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"Bring Our Kids Home": Permanency Teaming

This process focuses on the development Permanency Teams for the most difficult to place youth: those in congregate care, older youth that are not currently in relative/NREFM placement, and those who have experienced placement instability.

Through the permanency teaming process these youth will benefit from identifying potential relative or NREFM placements as well as a the development of a caring support network that will assist them in achieving their full potential and exiting to permanency.

Permanency Teaming relies on Safety Organized Practice as the organizing framework to help children and youth understand their past life and their current situation, so that they can be active participants in identifying and developing their personal support network.

Permanency Teaming requires ensuring that children/youth and their care providers receive the optimum level of support, therefore in addition to existing Behavioral Health programming, we are working with our Foster Care System Partners – Resource Family Association, the Guardian Scholars, CA Youth Connections, and Freedom4Youth, to develop additional support processes for the children/youth and their families.

"Foster Hope"

Supports the involvement of middle/high school age, non foster youth from across the county; development of this initiative is headed by the RFA.

Goals for this initiative include:

- enriching the youth's knowledge of the values of the foster care system
- providing students with opportunities to complete community service hours providing child care, helping run booths at recruitment/retention events
- provide practical support (i.e. childcare) to Resource Families and at RFA meetings/events
- creating mutually supportive relationship among the schools, youth, resource families, the RFA and CWS
- creating recruitment opportunities

"Take Care of our Grandkids"

Targeted support and care for the children of AB12 clients, our initial effort occurred over the Holiday period.

Resource Families delivered essentials and gifts for the young children, the effort was coordinated by our CWS RFA Mentor. Holiday gifts and essentials were provided by Angels FFA.

Goals for this initiative include:

- enhance support and the presence of caring elders in the lives of Non Minor Dependents, whom are also parents
- involve the young parents, in training and recruitment events
- support the young parents awareness that there is a caring network available to connect with
- creating mutually supportive relationship among the Non Minor Dependents, resource families, the RFA and CWS

Support Our Foster Care Partners in Santa Barbara County:

Support for efforts by the Resource Family Association, the Guardian Scholars, CA Youth Connections, and Freedom4Youth, to expand their presence and activity in Santa Barbara County.

Goals for this initiative include:

- provide support and the presence of caring elders and peer/mentors available to children, youth and Non Minor Dependents
- provide practical support (i.e. childcare) to Resource Families and at RFA meetings/events
- provide opportunities for teaming among these groups, e.g. the RFA is working with Freedom4Youth on the Foster Hope Initiative
- creating mutually supportive relationship among the schools, youth, resource families, the RFA and CWS
- involve the our Foster System Partners in training and recruitment events

Please feel free to contact Gustavo if you have any questions, comments or suggestions:

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