

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
**YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES ▪ Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

<p><b>Present</b>  Denise Nielsen, Chair  Karyn Bates, BHAB  Martie Miles, Aspiranet  Kimberly Bennett, Casa Pacifica  Lisa Connolly, CFS  Angelina McCormick-Soll, Foster VC Kids  Laura Gutierrez Woolridge, Interface  Laurie Jordan, Rainbow Connection  Regina Reed, SELPA  Angela Gonzalez, United Parents</p>	<p><b>VCBH Managers/Staff Present</b>  Dr. Deborah Thurber, Y&amp;F Division Medical Director  Dina Olivas, CWS Manager  Pam Roach, Transformational Liaison  Edith Pham, BHAB Assistant</p> <p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b>  <b>Wednesday, <u>November 16</u>, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm</b></p> <p>Ventura County Behavioral Health  1911 Williams Drive, <b><u>first floor Training Room</u></b>, Oxnard</p>
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Note: The committee has not yet approved these minutes. There may be additions/deletions or corrections before the minutes are accepted in final form.

	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
I.	<b>Call to Order</b> Chair Nielsen called the meeting to order at 10:10.		
II.	<b>Approval of the Agenda</b> Ms. Nielsen asked the Committee to review and approve today's agenda.	The agenda was approved as written. <b>M/S/C</b>	
III.	<b>Approval of the Minutes</b> Ms. Nielsen asked the committee to review and approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting.	The minutes were approved as written. <b>M/S/C</b>	
IV.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Ms. Nielsen welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.		
V.	<b>Chair Announcements</b> Starting in November, all BHAB meetings, including this committee's meetings, will take place in the training room on the first floor of the VCBH building.	All BHAB meetings to be held in the 1 <sup>st</sup> floor training room at VCBH	
VI.	<b>Public Comments</b> None.		
VII.	<b>New Business</b> A. Foster VC Kids – Angelina McCormick-Soll Foster VC Kids, a division of Ventura County Children & Family Services, is the local agency authorized to investigate all allegations of abuse and neglect in the county, as well as provide services to children and families once they are involved in the child welfare system. It also provides training and case management to foster and birth families. The need for foster families is the greatest in Ventura and Oxnard, where most foster children come from. The agency wants to reduce the number of children who are separated from some/all siblings or who experience school changes due to lack of good foster families. For more information, see attached or go to <a href="http://www.fosterVCkids.org">www.fosterVCkids.org</a> .	Information	
VIII.	<b>Old Business</b> A. Suicide Prevention workgroup – Kiran Sahota Kiran Sahota was not in attendance. Regina Reed stated that she attended the suicide conference at CSUCI on September 16, which was organized by Ms. Sahota. Ms. Reed felt it was excellent and very informative.		

	<p>Laurie Jordan related that her son recently used the Yellow Ribbon card, giving it to someone who was feeling despondent.</p> <p>B. Parent workgroup – Angela Gonzalez Seven attendees participated in the recent three-day Parent Partner Training. The next training will be on December 5 through 7.</p> <p>C. VCBH update – Dina Olivas The Priority Access to Services and Supports (PASS) program for biological parents has been successfully developed. VCBH has contracted with Dr. Stroud for a second year to provide in-depth clinical neurorelational attachment training for VCBH and CBO clinicians. In addition, training for Social Workers on the same topic is being provided as part of VCBH's commitment in creating trauma informed practice as part of the CCR initiative. Additional joint training is being planned with Public Health and Probation. RISE (Rapid Integrated Support and Engagement) can be a resource for teens whose parents have mental health challenges.</p> <p>D. VCBH Youth &amp; Family Division Medical Director's update – Dr. Thurber The Governor has vetoed legislation that would have required more testing for foster children being prescribed psychotropic medications. Seneca, the contractor who has been hired to run the Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit, will use its own psychiatrist at the facility.</p>		
<p><b>IX. Committee Members' Comments, Activities, updates, items of interest</b></p>	<p>A. Pam Roach stated that, per Pete Pringle, county IT is willing to help create an app for the family packets. The committee will need to decide what to include in the app. Members agreed that a hard copy is still needed.</p> <p>B. Martie Miles invited everyone to Aspiranet's free trick-or-treat party on October 27 at 3:00.</p> <p>C. Karyn Bates invited everyone to attend the BHAB General Meeting on October 17 at 1:00. Susan Kelly will receive a BHAB recognition award for her work with MHSA and the Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit.</p>		
<p><b>X. Items for the Next Meeting Agenda</b></p>	<p>Discuss the family packet app.</p>		
<p><b>XI. Adjourn</b></p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 11:25.</p>		



## Foster *VC Kids*

Welcome! Foster VC Kids seeks **Homes with Heart** to care for children who have been removed from their families, until they can be safely reunified.

Children and Family Services is the local agency authorized to provide Resource Family approval, training and case management for county resource families.

**HOMES** *with*  
**HEART**  
Every home has room for more love



## What are the goals of Foster *VC Kids*?

- ❖ To ensure that every child receives quality care and nurture within a loving home.
- ❖ To support parents in growing and changing so they can safely parent their children.
- ❖ To ensure that caregivers receive the support they need as they care for children who have experienced trauma and loss.
- ❖ To ensure all children have life long permanency.



## Foster Care Is...

- ❖ A Foundation for healing
- ❖ Comfort and encouragement
- ❖ Unconditional commitment
- ❖ Co-parenting with birth families
- ❖ Supporting reunification



## What is the role of a Foster Parent?

- ❖ Parenting with trauma lens
- ❖ Empathy, stability and flexibility
- ❖ Support for child's family bonds
- ❖ Integrating child into family
- ❖ Engagement in visitation and case planning
- ❖ Partner with agency, clinicians, school and child's support resources
- ❖ An awareness of their own needs, strengths and triggers

## Life Book and Family Communication



### Upcoming Appointments

- 10/1 thru 10/6 - S short school days
- 10/1 - Visit with Mom
- 10/3 - S Soccer Game
- 10/3 - Family Reunion with Mom
- 10/4 - S Soccer Tournament Game
- 10/6 - S Parent-Teacher Conf (Ms. Lalor)
- 10/6 - Social Worker

### S & D's CALENDAR Click Here



### Silly Friends



### D's Quest for an IEP

After a year-long battle and two other denied requests for assessments by his birth mom, we have just received word that our most recent request for an IEP assessment for D has been APPROVED!

To say we are ecstatic for D wouldn't even begin to cover it. There are 9 different areas in which any child can be assessed. We were hoping to get approval for 1

### Children's Needs:

Ventura County needs approximately **200** more Resource Families to ensure that every child has a suitable home:

- ❖ To remain with their siblings
- ❖ To remain in schools & communities
- ❖ To be cared for regardless of their age
- ❖ To have their special needs met
- ❖ To be able to go home with it is safe (70% of children reunify with their family within 12 months)



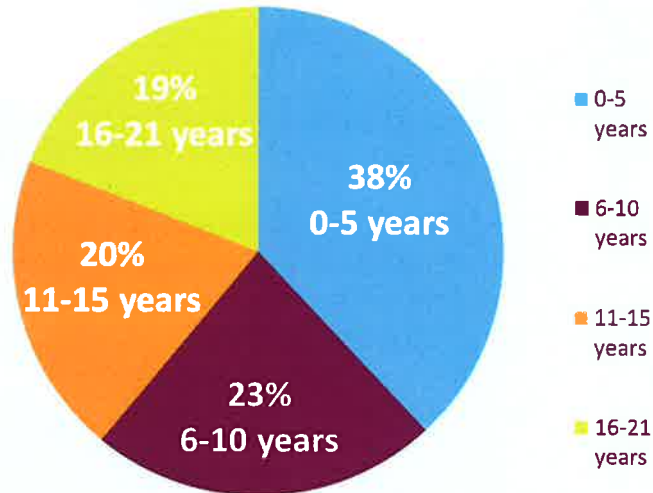
### Our County, Our Kids The Need for Resource Families

Ventura County has approx. **1000** children in foster care.

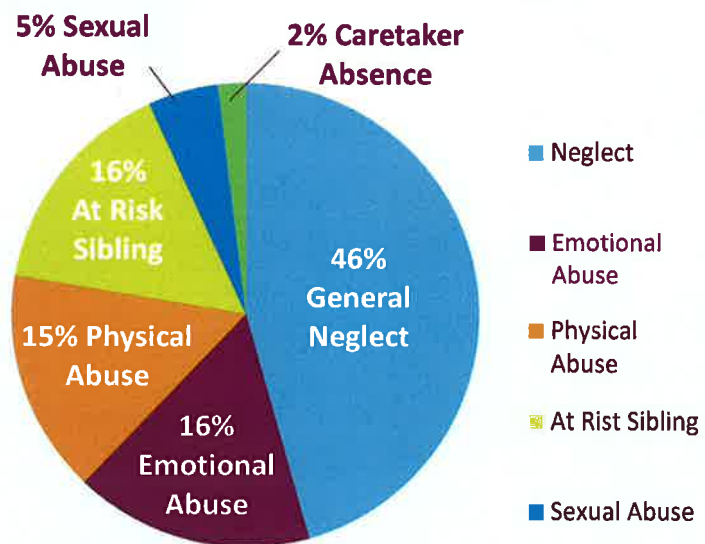
#### Without enough Resource Families:

- ❖ 50% of children are separated from some/ all siblings
- ❖ Children experience school changes, resulting in significant trauma and educational loss
- ❖ 80 children are raised within group homes
- ❖ Children age out of foster care without an unconditionally committed family

### What Ages are Children in Foster Care

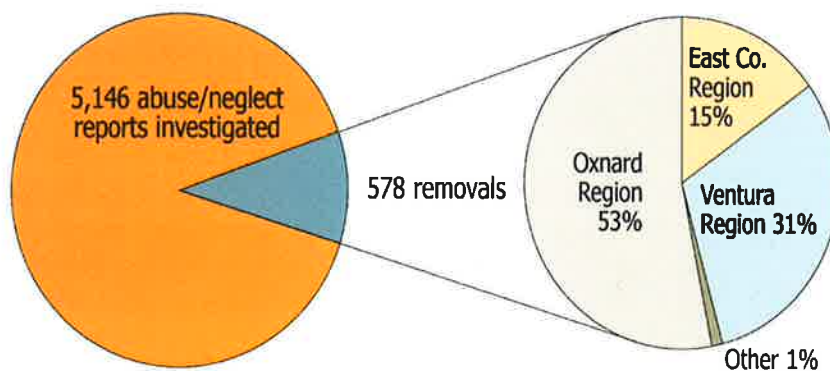


### Why Do Children Come into Foster Care?

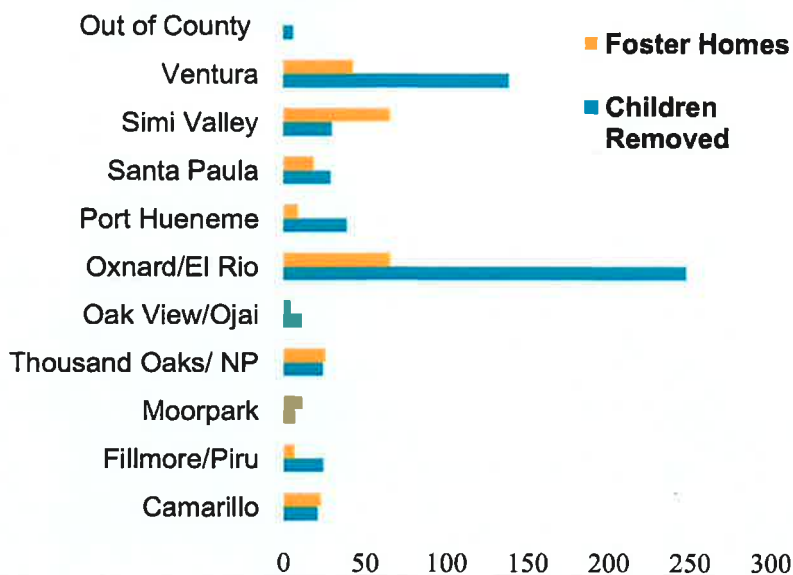


## County Breakdown of Child Removals

How many reports of child abuse/neglect were investigated and how many resulted in the removal of a child?



## Child Removals & Available Foster Homes by Community



## **Adoption Through Foster *VC Kids***

Adoption is a way to provide a safe and permanent home for children if their parents are unable to safely reunify with them.

- Adoption starts with Foster Care
- Approximately 120 VC children are adopted from foster care each year.
- We have 100 children in long term foster care who need permanency, many between the ages of 9-21.



## **Resource Family Support Services**

- Monthly stipend (ranges of \$688 - \$859 per child)
- Financial and resource support for extracurricular activities, special needs and school transportation
- Recruitment, Development, & Support (RDS) Team
- Networking and training opportunities
- Peer Support Networks
- 12 hours/ month of free respite care (babysitting)
- Behavioral and mental health support
- Foster Health Link
- Educational Advocacy
- [Foster VC Kids Website](#) and [Social Media](#)

## Who Can Be a Resource Family?

- Single or married, you must be **at least 18 years of age, financially stable, and a responsible, mature adult.**
- **Successfully collaborate** with all individuals involved in the child's life, including birth parents and families.
- **Respect** the rights, feelings and needs of children in your care, including the bonds they continue to share with their parents and siblings.
- **Agree** to participate in transporting the child to family and medical visits.
- **Provide** unconditional commitment and support to the children in your care.

## Next Steps to Becoming a Resource Family

- Attend Resource Family Approval Orientation
- Complete Pre-Service Training classes (24 hours)
- Submit RFA application
- Physical Exam and TB test
- Live Scan fingerprinting (Background Clearance)
- CPR and First Aid Certification
- In Home Inspection
- RFA Home Study Assessment



### **Other Ways to Help...**

- ❖ Spread the word! Be a **Foster Ambassador** within your workplace, social network or faith community
- ❖ Become a Respite or an Emergency Shelter Family (short term care only)
- ❖ Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- ❖ Become a mentor or advocate (Casa Pacifica)
- ❖ Participate in HOPE4Kids Festival & Run – Run, Walk, Donate or Shop!
- ❖ Donate items or funds to one of our community partners who support children in foster care
- ❖ Be a Faith in Motion congregation

### **Thank you for being here!**

Thank you for considering opening your home and heart to children and family in need!

To begin the process of fostering a child, register for an upcoming **RFA Training Series** (see handout or website for dates and registration information).

For any additional questions, please visit [www.fostervckids.org](http://www.fostervckids.org) or contact Recruitment Development & Support at (805) 654-3220.

**Foster**   
**VC Kids**

Ventura County Children & Family Services



**Foster VC Kids**  
**Children & Family Services**

County of Ventura  
Human Services Agency



# Foster VC Kids

Ventura County Children & Family Services

*Resource families are  
Homes with Heart.*

*Become a Resource Family  
and provide a familiar,  
safe, and nurturing  
environment for children  
and families involved in  
foster care.*



COUNTY OF VENTURA

**Foster VC Kids** • [fosterVCKids.org](http://fosterVCKids.org) • **805.654.3220**

A Division of Children and Family Services - Ventura County Human Services Agency



# United Parents Presents Parent Partner Training

## Dates

December 5, 2016 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (day 1)  
December 6, 2016 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (day 2)  
December 7, 2016 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (day 3)



## Location

Ventura County Probation Department  
Remington Room  
1911 Williams Drive  
Oxnard, CA 93036

*(Park in the rear of the building and enter third set of doors on the far right for the Probation Dept.)*

**The price is \$350.00** which will include materials, morning and afternoon snacks and refreshments. Lunch not included. Certificates provided upon completion.

### Topics include:

- Roles, Duties and Responsibilities of a Parent Partner
- Boundaries and Ethics of being a Parent Partner
- Safety and Well-being for Parent Partners
- Individualized Education Plan Basics
- Cultural Competency and Cultural Humility
- The Five Protective Factors and Trauma Informed Care
- Bullying
- Common Mental Health Disorders



### Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number/Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to United Parents and mail with registration form to

**United Parents**  
**391 S. Dawson Drive STE 1A**  
**Camarillo, CA 93012**

or if paying with credit card please email Shelly Williamson at  
swilliamson@unitedparents.org or call (805) 384-1555.

# New Dawn Counseling

& Consulting, Inc.



*Providing Quality Counseling and Psychotherapy  
for Individuals, Families and Children*



**Triple P - Positive Parenting Program**  
We offer Group Triple P Parenting Classes for parents of children birth to 16 years of age, and Individual sessions for parents of children 0-5

**Specialized Mental Health Services for  
Medi-Cal & Kaiser Permanente**  
Treatment includes diagnostic  
assessments and individualized treatment  
to address specific needs



**805-278-0799**

## **Our Mission:**

*To provide culturally appropriate, easily accessible and compassionate  
mental health services in Ventura County*

## **Our Vision:**

*Delivering healing and advocacy to at-risk children and families  
to improve the quality of life.*



Triple P - Positive Parenting Program made possible  
through funding from Ventura County Behavioral Health  
Dept. Mental Health Services Act  
Prevention and Early Intervention:



## **Call us today!**

**805-278-0799**

2200 Outlet Center Drive, Suite 430 | Oxnard, CA 93036

**newdawncnc@gmail.com**

Visit our Website at **newdawncnc.com**