

## Foster Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, September 18, 2015

10:00 am

Introduction of Current and New Board Members : iFoster: Serita Cox – Transition Youth serves foster and kinship, plus care givers and the organizations they are with. Huge economic gap to raise a child. Focuses on economic gap to raise the child to be successful. Youth exiting system and not being successful can become homeless. iFoster, concrete resources 0-24 years of age. Have done focus groups to understand the needs and biggest gaps. SB is thriving and needs resources. Surviving needs are basically met. They work with outside agencies. One-on-one help for tutoring, no appointment necessary, gets them up to grade level. Career cruising – online resource for students to research colleges, curriculum, etc. Technology – Laptops for youth with Microsoft, refurbished, free tech support. Improvement with education, social, etc. Cell phones – free phones. Glasses – doctors are available throughout the country. Braces – Up to age 18 (case by case) including retainer after removal, and those who may already have them. Over 500 resources, clothing, food, recreational, etc. online – register [iFoster.org](http://iFoster.org), intuitive settings. JOBS System... iFoster messages for laptop tracking for delivery, etc. Locker – only for transitional youth. Safe place to put documents. Data encrypted password. Birth certs, medical cards, etc. anything they want. Administrative side can see but cannot change anything. My Success for all transition age youth and care givers. Can upload accomplishments. iFoster gives gifts based on accomplishments.

Jobs Program: LA county (only) is in partnership with grocery industry for scholarships, employment with full benefits and minimum hours (16-23 per week), Placer county with 3 cohorts. LA county first did assessment with 55 for training with pre-employment counseling, job skills, interview, soft skills, etc. Check-in with employer and youth at 6 months, become eligible for scholarships. Partners with CEO levels. LA county also assists with laptops; SB county can assist with phones only at this time.

Agency must validate eligibility – formal or informal, 1-2 business days, Locker – Accessible for ever

Transition to jobs – Disability youth (braille, signing) who provides services? Partnership program will take responsibility to assist with services.

SB County – Community readiness documents commitment. Allocating resources and head count. Must meet once per week.

iFoster – Founded in 2010. Serita is a former foster and probation youth. She and her husband created the program. Grocery industry approached iFoster 2014 for employment opportunities.

\$50 cost for Reading Plus. Intensive online program. Only purpose is to bring students to grade level. 15-20 minutes of reading to be monitored per day.

USB mobile internet. Not good coverage in SB/SM. Working on it.

Laptops/cell phones – will take 10 days for delivery. Processing is tracked. LA county, persons must be 18 or older, or 16-17 if emancipated.

[serita@ifoster.org](mailto:serita@ifoster.org) 530-550-9645 direct line.

Updates:

Sheryl SB County – started intake program for foster youth. Needs not being met can contact Sheryl.

Probation – 450 classification. Child welfare supervise the youth. To receive money youth must be employed 20 hours or more or in school with minimum 6 units. \$840 – active out of home order when they turned 18, they are

eligible 602 to 450. Or terminate and reapply after a couple of years. Cannot live at home with parent. Can rent room from family member or friend.

Andrea leaving SB foundation – Support students one-on-one basis to write personal statements and submitting applications. Deadline January 31. Must have attended a school in SB county for 4 consecutive years between 7-12 grade, must be AB 540, citizen, or permanent resident. Up to 4 years undergrad and up to 4 years for masters.

Steve Molina – SMJUHSD local accountability plan to oversee foster and homeless youth SMV Fighting Back helps to monitor education on youth. Transitional partnership program. Department Rehab helps in assisting youth with jobs. Has also taken elementary school students. \$100 Christmas gift cards, send them names. Also those who are not AB12 eligible.

Julia Townsend Interpreter/Communication Coordinator – Works with students with all disabilities including Foster/Probation students.

Marian A & R Out of state youth could receive services if the initial state provides proof. Can contact prior case worker or contact SB or SLO County ILP. Will refer to EOPS. During transition youth can be “friends” of EOPS.

Marie Hughes – Educational Services Manager 5 year TAY-FAP Celebration Oct 23.

Jazz – TAY-FAP Coordinator FCNI

Rosa – Transition Youth Services – grades 1-12 tutors 2/week 1 hour each session Math & English Retrieval of records and trainings for school staff & CWES and other foster youth agencies

ILP – New incentives program for all SB County who attend workshops. “Moxity” event to generate a situation for youth in regards to money and living, life experiences, educational. Open to all youth 13 or 14 and up. Held in SB Assistance league headquarters.

Brad – Mind and heart of foster parent. Would like to see foster parents folded in to instill family and community in to the youth. What can parents do? Jazz: Can make a connection but cannot instill life-long connection. Foster parents have that though they may be pushed aside during the “legal” aspects. Parents are the constants in their lives. Amy: parents need more support. The county is trying to provide these resources to the parents. However, some students do not have the foster parents getting that support. Brad: Support groups do not seem to formulate or stay strong. Will: maybe start a virtual meeting. How many parents are there in the county ~100 combo of related and non-related parents. ~425 kids out of homes. This has gone down but so has the number of families.

Joe Pollon: Foster and Kinship Care – Training and continuing education. How to disseminate information. Invite committee to present at meetings.

Naomi – Worked on outreach to students who have self-identified (~200) 100 students eligible, met a lot of new peers,

Kiri - Over 100 contacts and 70 unduplicated students within the last 3 months. Students have an intake and assessment to find out what gaps need ... Sent to Beverly for academic counseling for SEP. Language on application was edited to protect the student. Food and gas cards and bus passes have been distributed to students along with supplies, aside from EOPS services. Sharing outreach list with EOPS counselors. CARE/CAFYES Center. Working on application to participate.

Grant is for 10 districts for 3 years – student equity funds are being used.

Next Meeting: February 26, 2016