



Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE)
Independent Living Program (ILP)

Sponsored by California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office



VVC FKCE/ILP Curriculum Advisory Meeting

12046 Jacaranda Ave., Suite A
Hesperia, CA 92345

October 22, 2008 8-10 AM

Minutes

I. Welcome & Introductions

Present: Rebecca Talley, Kathy Munoz, Colleen Manghane, Yolanda Ramirez, Jose Ramirez, Sheila O'Guynn

II. Approve August 27, 2008 minutes *Approved as written*

III. Review training schedule (October-December)

A. Please note changes to printed schedule and encourage use of website calendar to confirm class information-*Rebecca reviewed changes to newly printed schedule (Class at Hesperia Headstart was moved from that site to FKCE offices at the request of the Headstart program due to lack of room for all participants; Loving Hearts Association has met for several years on the 3rd Thursday of the month and they will now meet on the 3rd Friday of each month; plus several classes have been added to the schedule).*

B. Please see 1-page list of current and upcoming classes in English and Spanish-*Rebecca encouraged group to add this page as an insert to the newsletter and to check training information on the website. Rebecca said foster parents have been asking for longer classes and for classes to be offered on the weekends and she reviewed the new 8-hour classes being provided on Saturdays. The first is this weekend Oct 25th and the next is on Nov 8th. Rebecca encouraged the group to spread the word. Colleen suggested contacting Kathy Brown and making sure High Desert Relative Caregivers have the information as no one from that group was present at this meeting.*

IV. Review ILP classes

A. Fall classes are in coordination with Career Institute

1. See attached flyer *Classes are every Wednesday from 1:30-3:30 [changed to 8-10 AM since this meeting] beginning Oct 29th through Jan28th at Career*

Institute. Rebecca asked that the flyers with Victor Valley College logo be substituted for the flyers printed with Victor Valley Community College logo. Rebecca announced the format of the class is exciting because each of at least 12 foster youth will be paired with an adult mentor from the community. Kathy stated that anyone interested in becoming a mentor should contact her through Career Institute.

2. *Contact Kathy Munoz 780-0341 Kathy gave an overview of Career Institute services including service in Barstow. Kathy stated that the programs are offered mainly to foster youth, and low income youth may also contact her for services. Kathy also mentioned that she would like to see the High Desert communities host an Independent City event for foster youth. She said she is willing to be the coordinator of the event.*

B. *Spring classes are in coordination with Desert Community Bank (East West Bank)*

V. *Discuss additional family/community needs*

- A. *Colleen discussed competition between foster parent/kinship caregivers associations in the High Desert, especially within the kinship groups. She says she goes to a lot of meetings and wants to share the information with everyone.*
- B. *Yolanda discussed the problem of foster families taking children into their homes without fully considering if the child would fit appropriately with the other children already in the home. Yolanda and her husband, José, have had two openings in their home for over two years because they consider the extensive needs of the children they currently have in their home. Yolanda and José stated how hard it has been to turn away children, but they feel it ends up helping the children not bounce from house to house because they may not fit into the household.*

VI. *Open*

- A. *Fees to join Loving Hearts Association are \$20 per person*
- B. *Fees to join FARE Association are \$40 per person and \$55 per couple*
- C. *Colleen expressed a need for grant writers to help associations apply for funding*
- D. *Yolanda and José expressed an interest in attending the Positive Parenting classes held in the new Victor Valley College Education Center on 7th Street in Victorville*

VII. *Adjourn*

Next Meeting: February 25, 2009 at VVC FKCE/ILP Offices on Jacaranda from 8-10 AM