services between county partners/agencies and Allan Hancock College (AHC), ie. book voucher, transportation, and food vouchers. The group decided that identification of students will be self-certified as students via the intake process with the foster youth specialist and/or peer mentor.
- Allocation of \$15,000 Program Funds – The group approved the \$15,000 budget with the following edit: Grouping transportation, food and book vouchers in one line item so that funds may be used as needed and for emergency purposes.
 - **Barton motioned to approve the budget with the edit. Kim seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.**
- Application Draft –
 - A separate cover page will be added to the application that will include requirements for the program and services.
 - Items to be added to the application are:
 - California Dream Act
 - What services do you currently receive as a foster youth?
 - Social/Case Worker and Agency Affiliation will be moved to the intake form.
 - A check list will be provided with a box for “Other.”
 - The consent/release paragraph will be edited to remove “any and all.”
 - A list that students will authorize a release of information to will be put on the intake form or a separate document that will include a check box format with a list of associated agencies.
 - *ACTION ITEM: Kiri will email a draft intake form to the committee for review.*
- Other – The Children’s Resource Network, Lisa Rae, is a Teen Closet clothing program that with a referral student can get clothing in a private appointment.
 - *ACTION ITEM: Jose will send contact information to committee.*
 - Kim Davis – Go after more match from private donation and foundation help.

ACTION ITEMS:

- *Jose will send contact information for Children’s Resource Network to committee.*
- *The directory will be forwarded to the committee for all agencies to add services as appropriate.*
- *Marie Hughes will send information regarding Exploration Station to the committee.*
- *Brad and Will – will look into AHC surplus computers for providing free and low cost computers to foster youth.*
- *Kiri will create and distribute an Intake form for the committee to review.*