

CARE/EOPS/CalWORKs Fall 2016 Advisory Board

Meeting October 25, 2016

Attendees: Irene Herrera, Eric Lara - Interim CW Director, Yolanda Quintana – Soroptimist, Paulina – Mental Health Outreach Children’s , Ana White – DPSS, Lizelle – LA County Child Support, Hector Sanchez – EOPS Counselor, Margaret Teske – ESL, Desiree Marquez – Financial Aid, Al Reyes – LA County Child Support, Tony Rivas – EOPS Counselor, Natalie Paredes – EOPS Counselor, Nadine Hernandez – EOPS Specialist, Gabby Ulloa – CalWORKs Specialist, Ana Silvia Turcios - CalWORKs Counselor, Anisa Alonso - CalWORKs Specialist, Marisa Fierro - MtSAC Foundation,

Irene: Welcome & introductions

Minutes were reviewed

- Tony called for correction to the agenda to read Spring 2016 minutes.
- Minutes approved

Ana White: DPSS using a new computer system. Students’ documentation required, but there could be glitches on students receiving documents. If there are any issues with students’ services, have them contact CalWORKs, who will contact DPSS. Students are able to access their verification of benefits online. Question: Are we able to access children’s date of birth? It was suggested the form be revised, asking age of children under 13, then submit form to DPSS for verification. Working on tweaking online info to get what EOPS/CalWORKs needs. Any updates on CalFresh eligibility? Will follow up. Combine one verification form for EOPS/CalWORKs per Nadine. Slow process.

Lizelle: Passed out folders with info and contact information. Provides assistance with getting child support payments. Al Reyes says 3 caseworkers are available. Recommends contacting Lizelle for assistance. Available to do workshops for students - website information. Can attend EOPS information sessions. Pomona is the closest office for students. Students no longer receiving CalWORKs assistance can get assistance for child support.

Margaret: They are starting to invite classes to adopt families for Thanksgiving. A form goes out to students with a request list. ESL students go shopping for those items. The CARE students go to classes to pick up food boxes. Not much refrigeration is available. ESL students enjoy giving back to the community and the event helps teach them to speak English. Student workers love to decorate the boxes. Working with AMLA to adopt a couple more families. 30 students signed up so far. Nadine passed out the form for students to fill out. There are predominately Asian students in ESL who aren’t familiar with American foods.

Financial Aid – Desiree said students can apply for financial aid now. The process starts October 1 now, using 2015 tax returns. Financial Aid can help students Nov. 5 at the Cash for College event. Attendees can win a scholarship.

Children’s Bureau – provides mental health assistance under 21. Students’ children can get therapy also for trauma, etc., at their home, community center, or Children’s Bureau offices. Long term therapy.

Taking references from Mt.SAC Health Center. Free with MediCal. Must have open case with Children's Bureau, which includes a diagnosis. No waiting list now. Referrals are better early in the fiscal year. Predominately individual therapy. Will pass out flyers. Bilingual assistance in English/Spanish at the Baldwin Park office. Other offices have different languages.

Marisa: The Mt.SAC Foundation is establishing a CARE scholarship. They can establish others as well, with payroll deduction also. Financial Aid says students can apply for one Mt.SAC scholarship starting November. BOGW appeals: CalWORKs is not exempt. Identified all students about to lose waiver and intercepted with student to appeal. House of Ruth: Domestic Violence shelter in San Gabriel Valley – main shelter in Pomona.

Yolanda: HR consulting business. Teach Mt.SAC & Chafee College. Part of Puente Hills Soroptimist Club program. Annual scholarship "Live Your Dream" \$500. Online application, 3 references, story of background, how money will help them. Want to keep money at Mt.SAC. CalWORKs students. Want to reach Brianna to offer her a job. Meet once a month and open to visitors to learn about the program. Own a village in Norwalk.

Tony suggests links to the organizations attending meeting. Pictures of the liaisons also. CalWORKs agreed.

COUN 54 class: Ana Silvia teaching Single Parent Academy. CARE & CalWORKs = 28 students. Positive feedback from students. Redesigned class: students' family & behavior patterns are looked at, goals, and time management. Students find support among each other.

Nadine - CARE updates: 60 students (1 male) Additional 5 coming. Established one small scholarship on campus for CARE students. Encouraging to apply for Soroptimist scholarship.

CARE Support Groups (schedule provided)

Grants: 3 this semester. Come to 3 support groups, meet w/ Nadine 3 times, other workshops on campus.

Mt.SAC 70th Carnival – CARE credit for attendance – bring kids.

EOPS Student Welcome – Irene spoke about CARE students who brought their children to the event and had a great time. Well attended. Carnival theme. Children have good memory of time on college campus.

Working on combining verification forms with CalWORKs.

Snack bags for students in Nadine's office. Backpack and supply kits given out. After Thanksgiving boxes comes the Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program.

Gabby: CalWORKs updates. Fewer students in CalWORKs and CARE. Impact from 60 month benefit – reduced to 48 month. Many timed off the benefits. Also better economy with many working now. Shift focus by providing more services. 500 students – 1 counselor, 1 adjunct counselor. Help students become employable. Work Preparedness Conference – workshops on soft skills, lunch. CalWORKs/CARE Recognition Ceremony for Fall graduation. Parents Day Luncheon w/CARE in May. Tutoring Center EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs over 160 students. Mostly Math, English and sciences, pass their classes. Can

now print proof of aid online. CalWORKs Meet & Greet in October 2016. Light refreshments to meet each other and specialists and counselor.

Kimberly Favella – CARE/CalWORKs student speaker: Honored to be part of all three programs. Loves the staff. Will transfer in spring. Single mom w/ 2 growing kids. Psych Tech program very tough. Amazing journey. Can't wait to finish. Great ambassador to newer students. Tutoring saved her.

Next Spring 2017 Advisory Meeting: April 4, 2017.