



Foster Youth Advisory Committee Meeting March 31, 2022

NOTES

Meeting Place AHC Boardroom/Zoom

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Facilitator: Alex Spiess	Note Taker: Stephen Bernardo
Committee Members Present:	Elizabeth Adams, Raul Aldama, Jazz Allensworth, Kim Colby Davis, Mary Dominguez, Sheryl Fitt, Stacy Krelle, Steve Molina, Joscelynn Murdock, Shana Pompa, Heidi Thompson, Julia Townsend, Raquel Valadez, David Vasquez, Kiri Villa, Hilda Zacarias	
Committee Members Absent:	Lisa Allardyce, Shannon Bell, Trudy Bigelow, Marie Bolin, Vanessa Dominguez, Jose Olvera, Nohemy Ornelas, Yvonne Teniente, Jessica Thomas	
Agenda No. 1	Welcome	
Discussion:	Alex Spiess, committee chair, welcomed the committee to the Spring 2022 meeting.	
Agenda No. 2	Committee Member Introductions	
Discussion:	Committee members introduced themselves. Attendees participated both in person and virtually through Zoom.	
Agenda No. 3	Advisory Committee Purpose/Mission	
Discussion:	Committee members discussed the committee's purpose and utilized the Padlet online collaboration tool to offer feedback, comments, and suggestions in real time. This meeting's Padlet can be accessed at https://padlet.com/alexspiess/zx2tonhgmculr3ad 3.a Discussion for committee purpose included: • Changing the language to show support rather than "saving" them. Give students a voice. • Get input from students who have benefited from program services. • Use more inclusive statements. • Create an environment where students want to attend and complete a program of study. • Create ownership for the students. • Saying "engage" instead of "recruit" because it's really about how adults "engage" and establish trusting relationships. • Add "successful" to purpose and outcomes. • Empower students. • Stop using the label of "foster youth" and use more inclusive language. • Don't use "the system" as it has a negative connotation. • Don't get too wordy and lost in the language. Be clear and succinct. • Who is the wording of the committee's purpose aimed at? Understanding the purpose of the committee can assist staff in explaining the program to a potential student. • Collaboration between Allan Hancock College and outside agencies makes a difference for students. Proposed committee purpose statements: • To ensure all foster students have equal access to resources related to their education and people will provide culturally responsive interventions to them such as language, disability status, SES, gender etc. • To build relationships within the community that will further develop a culturally responsive environment to bolster former and current foster youth (confidence and achievement?) • The Allan Hancock Foster Youth Advisory Committee will provide a forum for discussing the plan to improve educational outcomes of students who experienced foster care by providing advice and input on the operations of foster youth services, program operations, and program development. • The purpose of the Foster Youth Advisory Committee at Allan Hancock College is to engage students who experienced foster care in their educational journey. • Through collaboration, the Foster Youth Advisory Committee will work to improve academic outcomes for	

Allan Hancock College students who have experienced foster care.

3.b The committee was asked to contribute feedback for objectives and goals through Padlet.

A summary of committee discussion regarding goals and objectives:

- Have ongoing conversations with potential students beginning when they are freshman in high school. Engage potential students earlier.
- Have small group tours rather than tours with large groups on a regular (monthly) basis.
- Develop stronger relationships with area high schools
- Get students involved in other campus services.
- Give tours to high school liaisons.
- Target outreach to high school counselors and students. Have regular visits to high schools to develop connections and relationships. Show students a "familiar face."
- Hold FAFSA completion workshops to assist foster youth students.
- Try to bring students back to campus with easing of pandemic restrictions.

Padlet Feedback for goals and objectives:

- Identify needs and support for youth to retain their involvement in their education
- 200-300 self-identified students at AHC during a year
- Address the "whole student" + goals and career path support
- Engage students at the local high school to ensure that all students who experienced foster care have individualized plans to enroll in college, complete FAFSA, take tour etc.
- I would also consider adding adult schools as there may be some students who go there for their GED
- We can ask Yvonne/Stephanie C. to schedule a time with the outreach team for Alex to review/train the team specifically on how to help FY students and give program information out
- Engage students in creating and developing campus programs, clubs, and events
- Peer mentorship program with upper classmen welcoming and supporting incoming students
- Increase the number of programs students are engaged with
- Develop a designated Student Success Team/"coaches" to not only guide student through matriculation, but to provide academic, social, and emotional support, training in "soft skills". Partner with County of Santa Barbara to include social workers who already have rapport with the students.

Community Collaboration Goal feedback from the committee:

- Foster Youth Liaisons at high schools
- Alex to present to liaisons regularly (include Lompoc and Santa Ynez)
- SBCEO may be able to assist with transportation for tours
- Approved school trip through districts during school time...
- ILP

Outreach Goal feedback from the committee:

- Educate incoming students (junior high and high school) of resources available at AHC.
- Ongoing on-campus tour activities (possibly monthly) such as career carnivals or featuring different programs such as PCPA, Graphic Arts, Nursing, Cosmetology, Public Safety
- youth ambassadors.
- work with outreach specialists through counseling...
- Former foster students at Hancock being a part of the outreach team to the high school foster students

3.c Additional Invitee Suggestions.

The committee was asked if there are any other agencies that should have a representative on this committee. The feedback received was as follows:

	• Probation • Current foster youth at Hancock and who are juniors or seniors in high school • student representative • Foster care educational liaisons • Faith-based representatives • Resource parents
Agenda No.4	NextUp Program Update
Discussion:	Alex gave an update of the NextUp program. • The pandemic has taken a toll on the program. • Recruitment has been going well (10 new students for the spring semester). • Age requirements are being revised from 16 to 13 years old. With this change, 5 EOPS students became eligible for the NextUp program. • Regulation changes to allow more discretion on financial aid requirements. • SB885 will officially change the name from CAFYES to NextUp. (Not yet passed bill) • Unit requirement changes from 9 units to any number of units as long as the goal is to enroll in 9. • AHC is the only school in region 6 with a NextUp program. • Alex shared the newly designed logo for NextUp. • Enrollment numbers are currently low, and the focus has been on retaining students.
Agenda No. 5	Guardian Scholars Program Update
Discussion:	Alex gave an update of the Guardian Scholars program. • The program began in Fall 2021. • The program is for students who do not qualify for the NextUp program. • Funding for the program comes from Student Equity. • There are currently 19 students in the program. • Students need to be registered in 6 units, but since there are no regulations, there is flexibility in meeting the student's needs. The differences between the NextUp and Guardian Scholars programs were discussed. Students cannot be in both programs. Both programs will be represented at the AHC Career Exploration Day on April 1, 2022.
	Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.
	Alex thanked the committee for their attendance and participation.
	Next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Fall 2022, day and time TBD.