



the foster NETWORK

February/March

Greetings! We start 2016 with anticipation for some exciting change within CFS: the launch of the Resource Family Approval process, adoption of Foster Health Link by all caregivers, and roll out of the Safety Organized Practice framework with our families, partners and caregivers. More to come on these! We also look back over 2015 with gratitude and awareness that some of the ways that we do business can be frustrating to caregivers and need improvement or more explanation. Here is one area I want to address:

PLACEMENTS: This year, some caregivers have shared frustration that they have not received a placement call for a significant amount of time. For caregivers who wait each day for a placement, this can be exceedingly discouraging and some may interpret this as meaning that Ventura County does not have a need for foster parents. This is definitely not the case and requires clarification. In Ventura County, we have approximately 900 children in care on any given day. Of these, about 50% are placed with relatives. This means that we currently have about 450 children in foster care (with 50 more children entering foster care each month) who need loving homes with foster caregivers who can support them until we find a relative, until they can go home to their parents, or until we secure another life-long permanency solution, such as adoption (about 120 children each year are adopted.) During the placement process, we have three primary goals: keep children together with their siblings, keep children in their cities of origin to prevent school disruption and facilitate family meetings, and ensure children receive quality, nurturing care. This means that caregivers who are licensed and have capacity for multiple children aged 0-18 will be first on our list to call. Similarly, caregivers living in the Ventura and Oxnard regions are in highest demand, as well as those willing to transport children to their school of origin.

This being said, every night we struggle to find homes. Last week we had 3 children under the age of 6 who we could not find a home after hours of searching. At 3AM, when children come into our office highly distressed and afraid, we often have a difficult time finding a caregiver who will answer the phone and receive a placement. Our children need you, as do we. In response, each week we are now providing a list of names to our After Hours team of those caregivers willing to take placements in the middle of the night. This is a critical time.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR A PLACEMENT: 1) Consider putting your name on the new After Hours Call List. This will result in a higher rate of placement calls. Call the Placement Team at 805-289-1900 to be added. 2) Consider modifying your license to 0-18, so that you can support sibling placements. We often have toddlers and school aged children needing to be placed together 3) Be willing to transport children to their school of origin. We have additional funds for those willing to support a child's school stability. 4) Consider adding your name to the Placement Team's Respite Caregiver list and provide short term respite care while their foster parents are out of town. 5) Consider becoming a short term emergency foster home. These are caregivers who prefer short, 30-60 day placements while we seek longer term care solutions. Contact RDS with interest at 654-3220.

Thank you for the care you provide our VC Kids. We are indebted to you and are exceedingly grateful.

Elizabeth Thasiah, Foster VC Kids Program Manager

CFS Contacts

Recruitment, Development & Support Info Line	654-3220	Children's Health & Disability Prevention Nurse	240-2700
RDS Manager	654-5594	General Info Emergency Response Units	654-3444
Licensing	654-3405	General Info Ongoing Unit	240-2700
Relative Approval	654-3405	General Info East County	955-2290
Placement Vacancy Line	289-1900	General Information Family Collaboration & Support	654-3405
Placement Coordinators	654-3216, 654-3217, or 654-3211	CSA Reimbursements	654-3220
Adoptions	240-2700	Field Based Case Aids	654-3444
Youth Services Division	240-2700	ILP Coordinators	240-2700
Rx for Kids Public Health Program	289-9308	Eligibility Officer of the Day	654-3409

Satisfaction Counts!

Foster VC Kids wants your feedback on fostering! Has something great happened lately? Do you have recommendation on how we can better serve our children and families? Do you have something to say and you're not sure who to tell? Then fill out our satisfaction survey online and let us know! The survey is available 24/7 and you can take it as often as you like. By sharing your feedback, ideas, and experiences you can help us make fostering better for everyone. See the home page on FosterVCKids.org or click [here](#) to take the survey.

Resource Family Approval Updates

March is coming and so is Resource Family Approval (RFA). RFA is the new foster and relative caregiver approval process effective in Ventura County on March 1, 2016. RFA consolidates elements of the current licensing, relative approval, adoption, and guardianship processes. This means there will now be one streamlined approval process for all caregivers, thereby eliminating the need for a family to obtain additional fingerprints, approvals, and home studies if the case plan changes for a child in their care, including adoption.

How this will affect you: For one thing, we will be referring to all caregivers as Resource Families, regardless of whether they are relative caregivers, non-related extended family members, or foster care providers. And while caregivers licensed or certified prior to March 1st are not required to go through the RFA process, you are welcome and encouraged to opt in. The new 21st Century Foster Parenting Pre-Service training is an excellent training that will ground both new and seasoned caregivers in Ventura County's approach to Safety Networking and Trauma Informed Care. For more information, contact RDS at fostervckids@ventura.org or call 654-3220.

Foster VC Kids Is Going High-Tech!

Business in the 21st century is going electronic! There's an app for everything and Foster VC Kids has its own apps to make life easier. We are going green and cutting back on many of the old paper based systems in favor of more streamlined and efficient technological processes. We will continue to utilize technology based resources to communicate, share information, seek information, and share resources. The benefit for caregivers is that the information you need is more readily available, and as long as you have your smart phone or tablet with you, there is no need to worry about forgetting papers or dragging around notebooks and binders. One such resource available to all caregivers is Foster Health Link which allows you to access an electronic version of the Health and Education Passport (HEP) using a computer or mobile app. But all this technology can also bring apprehension for some of us. We may not be as computer savvy as our kids and need a little help in improving our skills. Don't worry! Call RDS for help. We are happy to help. Also, there is no better time than the present to enroll in a computer class in your community to sharpen your skills. Here are some resources for computer classes:

- Ventura Adult Continuing Education http://www.adultedventura.edu/programs_distance.html
- Oxnard Adult School <http://www.oxnardadulthood.us/>
- Simi Valley Adult School and Career Institute <http://www.svca-dev.cte.santasusana.org/>
- Ventura, Oxnard, and Moorpark Community Colleges

The Licensing Unit has moved!

They are now located at 4651 Telephone Road in Ventura. If you have a question or need to find out who your licensing worker is, please contact them at 805-654-3405

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.



Foster Health Link

We introduced Foster Health Link (FHL) in July 2015. We even have a mobile app so you can view data on the go! FHL offers secure access for caregivers and social workers to the Health and Education Passport, as well as health information from the Ventura County Health Care Agency for children who have received care through the Ventura County network of clinics and hospitals. It also gives you access to the Network of Care resource library of articles, medical definitions, and local resources to better understand the needs of children. We have heard from caregivers who have used FHL, that the system is easy to use and has been an incredible support in getting the health information they want when they need it. One caregiver shared that "I used FHL to provide me the information I needed to register my foster child for a new school!" Another shared, "I found out the name of my child's doctor and his allergies and medications right when I needed the information!"

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to use FHL, log on now to view this great resource! All you need is an e-mail and password which you can obtain by calling the support line at **(844) 654-3251 (you can also call them to reset your password if you forgot it). For more information about FHL please log on to <http://fostervckids.org/fhl/>.**

After Hours & Weekend/Holiday Placement Availability

We are looking for families that are willing to take after hours and weekend/holiday placements. Oftentimes caregivers prefer not to take late night or weekend/holiday phone calls, and there are many children being detained during this time who need a home on short notice. If you are interested in and willing to take calls for placements during nights and weekends/holidays, please call the **Placement Vacancy Line at 805-289-1900** to let them know.

Rx for Kids Program

Rx for Kids provides unique and innovative Public Health child abuse intervention services. These Public Health nurses work in all areas of child protection from investigation, court unit, drug court, family maintenance, and family re-unification through emancipation. Services provided for children include:

- Medical care coordination and advocacy for children in Child Protective Services.
- Comprehensive in-home nursing assessments, substance exposure screenings, and developmental screenings.
- Use of evidence-based, valid, and reliable screening tools.
- Referrals to resources as needed.
- Specialized in-home visits to children with complex health conditions.
- Education for biological and foster parents to support the child's optimal growth and development.

For more information on Rx for Kids and how they can help, please call 805-289-9308.

faith in motion

Faith in Motion (FIM) is a network of faith communities and faith leaders in Ventura County, who understand that children and families involved in foster care need a Network of Safety and Support. In partnership with Children and Family Services, group homes and Foster Family Agencies (such as Arrow, Koinonia, Aspiranet and Casa Pacifica), the FIM network provides additional resources and networks of care to support stability and well being of our children, foster/ relative caregivers and birth families. If you or your faith community have interest in getting involved, please contact Karen Gamboa at defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com or call her at 805-258-9804.

Congratulations to Child Hope Services for a very successful event!

Project You Belong, a ministry of Child Hope Services, held a fabulous giveaway event for foster youth on November 14th at Thille Park in Ventura. The goal of the event was to show all youth and families in attendance that they matter, are loved, and are supported. Chick-Fil-A generously donated over 400 sandwiches for the event, and sodas and cookies were also donated. Here are some stats from the event:

- **Over 350 people attended including youth from four group homes;**
- **250 gift boxes and Bibles were distributed to youth;**
- **50 people volunteered on event day; and**
- **Hundreds from our church (Reality) building boxes!**

You can see some of the day's fun activities in this video: <https://vimeo.com/146037165>

Free

TAX PREP & FILING!

Earn it! Keep it! Save it!

Open from 1-30 to 4-14

Visit <http://www.ventura.org/human-services-agency/tax-preparation> for all the details or call 211 to schedule an appointment.



James Storehouse Holiday Outreach to *Foster Youth*

James Storehouse in Newbury Park partnered with students at Oaks Christian School to provide holiday cheer for youths in group homes throughout Ventura County. Bringing food, games, and camaraderie, they went to 14 group homes in Ventura County for Thanksgiving and Christmas. One of these visits happened at New Way Group Home in Oxnard, where students from the Lacrosse team and National Honor Society at the school spent a few hours with the boys playing video games, basketball, and eating dinner. Staff at the group home said having youth their own ages come to enjoy activities and share a celebration with them helps to lift the boy's spirits during the holidays. Working together, James Storehouse and Oaks Christian School are taking a holistic approach to meeting the needs of the residents. Part of what James Storehouse wants to do is provide resources to the foster community; and they also want to mobilize the greater community into positive relationships with foster kids. It's about building relationships and saying, 'Hey I see you, and we are the same.' There's a lot of value in extending that kind of care.



CSA Holiday Toy Store

The CSA 2015 Toy Drive and Giveaway was a HUGE success! 36,860 toys were distributed to approximately 3,497 children in Ventura County! *Thank you* to all who volunteered their time or made a donation!



Resource Corner

James Storehouse has a warehouse full of new and like-new clothes (girl and boy) from newborn to teen, plus new jackets of all sizes, socks and underwear. They also have diapers, wipes, baby gear, school supplies, accessories and shoes. Drop by our warehouse (or set up an appointment) Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 9-2:00. We can be reached by email or phone at jamesstorehouse@gmail.com and 805 499-7161. Our warehouse is located at 3541 Old Conejo Rd. #117, Newbury Park

Claudia's Closet: is the teen resource division of James Storehouse, Inc. and provides new and gently used clothes, as well as gift cards to teens in care. Contact Claudia at claudiascloset8@gmail.com or 805-300-1014 to schedule an appointment.

Defending the fatherless: provides a love closet with gently used and new items for foster and adoptive families. They are happy to bring you items upon placement or to help you set up your home as you become a foster parent. They also have cribs, toddler beds, strollers, car seats and various infant items as well as backpacks. Contact Karen at defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com

Child Hope Services: exists to provide financial assistance, clothing and additional resources to foster and adoptive families, before, during and after placement contact them at www.childhopeservices.org

Rachel's Closet: provides new and gently used second hand clothing, toys and baby supplies as well as larger items to foster families and foster teens from a store front location in downtown Ventura. Please call to schedule an appointment. (805)501-4273

Heart To Heart: provides second hand clothing as well as larger items to foster families. They welcome having foster children, youth and our teen moms visit in person to choose items that they need. Call to make an appointment. (805)500-3173

Children's Services Auxiliary: provides funding for medical and dental expenses, youth sports scholarships, school activities, youth classes, special clothing needs, music lessons and a yearly holiday toy store. Contact RDS at 654-3220 or visit their website at www.csavc.org to learn more.

Foster VC Kids Best Match Placement Considerations

Foster VC Kids strives to make Best Match placements. What does this mean? This means we are not only seeking an open bed for children in care; we also strive to identify a home that can meet a child's medical, educational, behavioral/mental health, developmental, and reunification needs.

Our placement team considers many factors when identifying a possible best match home for a child entering foster care. While this list is not exhaustive, we hope that it will provide insight as to how placement decisions are made. **We understand that caregivers may feel confused or frustrated when they experience delays in receiving a child in their home.**

- **Location:** How close is the foster home to the family of origin? Finding placements within the child's city of origin allows for a decrease in travel time to visits and other family meetings. The vast majority of children are detained from the Oxnard and Ventura areas, though we still have children entering care from every city in the county.
- **Preference:** What has the family identified as their preference for placement? Often times a limited gender or age preference (for example, 0-2 or 6-10) can limit which children will be matched with your home.
- **Foster Home capacity and children currently in the home:** Placement considers how many children a family can accommodate especially as we seek to keep siblings of all ages together and how a new placement may impact the children (biological, adoptive and foster) in the home and vice versa. What is the age of children in the home? What are the genders? How will these fit with the needs of the child? Will the child receive individualized attention?
- **Ability to meet the child's needs:** This includes the language spoken in the home, medical training, willingness to participate in therapy and other services, & willingness to transport to school of origin, extracurricular activities, and visits.
- **School of Origin:** CFS is legally mandated to first identify homes in the area the child is attending school, as this is integral to supporting a child's stability.
- **Visitation Plans:** Who is the child ordered to have visits with? It may include extended family, siblings, and other important adults. Where are these visits taking place? We prioritize placements with caregivers who are able to support the child's visitation needs and look for families who are open to a supportive relationship with the birth families, as appropriate. We will also prioritize those families who are willing to provide transportation to their school of origin.
- **Is there a pending relative waiting for approval?** If so, homes that have expressed an interest and ability to take in short term placement are often used in this case because a transition out of the home is planned.
- **Past Placement History:** Is there a history of 7 day notices or unsuccessful placements? What was the reason for those disruptions? Has the home taken a child with similar needs? We seek the most stable placements for each child and are careful to prevent placement disruptions.
- **Responsiveness:** Our placement and After hours teams seek placements at all times of day and night, looking for the best match for the children in car. They make placement decisions based upon those who are able to receive our calls at that time, which prevents children having to wait in the office in the middle of the night.
- **Ability to accommodate sibling sets:** We strive to keep sibling sets together to minimize additional traumas on the child. We seek caregivers who have licenses that give them capacity for multiple siblings of various ages.
- **Family Lifestyle:** Is this an active family? Stay at home? What is the child's activity level? As part of quality care, we seek families that support a child's interests and extracurricular needs.
- **Safety:** Are there any possible risky behaviors that may impact other children in the home? If so, we will discuss these issues with our caregivers.

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Opportunities to learn, grow, AND receive training credit!

Raising Resilient Girls

Date: Monday, February 1st

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: Westfield Community Center, 6600 Topanga Canyon Blvd. #1M, Canoga Park, CA 91303

Presenter: Simone Marean, Executive Director and

Co-Founder of Girls Leadership. CE Hours: 1.5

Please join us for an evening with Simone Marean, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the internationally recognized Girls Leadership. Simone will share with parents and teachers how to help girls practice assertive self-expression, emotional intelligence, and healthy relationships, preparing them for a life of personal and societal leadership. Her engaging presentation will cover the development of girl dynamics beginning in pre-school through high school. *This presentation is for adults only. Simone will discuss:

- How and why girls of all ages are aggressive with one another
- The Good Girl phenomenon; how the pressures of femininity, and the socialization of girls away from conflict, influences their aggressive behavior and approach to conflict
- What girls need to avoid victimization
- The importance of emotional intelligence for healthy conflict
- The importance of a plan for healthy communication and conflict at school and at home

Parenting Now: A 3-week Guide to a Great Family

Trainers: Pam & Bill Lehtonen, Certified Parent Educators

Wednesdays, February 3rd, 10th & 17th 6:00-8:00pm

Ventura College, Day Road Center @ Ventura College

71 Day Road Ventura, Large Training Room

Do you ever wonder if there's a better way to handle those daily parenting problems? Active Parenting Now is a well-respected curriculum developed by Dr. Michael Popkin, first launched in 1983. The class series uses video, activities and discussion and the book "Active Parenting Now in 3: Your Three-Part Guide to a Great Family" which will help you raise responsible, cooperative children, ages 5-12. Each participant/couple will receive a free copy of the book. In addition to being long-time Parenting Educators, Bill & Pam will also bring their experience of raising their 3 granddaughters (7, 8, and 19) who they have adopted. Participants will receive credit for 6 hours of training upon completion of the class series. Please RSVP directly to Pam at pamlehtonen@gmail.com Sponsor: Ventura College FKCE

Park Day Hosted by Defending the Fatherless

Friday February 5th from 10-12pm

Pitts Ranch Park in Camarillo

For questions please call Jessica Torok 805-428-7044

Healthy Sexual Development of Children and Teens NEW! (West County)

Trainers: Laura Tomlinson & Carrie McAuliffe

Thursday, February 11th 6:00-8:00pm

Ventura College, Day Road Center @ Ventura College

71 Day Road Ventura, Large Training Room

When you're caring for children and teens, sexual development is a natural part of growing up, but why does it feel so mysterious? Join us to discover all aspects of healthy sexual development and behaviors of children and teens, both typical and non-typical, in a safe and open forum. Participants will learn how to create awareness for children surrounding these topics (because they WILL have questions). A component of "My Body Belongs To Me" will be shared so participants can teach children how to protect themselves and caregivers will learn prevention tactics to help children who cannot protect themselves. Time will also be devoted to discussing areas of concern. Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion of the class. Please RSVP to debbieflowers@vcccd.edu Sponsor: Oxnard College FKCE

Foster Parent Networking (East County)

Facilitator: Wendy Homan

2nd Friday of Every Month, February 12th 9:00-11:00am

Cornerstone Church 2080 Winifred St., Simi Valley

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care and network with other foster parents who are geographically related. Specific topics will be addressed each month and friendships will be made and resources revealed. Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion of the class. Please RSVP to Wendy Homan at homanwendy@aol.com or Debbie Flowers @ Debbieflowers@vcccd.edu Sponsor: Oxnard College

Defending the Fatherless hosts a Thursday evening community group each week from 7-8:30pm. Topics covered include, parenting children with trauma, best practices for long term success, successful communication with birth families, and more. For more information please email defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com.

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

"Foster Talk" Hosted by Defending the Fatherless

*February 18th from 9:30-11am
254 Spindlewood Ave. Camarillo Ca.
RSVP and questions please call Erica
Rodriguez 805-233-0393*

West County Foster Parent Networking - Evening

*Tuesday, February 23rd, 6 pm-8 pm
Where: Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High
Point Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)*

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP fostervckids@ventura.org or 654-3220. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

West County Foster Parent Networking - Morning

*Wednesday, February 24th, 10 am – 12 pm,
Where: Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High
Point Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)*

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP fostervckids@ventura.org or 654-3220. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

Building a Successful Team (West County)

*Facilitator: Wendy Homan
Thursday, February 25th 6:00-8:00pm
Ventura College, Day Road Center @ Ventura College
71 Day Road Ventura, Large Training Room*

In this class we will define all of the individuals who are directly involved in a case plan. The exploration of resources and benefits of each person and appropriate information and communication as it relates to the case plan are discussed. There should be a clear understanding of the persons involved and available to you and your placement at the finish of this discussion. This class will be facilitated by Wendy Homan has been a foster parent for 21 years and an FKCE Instructor for about 7 years. Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion of the class. Please RSVP to debbieflowers@vcccd.edu Sponsor: Oxnard College FKCE

Couples Communication (West County)

*NEW! Facilitators: Bill & Pam Lehtonen,
Certified Parenting Educators
Wednesday, March 9th 6:00-8:00pm
Day Road Center @ Ventura College 71 Day
Road Ventura, Large Training Room*

The quality of your relationship is primarily dependent upon your ability to communicate and the secret of communication is the art of understanding each other. We will look at what makes us feel loved, as well as past resentments and grudges, and mistaken beliefs. This workshop will give you some specific ways to increase your odds of understanding and being understood. In addition to being long-time Parenting Educators, Bill & Pam, married 35 years will also bring their experience of raising their 3 children by birth, but now also raising 3 of their granddaughters (7, 8, and 19) who they have adopted. Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion of the class. Please RSVP to rcarlson@vcccd.edu Sponsor: Ventura College FKCE

From Surviving to Thriving as a Foster Parent (West County)

*Facilitator: Wendy Homan
Thursday, March 10th 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Day Road Center @ Ventura College 71 Day
Road Ventura, Large Training Room*

In this class we will discuss the impact your care will have on the well-being, security, and happiness of the children in your care. You will learn techniques that help heal the child you care for while reducing stress and making your experience more comfortable overall. Wendy Homan has been a foster parent for 21 years and an FKCE Instructor for about 7 years. Come learn from her tremendous experience! Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion of the class. Please RSVP to rcarlson@vcccd.edu Sponsor: Ventura College FKCE



What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Foster Parent Networking (East County)

Facilitator: Wendy Homan

*2nd Friday of Every Month, March 11th 9:00-11:00am
Cornerstone Church 2080 Winifred St., Simi Valley*

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care and network with other foster parents who are geographically related. Specific topics will be addressed each month and friendships will be made and resources revealed. Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion of the class.

Please RSVP to Wendy Homan at homanwendy@aol.com or Debbie Flowers @ Debbieflowers@vccd.edu Sponsor: Oxnard College

Supporting Emerging Adults Networking Group (rotates around county)

Facilitators: Rhonda Carlson & Laura Welbourn

*2nd Friday of every month: March 11th 5:30-7:30pm
Please RSVP for location and directions*

Typical young adults are staying at home longer and longer. The average age of independence for young adults is almost 30! Yet we expect our youth from traumatic backgrounds to begin to be independent at 18-21. Clearly a huge gap exists for these emerging adults. Many former foster parents, kinship providers, mentors and other "non-related" family members step in to fill that gap by opening up their homes and/or providing other financial, emotional and physical support, especially as young people begin to "age out" of the resources available to them. If you are one of the many care givers out there in this situation, we've designed this group just for you. Please join Rhonda and Laura (whose passion for youth overflow into every aspect of their lives) for this new monthly Networking Group the second Friday of each month. A specific topic will be explored each month: January (The Next Generation: Supporting My Parenting Emerging Adult) Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training.

Park Day Hosted by Defending the Fatherless

Friday March 11th from 10-12pm

Pitts Ranch Park in Camarillo

For questions please call Jessica Torok 805-428-7044

"Foster Talk" Hosted by Defending the Fatherless

March 16th from 9:30-11am

254 Spindewood Ave. Camarillo Ca.

RSVP and questions please call Erica Rodriguez 805-233-0393

Understanding Self-Injuring Behaviors NEW! (West County)

Trainer: James Carlson, MFT

Wednesday, March 23rd 6:00-8:00pm

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

Nonsuicidal Self-injury (NSSI) is becoming more and more common among adolescents and young adults and is especially prevalent among young people who have experienced trauma. Although it is important to assess the associated risk of suicidal behavior, NSSI, often cutting and burning oneself, is generally used to deal with feelings, especially anger and depression, and mixed emotional states; Those who engage in these behaviors are typically not suicidal. Although previously believed to be a characteristic of severe psychopathology, it now appears that NSSI appears to be associated with a wide variety of externalizing and internalizing conditions. Learn more about this distressing condition and what you can do as a caregiver. James Carlson is a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist with many years of personal and professional experience working with youth and families in out of home care. Participants will receive credit for 2 hours of training upon completion the class. Please RSVP to debbieflowers@vccd.edu Sponsor: Oxnard College FKCE

West County Foster Parent Networking - Evening

Tuesday, March 29th, 6 pm-8 pm

Where: Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP fostervckids@ventura.org or 654-3220. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

West County Foster Parent Networking - Morning

Wednesday, March 30th, 10 am – 12 pm,

Where: Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point Dr., Ventura (Sanctuary Building)

An opportunity to receive updated information as to changes related to foster care, receive support from your foster parent peers, and earn training hours. Please RSVP fostervckids@ventura.org or 654-3220. Childcare provided by contacting Channel Islands Social Services at (805) 384-0983.

What's Goin' On?

Foster VC Kids Calendar of Events

Coming Soon!

CPR & FIRST AID Recertification Training

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

First Aid Recertification, Friday February 5th 4:30-6:30 (East County)

CPR Recertification, Saturday February 6th 10:30-12:30 (SPANISH)

CPR Recertification, Friday, February 19th 4:30-6:30 (West County)

New date Please register with debbieflores@vcccd.edu or call 805-986-5800, ext. 2018 Sponsor: Oxnard College FKCE

Empowered to Connect Simulcast - April 8-9

SAVE THE DATE! Empowered to Connect Simulcast Training: April 8 & 9, 2016. This is a simulcast training by local congregations called "Empowered to Connect" by Dr. Karen Purvis: <http://empoweredtoconnect.org/>. Empowered To Connect (ETC) Parent Training is an interactive learning experience designed specifically for adoptive and foster parents. The ETC Parent Training was developed by Michael & Amy Monroe and relies heavily on the Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) model developed by Dr. Karyn Purvis and her colleagues at the TCU Institute of Child Development. Our FIM Partners will be hosting two sites! Stay tuned for more info!

ETC Parent Training equips parents with a holistic understanding of their child's needs and development while empowering them with the tools and strategies to effectively meet those needs, build trust, and help their child heal and grow. The training is taught from a Christian perspective and focuses on a wide range of topics and issues relevant to adoptive and foster parents, including helping parents understand the impact of their child's history, what they themselves bring to the parent-child relationship, the fundamentals of attachment, the impact of fear, and the importance of meeting their child's sensory processing, nutritional and other physiological needs. The training is relevant to families of all faiths!

Kinship Conference- Rescheduled!!

Date: Saturday, April 2nd, 2016

Time: 8am-3pm Location: VCOE

**Ventura County Office of Education
5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo -Free!**

First ever Kinship Conference of Ventura County! Both English/Spanish classes offered. "Learning, Lunch & Love!"

Kinship Parenting for Relative Care Givers (Walk-ins welcome!)

Kinship care is the full or part-time parenting of children by grandparents or other relatives. These training groups will explore the practical issues related to parenting a second generation and provide tools and support to help you get and keep your bearing along the way. No RSVP needed. Training hour certificates provided upon request. For further information email kssp@kidsandfamilies.org
Sponsors: Ventura College FKCE, Oxnard College FKCE, Moorpark College FKCE and Kids & Families Together

Ventura Resource Group

2nd & 4th Tuesdays 6:00-8:00pm

Kids & Families Together 856 E. Thompson Blvd. Ventura

Santa Paula Resource Group (Bilingual Spanish & English)

2nd & 4th Tuesdays 6:00-8:00pm

Santa Paula High School, Room 114, 404 N. 6th St, Santa Paula

Oxnard Resource Group (In English)

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:00-8:00pm

Sierra Linda Elementary School, 2201 Jasmine Street, Oxnard

Oxnard Resource Group (In Spanish)

1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm

Driffill Elementary Street, 910 S. E Street, Oxnard

Camarillo Resource Group

Last Wednesday of the month: February 24th 6:00-8:00pm

5251 Verdugo Rd. Suite G., Camarillo,

Channel Island Social Services

Thousand Oaks Resource Group

2nd Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm

401 Hodencamp Rd., Senior Concerns, Thousand Oaks

Simi Valley Resource Group

3rd Wednesday 6:00-8:00pm

3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley Senior Center, Simi Valley

Foster Care Snapshot:

The Critical Need Continues...

In the Month of October: A total of **912** cases were open with CFS.

259 children were in foster home placements (County and FFA)

415 children were in kinship/relative care placements

109 children were in guardian homes

84 children remained in group homes

48% of siblings are separated from each other

From July through October 2015, we welcomed **14** 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

Foster VC Kids

www.fostervckids.org

iFoster

www.ifoster.org

CFS Independent Living Program

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

Children's Services Auxiliary

www.csavc.org

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates

www.casaofventuracounty.org/

Channel Islands Social Services

www.islandsocialservices.org/

California Youth Connection

www.calyouthconn.org/

Hope 4 Kids Festival & Run

www.kidsandfamilies.org/

Kids & Families Together

www.kidsandfamilies.org/

VC Foster Parent Association

www.vcfpa.com/

Dark to Dawn

www.darktodawn.org/

James Storehouse

www.jamesstorehouse.org/

Women of Substance, Men of Honor

www.wosmohinc.com/

Interface Children & Family Services

www.icfs.org

Aspiranet

www.aspiranet.org/

Arrow Child & Family Ministries

www.arrow.org/

Casa Pacifica

www.casapacifica.org/

Koinonia Family Services

www.kfh.org/

National Foster Parent Association

www.nfpaonline.org/

TEACH Fund Scholarship

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

VC Office of Education Foster Care Services

www.vcoe.org/spes/FosterYouthServices.aspx

Neighborhoods for Learning

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

Child Development Resources

www.childdevelopmentresources.org/

Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center

www.rainbowconnectionfrc.weebly.com/

Macaroni Kid

www.camarillo.macaronikid.com/

Parent Click

www.ventura-ca.parentclick.com/

On-Line Training Resources

California Just in Time Training

<http://www.qpicalifornia.org/justintime.shtml>

Cenpatico U

<http://www.cenpaticoU.com>

Foster Care & Adoptive Community

<http://fosterparents.com/>

Foster Parent College <http://www.fosterparentcollege.com/>

[fosterparentcollege.com/](http://www.fosterparentcollege.com/)

Foster Club

[www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/](http://www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training)

[foster-parent-online-training](http://www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training)