

**Meeting Notes
From
Joint Liaison Meeting
September 12, 2023**

Welcome and Introductions!

All slides for today's meeting are in the handout folder at this link: <https://bit.ly/FosterHomeless>

FAFSA Updates for Homeless & Foster Youth:

Jillian from Schoolhouse Connection presented overcoming homelessness through education.

Schoolhouse Connection is based in Washington DC and on a mission to overcome homelessness. Their website is www.schoolhouseconnection.org and also folks can sign up for the newsletter at www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up.

Unaccompanied homeless youth or unaccompanied youth at risk of being homeless do not need to include parental information on FAFSA. In 2016-2017 there was a 14% jump because of the amendments coming out of the McKinney Vento Act to FAFSA. This was a big increase in FAFSA applications. The FAFSA Simplification Act created major policy wins. New provisions are in effect and large changes are coming to the 2024-2025 process. Legislation has

passed that pushes the new expedited priority deadlines. Schoolhouse Connection has created on their website a resource to learn what can students do now to prepare for when the FAFSA comes available in December for homeless and foster youth presumed independent for each sequent year after determination. As long as the student remains in school, they will not need to confirm that their situation has not changed for each ensuing year. No additional documentation needed. Determination must be made as quickly as practical to ensure their financial aid. A school district liaison or designee (big change) all shelters or programs that serve individuals experiencing homelessness can provide a letter of determination.

Schoolhouse is also encouraging applications for the scholarship program for students experiencing homelessness. The amazing scholarship provides a small monetary award plus one-on-one support and all-expense paid trips that will go to 10 students.

Foster Youth Updates:

Violeta Mora gave an update on the Financial Aid Stakeholders for San Diego County. . The San Diego and Imperial Counties Cal-SOAP and partners are very concerned about the FAFSA Simplification Changes and its impact on the 10,000 students and the families they serve. For the first time in 40 years, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is being redesigned. This is the most ambitious and significant change of the Federal Student Aid Application and will significantly impact our low income, first generation and underserved students and their parents who will apply for financial aid starting in December 2023. These changes to the FAFSA may impact the number of students who complete the financial aid process.

A meeting was held on August 11 and another Stakeholders Meeting will be held in October to bring together community leaders, educators, schools, school districts, outreach partners, legislators and others to develop strategies to increase the number of students and their parents that complete the FAFSA. Any updates will be shared with the JLM participants.

Overall FAFSA/CADAA completion rate is up from 51% in 2022. This is for all seniors. For foster youth there was a 29.5% for FAFSA and this year completion rate was 57.6% and the task force was able to match what was in the Calpads and web grant and allow follow up with incomplete FAFSA applications directly with that student. Kudos to the District and youth for completing the FAFSA.

The FAFSA Challenge completion rate as of the interim report for foster youth high school seniors and FAFSA/CADAA applications completed (October 1, 2021-March 2, 2022) was 25.9% (22/85).

This FAFSA Challenge completion rate final report for foster youth high school seniors and FAFSA/CADAA applications completed (October 1, 2022—May 19, 2023) was 56.6% (47/83).

Foster Youth Transportation:

In 2022-2023 we were able to serve 580 students and 164 students benefitted from the countywide transportation.

Save-The-Date Statewide Ed Summit on April 15th, 2024.

Special one-time funds for direct services for students in foster care. October is bullying prevention month. Children can register for one or more.

Saturday Fall Bullying Prevention Program - RSVP for one or all sessions at:

<https://bit.ly/play-fall23>

There will be a meeting next week with the task force and will be sure to share that information when it becomes available.

Tutor Connection is currently matching students to Tutors. Reach out to MBailow@sdcoe.net for any further questions. There will be a virtual option for tutoring evenings and weekends for any type of class the student is taking that needs the support. K through 12th grades will be provided up to 20 hours. You request a TME tutor:

<https://tutormeeducation.com/sdcoe/>. There is also a very informational video that can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuYfS2vsO6Q>

Discussions were included around the impending SB88 and its amendments. Further discussions this month on the issue and more to come.

Homeless Education Updates:

Susie Terry presented **Stuff the Bus** updates sharing incredible statistics around distributions of over 9,147 backpacks and supplies to students in San Diego County. This is an increase up from last year. Each spring we send out a link to everyone on our list who wish to request for supplies in alignment with the McKinney Vento Act.

Please note that Annual Data Collection is due by September 25th. The email and link is in the JLM handouts folder at : <https://bit.ly/FosterHomeless>.

For anyone with questions around the housing questionnaire and additional resources please access www.hetac.org/resources/id. You will find the questionnaire and a new LEA guidance form for completing the questionnaire and a frequently asked questions that are informative along with webinar slides as well as a recording of that webinar.

Project REST Linda Garibay linda.lee@sdcoe.net presented on Opsam- Dental care and mobile health clinics that provides mobile on-site health support and are now booking appointments. Please see this link if interested. Opsam can dock on campus and they will reach out to schedule an appointment.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeu61HAJBYf_kpcKy0vBSADzxbKn-bBEVI-IMAI_06IGWYu0A/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

Christina Luna presented updates on the Homeless Education Region Meetings held annually throughout San Diego County. These meetings hold discussions on best practices provide ongoing resources and services in specific areas. Region Meetings will be on September 22nd at Cajon Valley School District Office. Also, October 5th in the North Region at NCREC-San Marcos, and October 10th in the South Region at San Ysidro School District. For more information, please contact Christina at cluna@sdcoe.net.

Susie Terry shared that Leann from CDE wants to remind everyone of Census Day coming up October 4th. Also, a reminder of the dates of August 31, 2023, with a close date of September 30th.

Also, CDE Data and Donuts office hours happens once per month. This month's topic is on *Census Day*.

CARS data is very important helps with desk monitoring from LEAs. Enables direct assistance. See www.hetac.org for more information.

Upcoming professional Development (PD) on the HETAC website has been sent out previously and can also be found along with additional information on the www.hetac.org website on spending the ARP-HCY funds.

There is also an upcoming HETAC Webinar: National Homeless Youth Awareness Month: *Resources and Best Practices to Increase Awareness and Engagement* on Oct. 10th at 11:30 am. There is also lots of social media graphics and info tidbits and calendar of activities and ways to raise awareness on campuses.

Additionally, upcoming PD includes *Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth* Oct 6th 9-11 am. You can register here:

<http://sdcoe.k12oms.org/1085-239488>

Save-The-Date 2024 Statewide Homeless Education Conference May 8th through 10th, 2024, at the Town & Country. More info to come.

Leveraging Career Pathways for Homeless & Foster Youth (CTE)

Jewyl Alderson, from SDCOE's Innovation Division presented on CTE programs.

Graduation rates for CTE concentrators are nearly double for populations of foster youth and homeless students not in CTE (for more detail on the incredible statistics around CTE programs impact on graduating homeless and foster youth students in the JLM Handout folder at this link: <https://bit.ly/FosterHomeless> *Leveraging Career Pathways for Homeless & Foster Youth*)

Middle School CTE Programs Intro Course and how we align their experience to stay in their same school or school system. Thus, supporting students who have a lot more school transitions and the program helps provide a step into a small support group in a changed environment. Cajon Valley and Chula Vista along with Poway and San Diego Unified have large initiatives in CTE. Helping students find belonging SEL initiative and maybe RIASEC to help students connect to what they like.

Another component is work-based learning. CTE helps match students to something they would really like to do and provide support in that process finding purpose and being future ready. Post Secondary Alignment is an important part of what CTE does. Creating an idea, purpose and pathway mentality so that when they graduate in CTE they can go on to college with purpose and informed decision-making. Helping students understand the relationship between career and cost of living in a city with a high cost of living. You can email Jewyl at jewyl.alderson@sdcoe.net and please see web pages for more information: <https://www.sdcoe.net/cte-innovation/career-ready-curriculum/essential-skills> and <https://www.sdcoe.net/cte-innovation/learning> and links to handouts: <https://bit.ly/FosterHomeless>

Also Access! If you would like any more information on career readiness and paid internships for foster youth, feel free to reach out to at lfranceschi@access2jobs.org or 858-560-0871 x120.

Meeting concluded at 10:54 am