



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Foster Youth Advisory Committee Report

February 8, 2017



Presented by Members of the Foster Youth Advisory Committee

Presented to the Oakland Unified School District Board of Education

www.ousd.org



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What Motivates Me to Advocate for Foster Youth

My name is _____, I am _____; and I am here because ...
(a positive person or moment & what they did/what happened)

My name is _____, I am _____; and I am here because ...
(a difficult moment or circumstance that you want to prevent)

My name is _____, I am _____; and I am here because ...
(a deeply held principle or statement of belief)

A photograph of a man with short dark hair and a goatee, wearing a black button-down shirt over a white t-shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the right. In the foreground on the right, a black microphone with a yellow band is mounted on a stand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a wooden door visible on the left. A white rectangular box with a thin border is positioned at the bottom left of the image, containing the man's name and title.

Craig Warren
Adult Supporter

Lily Colby

Former Foster Youth/Foster Parent





Margy Salguera
Foster Youth Case Manager



MA

Jo

Show



Rocquel Johnson

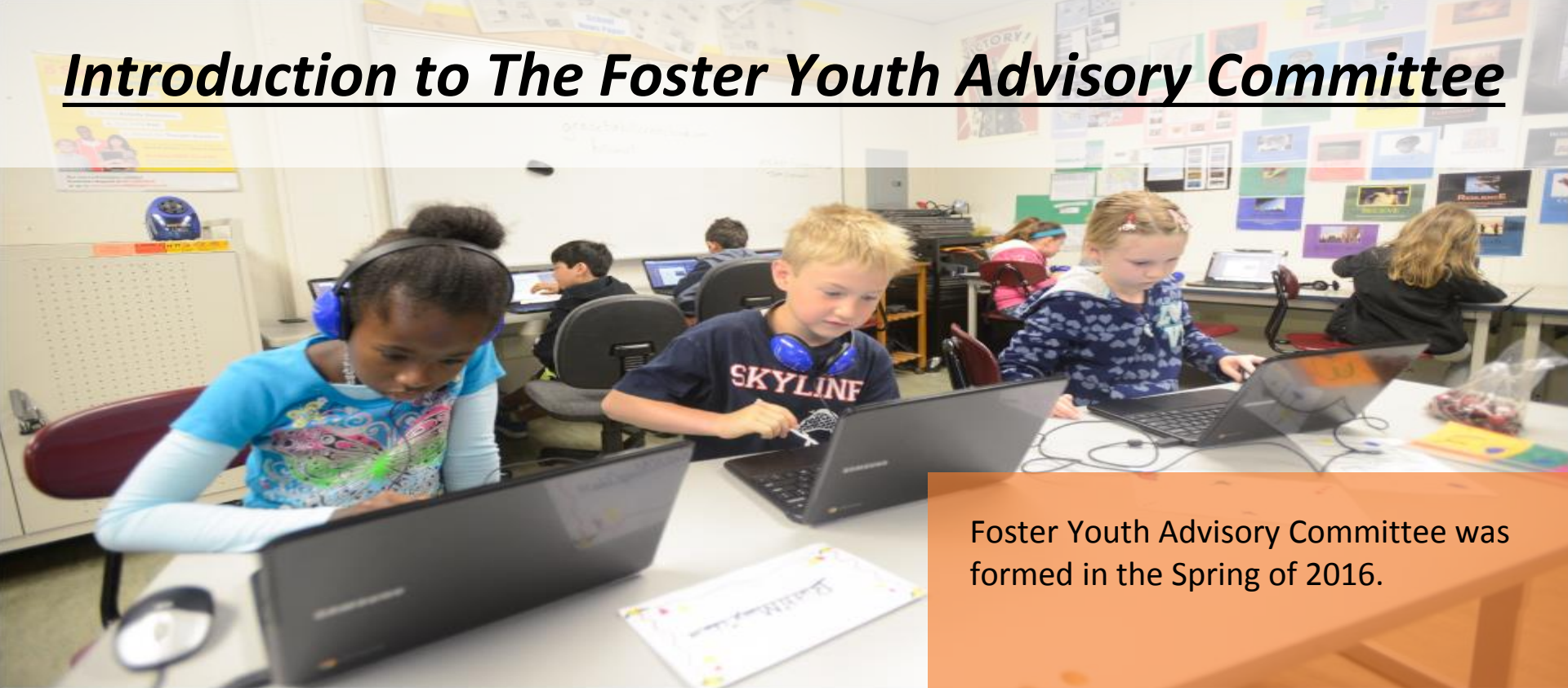
First of Many: First Month as a Family;
First Day of School

10th and 12th Grade, 2010

Michelle Kathy Ziko
Former Foster Youth



Introduction to The Foster Youth Advisory Committee



Foster Youth Advisory Committee was formed in the Spring of 2016.



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Who We Are

- The Foster Youth Advisory Committee is comprised of current foster youth, former foster youth, caregivers, advocates, and providers.
- Together we aim to improve local programs and policies to serve the unique needs of foster students, and to involve caregivers and families, school board members, school administrators, and the public in supporting foster students.



Our Short History

In 2015 people started meeting with Directors of the school board about the need for providing support for foster youth in the LCAP process.

Spring 2016 foster youth advocates got involved in the LSAC PSAC after staff organized a focus group of foster youth stakeholders.

May 2016: The LCAP PSAC adopts the recommendations advanced by Foster Youth advocates involved in developing the Foster Youth Advisory.

June 2016: Formal establishment meeting of the Foster Youth Advisory Committee (FYAC)

Fall 2016: Full Presentation to LSAC PSAC on our Recommendations; the LCAP PSAC prioritizes two of the FYAC recommendations for the 2017-18 OUSD budget



Are All Foster Youth Supported?



There are over 300 foster students in OUSD.

OUSD's Foster Youth Services program currently has only 2 full time employees and 1 part-time contractor as case managers.

As case managers can only serve 40 students each, over 200 foster youth are left without a case manager.

The good news is, we are seeing improvements in graduation rates already.





An Invisible Achievement Gap

Only 9% of OUSD Foster Youth met English Language Arts Standards

- Of over 200 OUSD foster students tested:
 - 9% met English Standards, compared with 32% of non-foster students
 - 67% of foster students did not come close to meeting English Standards, compared to 44% of non-foster students

See California Department of Education results in Addendum B





An Invisible Achievement Gap

**Only 4% of
OUSD Foster
Youth met Math
Standards**

- Of over 200 OUSD foster students tested:
 - 4% met Math Standards, compared with 26% of non-foster students
 - 75% of foster students did not come close to meeting Math Standards.
 - Not a single foster youth in the district exceeded math standards

See California Department of Education results in Addendum C





Funding Foster Youth in OUSD

Foster Youth bring in more than *three* times the concentration and supplemental grant funding than is currently being allocated to OUSD's Foster Youth Services Program.

- All estimates point to foster youth bringing in over \$750,000, yet the current budget for Foster Youth Services is estimated at \$250,000.
- This leaves over a half million-dollar gap in funding.

See LCFF funding calculations in Addendum F



What Our Students Need: Recommendations

Based on our understanding of the foster youth achievement gap in Oakland, and about what works for serving foster youth statewide, we are moving forward with four important but simple recommendations:



Recommendation 1:

Hire at least 3
additional case
managers within the
Foster Youth
Services Program

- Currently the Foster Youth Services program at OUSD has two full time and one part time case managers.
- The 2.5 case managers are only able work with students enrolled in OUSD's comprehensive high schools, and none of the middle or elementary school students.
- Case Managers have a caseload of about 40 students each, and with over 300 students in the district, 8 staff or 5.5 additional case managers would be needed to serve all foster youth.
- We recommend hiring at least 3 additional full-time case managers.
- Approximate cost \$70,000 per employee, with benefits totaling \$210,000 additional dollars.
- The Case Managers work under the AB 490 Coordinator, a position that is recently became open.



Recommendation 2:

Provide for a 6 part resource series to make training accessible to foster families in elementary, middle, and high schools

- OUSD's contract for a Resource and Support Series for Foster Youth Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers: 6 sessions at the Pre-School and Elementary level; 6 sessions at the Middle School Level; and 6 sessions at the Secondary Level in alignment with the start of the school year and marking periods.
- The resource series must address the specific needs of foster students with special needs and IEP's.
- A web page must be developed and maintained to ensure that parents, guardians and caregivers can connect to the resources outside of the live sessions.
- An outreach plan must be developed and outreach support provided to ensure maximum participation in the resource series
- Estimated cost is based on hiring one contractor at 20 hours per week within foster youth services at \$30,000 for the year to develop and implement the series.





Recommendation 3:

Provide stipends to current and former foster youth to involve them in the LCAP and Foster Youth Advisory Committee processes

- Last year the district committed to “aim to provide stipends for up to 4 former OUSD foster youth and 4 current OUSD foster youth.”
- At this time the Foster Youth Advisory Committee is unsure if, or how much was allocated to supporting the stipends of current and former foster youth participating in the process, or how those stipends could be accessed by youth participating.
- We request exact figures in this year’s LCAP/District budgets and the Foster Youth Services Program budget.
- We are also requesting twelve student stipends at \$500 per semester totaling \$12,000 for the 2017-2018 school year.





Recommendation 4:

Fund the Foster Youth Services Tutoring Program

- OUSD test scores reveal foster youth students are far less likely to meet or exceed grade level in language arts and mathematics.
- OUSD has had a tutoring program in partnership with the Buddy System. This program served about 80 students per year but the funding source is no longer available. It was funded through Title 1 funds through 2015-2016 with some additional funds left over for part of 2016-2017. There will be no additional Title I funds to keep this program going in 2017-2018, so the program will need to be funded through LCAP/LCFF dollars.
- ***The cost to continue this program is \$50,000 and should be included in the LCAP.***



Support by the LCAP Advisory Committee (PSAC)

We are an advisory committee to LCAP PSAC.

Priority Status of 2 FYAC Recommendations

- 3 Additional Case Managers
- 6-part-series resource series

**Connection of FYAC
to LCAP PSAC**



Recommendation Costs:



Total cost of investments is just **\$302,000**

That's significantly less than the over **\$500,000** gap between current spending on Foster Youth Services in OUSD, and the amount foster youth students bring into the district in LCFF supplemental and concentration grant funds.

**All Recommendation
Costs just \$302,000**



Thank you so much for your support!

Thanks also to the staff who already recommended an additional \$300,000 in the OUSD budget to increase services for foster youth.



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How to Get Involved!

Board Members are Welcome to Get Involved!

- Attend Our Meetings, 4th Tuesday of the Month, 5:30-7:30, Lakeview Campus
- Read our Report
- Support our Work!

