

LAYERS of SUPPORT for Resource Families

PPEs (Peer Partner Educators or “Mentors”)

PPEs are a resource provided to you as a caregiver. All PPEs are experienced caregivers. They are contracted through our partners and act as an educator and coach. Some of the areas they can assist you with are:

- Answering general questions when you receive your first placement (and subsequent placements) including evenings/ weekends
- Helping build your network of support
- Providing coaching on day to day practical “how to” matters of caring for children such as:
 - Scheduling CHDP exams
 - Updating school records/enrolling children in school
 - Accessing resources including clothing closets, WIC, etc.
 - Coordinating respite through Channel Islands Social Services
 - Working with birth parents
- Assisting with completion of CalWorks and Medi-Cal applications (for relative caregivers)
- Assisting with completion of caregiver information forms for court (JV-290)
- Attending Family Team Meetings
- Supporting you in Complaint Investigations
- Making referrals to partners for additional support and training

Networking & Peer Hub Groups

The Networking and Peer Hub Groups are resources facilitated by , FKCE, Channel Islands Social Services & Kids and Families Together to provide you additional training as well as offer opportunities for meeting other caregivers. Peer support is critical to your success as a resource family. Networking and Support groups can help you by:

- Providing monthly training and education opportunities
- Expanding your network of resource families for peer support
- Sharing of experiences from veteran caregivers
- Offering ongoing emotional and moral support
- Helping to establish partnerships with other caregivers to share babysitting and facilitate play dates, as well as secure additional options for respite care

RDS Caregiver Support Specialists

Our RDS Caregiver Support Specialists are members of the Foster VC Kids team who work with all of our resource families (foster and relative) to help ensure your long term success as a caregiver. The Caregiver Support Specialists will work with you and your Peer Partner Educator (PPE) to provide the support you need to be successful in your role. Some of the areas that the Caregiver Support Specialists can assist you with are:

- Coordinating additional supports to stabilize children in your home
- Navigating the Child Welfare System
- Trouble shooting agency or partnership challenges
- Providing ongoing support in your role as a resource parent
- Securing hard to access resource or special funding & training
- Providing education and training on policies, practices and initiatives
- Supporting you during and after a Complaint Investigation
- Provide assistance in your role in supporting reunification, including post-reunification grief/loss support
- Linkage to RFA application assistance

RDS Placement Stabilization Team

The Placement Stabilization Team works to identify best match homes for children entering care, changing homes, or transitioning from group care. The team will contact Resource Families when there is a child in need of a home, and will work with you to answer as many questions as they can. They will contact you during the first three months of a new child being in your home to ensure that you have the support you need for a successful placement experience. Placement Stabilization team members may connect you to a Caregiver Support Specialist or a Peer Partner Educator (PPE) for more in-depth support and resource linkage.



LAYERS of SUPPORT for Resource Families



Your Layers of Support!

Foster VC Kids wants to ensure that you know how to reach your safety network! We encourage you to directly reach out to team members for assistance, resources, and support! Our Foster VC Kids caregiver support line is also a great place to start. We are available Monday –Friday from 8 am-5 pm. Call us at (805) 654-3220!

Foster Resource Families

Foster VC Kids Caregiver Support Specialists:

Ana Navarro (Bilingual): (805) 654-3204 or (805) 290-7262

Santa Paula/Fillmore/Piru/Ventura/Ojai/Oxnard/Spanish Speaking

Sheri Meyerson: (805) 289-1979 or (805) 765-5161

Camarillo/Thousand Oaks/Moorpark/Simi Valley/Shelter Homes

Channel Islands Social Services

Foster Peer Partner Educators:

Program Director: Edith Wysinger (805) 384-0983 ext. 852

Leeann Cunningham-Mesa:

Moorpark/Thousand Oaks/ Camarillo Bilingual (805) 905-9267

Natalie Torres:

Ventura/Santa Paula/Fillmore/Bilingual (805) 905-1982

Alexa Schumacher: Simi Valley (805) 905-1784

Liz Thiele: Moorpark/Newbury Park (805) 861-3196

Kim Amstutz: Simi Valley (805) 404-8718

Sonia Correa: Oxnard/Ventura/Bilingual (805) 907-1028

Stephanie Whitney: Oxnard/Ventura (805) 861-4450

Relative Resource Families

Foster VC Kids Caregiver Support Specialists:

Tanya Sanchez (Bilingual): (805) 654-3278 or (805) 320-6217

Oxnard/Port Hueneme/ Camarillo

Mirna Pina (Bilingual): (805) 289-1985 or (805) 256-9278

Santa Paula/Fillmore & Piru/Ventura/Ojai Valley/Somis & East County

Kids and Families Together

Relative Peer Partner Educators:

Director of Support Programs:

Raul S. Zapata, M.P.P. A (805) 643-1446 ext. 107

Program Coordinator:

Jeni Futvoye (805) 643-1446 ext. 108

Lupe Cervantes (Bilingual): (805) 643-1446 ext. 126

Leah Davis: (805) 643-1446 ext.135

Gina Baxter: (805) 643-1446 ext.124

Sylvia De Santiago (Bilingual): (805) 643-1446 ext.152

Laura Figueroa (Bilingual): (805) 643-1446 ext. 134

Rose MacKay: (805) 643-1446 ext.140

Vanessa Bracamontes (Bilingual): (805) 643-1446 ext.159

Foster VC Kids Placement Stabilization Team:

Betty Cedeno: (805) 654-3404, **Elisa Carreno (Bilingual):** (805) 289-1926

Cynthia Hutchison: (805) 289-1983, **Janelle Montalvo:** (805) 289-1979

Sandra Nolan (Bilingual): (805) 654-3216, **Placement Line:** (805) 289-1900

For more information on any of these resources, please call Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220.