

ATTACHMENT 1

Services Provided to Help Support Foster Youth Board of Governors Meeting September 19-20, 2016

Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)

Since its inception in 2006, the Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI) has evolved into a statewide effort to improve post-secondary education outcomes for foster youth, including supporting students to complete programs and degrees and successfully transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Over the last decade, the FYSI has incrementally created a program infrastructure, developed resource and training manuals, and established systems for communications and data tracking. During the first year of the program, an FYSI liaison was established at every community college statewide to serve as the designated staff person for supporting foster youth and assisting them throughout their educational journey. FYSI liaisons have played a critical role in assisting individual youth in determining their college and career path and remaining on track to achieve their goals. FYSI Liaisons coordinate a broad range of services that include assisting with financial aid applications, defining satisfactory academic progress, and helping youth access critical student support service programs.

The FYSI's statewide efforts are overseen by an advisory committee, with partners such as the John Burton Foundation, Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success, Foster Kinship Care and Education, and designated regional representatives from the FYSI project, collaborating to share expertise and resources. Besides supporting foster youth throughout their community college education, the FYSI has implemented strategies to enhance graduation and transfer rates to four-year colleges and universities. Many community college campuses are equipped with a service team, an affiliation of staff members employed by various offices who have volunteered or been selected to support foster youth. FYSI liaisons and service teams ensure that foster youth are connected with appropriate resources, such as counseling, health services, tutoring centers, and public benefits programs like CalWORKs. They also support student transitions to four-year colleges and universities, identify financial aid options, and provide admissions support.

Leading the statewide efforts of FYSI liaisons and service teams has been an intensive endeavor requiring significant behind-the-scenes support, ongoing coordination, and infrastructure development. Tools and systems to support local FYSI teams include a listserv that keeps FYSI liaisons and service teams abreast of program developments and policy/legislative updates, a training manual that provides critical information for new liaisons and financial aid administrators, a statewide county by county resource manual of local support networks for foster youth, and outreach and college orientation toolkits to promote the FYSI and encourage foster youth to self-identify at our colleges.

In 2012-13, the Chancellor's Office partnered with the Foundation for California Community Colleges to secure philanthropic support to hire dedicated staff to support the FYSI liaisons and the existing networks at each of the 113 community colleges. The staff position, designated as the statewide FYSI Liaison, provides extensive day to day support to local FYSI liaisons, provides training, develops and disseminates tools and resources, and supports the FYSI Advisory Committee. Establishing a full-time statewide FYSI position was critical to ensure for sustainability and growth of the FYSI project.

Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success Independent Living Program (YESS ILP)

Since 2008, The Foundation for California Community Colleges (Foundation), in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has administered the Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success Independent Living Program (YESS ILP). Through the YESS ILP, the Foundation provides grant funding to 18 community colleges throughout the state to provide educational and career training opportunities to current and foster and probation youth aged 16 to 21 years. YESS ILP activities include life skills development, financial literacy, and education and career preparation services. In addition to cohort based learning activities, participants are able to access one-on-one support services, from designated campus faculty and staff throughout the year. YESS ILP services are designed to:

- Support youth transitioning from the K-12 educational system into community college and/or into career pathways.
- Provide youth with academic and support services to increase persistence and completion rates while in community college.
- Ensure youth are aware of and accessing priority enrollment and other benefits for which they may be eligible.
- Assist youth to access campus and community based resources.
- Provide ongoing life skill development activities to ensure youth are prepared to successfully exit the State's child welfare system.

To ensure quality programming and services, the Foundation provides training and technical assistance to the 18 CCC that host the YESS ILP. In addition to the YESS ILP grant program, the Foundation also supports and collaborates with the Chancellor's Office to implement the Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI). Collaborative activities include supporting the development and dissemination of tools and resources for FYSI liaisons at each of the 113 CCC, and planning and supporting the execution of statewide FYSI events. The mutually beneficial relationship that has resulted between the Chancellor's Office and the Foundation has allowed for enhanced services to FYSIs throughout the State.

Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES)

Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) was created with the enactment of Senate Bill 1023 (Liu), in 2014, codified in Education Code, Sections 79220-79229 and funded with up to \$15 million in the 2015-16 State Budget Act. CAFYES is a categorical, component program of Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS). It provides "over and above" support and services to eligible current and former foster youth who are both under 26 and were in foster care on or after their 16th birthdays.

After funding was assigned to CAFYES for 2015-16, the Chancellor's Office worked aggressively to develop a competitive, peer review process that selected districts to recommend to the Board of Governors (BOG) to receive funding to begin CAFYES programs. In January 2016, the Board voted to approve those districts and CAFYES began providing "over and above" support and services at 10 community college districts -- the maximum permitted by authorizing legislation -- through 26 colleges, to eligible students.

Supplanting existing college, community, county and State support and services with CAFYES programs and services is strictly prohibited. Districts are required to provide CAFYES students the full breadth of services they provide other eligible students, including core Student Success and Support Services and EOPS services. College CAFYES programs are further required to provide CAFYES students with additional counseling and in-person contacts beyond what is required by regulations governing EOPS.

"Over and above," CAFYES specialized support is based on the needs of individuals, and may include, but not be limited to:

1. outreach and recruitment;
2. assessment;
3. education planning
4. service coordination;
5. counseling and advising;
6. book and supply grants;
7. tutoring;
8. independent living and financial literacy skills support;
9. frequent in-person contact;
10. career guidance;
11. transfer counseling;
12. child care assistance;
13. transportation assistance;
14. meal tickets and/or emergency food support;
15. emergency housing support
16. health and mental health services payment assistance
17. work study awards
18. emergency loans
19. unmet need grants
20. referrals to health services, mental health services, housing assistance, food assistance and other related services;

CCCCO and the CCC Foundation, with support from the California Wellness Foundation, is developing a multiple-phase, youth-friendly, public campaign to reach out to current and former foster youth with information about CAFYES.

The Chancellor's Office is currently developing a CAFYES Advisory Committee to provide advice and support on CAFYES policy and program implementation, extending invitations to CAFYES CCC districts, CAFYES students and 14 additional organizations and agencies. The CAFYES Advisory

Committee will begin meeting in 2016-17. Subject-specific workgroups may additionally be formed, on an ad hoc basis, to address specific issues.

CAFYES regulations, submitted to BOG for review at its July 18, 2016, meeting, were drafted to be separate from existing EOPS Title 5 regulations. However, they are modeled after EOPS regulations, capturing and clarifying requirements codified in Education Code sections 79220-79229.

Student Equity and Foster Youth

In 1996, the BOG instituted a requirement for colleges to develop and maintain a student equity plan and created regulations in 2002 to define what should be included. The intent of the plans was to ensure that groups historically underrepresented in higher education have an equal opportunity for access, success, and transfer. Student equity plans focus on increasing access, course completion, ESL and basic skills completion, degrees, certificates and transfer for all students as measured by indicators in these areas. Unfortunately, the planning effort was largely unfunded and unevenly implemented. In recognition of the need to support student equity and success, the Governor and Legislature appropriated \$70 million in 2014-15 and \$140 million in 2015-16 to close achievement gaps for underrepresented student groups, as identified in local student equity plans. Along with the new funding, the State also created new legislation that 1) expanded the populations required to be addressed in the plans to include current or former foster youth and 2) required colleges to coordinate equity funded efforts with other programs serving foster youth and former foster youth.

In 2015-16 all colleges submitted equity plans that addressed foster youth in some way. Many colleges are in the initial stages of identifying and serving foster youth, while others have more established and well-developed programs, including FYSI, YESS ILP and CAFYES. The Chancellor's Office has been working closely with the John Burton Foundation and Cal-PASS Plus, to provide training to college staff on ways to collect better data on foster youth for each of the student equity success indicators and to identify activities and points of intersections with these and other programs to better support foster youth. Student Equity planning and funding has the potential to augment and support the previously described efforts.

Foster and Kinship Care Education Program (FKCE)

The Foster Parent Training Act was established in 1984 as a result of SB 2003 and the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) was designated as the administrative agency for conducting this statewide program. Funding was allocated to selected community colleges for the provision of education and training to prospective and existing licensed foster parents. The community college program was expanded to provide training for kinship/relative caregivers starting in 2000-01. At this point the community college program became known as Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE).

Mandated education and training is provided statewide through 60 California Community College Foster and Kinship Care Education programs to potential and existing foster parents, kinship caregivers, and other resource families. FKCE assists these care providers in meeting the increasingly complex needs of foster children placed in their homes. Each year, the colleges serve approximately 27,000 care providers and offer over 36,000 hours of education throughout California. Training topics include, but are not limited to: The Effects of Abuse and Neglect;

Attachment Disorders; Effects of Trauma on Child Development; Understanding the Child Welfare System; Positive Discipline; Extended Foster Care (caring for non-minor dependents); and Supporting Emancipation and Independent Living Skills.

Through an interagency agreement between the Chancellor's Office and the California Department of Social Services, the federal government provides \$4.6 million in matching funds (Title IV-E, SSA) based on dedicated Proposition 98 Community College funding of \$5.2 million, to support FKCE training statewide. A one-time additional allocation of \$385,000 was provided in 2015-16 to the statewide FKCE program for offering training on the critical issue of children who are experiencing or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

In educating and supporting county care providers, children impacted by abuse and neglect can begin to heal. FKCE has a 30-history of offering caregivers relevant educational workshops at no charge in local communities. The success of Foster & Kinship Care Education is built on collaboration with counties, caregivers and communities, and provides high quality, consistent education and support.

Conclusion

The diligent, hard work being done at the local level to provide services to foster youth and former foster youth are supported through a variety of diverse funding streams from philanthropy and state agency resources. These efforts are now being expanded by the efforts of the California Community Colleges through the CAFYES program. Our statewide partnerships are focused on supporting, expanding and accelerating the work at the local level for this important population.