



the foster NETWORK

February

The Hopeful Family by Angelina McCormick Soll, LCSW

I recently had the privilege to attend Dr. Paul Baker's Person-Brain Model™ training hosted by Casa Pacifica. As a former foster parent, adoptive parent, and developmental neuropsychologist, Dr. Baker brings a unique perspective to supporting foster youth and families. His neurorelational framework combines cutting edge science about the brain and trauma and practical tips on managing challenges that are a result of the traumas our youth have experienced. Dr. Baker seeks to help caregivers become therapeutic helpers by using the relationships they build with youth to help heal the youths' traumas.

Dr. Baker introduces the concept of reimbursements for our youth, and lays out concrete strategies for families to provide positive, reparative experiences for the youth they are caring for. He identified 6 areas where therapeutic helpers can provide these positive reimbursements to support healing and progress.

The companion book that accompanies the training is called *The Hopeful Brain*. This title strikes me for two reasons: Dr. Baker applies research in a way that instills hope that our youth can heal (regardless of their age or length of time in foster care) when we change their experiences. The other is that he very clearly believes that when families and systems have hope, we can then begin to therapeutically work with our youth and create long-term positive change. Dr. Baker's model identifies how families can begin to use their relationships to manage challenging behaviors, help youth build healthier relationships, and most importantly, believe in themselves and those around them. If you are interested in attending this training at Casa Pacifica on February 9-10 or March 23-24, please email DNavarro@casapacifica.org. Dr. Baker has trained Casa Pacifica staff to deliver this training and help our local caregivers continue to become critical therapeutic helpers in the lives of youth in foster care. Foster VC Kids hope you will take advantage of this great resource! To learn more about other trainings offered at Casa Pacifica, visit https://www.casapacifica.org/training/free_training_for_foster_care_providers.

Manager's Message by Elizabeth Thasiah

Raising a child and siblings is an act of love, hope and commitment and requires incredible internal resources. Often families become Resource parents because they want to provide children a "home with heart", which translated means a home where children are loved, supported and nurtured during painful and frightening times as well as during normal "kids will be kids" days. What we have learned of children in foster care is that it takes time and new experiences for a child to feel safe with their resource parents. Traumatized children will do all kinds of things to feel safe, which may include pushing away caregivers who deeply want to love them. As children of trauma, love language and love actions may require a different kind of parenting for these new experiences and bonds of trust to be forged. One component is key - hope. Hope supports us when we cannot see around the corner. The Kids and Families Together SET program is a resource that can help caregivers learn and respond to their children with hope. We welcome all caregivers to take part in this in-home support resource. SET clinicians can help you process your own fears and sense of loss when a child does not bond quickly or if your children react negatively to your love and support. They can also help you identify ways to create new experiences with your children that will help them begin to trust (and help you understand the process of attachment). We have changed the program so that you can self-refer for in-home SET support at any time. SET provides weekly in-home services specializing in topics relevant to caregivers of children who have experienced attachment trauma from anywhere between 1-18 weeks. To request additional In-Home SET support, please contact Kids and Families directly. Call Melana Luke 805-643-1446 Ext. 116.

CFS Contacts

Adoptions	240-2700
CFS Hotline	654-3200
Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	240-2700
CSA Reimbursement	654-3220
Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409
Field Based Case Aids	654-3444
Recruitment, Development, & Support Info Line	654-3220
General Information East County	955-2290
General Information Emergency Response & Court Units	654-3444

General Information Family Support and Collaboration

(Formerly Central Programs)	654-3405
General Information Ongoing Units:	240-2700
ILP Coordinators	240-2700
Licensing NEW NUMBER!	654-3405
Placement Vacancy Line	289-1900
RDS Manager	654-5594
Relative Approval	654-3405
RFA Officer of the Day	654-3405
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	289-9308
Youth Services Division	240-2700

Things to Think About!

CALIFORNIA CAR SEAT LAW CHANGES



Starting January 1, 2017, children under 2-years old must be rear-facing unless they weigh 40 pounds or more, or are 40 inches tall or more.

Children must be properly buckled in a car seat which is rear-facing until age 2.

Children under age 8 must be buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat.

Children age 8 or older, or who are 4'9" or taller, may use the vehicle seat belt if it fits properly with the lap belt low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest. If children are not tall enough for proper belt fit, they must ride in a booster or car seat.

Everyone in the car must be properly buckled up.

For each child under 16 who is not properly secured, parents (if in the car) or drivers can be fined more than \$500 and get a point on their driving records.

Most children will outgrow an infant seat before age 1

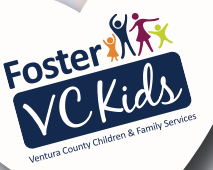
- The next step is a convertible car seat.
- Rear-facing is 5 times safer than forward-facing.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children ride rear-facing to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer.

Under Kaitlyn's Law :

It's against California law to leave a child under the age of seven alone in the car without the supervision of a person at least 12 years old if:

1. The keys are in the ignition or the car is running, or
2. There is a significant risk to the child.

For answers to your child safety seat questions, contact your local health department or visit www.cdph.ca.gov/vosp



Open Hearts

TOWN HALL MEETING

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25 | 10 AM - 12 PM
2240 E. Gonzales Road, Oxnard

Do you know someone who is interested in becoming a Resource Family? Ask them to join us for an informational town hall meeting to learn the greatest needs of local foster youth! They will meet a dedicated panel of foster parents, caregivers and former foster youth who will share their amazing stories of love and triumph.

QPI Corner

Co-parenting

co-par-ent
kō'pe(ə)rənt/
verb

gerund or present participle: **co-parenting**

1. sharing the duties of parenting (a child).

Co-parenting is important, not only to the children you are caring for, but for you and the biological parents as well. As a foster parent, managing visits between the child and parent can seem a little overwhelming. Even the smallest effort can make you realize exactly how important and how crucial it is to maintain the bond between families, even if you aren't monitoring the visits.

- Co-parenting communication helps everyone better appreciate the child's time in care through the eyes of a child.
- Effective co-parenting between the two families supports the goal of reunification, provides added stability to families after reunification, and helps parents and children experience support when reunification is not possible.

- Co-parenting communication expresses respect for parent as experts and provides indispensable supports for the biological family.

For many great tips and more information on this topic, watch the video at the link below.

<http://centervideo.forest.usf.edu/qpi/supervisedvisits/start.html>

Call for Action for Co-Parents!

To all of our wonderful resource families who are co-parenting with birth families – We want to hear from you! We would like to talk to you more about your experiences and successes and share your stories. Please contact Jaci Johnson at 805-289-1948 or email her at Jaci.Johnson@Ventura.org



Welcome

Please join us in
welcoming the
following new member
to the FCS Division:

Mirna Pina, MSW, starts off the New Year by joining the RDS team and adding her wonderful skills as a Caregiver Support Specialist. Mirna has a Masters of Social Work and Masters of Science in Public Health from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She has worked as an emergency response social worker with Children and Family Services for two years. Prior to joining Children and Family Services, she worked as a Wraparound Facilitator with Casa Pacifica, coordinating direct services to children and families in order to stabilize the home environment. Welcome!!

Kudos Corner

*Gissell and Abraham M.
and Leeann and Richard M.*

They are doing a brilliant job of working together toward a supported and loving transition for an almost 14 year old girl. Thank you to Gissell and Abraham for so graciously opening up your family. Thank you to Leeann and Richard for your commitment to continue to be a supportive part of this child's life and extended family. –Betty C.

Shelley H. & Charlie G.

Kudos to these caregivers for being a support to parents by keeping constant and open communication regarding the children placed in their care. They provide updates to the children's bio parents and ask for input regarding child's likes and dislikes as well as being open to having parents involved in child's medical appointments and willing to open their home to parents so that they can all come together during the Holidays. Caregivers are also willing to stay connected and provide support when children are reunified. Kudos to parents as well for sharing everything they know about their children with caregivers and embracing their children loving and being loved by someone else while they work on reunification. –Elisa C.

Darryl & Beatrice E.

I wanted to share how amazing, inspiring and committed this family is. Resource parents Darryl & Beatrice took on a precious baby to care for her while her mother is in treatment and getting better. She is their adopted daughters' biological sister. They would drive this child twice a week to have visits with her mama in Orange County. This hard working family has four little ones at home and still is committed to helping others in need. This was a huge sacrifice on the entire family, but again they were committed and dedicated in helping to care for our children. What a blessing they are to our community. – Sonia C.

Mariana and Steven A.

This family cares for the most fragile and medically involved babies. One cannot express enough gratitude. Thank you for your expertise with this very special group and thank you for giving them your loving care. –Betty C.

Call for Kudos!

We know that excellent partnership between caregivers, bio parents, community resources and social workers happens every day. Now, the Foster VC Kids team wants to hear about it! We are asking for everyone to submit kudos about any great experience they want to share. Please drop an email to Crystal.Stratton@ventura.org to share the love!!

Tax Information

In 2016, in addition to the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (worth up to \$6,242), many individuals qualified for the **NEW California Earned Income Tax Credit** (EITC). An individual (taxpayer) could have received up to \$2,653 in addition to the Federal EITC when filing both federal and state tax returns in 2016.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services are available from the end of January to mid April to assist anyone with an income of \$54,000 or less at several locations. During tax season, individuals can call 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment at any of the VITA locations.

Know someone who prefers to file their own income tax return online? [United Way MyFreeTaxes](#) allows taxpayers who are single filers with W-2 income only, computer savvy, and with an e-mail account to file their taxes for free.



Operation Ventura

The YMCA is committed to being socially responsible. Through Operation Ventura, an outreach initiative, and the generous support of our donors, the Y has been able to provide free programming and membership to homeless and foster youth and families. Participation in swim programs and youth sports allows the underprivileged children in our community an opportunity to participate. These programs range from swim, to dance, to sports, to drama and Martial arts. The Y will give certificates to Foster VC Kids for distribution to Foster Parents on a first come, first serve basis. Contact RDS at 805-654-3220. The YMCA contact is Amber Stevens at 805.642.2131 ext 17.

THE SCHOOL ZONE

DEAR FYS,

I am in the process of adopting my son, who is 16. He's been moved around a lot and has been to several high schools. He isn't very interested in school and has failed many classes. He was just referred to a continuation high school. He feels that he is so far behind he'll never catch up and so doesn't see the point in trying. What can I do to ensure he's able to graduate?

- Worried Parent

Dear Worried,

There are many youth in foster care who are in a very similar situation. In fact, so many foster youth have historically dropped out of high school that the state legislature took action to ease the graduation requirements for foster students who have experienced a lack of school stability, in order to "level the playing field." It sounds like your son will qualify for the protections under AB216, which enables some foster students to graduate with the minimum number of state-required courses rather than fulfilling the local district requirements. If a student has changed schools after their 2nd year of high school, and is hopelessly behind in credits and cannot graduate on time, then the student is AB216 eligible. If your son is eligible he would only need to earn 130 credits to graduate, rather than the 230-240 most districts require. The 130 credits must be earned for specific courses as outlined in the California Education Code (EC 51225.1). Ask for a meeting at your son's new school to review the AB216 requirements. If he's eligible, you will be asked to sign permission for the school to grant the graduation waiver and he will be given coursework to fulfill the minimum requirements. Hopefully, this will create more motivation for him to push forward in school and earn his diploma. Be sure to point out to him that the average annual salary is nearly \$10,000 more for someone with a high school diploma vs. someone who drops out! Please note if a student accepts the AB216 graduation waiver, he will not fulfill the college prep requirements to enter a 4-year university out of high school. The student will be eligible to start at a community college and later transfer to a 4-year college if desired. If you have any questions regarding AB216 be sure to contact us at fys@vcoe.org or (805) 437-1525.

-FYSCP

If you have further questions or need personal assistance, please contact the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program at (805) 437-1525.

*If you have a question regarding foster youth and education, please, write in! Send any questions you may have to Crystal.Stratton@Ventura.org.

2017 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS OPEN

Foster Youth | Emancipated Youth | Non-Minor Dependent
Up to \$5,000

Go to: www.changealife.org and select
"Apply for Scholarships"

Application DEADLINE: March 15, 2017

CONTACT: Jaclyn Duarte, Sr.
Program Officer
jduarte@changealife.org
or (714) 628-9999



REQUIREMENTS

1. Considered a foster youth, former foster youth/emancipated youth, ward of the court, or non-minor dependent.
2. 12th grade student at California Public High School & attending a 4-year University in Fall 2017 - OR - California Community College student transferring to a 4-year University in Fall 2017 and has required number of units to transfer to the University in fall 2017.
3. Required minimum weighted GPA of 2.75 from 9th grade to first semester of 12th grade -OR- cumulative GPA of 2.5 from community college courses.
4. Minimum SAT score of 1350 (before March 2016) /980 score (on or after March 2016) - OR - minimum ACT score of 19 (if applying as a high school senior).
5. Must be at or below HUD Income Guidelines (listed on website).
6. Must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Legal Resident.
7. Must provide evidence of community service & extracurricular activities such as school activities/clubs, employment and/or volunteer work.

Nurses Corner

Caring For Baby Boys: Circumcised and Uncircumcised

-Julie Anne De Santi, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse

The Circumcised Infant:

Circumcision is typically performed in the hospital a few days after the baby is born. Following the procedure, a light dressing/gauze with petroleum jelly is placed over the head of the penis and will usually fall off once the baby urinates. Maintaining cleanliness in the area and wiping gently with soap and water during diaper changes reduces the risk of infection. The penis may appear red and there may be some yellowish secretions, which is to be expected with normal healing of the area. Some doctors use a plastic ring instead of a dressing, which should fall off on its own in 5-8 days. The baby should be fully healed approximately 1 week to 10 days after the procedure. Infections and complications after the procedure are rare, but if the redness continues, there is swelling, the bleeding has not stopped or if the baby does not urinate within 6-8 hours after the circumcision, there may be an infection or a complication and you should consult a doctor.

The Uncircumcised Infant:

When born, the foreskin is connected by tissue to the head of the penis, **so you should not try to retract it!** It typically separates after several months or years and should not be forced before so or you could tear the skin and cause bleeding and pain. It should simply be cleaned with soap and water. The baby's doctor will be able to let you know when the foreskin has physically separated and can be safely retracted for cleaning. As boys get older, they should be taught to clean themselves by: gently pulling the foreskin back away from the head of the penis, cleaning the inside fold of the foreskin and head of the penis with warm water and soap, and pulling the foreskin back over the end of the penis. Important to note, skin cells called smegma are shed when the foreskin retracts from the head of the penis and may appear like white lumps under the foreskin. This is completely normal.

Always Consult Baby's Physician

Discuss any questions and/or concerns regarding caring for a circumcised or uncircumcised baby boy with the baby's physician.



What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Events



RDS workers, Crystal Stratton, Betty Cedeno and Janelle Montalvo visiting with Santa while attending CSA Annual Holiday Party.

Children's Services Auxiliary was able to serve a total of 1,064 children with Children and Family Services, providing toys, books, stocking stuffers, stuffed animals, games, blankets, clothes, socks and more!

Thank you CSA for all you do for our families!



Did YOU Know?

Continuing Education - SOP

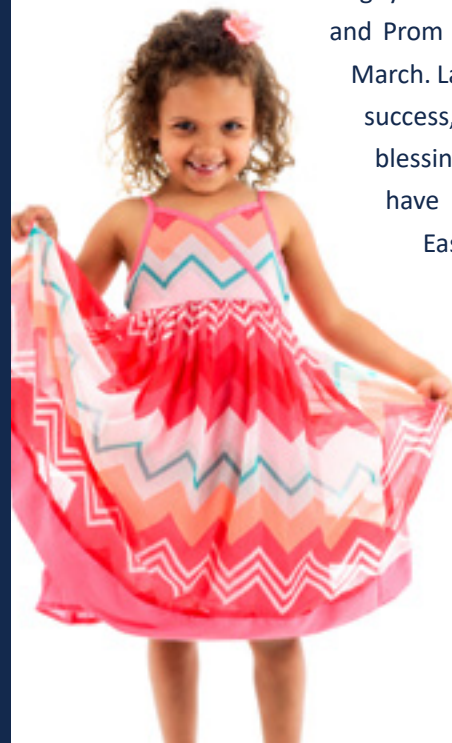
Resource parents are offered a range of continuing education opportunities through Children and Family Services, Foster and Kinship Care Education Program of the local community college network, and many other of our multiple partners.

Foster VC Kids now has a Safety Organized Practice (SOP) e-learning on the website for caregivers. This interactive course takes approximately one hour and will introduce you to tools such as solution focused child welfare practice approach, concepts like the Structured Decision Making system, and Trauma-Informed Practices. Training is designed to enrich trauma informed parenting skills, understanding of special needs, and knowledge of available community resources for the family and child.

You can access this training, along with a list of other trainings here:
<http://fostervckids.org/foster-care/continuing-education/>

Upcoming Event

James Storehouse has begun collecting gently used and new spring/Easter dresses for little girls in foster care (ages 3-12), as well as prom attire and accessories for girls and guys for our upcoming Spring Tea and Prom Pop-Up Boutique in early March. Last year's event was such a success, and we look so forward to blessing them again! We will also have prom attire and spring/Easter dresses available at James Storehouse for foster children/youths in our warehouse and boutique.



Email to make an appointment:
jamesstorehouse@gmail.com

Resource Corner

To see the full list of resource providers,
see our full **Foster VC Kids Resource Toolkit** at fostervckids.org/resources

Hair Whisperers: CFS has a contract with Hair Whisperers for in-home lice removal. Contact Foster VC Kids at HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org or 805-654-3220 to request a referral. Families must be referred by Foster VC Kids/CFS Staff.

Camarillo Health Care District: In partnership with FOOD Share, hosts a free "Produce Day" on the 2nd Thursday of each month, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Participants can select, at no charge, from a variety of seasonal produce items. Produce is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring bags. There are no eligibility requirements and produce is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Health screenings and other services are also available at no charge. District offices located at 3639 E. Las Posas Road, Suite 117, in Camarillo. For information, call 805-388-1952, ext. 100.

Catalyst Church: has a closet of gently used girls and boys clothing (newborn to age 6), diapers, toothbrush, toothpaste, and new underwear. Foster parents can come and collect as needed for their new foster child. Please call Amy Freehauf to set up a time to come by. 805 766-1916. Catalyst Church is located at 241 N. Mill St., Santa Paula

Open Hands Ministry: South Coast Fellowship offers a clothing and food pantry. The pantry is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm. To set up your first appointment, contact Larry Nordyke at 805 658-7223. The pantry is located is 1595 Walter Street, Ventura

Shelter Care Resources: provide materials and resources such as gently used and new clothing, diapers, wipes, car seats and furniture to resource families. Email at ShelterCareResourcesOxnard@gmail.com for more information. Oxnard area.

Foster VC Kids is here to help. We have many resources available for you and your children's needs, other than the above highlighted. If you have specific material or resource needs, contact your social worker or Foster VC Kids for support at fostervckids@ventura.org or call us at 654-3220. We can help you to access the resources you and your child need to thrive.

Over the Holiday Season

During the last few months Foster VC kids have been shown love, guidance and caring through the support of our many wonderful Resource partners!

On December 24th, the LA Rams were kind enough to sponsor **WOSMOH** and 50 foster youth in Ventura County! It was an amazing opportunity to see a great game against the SF 49ers and the kids had so much fun! A huge THANK YOU to the LA Rams for supporting our kids!

James Storehouse hosted a 'Dream Day' for 39 little girls in foster care, ages 3-12, taking them to the American Girl Doll Store and Café at the Grove. Each girl received an American Girl doll, and got to choose a new Lularoe dress and leggings! In December, James Storehouse partnered with **Oaks Christian School**, celebrating Christmas with teens by bowling, making gingerbread houses and pizza parties!



Heart 2 Heart collaborated with **Kids and Families Together** and **James Storehouse** and hosted over 120 children for their annual Cozy Christmas event. Children received pajamas, a blanket, stuffed animal and book, toys, popcorn, face painting, ornament making and a picture with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus.

We would like to thank all of our community partnerships and volunteers that made this beautiful event such a huge success!

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

CASA In-Service: Support Services for Foster Children and Youth (Camarillo)

Thursday, February 16th, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Please join us at the CASA Office in Camarillo to meet with representatives from various agencies that will share vital information that is available for foster children and youth!

RSVP to Janet@casaofventuracounty.org or call 805-389-3120

Sponsor: CASA of Ventura County

Attachment Parenting (2 part series)

(Ventura), Trainer: Lori Switanowski, LMFT

2 Saturdays: February 4th and February 11th 9am-5pm (16 hours certificate provided upon completion)

**Meals, snacks & breaks will be provided throughout the day
Day Road Training Center @ Ventura College 71 Day Road, Large Training Room**

Have you been frustrated with your child's poor response to traditional discipline? Traditional discipline methods rely on a solid attachment, so perhaps your child's compromised attachment history is a barrier. Attachment Parenting is uniquely based on the following framework: attachment needs to come first; meeting needs is the path to attachment and attachment yields motivation. This highly acclaimed "special event" 2 day workshop is an interactive curriculum that engages all your senses. It will help you shift your thinking and learn different ways of addressing the parent/child relationship, all based on connection.

We are pleased to have Lori Switanowski, with her wealth of personal and professional experience as well as her enthusiastic and informative teaching style, travel in to be our trainer for this special two day training event. Lori has been a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist since January, 1990. She has dedicated her professional career in helping children that have experienced grief/loss, trauma, social and cognitive delays and is a well-respected expert with regard to the impact of trauma on attachment and development. Ms. Switanowski recognizes first-hand the challenges that foster and adopted parents face on a daily basis because she is the proud parent of an adopted daughter.

Participants will receive credit for 16 hours of training upon completion of the series. We encourage you to take advantage of this unique parenting training opportunity from an expert in the field. Space is limited! Please RSVP to rcarlson@vcccd.edu or at 805-289-6181 Sponsor: Ventura College FKCE

The 5 Love Languages of Children (East County)

Trainers: Pam & Bill Lehtonen, Certified Parent Educators

2 Tuesdays February 7th and February 21st 6-8pm (2 parts)

Day Road Training Center @ Ventura College 71 Day Road, Large Training Room

Every one of us has a primary language of love, a way that fills our "love tank" better than any other. In this class series we will utilize the best-selling book *The 5 Love Languages of Children* by Gary Chapman & Ross Campbell to inform our understanding of the love languages of the children in our care. The first week we will view the DVD, get an overview of the languages and complete a personal love languages survey. In the following week, we will more thoroughly explore each of the love languages based on the reading and quizzes/observation you will do with your children at home. This class has been specifically designed for kinship and foster families. Come and benefit from Pam & Bill's 25 years of teaching in the public and private sectors as well as their personal experience of raising their grown birth children and 3 adopted grandchildren (ages 8, 10, and 20) Be prepared for a fun and interactive class series!

Participants will receive credit for 4 hours of training upon completion of the class. Please RSVP to rcarlson@vcccd.edu at Ventura College 289-6181 Sponsor: Ventura College FKCE

CPR & FIRST AID Recertification Training

Participants must already possess a valid CPR and/or First Aid card and need a RENEWAL of their current card. Priority goes to Foster & Kinship parents in Ventura County. Pre-registration is REQUIRED.

First Aid Recertification, Friday February 3rd 4:30-6:30pm (East County)

CPR Recertification, Friday February 10th 4:30-6:30pm (West County)

CPR Recertification, Friday March 3rd 4:30-6:30pm (East County)

First Aid Recertification, Friday March 10th 4:30-6:30pm (West County)

Please register with debbieflowers@vcccd.edu or rcarlson@vcccd.edu at Ventura College 289-6181

Sponsor: Oxnard & Ventura College FKCE

Please note: The FKCE Programs provide these classes at NO COST to anyone wanting to attend. In all cases, first priority will go to Foster Parents and Kinship Providers. All classes are subject to cancellation. Classes may be cancelled due to lack of pre-registration or attendance.

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Developmentally Responsive Care (Camarillo)

Saturday, February 18, 10:00am-1:00pm

Training focused on behavior guidance and positive behavior support, including child and adolescent developmental stages; Positive discipline and self-esteem; Conflict resolution and de-escalation. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. RSVP to Darlene Navarro at dnavarro@casapacifica.org or call 805-366-4064 or visit Eventbrite to register online. Sponsor: Casa Pacifica

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of children (CSEC) Awareness & Identification (Camarillo)

Wednesday, March 22, 9:00am-12:00pm

Human trafficking is a horrible crime impacting young people in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Many do not receive help because they are misidentified or not recognized at all. This course will equip participants with an understanding of the psychological and social dynamics, life events, and contributing factors that can lead to the sexual exploitation of a child. Participants will learn how to recognize risks and warning signs associated with young people in out-of-home care and how to implement the critical first steps in reducing their vulnerability.

RSVP to Darlene Navarro at dnavarro@casapacifica.org or call 805-366-4064 or visit Eventbrite to register online.

Sponsor: Casa Pacifica and FKCE

Communication Skills & Self-Care (Camarillo)

Saturday, March 18, 10:00am-1:00pm

Training focused on communication, relationship building and self-care, including listening and communication skills, stages of relationship development, stress, well being and self-care. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. RSVP to Darlene Navarro at dnavarro@casapacifica.org or call 805-366-4064 or visit Eventbrite to register online.

Sponsor: Casa Pacifica

Resource Parent

Networking and Support Groups

Foster Parent Networking provides foster parents the opportunity to meet and build relationships with other foster parents in their communities. Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook and visit www.fostervckids.org to view the most current information on events!

Simi Valley: Provided through the Ventura and Oxnard FKCE programs and meets the 2nd Friday of the Month at Cornerstone Church. Contact for rcarlson@vcccd.edu or DebbieFlowers@vcccd.edu. more information.

Ventura: Foster VC Kids hosts monthly evening networking on the last Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm at Ventura Missionary Church. Contact Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220 or fostervckids@ventura.org for more info and for upcoming dates.

Spanish: Foster VC Kids hosts meetings the last Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm at Ventura Missionary Church. Contact Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220 or fostervckids@ventura.org for more info and for upcoming dates.

Camarillo: Defending the Fatherless is a Christian faith based caregiver support network/group. All are welcome. Email defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com or go to <http://www.defendingthefatherless.net/> for more info.

Educational: Kids and Families Together hosts a support group on a range of topics provided in a safe and supportive environment, while strengthening their therapeutic parenting skills. Groups meet periodically. Contact Karina at 805-643-1446, ext. 118 for the latest information.

Ventura County Foster Parent Association (VCFPA): The VCFPA offers support, training and resources to Ventura County foster, adoptive, and relative caregivers. They hold monthly membership meetings bi-monthly. For information on the association and meetings dates/times/locations, visit <http://www.vcfpa.com/>.

CASA of Ventura County Informational Presentation (Camarillo)

Wednesday, February 22nd, 6:30pm – 8:00 pm

Do you know someone who is interested in volunteering with foster youth? A CASA is a Court Appointed Special Advocate who functions as a consistent friend and support to a child throughout their experience in Child Welfare through regular visits together.

CASA needs more volunteers! Currently there are over 900 children in the Ventura County Dependency Court System who need, want, and are waiting for a CASA Volunteer Advocate. Please consider attending the next CASA Informational Session on Wednesday, February 22, to learn about this unique program, the training, and how you can make a difference in the life of a child in our community.

In an overburdened social welfare system, abused and neglected children need a stable adult in their lives. CASA is the only volunteer organization that empowers everyday citizens as court officers to be that reliable adult and advocate for an appointed foster child. CASA Volunteer Advocates typically handle one case at a time; they commit to advocate for the child until he/she is placed in a safe, permanent home.

For more information or to reserve your seat, contact Janet at (805) 389-3120 or email at: Janet@casaoventuracounty.org. Sponsor: CASA of Ventura County

What's Going On?

Trauma Training Workshops – Trainer: Dianne Nicholas, LMFT

Short workshops designed to teach knowledge, skills and values about working with children who are in the child welfare system and who have experienced traumatic events – Multiple Locations, dates and times. Pre-registration is required. RSVP by e-mailing Blair.Brillante@ventura.org or for more information, call 805-654-3220.

What Is the Influence of Culture –

Ventura – February 16th, 3:30-4:45pm, February 28th, 3:30-4:45pm

Oxnard - February 8th, 8:30-9:45am, February 22nd, 3:30-4:45pm

Simi Valley - February 14th, 8:30-9:45am

Maximizing Physical & Psychological Safety for children & Families

Ventura – March 16th, 3:30-4:45pm, March 29th, 3:30-4:45pm

Oxnard - March 8th, 8:30-9:45am, March 22nd, 3:30-4:45pm

Simi Valley - March 14th, 8:30-9:45am

Specialty Training for Resource Families

(West County)

Saturday, February 18th, 10:00am-1:00pm

Developmentally Responsive Care

Saturday, March 18th, 10:00am-1:00pm

Communication Skills & Self-Care

Register online at www.casapacifica.org/training

Join us for one or more in this series. Course highlights

include: Half-day workshops designed for foster, adoptive, relative caregivers & those who care about children in our local community. Course Highlights include: Adverse Childhood Experiences, Relational Safety, Significance & Mattering, Positive Youth Development Character Strengths, Communication Pitfalls, Trauma & Self-Care and Much More! All foster/resource families are welcome to attend at no cost, but registration is required. Contact Darlene Navarro at dnavarro@casapacifica.org or 805-366-4046

Sponsor: Ventura College: Casa Pacifica

For Relative Caregivers

Please visit www.kidsandfamilies.org or call 805-643-1446 ext. 125 for most updated list of support group meetings.

Please note that meetings are subject to change

Camarillo: last Thursday of the month, 6-8pm at 5251 Verdugo Rd. Suite G., Camarillo, Channel Island Social Services

Oxnard: (Spanish) 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6-8:00pm at 910 S. E St., Driffl Elementary School

Santa Paula: (Bilingual) 4th Tuesday of the month 6-8pm at 214 10th Street, First 5 Neighborhood for Learning

Simi Valley: 3rd Wednesday, 6-8pm at 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley Senior Center

Ventura: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6-8pm at 856 E. Thompson Blvd, Kids & Families Together Center

Thousand Oaks: 2nd Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm at 401 Hodencamp Rd., Senior Concerns

Ojai: 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm at 105 E. Topa Topa St., Ojai Valley Wesleyan Church

Foster Care Snapshot:

The Critical Need Continues...

In the Month of September:

There were **864** children in care

298 children were in foster home placements (County & FFA)

364 children were in kinship/relative care placements

102 children were in guardian homes

10 finalized adoptions (**126** total in 2016)

58 children remained in group homes/shelter care

31.2% of siblings are separated from each other

16.2% are placed with some, but not all siblings

In 2016: We welcomed **77** new foster homes
into the Foster VC Kids family!

Please help us spread the word about the need for quality foster homes! Remember, foster parents are eligible to receive an incentive of **\$100** for referring a family once they complete the licensing process and an additional **\$100** once a child is placed in the new foster family's home! Contact your licensing analyst for more information!

Useful Links

Arrow Child & Family Ministries

www.arrow.org

Aspiranet

www.aspiranet.org

California Youth Connection

www.calyouthconn.org

Casa Pacifica

www.casapacifica.org

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates

www.casaofventuracounty.org

CFS Independent Living Program

www.ventura.org/ilp-youth/ilp-youth

Channel Islands Social Services

www.islandsocialservices.org

Child Development Resources

www.childdevelopmentresources.org

Child Hope Services

www.childhopeservices.org

Children's Services Auxiliary

www.csavc.org

Dark to Dawn

www.darktodawn.org

Foster VC Kids

www.fostervckids.org

iFoster

www.ifoster.org

Interface Children & Family Services

<http://icfs.org>

James Storehouse

www.jamesstorehouse.org

Kids & Families Together

www.kidsandfamilies.org

Koinonia Family Services

www.kfh.org

Macaroni Kid

www.camarillo.macaronikid.com

National Foster Parent Association

<http://nfpaonline.org>

Neighborhoods for Learning

www.first5ventura.org/parents-caregivers/neighborhoods-for-learning

Parent Click

www.ventura-ca.parentclick.com

QPI California

www.qpicalifornia.com

Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center

www.rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com

Raising HOPE/HOPE4Kids

www.raisinghope.org

TEACH Fund Scholarship

www.vccf.org/scholarship/tech/index.shtml

VC Foster Parent Association

www.vcfpa.com

Ventura County Office of Education Foster Youth Services

www.vcoe.org/spes/FosterYouthServices.aspx

Women of Substance, Men of Honor

www.wosmohinc.com

On-Line Training Resources

California Just in Time Training

www.qpicalifornia.org/justintime.shtml

Cenpatico U

www.cenpaticoU.com

Foster Care & Adoptive Community

www.fosterparents.com

Foster Club

www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training

Foster Parent College

www.fosterparentcollege.com