

RECRUITMENT, DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT

(Quarterly Newsletter for KERN's Resource Families)

January 2015

KERN COUNTY RESOURCE FAMILIES ARE VALUED, RESPECTED, SUPPORTED, AND SKILLED PARTNERS AND ADVOCATES WHO:

- ★ Provide safe loving homes
- ★ Commit to the development and success of children and families
- ★ Encourage family connections and nurturing relationships
- ★ Maintain a lifelong connection to children whenever possible

FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

The Foster Care Ombudsman's role is to listen to your concerns, to document your complaints and suggestions, to remain neutral and objective and to keep information confidential.

Dear Caregivers,

On behalf of the Department, I would like to say HAPPY NEW YEAR and THANK YOU for your dedication to the children of Kern County. By providing a home to one or more children you are making a difference in the life of a child. Your commitment to providing quality care for our most vulnerable children also supports our efforts in protecting and nurturing abused and neglected children.

Reflecting back on 2014, Over 600 new resource foster families were licensed or approved to care for our foster children. Bakersfield College in partnership with DHS provided over 487 hours of training to prospective and current caregivers. The annual Resource Family Appreciation and Training Dinner in May, was attended by 153 caregivers, staff, and partners. Earlier this month, 254 children and caregivers attended the annual Breakfast with Santa event at the East Hills Mall, and another 164 children and families participated in a similar event in Ridgecrest. The Holiday Cottage along with the community and partners granted over 800 wishes for our foster youth by making youngster's wishes a reality for the holidays.

Lastly, numerous caregivers joined the Caregivers of Kern County (CKC) who provide mentoring, training opportunities and many family activities throughout the year; a copy of the CKC December Newsletter is attached.

As we plan ahead for 2015, we will begin to implement your suggestions for improved support and service delivery; we will provide "pass along" cards and provide incentives to resource families for new referrals made (see details in article). We are creating a mentoring program for new/seasoned caregivers and we are proposing to increase opportunities for resource families and social workers to receive training together on common topics.

We will continue to support you by providing information on the changing laws and regulations affecting foster care and by offering training opportunities to improve your knowledge and skills related to the special needs of our children.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ALL CAREGIVERS

- **Health and Education Passports (HEP)** All children in foster care have rights to medical, dental care, mental health services and appropriate educational services. Please make sure to **take with you the child's HEP to All such appointments**. This includes school education assessments and mental health treatment. Ensure the doctor is aware of the child's medical/mental health history AND ensure YOU receive updates, treatment plans and information to better care for the foster child in your care. DON'T FORGET to share All updates with child's placement SW.
- **Moving? Or Recently Moved?:** A quick reminder: if you are going to be moving you need to notify your child's placement social worker and Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) as soon as possible in order to maintain foster care payments. NOTE: Delays in obtaining a new home inspection means possible delays in reimbursement??.
- **The Bakersfield College Foster & Kinship Care Education (BC F&KCE) Course Descriptions** have been updated and are included with this Newsletter. Please take advantage of the training opportunities which are specifically tailored for ALL our resource (foster) caregivers. The remaining course schedule for 2014-15 is also attached; this includes the Caring for Severe Behavioral/Emotional Needs courses.

DO YOU KNOW OF FAMILIES INTERESTED IN BECOMING LICENSED RESOURCE FAMILIES?

If you have friends or family that may be interested in finding out more about becoming Licensed Resource Families, please invite them to attend one of our orientations held at the Department of Human Services Partnership Building, 100 E. California Ave., from 5:30-7:30pm. There is no commitment necessary to attend and they can call the Recruitment line at 631-6204 for additional information. **Orientation Schedules:**

- English: Second and Fourth Thursdays, monthly
- Spanish: Third Thursday, monthly.

(Foster Care Ombudsman update, cont.)

Please consider participating in a workgroup specifically designed to address quality parenting within foster care. You are also welcome to attend many of the activities created for foster children. Although I acknowledge this newsletter is packed with a lot of information, I hope you can find a quiet moment (or two) to review the information referred to and attached.

Thank you for your dedication to Kern's Foster Children.
Margarita Soza, (661) 631-6698

NEW FOR 2015:

- **CKC President Alice Esqueda** takes leadership. See announcement in CKC Newsletter attached.
- **"Pass Along" Cards:** Created in a card deck style, these cards will be provided to caregivers interested in helping the Department recruit new licensed resource families. The cards will have basic information on Orientation schedule and Recruitment Line phone number. A space is provided for resource person's name/signature, which can also be used to begin mentorship connection.
- **Recruitment Incentives:** Beginning with January applications, current resource family caregivers may receive \$50 incentive for each qualifying referral submitted that results in an approved foster care license. New applicants must provide evidence of referral by showing the Pass Along card to Licensing Program Analyst upon application submission.
- **Welcome and Meet N Greet Events:** Additional events will be planned to welcome and introduce new resource families to seasoned resource families and to DHS staff.

NOTE FROM RDS:

The Resource, Development and Support (RDS) committee's goal is to make this newsletter something that ALL Resource Families find informative, interesting and useful. If you are interested in submitting an article, or have suggestions on making the newsletter better, please contact Margarita Soza at 661-631-6698 or email at sozam@co.kern.ca.us.

NEW PROGRAM UPDATE:

The **Early Intervention Services** (EIS) Program began mid-August 2014. The EIS staff has been conducting developmental screenings using the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition in the homes of caregivers. The caregivers have been cooperative in making themselves and the children available and assisting in the completion of the screening tool. Thank you!

As a reminder to caregivers, the EIS staff will mail you an outcome letter advising if the child is on target developmentally, needs to be monitored and re-screened in two months, or whether the child presented concerns and a referral was made to Kern Regional Center for an assessment for Early Start Services. A Kern Regional Center Service Coordinator will either call or send you a letter asking you to contact them to schedule an assessment. Please call to schedule as soon as you receive the call/letter, as KRC has 45 days to process each referral. If the child is no longer in your home, please call KRC to let them know.

If you have any questions, contact Program Specialist Vanessa Frando at (661) 631-6343.

RESPITE CARE HOMES NEEDED

Are you a licensed foster parent interested in providing "respite care" for other licensed foster parents?

Per Title 22 Regulation 89378 (C) "Respite Care" is temporary care for periods not to exceed 72 hours and shall provided by a licensed, approved or certified caregivers. These services shall not be provided for the purpose of routine, ongoing childcare.

To provide Respite Care, you must:

- Have openings, within your licensed capacity. For example, if you have a licensed capacity for 4 "children" and you have one "child" currently placed in your home, you could accept up to 3 "children" for respite care.
- Have current, age appropriate CPR/First Aid certification and have completed our annual training requirement.
- Get permission from the "child's" Social Worker.
- Get paperwork from the "child's" Social Worker.
- Have an understanding of how to obtain medical care for the "child" while in your care.

County Licensed Foster Family Homes may not use Foster Family Agency Homes for Respite Care.

Dual Licensed Homes (Day Care and Foster Family) may not accept Special Health Care Needs "children" for respite care.

Please contact your Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) or Foster Care Ombudsman, Margarita Soza at (661)631-6698 if you wish to be placed on the Respite Care Provider List.

Kinship & Foster Parent Trainings

January 2014-June 2015

ALL foster, relative and non-relative extended family member caregivers are welcome to participate in trainings offered by Bakersfield College as part of the Foster & Kinship Care Education & Training Program(FKCE).

Licensed Foster Parents: There are **five (5)** ways you can complete your required 8 hours of yearly training.

You can attend one of the following training options:

- Attend a training offered by Bakersfield College Foster & Kinship Care Education & Training Program
- Complete a Self-Test
- Complete Online Classes
- Attend the Caregivers of Kern County (CKC) Meetings
- Attend the Parent Project Training

******REMINDER:** *After each training, you must submit a certificate of completion to your Licensing Program Analyst.*

(#1) BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE FKCE PROGRAM & TRAINING

Mary Halberg, Program Manager, Bakersfield College, Family & Consumer Education Division

Pre-Register: (661) 319-1836 or Mary @ (661) 395-4737

Child Care: No child care provided.

The training schedule is available at www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/cdt/ (click on Foster and Kinship Care Program)

TUESDAY EVENING TRAINING

LOCATION: Weill Institute, 2100 Chester Ave, Room 102 Bakersfield, CA 93301

Date	Time	Topic/Room#
01/20/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	Communicable Diseases (including Headlice and MRCA) *SB500 Applicable/Room TBA
01/20/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Training of Trainer's-Foster Parent & Kinship Caregiver Facilitator Training/Room TBA
01/27/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	Child Abuse Laws & Reporting-What, When & How to Report it/Room TBA
01/27/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Resources for Raising Children with Special Needs-IEP's, 504's and AB490/Room TBA
02/03/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	Shaken Baby Syndrome & Sudden Death Syndrome *SB500 Applicable/Room TBA
02/03/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Type 1 Diabetes/Room TBA
02/10/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	Allegations-What To Do-When and Investigator Knocks/Room TBA
02/10/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Working Successfully with Teen Parents *SB500 Applicable /Room TBA
03/03/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	Cultural Sensitivity *SB500 Applicable/Room TBA
03/03/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Best Practices for LGBTQ Youth in Care (AB458, AB1856) /Room TBA
03/10/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	Infant/Toddler Development, Discipline, & Safety Milestones *SB500 Applicable/Room TBA
03/10/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs-Level 2/Room TBA
04/07/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	AB12 Fostering Connections to Success Act (Extension of Foster Care Benefits)-Teen Parents Rights/Room TBA
04/07/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Parenting Traumatized Children/Room TBA
04/14/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	Pregnancy, Pre-Natal Care & Resources/Room TBA
04/14/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs-Level 2/Room TBA
05/05/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	Special Medical Needs (Part 1) *SB500 Applicable/Room TBA
05/05/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Special Medical Needs (Part 2) *SB500 Applicable/Room TBA
05/12/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	Human Trafficking/Room TBA
05/12/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Bonding and Attachment-Fostering Relationships Between Bio/Foster Parents/Room TBA
06/02/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs-Level 2/Room TBA
06/02/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	Child Visitations, Expectations and Guidelines/Room TBA

SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL TRAINING

LOCATION: Weill Institute, 2100 Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Date	Time	Topic/Room#
01/13/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 3&4 /ROOM TBA
02/03/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 2/ROOM TBA
02/17/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 3&4 /ROOM TBA
03/10/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 2 /ROOM 102
03/17/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 3&4 /ROOM TBA
04/14/2015	7:30pm-9:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 2 /ROOM 102
04/21/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 3&4 /ROOM TBA
05/05/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 2 /ROOM 102
05/19/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 3&4 /ROOM TBA

06/02/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 2 /ROOM 102
06/16/2015	5:30pm-7:30pm	CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL NEEDS LEVEL 3&4 /ROOM TBA

SATURDAY TRAINING-WHOLE FAMILY TRAINING

LOCATION: Weill Institute, 2100 Chester Ave, Room #102, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Date	Time	Topic
05/16/2015	8:00am-5pm	SB500-Whole Family Home

PRIDE PRE-ADOPT TRAINING

LOCATION: Kern County Department of Human Services Prevention and Community Partnership Building- Community Room (Corner of Butte St. and Tulare St.)

PRIDE PRE-ADOPT is now part of the PRIDE training. Sessions 3, 6 and 9 will fulfill PRIDE PRE-ADOPT 8 hour training.

January Training	Session 3	1/12/2015	6pm-9pm
	Session 6	1/21/2015	6pm-9pm
	Session 9	1/28/2015	7pm-9pm
February Training	Session 3	2/9/2015	6pm-9pm
	Session 6	2/18/2015	6pm-9pm
	Session 9	2/25/2015	7pm-9pm
March Training	Session 3	3/9/2015	6pm-9pm
	Session 6	3/17/2015	6pm-9pm
	Session 9	3/24/2015	7pm-9pm

April Training	Session 3	4/4/2015	1pm-4pm
	Session 6	4/11/2015	9am-12pm
	Session 9	4/12/2015	2pm-4pm
May Training	Session 3	5/4/2015	6pm-9pm
	Session 6	5/12/2015	6pm-9pm
	Session 9	5/19/2015	7pm-9pm
June Training	Session 3	6/8/2015	6pm-9pm
	Session 6	6/16/2015	6pm-9pm
	Session 9	6/24/2015	7pm-9pm

(#2) SELF TEST

Self-tests are available by foster parents request. You may use 4 (four) of these each year for part of your eight hours. Keep a copy for your records and after completing the test mail to your licensing analyst.

(#3) ONLINE CLASSES

You can visit three websites that offer caregiver classes. You will find a variety of topics to meet your needs. For a nominal fee (caregiver responsibility for fee payment), you can go on their website, chose a topic of interest and read about it. After you take and pass a short test you can download a certificate of completion. The websites are:

1. www.fosterparents.com
2. www.fosterparentcollege.com
3. www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe

(#4) CAREGIVERS OF KERN COUNTY

For more information contact:
Opal Moreland at (661) 393-5597, or
Jean Miller at (661) 829-6021

Child Care: Yes, child care provided

DATE: First (1st) Thursday of each month.

THURSDAY EVENING TRAINING (Immediately following the CKC meetings)

LOCATION: Kern County Department of Human Services Prevention and Community Partnerships Building- Community Room (Corner of Butte St. and Tulare St.)

Date	Time	Topic
02/05/2015	6:30-8:00pm	Nutrition and Obesity Cultural
03/05/2015	6:30-8:00pm	Working with Bio Parents
04/02/2015	6:30-8:00pm	Mental Health Schizophrenic
05/07/2015	6:30-8:00pm	M.A.R.E Volunteer Program
06/04/2015	6:30-8:00pm	Kern Regional Services

(#5) THE PARENT PROJECT

Parent Project is a 10 to 16-week parent training program designed specifically for parents of strong-willed or out-of-control adolescent children. The curriculum teaches parents how to stop negative behaviors (poor school attendance and performance, alcohol and other drug use, gangs, runaways, and violent teens), and how to initiate positive two-way communication with the child. Go to <http://www.kernparentproject.org/> for an updated list of dates, times and locations. Make sure to ask for a certificate of completion.

Bakersfield College Foster and Kinship Care Educational Program
Announces Remaining 2014/2015 Training Calendar for:

Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs



This training is a requirement for caregivers receiving or requesting Specialized Care Increments. Contact child's Social Worker for details.

Training is recommended for All resource families including Licensed Foster Homes, Relatives and Non-Related caregivers.

**To register please contact:
BC Registration Line (661) 319-1836
or Mary Halberg (661) 395-4737**

2014/2015 Calendar

01/13/2015	5:30-7:30 p.m. Room TBA	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs–Level 3/4	Cherilyn Price LCSW KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
02/03/2015	5:30-7:30 p.m. Room TBA	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level 2	Cherilyn Price LCSW CPS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
02/17/2015	5:30-7:30 p.m. Room TBA	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs–Level 3/4	Leslie Foster, MSW KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
03/10/2015	7:30-9:30 p.m. Room 102	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level 2	Patty Rosales, KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
03/17/2015	5:30-7:30 p.m. Room TBA	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level 3/4	Miriam Ocampo KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
04/14/2015	7:30-9:30 p.m. Room 102	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level 2	Cherilyn Price LCSW CPS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
04/21/2015	5:30-7:30 p.m. Room TBA	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level 3/4	Monica Goodell-Bonell, KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
05/05/2015	7:30-9:30 p.m. Room 102	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level 2	Leslie Foster, MSW KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
05/19/2015	5:30-7:30 p.m. Room TBA	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs–Level 3/4	Patty Rosales, KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
06/02/2015	5:30-7:30 p.m. Room 102	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level 2	Miriam Ocampo KCDHS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA
06/16/2015	5:30-7:30 p.m. Room TBA	Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs – Level 3/4	Cherilyn Price LCSW CPS Supervisor, KCMH Representative TBA

Bakersfield College Foster & Kinship Care Educational Program

Course Descriptions 2014-2015

Tuesday evening courses are offered to foster parents to fulfill the Kern County Department of Human Services mandated eight hour training. Relative/kinship caregivers and non-relative extended family members are encouraged to attend these trainings. Tuesday trainings are held at the Weill Institute, 2100 Chester Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301. Below please find the course descriptions for the 2014/2015 school year (In alphabetical order by class title). The training schedule is available at www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/cdt/ (click on Foster and Kinship Care Program)

Adoptions & Developmental Impact:

This class will discuss how to guide a child through loss and gain relationships, how to use specific language concerning the process of adoption with a child, how to distinguish the difference between trauma, separation, and attachments children show and how to identify attachment issues/problems concerning child abuse.

Allegations-What To Do When an Investigator Knocks:

The participants will focus on the following:

- 1) Title 22 regulations regarding complaint investigation
- 2) How to deal with a complaint investigator, report unusual incidents, and handle a "non-compliance conference"
- 3) How to address and protect oneself and family against allegations.

Best Practices for LGBTQ Youth in Care (AB458 & AB1856):

Participants receive information and training on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) laws and issues related to children placed in foster care and cultural awareness necessary in order to provide a safe and nurturing foster placement for LGBTQ youth.

Bonding & Attachment-Fostering Relationships Between Biological/Foster Parents:

The class will review the importance of attachment.

Caring for Children with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Needs:

The training explores the causes of emotional and behavioral issues in foster children; tools to address emotional/behavioral issues as a family; and how to identify formal and informal supports in the community for further assistance. The class also addresses changes to DHS policy regarding available funding sources for foster parents caring for children with severe behavior needs.

CASA:

This training will review what a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is, what it means when a CASA is appointed to a child and how to get a CASA assigned to a foster child.

Child Abuse Laws & Reporting-What, When, & How to Report It:

The participants will focus on the following:

- 1) Learn definitions of abuse and neglect
- 2) Recognize the signs & symptoms
- 3) Learn how to complete a Suspected Child Abuse Report

Child Visitations, Expectations & Guidelines:

The participants will focus on the following:

- 1) The importance of child visitations
- 2) Child visitation guidelines, and
- 3) What to expect.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children:

The participants will focus on the following:

1. Local Realities -Pimping -Recruiting -Survivor sex perceptions -Labor and Laws
2. Goals of Kern County Coalition -Prevention -Protection -Prosecution -Partnership
3. Role of Foster Parent: -Keep youth safe -Red Flag and Indicators -Terminology

Communicable Diseases (Including Headlice):

The participants will focus on the following: 1) How to properly identify a contagious infection like MRSA staph infection and head lice infestation, 2) How to begin home treatment for the child while protecting the others in the household from contracting the same condition, and 3) When to take a child to a medical provider for treatment

Cultural Sensitivity:

This class is designed to provide information about the importance of honoring diversity and how to manage issues in a diverse community and being sensitive to needs of children in foster care.

Dream Center Services & Support for ILP/AB12 Youth:

Participants will receive information about available resources to foster youth at the *Dream Center* as well as resources available through the supplemental Independent Living Program (ILP).

Drug Babies & Fetal Alcohol Syndrome:

The participants will focus on the following: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome 1) to identify signs and symptoms of Pos Tox babies and how to properly handle each infant. 2) To identify signs and symptoms of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome 3) how to follow up with developmental/health issues. Drug Babies 1) How to understand the prevalence and risks of drug use in pregnancy

Grief & Loss Relationships Between Biological/Foster Parents:

Participants will be introduced to the different signs of grief in children depending on their age and understanding the importance of allowing children to grieve. Participants will learn techniques to help without hindering by finding activities to work through it and not stumble into depression. Resources will be provided such as website and book titles for young children and adolescents.

Hair & Skin Care of African American Children:

This training will review the three differences in African American skin and identify dry skin on African American children. The training will also review two products that can aid in maintaining healthy hair and skin for African American children.

Infant/Toddler Development, Discipline & Safety Milestones:

The participants will focus on the following: 1) Positive discipline (how to make it work for you); 2) Infant/Toddler stages and development; and 3) How to set up a healthy and safe environment.

Making It Work –Foster Parents Working Together:

The Participants will focus on the following:

- 1) The priority given to reunifying children with parents,
- 2) The importance of working with birth parents to help reunification succeed,
- 3) How to continue contact with children once they return home,
- 4) How the referral process works for Kern County Mental Health and what services are available for resource families and foster children in their care.

Parenting Traumatized Children:

The participants will focus on the following:

- 1) Understanding values of emotional behavior concerns; 2) Understand and develop awareness of triggers; and
- 3) Develop skills to assist traumatized children to recover from trauma

Pregnancy & Prenatal Care & Resources:

The participants will focus on the following: 1) The importance of medical supervision; 2) What to expect; and 3) planning for baby.

Prudent Parenting, Respite Care & SCIAP Support for Resource Families:

This class will go over the basics of respite care. It define alternative care, short term care and respite care. This class will also go into detail about SCIAP (Specialized Care & Incentive Program). It will discuss what SCIAP as well as how program funds can help cover unexpected/non-recurring expenses associated with care of foster child.

Shaken Baby Syndrome & SIDS:

The participants will focus on the following: 1) Ways to decrease the rise of SIDS; 2) Ways to prevent suffocations (accidental); 3) Effects of shaken baby; and 4) Ways to prevent shaken baby syndrome.

Special Medical Needs Part 1/2:

The participants focus on the following: 1) To describe at least one disorder in each of the following areas of function: thinking and communicating, breathing, eating, moving, and eliminating; 2) To describe some of the most common treatments and medications for disorders in each of those areas; 3) To name the medical specialists that practice in each area; 4) To discuss the importance of written records when caring for medically fragile children and give

Teen Parents Rights & Fostering Connections Success (*SB500 Applicable):

This class will focus on teen parent rights, the kind of stress teens experience by being pregnant or becoming a parent and what services are available to parenting teens throughout the county.

The Court & Your Child (AB490 Ed Liason/AB2096):

The participant will learn about educational rights and services for children in foster care including:

- 1) IEP's (Individual Educational Plans) – what is covered and your rights.
- 2) 504's – the law.
- 3) AB490 – information regarding the recent assembly bill.

Training the Trainer (Foster Parent & Kinship Caregiver Facilitator Training):

The participants will focus on the following: 1) How to set up the training environment; 2) How to organize their material and share their experience with foster parents and kinship caregivers; and 3) How to present to topic.

Type 1 Diabetes:

This training will go over Type 1 Diabetes. It will cover what to when you receive a diagnosis, monitoring diabetes and living with Diabetes.

What's New About Title 22:

This training will review the Title 22 updates by the Kern County Department of Human Services Licensing Staff.

Working Successfully with Teen Parents:

The participants will focus on the following: 1) Prenatal care, child development stages, family support services, parenting and life skills education; 2) Community resources for teen parents; who can access them and how; and 3.) Father involvement and child care.

Respite Care Providers List

January 2015

The Respite Care List is a listing of county foster parents willing to provide respite care. You may have to call several people before you can find one with an opening.

Name	Location	Phone #	Ages Preferred
Amos, Shirley	Bakersfield	833-2984	2-18
Otis, Gail	Rosamond	256-8968	0-9
Blain, Cheryl	Bakersfield	364-4349	2-17

If you can help and would like to have your names on this quarterly listing please call:

Your Licensing Analyst or Loretta Davis, (661) 631-6483 to sign up!

TO DO RESPITE CARE:

You must:

1. Have a current opening in your capacity for the number of children that you will be doing respite for
2. Get permission from child's Social Worker.
3. Get the paperwork from child's Social Worker.
4. Have an understanding of how to get medical care for children while in your care.

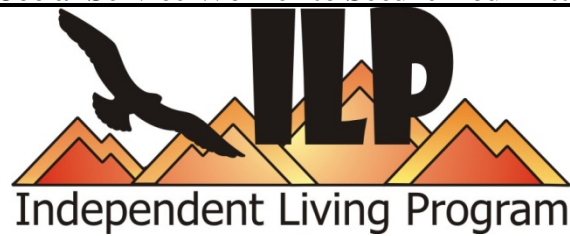
Respite Care Policy:

Respite care is the temporary care of a foster child by someone other than the foster parent.

- Caregiver is subject to Social Worker approval.
- Limited to 7 days/168 hours per child or 12 days/288 hours for a child receiving a SCI rate of Level 2 or higher.
- DHS' fiscal year is July 1st to June 30th. Respite Care hours must be used during the fiscal year. All unused days for current year **cannot** be carried over to next year.

You may also contact:
Margarita Soza ~ Foster Care Ombudsman
At (661) 631-6698

**UPCOMING ILP EVENTS IN 2014/2015 – Contact Your Independent Living
Program Social Service Worker to Secure Your Attendance**



DECEMBER 3, 2014

Health/Sex Education Workshop (Females)

4-6 pm at CRD

DECEMBER 10, 2014

Health/Sex Education Workshop (Males)

4-6 pm at CRD

JANUARY 14, 2015

Financial Aid Workshop (Senior's only)

Time to be announced; at BC

Following workshops dates and times are to be announced.

JANUARY 2015

Tier I Skills Class Session (Sign-up)

Tier II Life Skills Class Session (Sign-up)

Garden Pathway Workshop

February 2015

Health/Sex Education Workshop

March 2015

Housing Workshop

Leaders in Life

Garden Pathway Workshop

April 2015

Career Exploration Workshop

May 2015

AB12 Workshop

ILP High School Graduation Celebration Dinner

Garden Pathway Workshop

June 2015

Money Matters

Housing Workshop

July 2015

CSUB Summer Life Skills Classes



Friendship House Advisory Board Program Recruitment Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

6:00pm

Friendship House Community Center
2424 Cottonwood Road
Bakersfield, CA

"Recruiting For The" Pre-Employment Resource Program for Youth Ages 14-18

This Ten-Week Program Will Focus On:

- ❖ Financial Literacy Awareness
- ❖ Employment Preparation Skills
- ❖ Career Development
- ❖ Internship

ATTENTION...ATTENTION...ATTENTION

All interested Parents/Caregivers, School Counselors, and Organizations should attend this meeting to receive more information about this **FREE PROGRAM** and/or **PRE-REGISTER**. The program will take place at the Bakersfield and Shafter campuses.

Participants Who Complete The Program Will Receive:

- ❖ A \$25 Gift Card To Ross Dress For Less
- ❖ The book "A Teen's Guide to Finding a Job"
- ❖ Field Trip To University of California at Los Angeles

To RSVP Contact

Jewelle Scales at (661) 868-6676 or jscales@co.kern.ca.us

Friendship House Community Center Advisory Board Members



President

Fuchsia Ward
Kern High School District

President Elect

Jewelle Scales
County of Kern

Events Chair

Michael Abapo
Chevron

Communication Chair

Adam Lancaster
Channel 23

Outreach Chair

Charles Roseburr
Kern High School District

Friendship House Community Center Representative

Lois Hannibal
Friendship House Manager

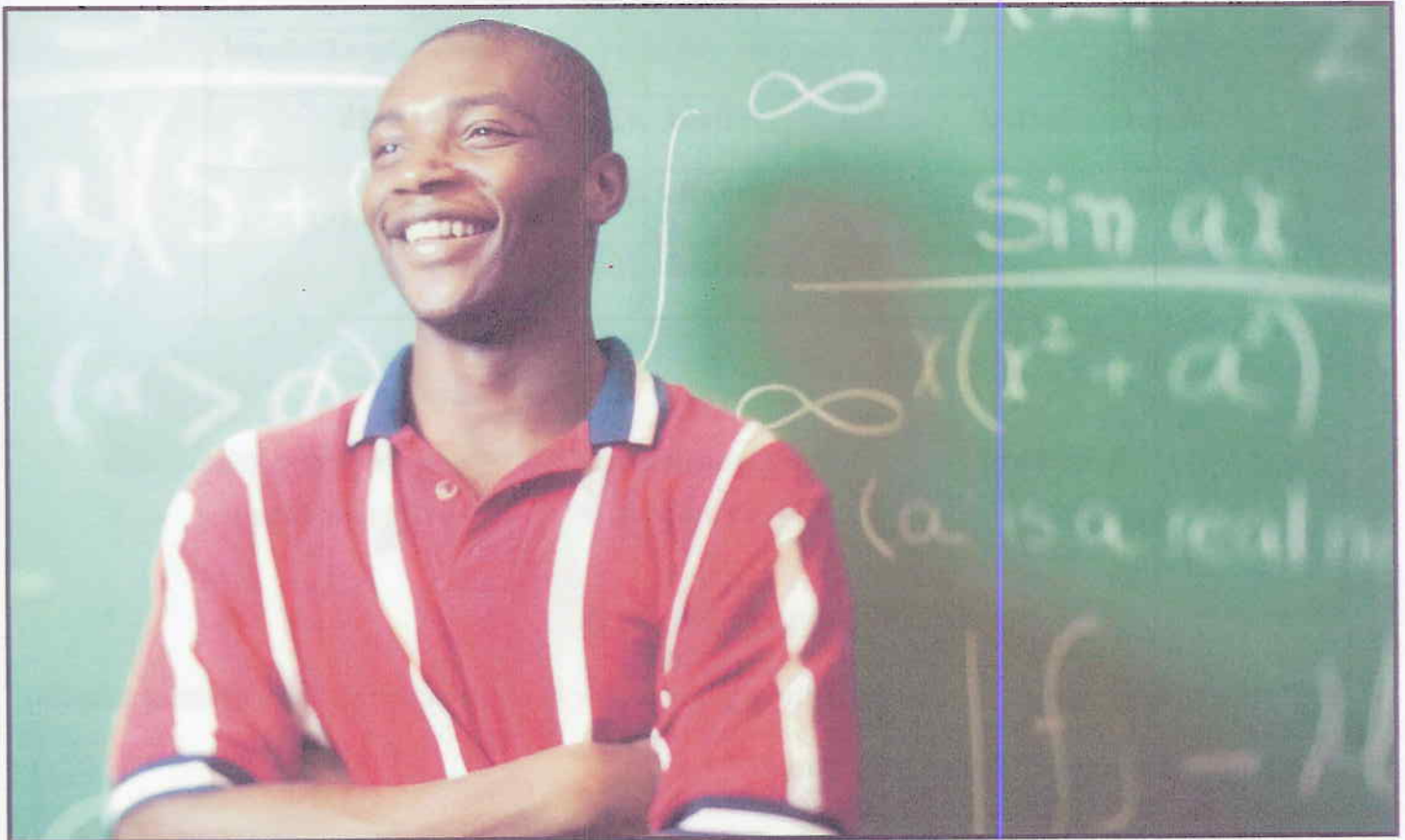
CAPK Representative

Romala Ramkissoon
Director of Family, Youth &
Community Services



Tutoring

Algebra 1



By appointment;
To reserve a spot,
please call **661.664.7716**

This project is supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

SOUTHWEST BRANCH LIBRARY

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STAY CONNECTED



kerncountylibrary.org

Adoption Support Group

We believe Adoption is a life-long process that no one should have to navigate alone. KBYH offers an adoption support group designed to assist families who have adopted, want to adopt, are in the process of adoption, or who want to find out more about Foster Care Adoption. Childcare (ages 2 and above) and dinner is provided. Foster parents can receive training hours for attending.

**Second Tuesday of Every Month
6pm - 8pm**

1321 Stine Road
Bakersfield, Ca 93309
To RSVP, call Carrie at 661-396-2352



**KERN BRIDGES
YOUTH HOMES
ADOPTIONS**

Lic. #157202794

Kern Bridges Youth Homes • www.kernbridges.com



Koinonia Family Services Adoption Program

Adoptive Family Support Group

Koinonia...

Serving the adoption community with education, advocacy, and support for and by adoptive families.



**Meets the first Monday of each month
excluding holidays 6:30-8:30pm**

Koinonia's Support Group is free and open to ALL families, including families who have adopted through the Kern County Adoption Agency
Considering adoption • In the adoption process • Who have adopted

Adoption Support Groups are held at: Ridgeview Community Church

8420 Stine Road, Bakersfield

Hwy 99 Northbound:

- Take 99 North
- Take Taft/Lamont Exit
- Turn left onto South H St
- Take the 1st left onto Taft Hwy
- Turn right onto Stine Rd
- Destination will be on the right

Hwy 99 Southbound:

- Take 99 South
- Take Panama Ln Exit
- Turn right onto Panama Ln
- Turn left onto Stine Rd
- Destination will be on the left



For questions or to
RSVP for childcare, call:
(661) 833-4483 or
email: kernpass@kfh.org

*Upon request, childcare
and training certificates
are available at no charge*

Funded Through Kern County Department of Human Services for all Kern Families

ASPIRAnet

Adoption Parent Partnership

Do you find yourself wanting to interact with other adoptive families who understand the joys and challenges associated with loving and raising children who have not always been with you?

The topic of discussion and education varies from month to month, and addresses issues impacting today's adoptive families. We have children's activities, so bring your whole family. Your children will see that families formed by adoption are "normal." Dinner is served for all, so that you won't feel rushed to include this valuable time into your routine.

We meet the third Monday of every month, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. 1001 Tower Way, Suite 110, Bakersfield, CA 93309

Please RSVP to Paula, so that sufficient food and childcare can be assured. 661-323-1233 x0

2015 Meeting dates:

January 19, February 16, March 16,
April 20, May 18, June 15,
July 20, August 17, September 21,
October 19 and November 16



Caregivers of Kern County

Foster a Child's Journey Home



PO Box 10051, Bakersfield, CA 93389
(661) 345-2626

ckckids.org

Ckckids.yolasite.com

Dec 2014/Jan 2015 Edition

CKC ELECTIONS



Pres. Alice Esqueda, VP. Opal Morland, Parliamentarian Alice Meyer

Dear Caregivers,

Election results are in. Membership had a good time nominating and casting votes. Just in time too! Our new president, vice president, and parliamentarian are pictured above. These three positions were up for the 2015-2016 year. Our new president is picking her committees and will be announcing them at the February general meeting. If you would like to volunteer please give her a call at (661) 319-7272.

I hope everyone will attend this February meeting and meet these new incoming officers. Alice Meyer has already volunteered to be our delegate for the upcoming QPI meeting in San Diego and she will be serving as our representative here locally as well. Of course we still have our valued officers Lori Murphy-secretary, Gayla Gibson-Treasurer, and Bettie Nieto as Chaplain.

If you notice, Jean Miller did not run for re-election; but has already stepped up to be on a committee or two and is taking the lead on planning an upcoming event. We couldn't do without her experience. I am still on the team too as your vice president! For some reason membership would not let me retire. The board will be working closely to develop new programs, plan events, and fundraise!

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Bettie has been attending RDS, QPI and a special group to help bio parents. She along with others are mentoring these parents. We all know Bettie is an excellent example of how foster parents should be. Thanks Bettie for working with DHS and other groups in support of better outcomes for foster youth and families.

President's msg. cont...

December is my last month as president and we are ending the year with a Breakfast with Santa. I am sure everyone who attends will enjoy this delicious meal, photos with Santa, the arts and crafts, face painting and all the other wonderful things available. This is held each year in collaboration with KCDHS and others. The Caregivers of Kern County are proud to be a sponsor of this event.

Please everyone come and attend our meetings and receive special training provided by Bakersfield College. These trainings are at no charge but we may lose funding if people do not attend. We are blessed with Mary Halberg and the Kinship training board. Let's not lose this funding by not participating.

Due to holidays and scheduling conflicts our last two general meetings were cancelled. We did however host the CKC Awards ceremony. Membership voted by secret ballot and Lori Murphy was named foster parent of the year. Membership also voted Margarita Soza as community partner of the year. Two outstanding people who go above and beyond for at risk kids and families. They each received a certificate of appreciation and a \$50 gift certificate. See you at the bake sale Dec. 2nd and Jan. 6th. *Happy Holidays!*

Opal, CKC Pres. 2012-14

The Goals of CKC

- Support all caregivers
- Safeguard children in our homes
- Network with Child Welfare Agencies
- Socialize events for families
- Education and information on current policies and regulations.
- Share ideas in a friendly atmosphere
- And fund raise, fund raise, fund raise!

Meeting Spot - 1st Thursday of each Month 6pm

The Community Partnership Building
Department of Human Services
100 E. California Avenue, Bakersfield, CA

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to assist all caregivers of foster/adopt/kinship children by offering our experience, support, training, understanding and love. Our goal is to work closely with agencies, each other, and community partners to meet the needs of caregivers and to assist in better outcomes for these children and families.

Bakersfield College Thursday Evening Trainings

Date: 1st Thursday of each month immediately following the CKC meeting. You must pre-register by 6:15 p.m. You will then receive 1.5 hours of training.

Bakersfield College

**Foster & Kinship Care Education and Training Schedule
Caregivers of Kern County (CKC) Training
2014-2015**

Address:

- Kern County Department of Human Services
- Prevention & Community Partnership Building (Corner of Tulare and Butte Streets)
- 100 E California Avenue
- Bakersfield, CA 93307

Child Care? Child care is available at \$5 per family
Pre-Register: Mary Halberg, Program Manager BC Family and Consumer Education Division
Telephone: Registration Line 661-319-1836 or Mary @ 661-395-4737

FREE TRAINING

Date	Time	Topic	Facilitator
12/4/14		NO TRAINING Holiday Cottage	N/A
1/1/15		NO TRAINING New Year	N/A
2/5/15	6:30-8:00 pm	Nutrition & Obesity - Cultural	Rochelle Anzaldo, RD
3/5/15	6:30-8:00 pm	Working with Bio Parents	MelissaBradex, Educator and Former Foster Youth
4/2/15	6:30-8:00 pm	Mental Health Schizophrenic	Via Turjanis, MFT
5/7/15	6:30-8:00 pm	M.A.R.E. Volunteer Program	DebbyKateKroeger, M.A.R.E. Program
6/4/15	6:30-8:00 pm	Kern Regional Services	KRC Representative

Next Edition featuring Ms. Alice Esqueda, Pres. 2015

Thank you for the honor as your new president. I will be sharing a little about my-self and the goals for 2015-16. I look forward to speaking with each of you and listening to your ideas and comments. Thank you.

Sincerely, Alice



ckckids.org

Merry Christmas

Our CKC 2014 Board Officials

Board Members

President	Opal Morland
Vice President	Jean Miller
Secretary	Lori Murphy
Treasurer	Gayla Gibson
Chaplain	Betty Nieto
Parliamentarian	Alice Esqueda

Committee Chairs

Auditor – Ruth Mora
Membership Chair - Jean Miller & Bettie Nieto
Event Committee – Kim Stallion, Alice Meyer
Editor-Robert Geltman
Layout-Opal Morland

CAREGIVER BOARD 2014



Opal Morland/President



Jean Miller/V.P.



Bettie Nieto/Chaplain



Gayla Gibson/Treas



Lori Murphy/Sec.



Alice Esqueda/Parliamentarian



Ruth Mora/Auditor

Don't forget to pay your dues! Thank you

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Des. 2 – Bake Sale fundraiser**
- Dec. 13 – Breakfast with Santa**
- Jan. 6 – Bake Sale fundraiser**



Caregivers of Kern County

Foster a Child's Journey Home



CKC Welcomes New President!



CKC Bio for Alice Esqueda, President 2015-16

Dear Foster/Adopt/Kinship Families and Friends,

The Caregivers of Kern County (CKC) are honored to introduce our new president Alice Esqueda. She is Spanish speaking and a very special lady and friend who has been a loyal member of our organization over the years. Alice helps abused kids for Kern County and throughout our state. The Kern County Department of Human Services has accepted and appreciated her help with the 'Breakfast with Santa Event'. Last year approximately 300 children and caregivers were served. She has helped set up, decorate, feed, take pictures and dance for the enjoyment of these families as well as pass out gifts.

Alice was a relative placement herself as a young child and was raised by her grandmother. She had a good experience with her grandmother but still longed for the connection she missed with her mother and father. She truly understands the loss foster children feel when removed from their homes. Alice always performs acts of kindness, cares and loves at risk kids.

Alice has volunteered for KCDHS's sibling event held each year so they do not lose that family connection. To ensure a quality of life they normally do not get she helps raise funds. In 2005, Alice joined and helped create a dance group to help at risk kids and seniors. The Boys and Girls Club was a first performance for their program. She volunteered to serve on the food line with others to help feed these children. She has also helped with the Kern County Martin Luther King Celebration to help needy families celebrate their heritage and encourage a more positive way of life.

Alice has served Thanksgiving dinner with the East Bakersfield Collaborative and the Sheriffs Sub-Station. Together she and other volunteers fed over 200 people. It has become a passion for Alice to help seniors, veterans, abused children and her community. Her community volunteer efforts include Foster Care, Relay for Life, Glenwood Gardens for Seniors, the Buddy Walk for Downs Syndrome Kids and many more. In 2008 she became involved in the Homes for Our Troops project. This organization builds homes for severely disabled vets. She helped feed breakfast and lunch to the fabulous volunteers, who poured cement, put up the wall construction and helped celebrate Cpl. Morgan and his family's new home.

Alice has brought her love of community to CKC and has helped raise funds for many charitable events! She is a team member, gets involved, respects others, and has endless love and compassion for everyone. Alice does not quit when things are not going as smoothly as she wishes and encourages others to stand strong in hopes for a better tomorrow. No matter what organization or event Alice is involved with her main goal is to honor families, seniors and veterans.

To contact Alice her email is aliceesqueda@gmail.com or you can call (661) 319-7272. She is always available to assist.

CKC 2015 Officers

President	Alice Esqueda	(661) 319-7272	aliceesqueda@gmail.com
Vice President	Opal Morland	(661) 345-2626	opalrosemorland@att.net
Chaplain	Bettie Nieto	(661) 619-1150	chuck5083@gmail.com
Secretary	Lori Murphy	(661) 703-7693	lorimurphy5431@aol.com
Treasurer	Gayla Gibson	(661) 332-5129	gigibson62@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Alice Meyer	(661) 619-1949	damdirt@att.net



Caregivers of Kern County Upcoming Events

All Foster/Adopt/Kinship Families Welcome

December 2, 2014 – Tuesday 7am to 9am **Bake Sale Fundraiser** in KCDHS back parking lot. Yummy goodies including breakfast burritos, crescents, fruit, desserts et al. Thank you for supporting foster kids.

December 4, 2014-General meeting cancelled

December 13m 2014 –Saturday 9am to 11:30am Breakfast with Santa, In collaboration with KCDHS, East Hills Mall and others

December 18, 2014 - Board meeting Thursday, Don Perico's 11am, CA/Stockdale

January 1, 2015 – General meeting cancelled due to holiday. Happy New Year!

January 6, 2015 - Tuesday 7am to 9am **Bake Sale Fundraiser** in KCDHS back parking lot. Yummy goodies for sale to support yearly events for foster youth

January 22, 2015- Board meeting Thursday 11am, TBA

January 23 & 30, 2015 – Friday, Eagles Club 1718 17th Street, Heart **Sale Fundraiser** 5-7pm; Please come and buy a heart for your loved one and support foster kids!

February 3, 2015 - Tuesday 7am to 9am **Bake Sale Fundraiser** in KCDHS back parking lot. Yummy goodies for sale to support yearly events for foster youth

February 5, 2015 – General meeting & training, Thursday 6-8pm, Partnership Building
Come and greet our new officers-President Alice Esqueda, Vice President Opal Morland, and Parliamentarian Alice Meyer plus receive some excellent training provided by Bakersfield College.

February 6 & 13, 2015 - Friday , Eagles Club 1718 17th Street, **Heart Sale Fundraiser** 5-7pm, Please come and buy a heart for your loved one and support foster kids!

February 19, 2015 – Thursday, 11am Board meeting TBA.

February 28, 2015 – Saturday Skate Party at Rollerama West 4-6pm

Want to be a CKC Member. The membership fee is \$40 dollars per year per family. Where does the money go? All monies go back into your local CKC group to help with Events for our kids and families

Benefits of Membership:

- Free Local Training by Bakersfield College
- Free Events for children and adults
- Support of other foster/adopt/kinship families
- Voices heard by KCDHS and other collaboratives
- Annual Family events and outings
- Plus first chance sign up for our Special Events

Thank you for supporting at risk children...

