



## Foster Youth Success Work Group

9/3/2024

1:00 -2:30 pm

ZOOM:

<https://rccd-edu.zoom.us/j/85880353696?pwd=99tSFDCdmZZQyPlsUSm6t7rAdqliuY.1&from=addon>

**Attendees:** Jennifer Briseño, Gaby Cortez, Ruben Fernandez, Alex Galeano (Thrive), Mayra Gonzalez (Inspire), Steven Gonzalez, Michele Gracia (Aspiranet), Monica Huizar, Azadeh Iglesias, Daniela McCarson, Jenna Mendez (CNUSD), Michael Peterson, Denise Robles (Lee V. Pollard), Lisa Starr (RCOE), Kimberly Thomas, Reneisha Wilkes (CSUSB)

### AGENDA

- I. **Welcome/Introductions (Tri-Chairs: Daniela McCarson/Jenna Mendez/Vacant)**
  
- II. **Dean's Report (Daniela McCarson)**
  - a. Program Updates
    - The college and district still have a large number of students taking remote classes
    - Reached 100% enrollment goal across college for Fall 2024
    - Monica Huizar is the new full-time tenure track Counselor for EOPS and NextUp
    - Jennifer Briseño is the new Student Resource Specialist
      - Supports on & off campus foster youth/high school and dual enrolled students
  - b. Budget Updates
    - Received an increase of \$7,380 in the NextUp Allocation; Total for 24-25: \$310,597
    - JayBay Dual enrollment grant concludes December 2024. Will continue to offer support through fall'24. High School students receive a \$300 stipend at the end of the course.
  
- III. **Foster Youth Support Network/RCCD Updates (Michael Peterson)**
  - a. Presenting at the Board of Trustees Meeting on 9/3/24 at 6pm. Location: 3801 Market St, Riverside
  
- IV. **Norco College/Phoenix Scholars Updates (Azadeh/Monica)**
  - a. Fall 2024 Enrollment
    - 24 Next Up students, 35 Phoenix Scholars, 4 pending new students.
  - b. Fall Events
    - Will send out a list of events. To include Friendsgiving, Holiday Party, Vision Board, Hiking and lots of team building activities
    - Hosted a one-day fall bridge event with a strong turnout of students participating
  - c. College Bound Day
    - Will host it for CNUSD students on: October 18, 2024 from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
    - Club Hope and All Stars 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders only
    - 2 rotating groups to include a shopping day, tour, gaming, crime scene, music or science module along with lunch
    - Seeking donations of any kind

- d. Sp24 Outcomes: 9 students graduated and of the 9, 13 completed certificates and degrees and 6 transferred to 4-year universities
- e. Daniela suggested we consider and begin planning for a senior specific event at the end of April and during Priority Registration week to cater to the needs of seniors planning to attend Norco College. Daniela will work to determine dates of priority which looks like it will be during the week of May 5-9<sup>th</sup>. Jenna will work Jennifer and local high schools to gather the RCCD bound students for this trip. Details will be developed at the November meeting. Event will likely occur between 10-1pm. Exact Date TBD

**V. Basic Needs & Wellness (Kim Thomas)**

- a. Continues to support Phoenix Scholars
  - Provided (25) - \$200 Coral meal cards for fall'24 semester
- b. Full pantry with perishable and non-perishable items
- c. Received a small grant to support undocumented students by providing grocery and coral meal cards to students
- d. District applied for a housing grant
- e. Works in collaboration with the County of Riverside to help foster youth apply for a supplemental voucher (Choice Voucher) similar to Section 8
- f. Continues to look for opportunities to partner with on and off campus programs and bring additional funding to the college

**VI. CNUSD Updates (Jenna Mendez and HS Reps)**

- a) Shared 24/25 calendar of events
- b) Nov. 14 - Dare to Dream Summit
  - a. Inviting Norco for a booth
- c) Dec. 6 – Holiday Celebration
  - a. Rotating middle and high schoolers

**VII. University Partners**

- a) CSUSB – Reinisha Wilkes
  - Informed the group that the Middle-Class Scholarship will be applied in late October/early November, and students should contact the financial aid office early.
  - Renaissance Scholars closed the application due to an increase in scholars
  - Shared that they have two doctoral students in their grad program
  - Retention rate is 96%
- b) UCR – not present to report
- c) CPP – not present to report

**VIII. Community Partners Updates**

- a. **Thrive-Alexandra**
  - Independent living program offering workshops to practice their living skills
  - Finishing out 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Shared calendar and workshop flyer
  - Food is provided at all their workshops and they are open to foster youth and their children
- b. **Inspire-Mayra**
  - 5 houses for foster youth young adults and or homeless
  - Current openings: 1 male in Eastvale, 1 female in Corona, 1 female in Riverside, 3 male in Riverside. This house is right across the street from RCC and it's very accessible without transportation.
  - Inspired Scholars are youth that are in any 4-year university. They are provided with a stipend and coaching.

**c. RCOE-Lisa Starr**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Expanding Horizons College and Job Exploration Youth Event - Oct. 12 – 8am – 3pm, University of Redlands – see attached flyer.
- Hosting 2 winter wonderland events in partnership with Alvord and Desert Sands/Coachella USD's
  - Alvord – Norte Vista High School on Dec. 7th
  - Desert Sands/Coachella – Possible Dates Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>
- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Dual County Foster and Homeless Youth Services Summit on 3/6/25 in Ontario, Ca at the Airport Double Tree Hotel
- Annual Foster Youth Education Law and Best Interest Determination for Foster Youth School PD Refresher's
  - 9/27: RCOE Brockton Conference Center from 12:30pm – 3:30 pm
  - 10/1: RCOE Calhoun Administrative Services Building in Indio from 8:30am – 11:30am
  - Registration link: <https://forms.gle/GERDuDrGgcYnggHD6>
- Sept. 27 – Annual Foster Youth Education Law refresher
- Continues to work with JBAY for the annual FAFSA challenge for foster youth to complete application. Riverside County continues to lead.
- Sept. 10 – EAC Meeting via Zoom

**d. Aspiranet-Michele**

- Only service non-minor dependents
- New unit in Menefee area
- Current openings: 1 female in Moreno Valley (close to college), 1 female in Moreno Valley (close to UCR), 2 male and 2 female in the Riverside area

**e. Hazel's Hands-Dr. Spears-** not present to report

**IX. Good of the Order:** none

**X. Adjournment:**

a. Next Meeting: early November