

RECRUITMENT, DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT

(Quarterly Newsletter for KERN's Resource Families)

June 2014



KERN COUNTY RESOURCE FAMILIES AND 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.

Hello Everyone:

I want to take this opportunity to say "THANK YOU" to all our resource families for the continued dedication to the children we serve in Kern County. I especially want to express my sincere gratitude to all who participated in the various events as we celebrated National Foster Care Month in May. Approximately 150 resource families, social workers, and community partners gathered for a dinner, training, games and a lot of collaborating.

On April 29, 2014 the Kern County Board of Supervisors proclaimed the month of May as Foster Care Awareness Month and numerous activities were held throughout the month at the *Dream Center*. Those events allowed us to highlight the talents of our youth in addition to elevating the focus on the needs of our foster care youth. The CSUB *Guardian Scholars Program* held a 2-day summit to raise public awareness of the need to support our former youth toward academic and personal success.

As an agency, we are always seeking new and better ways to communicate with you and ways to support you in the very important work that you do. It's important that we hear from you and we want to know how we can make the hard job of foster parenting as easy as possible. So, as we plan ahead for the summer months and beyond, you are encouraged to share with us how we can better support your needs.

Please take a look at the additional information provided in the newsletter which was prepared with you in mind. Your feedback is always welcome.

Margarita Soza, (661) 631-6698

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ALL CAREGIVERS

Welcome Aboard Resource Families:

Whether you are a County Licensed Foster Family Home, a Relative/Kinship Caregiver, or a certified Foster Family Home, you are a Resource Family Caregiver. Although the steps you took to become a caregiver to a child in foster care may be different, to KCDHS you are now referred to as a Resource Family. Any reference in this newsletter to Resource Families includes you!

School Emergency Card Updates:

All Resource Families are urgently reminded that caregivers are to change/update the emergency card at the child's school as soon as you receive placement of the child. The school should also be informed when the child leaves your home.

HEP Updates:

Keep that Health & Education Passport (HEP) readily available & share with all medical, mental health and education providers. Take it with you to all appointments and ask your provider to consider the facts on the HEP, to make sure you receive updates.

June is Water Safety Month

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that Bakersfield College (BC) offers training specifically to Resource Family Caregivers? The goal is to help caregivers with issues unique to children in foster care. You can learn about such needs, bonding and attachment, medically fragile children and so on. Please see the BC website for schedule and class descriptions. Classes are for ALL Resource Families, not just for licensed homes. A list of courses and descriptions will be mailed later this summer.

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 one of our orientations, which are 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 call the Recruitment line at 631-6204 for additional information. **Orientation Schedules:**

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

RESPIRE 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.

PLAIN TALK ON LICENSING

An advice column for Licensed Resource Families

The reminders below were announced in earlier Newsletters and are being repeated due to continued importance for licensed and Emergency Foster Home providers.

ROLLOVERS:

In an effort to improve placement stability, the Department will only allow "rollover" of Emergency Foster Home (EFH) placements if there is a completed Adoption Home Study. Exceptions on a case by case basis only, with Program Director approval. Refer questions to Supervisor Candace Martin @633-7037.

SMOKE FREE HOMES:

Foster Family Home Smoke Free Requirement. Effective January 1, 2014 a licensed caregiver is prohibited from smoking or permitting any other person from smoking in the home; and, when the child is present, on the outdoor grounds; and in any motor vehicle that is regularly used to transport children. If a LPA determines a caregiver has violated this smoking prohibition, the LPA shall cite the caregiver for a violation of subdivision (b) of Section 1530.7 of the Health and Safety Code. Please contact your LPA for questions.

CE TESTS:

Due to the increased costs of purchasing and mailing the CE tests for licensed FFH caregivers, the tests will no longer be mailed with the quarterly Newsletters beginning 2014. CE Tests will be provided upon request. Please contact your Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) directly.

July is Burn Injury Month

August is Keeping Kids Safe in & around Cars Month

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.



Caregivers of Kern County Upcoming Special Events

All Foster/Adopt/Kinship Families Welcome

With paid up Membership Dues

June 27, 2014 - Friday

Mc Murtrey Swim - Out of School Family Swim all invited! \$10 per family it is limited space so first come first serve. Beginning 5:30pm food is sold inside. Board meeting.

July 1, 2014 - Tuesday

Hurricane Harbor, meet at Walmart parking lot on Panama Lane at 8am. RSVP with Gayla Gibson 661-332-5129

August 10, 2014 – Sunday 1-4pm

Luau, \$10 per person benefitting Farm Day for foster kids. Location: Eagles, 1718 17th St., Bakersfield, CA (0-2yr free, 3-12yr \$6) Pre-Sale Tickets available (661) 345-2626

August 14, 2014-Thursday 5pm DHS hosting annual Sibling Event Robert Geltman will Represent CKC with \$250 donation from CKC

September 13, 2014 – Saturday Farm Day & BBQ potluck, 5-9pm Bettie Goen and family has invited CKC foster families to share an evening on the farm. RSVP (661) 345-2626 or (661) 332-5129

Oct. 23 – Halloween Party TBA

Oct. 31 – Harvest Party 5-7pm Valley Baptist Church

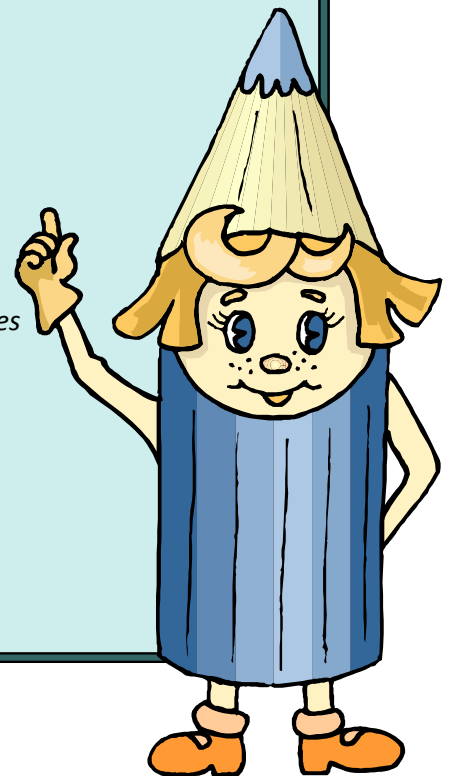
November 11, 2014 Tuesday Veterans Day

December 2013 Annual Christmas Celebration TBA

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



UPCOMING ILP EVENTS IN 2014



Independent Living Program

JUNE

Money Matters

*Budgeting/Credit/ Fraud/Banking
Wednesday June 18, 2014
4:00pm to 6:00pm
Career Resource Department
2727 "F" Street*

Housing Workshop

*Do you have what it takes to live on your own?
Wednesday June 25, 2014
4:00pm to 6:00pm
Career Resource Department
2727 "F" Street*

AUGUST

Money Matters Workshop

*Budgeting/Credit/ Fraud/Banking
TO BE ANNOUNCED*

SEPTEMBER

Housing Workshop

*Do you have what it takes to live on your own?
TO BE ANNOUNCED*

OCTOBER

INDEPENDENT CITY

2014

TO BE ANNOUNCED

NOVEMBER

Guardian Scholars Walk at CSUB

TO BE ANNOUNCED

AB-12 Workshop

*Seniors only
TO BE ANNOUNCED*

DECEMBER

Health/Sex Education Workshop (Females)-Stacy/

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Health/Sex Education Workshop (Males)-Keith/

TO BE ANNOUNCED

*******Checkout our ILP Newsletters and other Information on our website
<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/dhs/ILP/>**



Lunch @ the Library

As part of a statewide collaboration between the California Library Association and the California Summer Meal Coalition, the Kern County Superintendent of Schools is providing meals at the Beale Memorial Library.

June 2 - July 31, 2014

Monday - Friday • 11:30am-12:30pm

Beale Memorial Library, Auditorium

Children, ages 2-18.....FREE

Parents & Caregivers.....\$3.00

Interested in volunteering for this program?

Contact Andie Apple at 661.868.0723

ATTENTION: ALL RESOURCE FAMILY CAREGIVERS

DID YOU KNOW that local school districts are responsible for ensuring regulations pertinent to foster youth in their respective school districts are followed? In collaborating with school districts, they have expressed concern that they are not receiving information about foster youth.

Please help us assure our children are accounted for by doing the following for all foster children/youth in your care!!

- If the child will continue to attend the same school, please be sure you go to the school to identify the child as a foster youth and to update the child's emergency card, including the assigned county social worker's contact information.
- If the child will be changing schools, please be sure to take your placement documents and Health and Education Passport (HEP) with you when you go to enroll the child.
- If the child's placement ends in your home, please contact the school to inform them.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these procedures, please

do not hesitate to contact DHS Foster Youth Education Liaison,

Vanessa Frando at: (661) 631-6343 or [frandov@co.kern .ca.us](mailto:frandov@co.kern.ca.us).



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

ADOPTION SUPPORT PROGRAM SERVICES

Koinonia's Permanency and Adoption Support Services (PASS) seeks to further Koinonia's mission to provide the highest quality treatment and services available for children, youth, and their families by supporting family systems created through adoption and other permanency options so that families can fulfill their life-long commitments to children. In addition, Koinonia seeks to promote adoption awareness within Kern County through promotional events and collaboration with other providers and community partners so that families are effectively supported within their local communities.

Supportive services are provided by highly trained and competent staff and include:

► Crisis Support and Intervention

Strength and Needs Assessment for Services
An informed consent needs to be reviewed and signed prior to completion of the assessment.

► Education/ Trainings

► Lending Library

► Support Groups

► Advocacy

► Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP)

Can include any or all of the following: case management, counseling, education/training, support (groups and/or mentorship), advocacy, referrals or linkage to other community providers and partners.

► Promotional Events

► Communication and Outreach

Permanency and Adoption Support Services (PASS) is coordinated through Koinonia's Bakersfield District Office. For additional information or to request assessment for services, please contact (661) 833-4483.

Additional information may also be obtained through Koinonia's Permanency and Adoption Support Services (PASS) website located at <http://adoption.kfh.org>.



(866) 223-1983
24-HOUR HOTLINE

Respite Care Providers List

June 2014

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
Perez, Louisa	Bakersfield	428-9882	6-13
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

5th Annual Celebrating Siblings 2014

*“Where troubles melt like **lemon drops**, away above the chimney tops, that’s where you will find me....Somewhere over the rainbow”*

The Department of Human Services and its Partners are proud to host the 5th Annual Celebrating Sibling event on August 14, 2014. As with much support, planning, and collaboration, the event has grown and improved. We are very excited as this year’s event will be at a new location, Canyon Hills Gym. Many new surprises, features, and activities are added this year for all of the participants.

Siblings and their caregivers will receive a special invitation to the event at the end of July. Our goal is to have separated siblings come together for a fun night to spend together to make new memories, share stories and laughs. Our VIP’S (Very Important Parent’s) will find special goodies and treats just for them.

If you would like to nominate separated siblings to attend the event, please contact Social Worker, Kristle Esquivel at (661) 631-6259 or by Email: Esquivk@co.kern.ca.us. Deadline to provide names and information is required by July 11, 2014. Seating is limited to 200 people.

We are looking forward to everyone’s journey this year as they *Follow the Yellow Brick Road through Oz...*



Air Conditioned

SUMMER LUAU

Sunday, AUGUST 10, 2014

**Location: Bakersfield Eagles 93, 1718 17th Street
LUAU PARTY & SHOW 1-4pm
TICKET Donation \$10.00
(661) 345-2626**

RAFFLE Karaoke Fun 50/50 SHARE

FUNDRAISER for FOSTER YOUTH
Sponsored by The CAREGIVERS of KERN COUNTY (501c3)
www.ckckids.org

Featuring: Joe Loco, Karaoke Fun, & the



JAMMIN ISLAND HULA DANCERS

PRE-SALE TICKETS AVAILABLE
Luuu Party & Show only \$10
Call (661) 345-2626

***'BEAT the HEAT' and help
Support Foster Youth***

Air Conditioned

SUMMER LUAU

Sunday, AUGUST 10, 2014

**Location: Bakersfield Eagles 93, 1718 17th Street
LUAU PARTY & SHOW 1-4pm
TICKET Donation \$10.00
(661) 345-2626**

RAFFLE Karaoke Fun 50/50 SHARE

FUNDRAISER for FOSTER YOUTH
Sponsored by The CAREGIVERS of KERN COUNTY (501c3)
www.ckckids.org

Featuring: Joe Loco, Karaoke Fun, & the



JAMMIN ISLAND HULA DANCERS

PRE-SALE TICKETS AVAILABLE
Luuu Party & Show only \$10
Call (661) 345-2626

***'BEAT the HEAT' and help
Support Foster Youth***