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CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES / SPRING 2016 / VOL 8 ISSUE 2

New law expands leave for working parents

Working parents are now afforded more time to take off when dealing with school and child care related matters according to a new state law that went into effect in January. Senate Bill 579 states working parents are now able to take leave of up to 40 hours per year, not to exceed eight hours per month, to find their child a new school and enroll or re-enroll a child in school or with a licensed child care provider.

In addition, child care emergencies and school emergencies are now reasons a parent can take leave, including the sudden closure of schools. The law also expands the definition of "parent" to include step-parent, foster parent, grandparent, or anyone else who serves as a parent to the child.



Free health care for former foster youth

Young adults who were in foster care on their 18th birthday or later may qualify for Medi-Cal coverage until age 26 and their income does not matter. According to the Affordable Care Act, Medi-Cal coverage is extended to any former foster youth currently residing in California regardless of the state they were in foster care.

What do former foster youth need to sign up? One of these forms of verification will work:

- California identification or driver's license
- Utility bill in their name
- Vehicle registration in their name



Three reasons why former foster youth should sign up:

1. It's free. Youth pay nothing for health care. The money saved can go towards school, rent, food, or any other expense.
2. There's no new application to fill out each year. Register one time and they are covered until their 26th birthday.
3. They may go to any doctor, clinic, therapist, or hospital that takes Medi-Cal.

For more information and instructions on how to register for Medi-Cal, visit coveredtil26.childrennow.org/how-to-sign-up or www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/FFY.aspx.

How to start “THE” conversation

By Nahid Razaghi
Public Health Nurse

Youth in foster care are at greater risk for early pregnancy than teens in general. One study finds that almost one-third of girls in foster care become pregnant at least once by age 17 and almost one-half by age 19. Preventing early pregnancy and parenting is important for a number of reasons. Compared to women who delay childbearing, teen mothers are more likely to drop out of school and to live in poverty. Their children are more likely to experience abuse and neglect, enter the child welfare system, be born at low birth weight or mentally retarded, grow up poor, perform poorly in school, and have insufficient health care. Daughters of teen mothers are more likely to become teen parents. Sons of teen mothers are more likely to be incarcerated.

Foster youth say they want to discuss sex, love and relationships with their foster parents, but some are embarrassed or feel uncomfortable starting the conversation. The same holds true for foster parents. They often don't know what to say, how to say it, or when to start.

The following guide offers some ideas to help foster parents strengthen their relationships with foster youth. It also offers some ideas on how best to communicate about sex, love and relationships. It

TIPS TO HELP FOSTER YOUTH AVOID PREGNANCY

- 1. RELATIONSHIPS**
Build a relationship based on trust and compassion.
- 2. TALK**
Talk with your foster children often about sex and be specific.
- 3. TIME**
Spend quality time your foster child.
- 4. WATCH**
Supervise and monitor your foster children and adolescents.
- 5. BE IN THE KNOW**
Know your foster children's friends and their families.
- 6. MEDIA**
Know what your foster children are watching, reading and listening to.
- 7. BOYS, TOO**
Talk to your foster sons and foster daughters. Avoid the double standard.
- 8. DATING**
Discourage dating at an early age. Watch for age differences in relationships.
- 9. ACTIVITIES**
Encourage your foster child to get involved in sports, arts, community service, faith based activities, or other after school programs.
- 10. THE FUTURE**
Have options for the future that are more attractive than early pregnancy and parenthood.

provides tips on such topics as the importance of maintaining strong, close relationships with children and teens, setting clear expectations for them, and communicating honestly and often with them. Research supports these common sense lessons: not only are they good ideas generally to promote positive youth development, but they can also help teens delay becoming sexually active, as well as encourage those who are having sex to make more responsible choices and use contraception carefully.

Stay tuned for new, upcoming training later this year from Children and Family Services (CFS) to support Positive Foster

Youth Reproductive Health and to help you develop proficiency in the above tips; for now, practice the tips you are proficient in and comfortable with. The above tips are from www.teenpregnancy.org and more information regarding Orange County's efforts can be found at www.cfyppi.org. If you have thoughts to share, Jaime Muñoz, CFS manager and Foster Youth Pregnancy Prevention Project coordinator, looks forward to hearing from you. You may contact him at (714) 704-8090 or at jaime.munoz@ssa.ocgov.com.

The way I see it

By Sharon Dooley
Foster Parent

The very same day I received my foster license from the County I received a call about a newborn who was born addicted to coke and needed a foster home. Within hours, I was on my way to the hospital to pickup this newborn who I had very little information about. I was asked to take the place of this newborn's mom for an indefinite period of time. As with all foster placements, I wasn't sure if I would have this adorable baby for a few days or for many months or years. I wasn't sure if he would scream and shake all night as the drug left his little body. I was called to love him and that was it. I woke up every two hours in the night to feed him, rock him and hold him on my chest. I would tear up at this tiny miracle that God put me in charge of. The day he went back to his birth mom, it felt like I had lost a piece of my heart. I realized very quickly that this wouldn't be an easy journey and that none of it would be about me; it was all about the babies.

After that, I would continue to receive phone calls from the County asking me if I would take another little one. Statistically, over half of these babies go up for adoption and the other half will return to their birth moms or another family member. I have bonded with every baby that I have fostered as if they were my own. I love them from the moment I hold them in my arms and continue to love them after they have left. I protect them, advocate for them and love them. When they leave, it is beyond heartbreaking. Yet the blessing of having them grow and thrive for a short period of time is absolutely worth the loss I feel when they leave for their "forever home."

Strengthening Families with WIC

When you become a foster parent, it seems like you may have a ton of questions and not a lot of answers. Wouldn't it be nice to have a place you could go to that helps you as a foster parent? You would learn what to eat, talk about the challenges you may face in feeding children, receive support along the way, and get ideas on how to cook healthy foods so your kids will love them. You would also be connected to the health care resources you need.

Many foster parents and moms have found a safe haven in a place just like this for the past 40 years; the WIC Program (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children). You may or may not be familiar with WIC. It is a federal nutrition program that provides much more than food for newborn infants and children under 5 years old.

WIC offers at no cost the following:

- Healthy lifestyle tips and nutrition education for you and your family
- Referrals to health care and community services
- Checks to buy healthy foods (visit www.wicworks.ca.gov for details on food offered)
- If you receive Medi-Cal, CalFresh or TANF you are income eligible for WIC
- Low-medium wage working families are welcome to apply

Foster parenthood undoubtedly poses challenges, but having a trusted place to find answers helps empower you to become the confident caregivers you want to be. This is the heart of WIC services. Credentialed professionals provide nutrition services and answer questions about raising small children. Please consider the WIC Program as a resource.

To learn more and to make a WIC enrollment appointment near you, visit or call:

**www.myhealthoc.org/wic
1-888-WIC-WORKS
(1-888-942-9675)**

WIC is equal opportunity provider. Migrant and working families are welcome to apply.





Meet DONOVAN

Donovan is a smart, fun and healthy 13 year-old boy who is awaiting an adoptive home. Donovan has a fair, freckled complexion, has striking red hair and is of average height and weight for his age. Donovan likes soccer, football, Legos, Harry Potter, and MineCraft. Donovan has a good appetite and he enjoys pancakes, cereal, salad, fish, fried chicken, and eggplant parmesan. Donovan is in the 7th grade and his favorite subject is math. Donovan likes school and he most often earns good grades. Donovan is in need of an adoptive home that will allow him to maintain

a connection with his two older sisters; relationships that he treasures. Donovan is very eager to find a forever family and he would be a delightful addition to any family ready to open their heart and home to an older child. For more information, contact Stephanie Cooper, Matching Coordinator, at (714) 746-8116.

Super Saturdays to launch in summer

By Jim Deming
Senior Social Services Supervisor, RFA

By now, many of you may be aware of Orange County's (OC) transition to the new Resource Family Approval (RFA) process. The RFA process is a streamlined approach the state is taking for approving new foster, adoptive, relative, non-related extended family member, and guardian homes. After months of preparation, OC officially entered into this process last month.

In support of RFA's aim to improve our processes, OC has further adapted its training for current resource families to be more readily available on a flow basis. For a number of years, OC has offered an annual training conference for our resource families in the spring. As many of you have experienced, this conference has been supplied with a variety of practical topics and expert presenters.

Beginning July 30, we will begin spreading this wealth of conference workshops over the entire year with the introduction of quarterly "Super Saturdays," rather than just one Saturday in the spring. Please mark your calendars, as more information will be released in the coming months.

What is RFA?

The Resource Family Approval (RFA) is the process a foster, relative, non-relative, or adoptive caregiver completes in order to meet state approval requirements. Orange County Children and Family Services is responsible for administering the approval process. The approval process includes:

- One application
- One background check
- Combined home environment and permanency assessment
- Pre-approval and post-approval training for all resource families
- Procedures for the emergency placement of a child with relatives and non-relative extended family members prior to approval



Raising Healthy & Happy LGBT & GNC Children

Research shows there are steps parents can take to help their lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and gender non-conforming (GNC) children live happy and healthy lives. These helpful steps include:

- Talking to your child about being LGBT and GNC
- Listening to your child with an open mind and open heart
- Telling your child you love and support who they are
- Sharing affection with your child; by hugging or kissing them when you find out they are LGBT or GNC
- Getting correct information about LGBT or GNC people and help in the community for your child and your family
- Giving your child LGBT books and magazines that are right for their age and letting them participate in LGBT activities that are right for their age
- Asking family members to act respectfully and loving towards your child and stopping them from saying or doing mean things to your child because they are LGBT or GNC

For more information, visit www.cssp.org/reform/child-welfare/get-real.

Foster Care Auxiliary

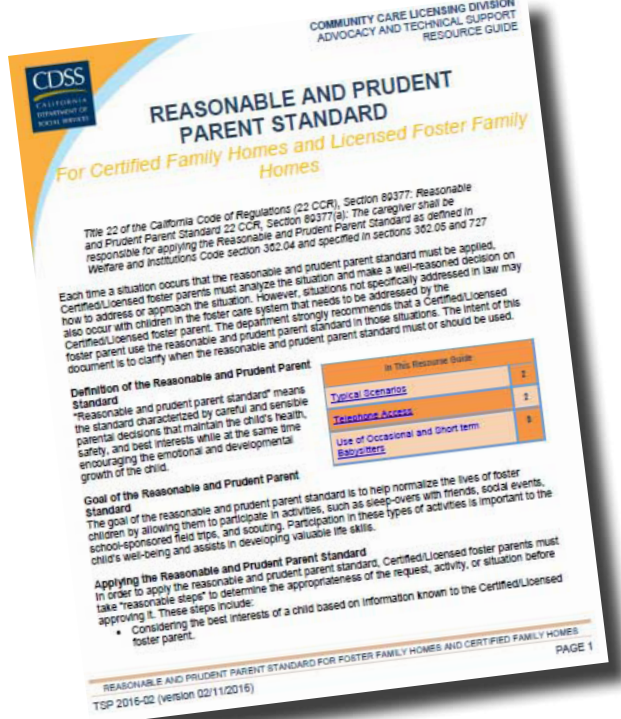


The Foster Care Auxiliary offers services, trainings, events, and products to our members with foster and adopted children. Presently, we offer the following from our resource and distribution center:

- ⊙ Lending Library of Foster and Child Care Related Material
- ⊙ Baby Gear Lending Program
- ⊙ Computers for Students in Foster Care Program
- ⊙ Foster Parent Support and Training Opportunities
- ⊙ Fun Family Events
- ⊙ Educational Scholarships
- ⊙ Birthday Corner
- ⊙ *New* Luggage Program
- ⊙ *New* Fun Days providing respite for foster/adoptive/kinship families
- ⊙ *New* Academic Mentor Tutoring available for qualified youth

Also available are monthly distribution days of new items; a program that assists youth to achieve independence; a social worker referral program for assistance with new families in need; various free tickets to plays, sporting events, ballets, concerts, comedy clubs; a thrift store with deeply discounted used donations; and a network of supportive foster families.

FosterCareAux@yahoo.com
714 778-3383
333 S. Brookhurst St, Anaheim
www.FosterCareAux.com



The 2016-02 Resource Guide for Caregivers, Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standards, is now available on the California Department of Social Services' website, http://www.cdss.ca.gov/res/pdf/RPPS_ResourceGuide.pdf.

Orangewood Foundation Independent Living Program News

Excitedly, the Independent Living Program (ILP) has been awarded another three year contract with Orange County Social Services Agency. With this contract, we continue to provide current and former foster youth with independent living services to assist in their transition into adulthood. With the start of this new contract in July 2014, our focus has slightly shifted. The ILP program is looking to be more involved with foster parents, caregivers, group home staff, etc., by implementing workshops specifically for them. This collaboration will assist in guiding the youth toward a successful transition. ILP will continue to provide monthly workshops, special events and support services to youth between the ages of 16 and 21. Each month, ILP focuses on one of the four key areas: education, career, relationships, and daily living.

ILP Workshops

The Orangewood Foundation offers workshops on independent living skills each month. Most of our workshops occur at the Orangewood Children's Foundation. Other locations will be listed on our ILP schedule located on our website. Examples of workshops include: job search, financial Aid, transitional housing, college tours, and much more! We also have monthly ILP workshops for emancipated-non minor dependent youth.

ILP Case Management:

In addition to leading ILP workshops, Independent Living Program specialists provide:

- One on one support with goals, resource referrals, basic living skills and emancipation planning with emphasis on housing, education and employment.
- Outreach to caregivers in order to educate and collaborate with youth's needs.

How can I participate in this program?

- Self-refer or referral TILP from SSA/social worker/probation officer.
- Meet with an ILP specialist to discuss OCF programs and services to determine youth's current needs.

For more information, contact Tisha Roberts at (714) 619-0222 or go to www.orangewoodfoundation.org.



Free Spanish Support Groups for Relatives

La Habra Family Resource Center

Meet other relatives who are raising children for a family member and receive emotional and informational support.

Grupos de apoyo para parientes criando a hijo de un familiar. Acompáñenos y conozca a otras personas que están criando al hijo de un familiar. Reciba y brinda apoyo emocional y información sobre recursos en la comunidad.

Habrà cuidado de niños. Llame para apuntarse al (714) 447-3460 y oprima 0. Cada primer miércoles del mes.

La Habra Family Resource Center
301 W. Las Lomas Dr., La Habra 90631
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. / Every first Wednesday of the month.
Child care is provided. To register, call (714) 447-3460 and press 0.

Foster & Kinship Care Education



The Foster and Kinship Care Education program at Saddleback College provides quality education and support opportunities to caregivers of children in out-of-home care. The free classes are designed to assist the caregivers in meeting the children's educational, emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs.

In order for foster parents to meet their annual eight hours of training, monthly classes are offered throughout Orange County. To view classes, visit www.saddleback.edu/hs/fkce or call (949) 582-4884 to request a class catalog and to register for classes.

Relative Support Services Available

Olive Crest's Kinship Support Services Program is excited to continue on-going opportunities for our relative caregivers. We now offer five support groups per month to caregivers. Olive Crest Kinship clients, with advance registration, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Each group structure varies based on the specific needs of each group. All of our support groups offer opportunities to connect, share and hear about information based on topics of interest and concern to kinship families.

Other workshops and family-focused group activities and events are planned in order to help support kinship families. All services are free of charge. There are also some great opportunities for caregivers to share their time, knowledge and experience to volunteers or to serve as mentors in outreach and assistance to other kinship families.

For more group information, or general inquiries, please contact our advocates, Claudia Sapien (Spanish) at (714) 543-5437 ext. 1230 or Claudia-Sapien@olivecrest.org or Vanessa Williams (English) at (714) 543-5437 ext. 1157 or Vanessa-Williams@olivecrest.org.

Support Group Locations

Olive Crest will host support groups in Santa Ana for English and Spanish speakers. English will be held on the first and third Thursday of every month. Spanish will be held on the third Wednesday of each month.

Mission Hills Church in Mission Viejo will host an English speaking support group on the second Friday of each month.

La Habra Family Resource Center will host a Spanish speaking support group on the first Wednesday of each month.

All support groups will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

ready to commit?

to
YOURSELF



Get on track with finance, education, career, legal issues, health, and more!

At Rising Tide, we are here to motivate and support young adults that are ready to commit to themselves, their goals and their future. Check out our new webpage at <http://ocf4you.org/rising-tide-communities/> for an application and more information!

to
YOUR GOALS



Most of our youth leave Rising Tide with car paid in cash and average of \$10,000 in savings.

to
YOUR FUTURE



Most will attend college. All will receive job experience. All will save money.

- What we offer:
Eight full time staff
- 24/7 access to on-site staff
- Youth keep ALL of their AB12 \$
- An unparalleled savings program
- A fully furnished, shared apartment or room in a historical home
- Three Locations in Tustin, Garden Grove and Old Towne Orange
- Individualized program for each youth focused on their goals and needs
- Open to young men and women and single moms with kids (18 to 24 yrs+)
- A full-time parenting specialist for single moms
- Full-time education specialists that will guide you through college
- Healthy activities and exciting events

For more information, contact Linda Levshin at (714) 619-0239 or via e-mail at llevshin@orangewoodfoundation.org.

Families and Communities Together, also known as FaCT, is a network of 15 Family Resource Centers (FRC) located throughout Orange County's highest-risk communities providing essential family support services, education and resources.

Family Resource Centers:

Each FRC is a family-friendly, community-based site that provides access to comprehensive prevention and treatment oriented social, educational and health services for all families, including birth, blended, kinship, adoptive and foster families. FRCs serve as vehicles for engaging local residents and community organizations in the identification and resolution of community concerns related to raising healthy children. Every FRC is unique to its community; services are offered by multicultural and multilingual staff that reflect the surrounding neighborhoods and the families they serve.

Services Provided:

(Core FRC Services -Services are offered at all FaCT funded FRCs)

- Counseling
- Parenting Education
- Family Advocacy/Case Management Support Services
- Domestic Violence Prevention & Treatment
- Community Resources and Referrals
- Comprehensive Case Management Team

Additional FRC Services:

(Services vary across FaCT funded FRCs)

- Family Health & Wellness
- Family Economics & Self-Sufficiency
- Child Development Activities
- Emergency Assistance
- Family Literacy and Education
- Adoption Promotion and Support

Locations:

Anaheim Harbor Family Resource Center
819 S. Harbor Blvd.
Anaheim, CA 92805
Phone: (714) 399-0590
Fax: (714) 399-0595

Community Health Enrichment Collaborative (CHEC)
27412 Calle Arroyo
San Juan Capistrano 92675
Phone: (949) 489-7742
Fax: (949) 489-7748

Corbin Family Resource Center
2215 W. McFadden Ave.
Suite G
Santa Ana, CA 92704
Phone: (714) 480-3737 ext. 0
Fax: (714) 543-4947

Costa Mesa
307 Placentia Ave.
Suite 209
Newport Beach 92663
Phone: (949) 764-8100

El Modena
Family Resource Center
18672 East Center St.
Orange, CA 92869
Phone: (714) 532-3595
Fax: (714) 532-3593

Family Oasis
131 W. Midway Dr.
Anaheim 92805
Phone: (714) 517-7107
Fax: (714) 956-1990

Friendly Center
Family Resource Center
147 W. Rose Ave.
Orange, CA 92967
Phone: (714) 771-5300
Fax: (714) 771-7627

Friendly Center Placentia
900 S. Melrose St.
Placentia 92870
Phone: (714) 771-5300 or (714) 986-2333
Fax: (714) 632-3851

La Habra
Family Resource Center
301 W. Las Lomas Dr.
La Habra, CA 90631
Phone: (714) 447-3460
Fax: (714) 447-3753

Magnolia Park
Family Resource Center
11402 Magnolia St.
Garden Grove, CA 92841
Phone: (714) 530-7413
Fax: (714) 530-7908

Minnie Street
Family Resource Center
1300 E. McFadden Ave.
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone: (714) 972-5775
Fax: (714) 972-5781

Oak View
Family Resource Center
17261 Oak Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
Phone: (714) 842-4002 ext. 0
Fax: (714) 842-4184

South Orange County
Family Resource Center
23832 Rockfield Blvd.
Suite 270
Lake Forest, CA 92630
Phone: (949) 364-0500
Fax: (949) 364-0575

Stanton
Family Resource Center
7800 Katella Ave.
Stanton, CA 90680
Phone: (714) 379-0129
Fax: (714) 379-0139

Westminster
Family Resource Center
7200 Plaza St.
Westminster, CA 92683
Phone: (714) 903-1331
Fax: (714) 903-1881

Directory

FOSTER CARE INFORMATION LINE
(888) 871-KIDS (5437)

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES RECEPTION
(714) 704-8000
(714) 935-7171 (emergencies & after hours)

ADMINISTRATION
Mike Ryan
Social Services Director

Gary Taylor
Children & Family Services Director

Anne Bloxom
CFS Deputy Director

Joanne Munro
CFS Deputy Director

Ken Santini
CFS Deputy Director

Christine Smith Snapper
CFS Deputy Director

**RESOURCE FAMILY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
TRAINING, RECRUITMENT & ASSESSMENT**
Marlene Telegadas, Program Manager

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING
Jim Deming, Supervisor
(714) 704-8230

Roylyn Burton, Community Program Specialist
(714) 746-2778

*Nena Casis, Recruiter/Trainer
(714) 833-0179

Stephanie Cooper, Recruiter/Trainer
(714) 746-8116

*Elizabeth Hutchison-Cervantes, Recruiter/Trainer
(714) 704-8911

*Yazmin Leal, Staff Specialist
(714) 704-8828

**Lianne Vu, Recruiter/Trainer
(714) 746-8433

*Angelica Zikoor, Recruiter/Trainer
(714) 746-7762

RECRUITMENT, TRAINING & ASSESSMENTS
Angela Santos, Supervisor
(714) 704-8952

Rick Bazant, Community Program Specialist
(714) 944-6473

Geeta Karir, Trainer
(714) 697-6098

*Graciela Montano, Assessment
(714) 697-6047

Colleen Owen, Assessment
(714) 795-1011

*Lorena Rodriguez, Information Hotline
1-888-871-5437

Diemmy Tran, Trainer
(714) 380-8361

FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE LIAISON
*Joanna Hussey (714) 704-TALK (8255)

LICENSING
Brent Payne, Supervisor
(714) 704-8887

Stephanie Aspgren, Analyst
(714) 746-6038

Lorena Minton, Analyst
(714) 227-5141

*Paul Sanchez, Analyst
(714) 697-2895

FOSTER CARE ELIGIBILITY
Becky Lawrence (714) 704-8866

Manuel Roa (714) 704-8441

Lidia Sanchez (714) 704-6173

BIRTHDAY GIFTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

(714) 679-2438
Call for an appointment

TRANSITIONAL PLANNING SERVICES PROGRAM

Jaime Muñoz, Program Manager

*Lourdes Chavez, Supervisor (714) 704-8058

*Mayola Miranda, Supervisor (714) 940-3965

TREATMENT FOSTER CARE OREGON, ORANGE COUNTY

Dr. Mary Eason, Program Supervisor
(714) 704-8238

Terry Maher, Program Supervisor
(714) 704-4122

Michelle Medina, Recruiter/Trainer
(714) 746-1774

Denise Odom, Recruiter/Trainer
(714) 697-8914

SPECIAL MEDICAL PROGRAM

Karen Werno, Placement Coordinator
(714) 704-8533

Mary Ewart, Medical Intake Coordinator
(714) 704-8531

Cindy Hutchison, Medial Intake Coordinator
(714) 704-8531

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS (TOPS)

New Alternatives, Inc. (714) 245-0045

WORKING CAREGIVER CHILDCARE

*Karen Pinkerton (714) 704-6145

FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION

Saddleback College (949) 582-4884

FOSTER CARE ADVISORY BOARD

Sallie Miller (714) 848-2558
Karen Templeton (714) 556-5250

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

Fountain Valley
Sallie Miller (714) 848-2558

Single Parents (Male/Female)
Cynthia Bradbury (714) 843-6835

Orange/Spanish Support

*Joanna Hussey (714) 704-8255

ORGANIZATIONS

California Children's Services (CCS)
(714) 347-0300

CalOPTIMA

Cydney Weber, Liaison
(714) 796-6132

Member Services (714) 246-8500
Claims Department (714) 246-8885

Child Health & Disability Program (CHDP)
(800) 564-8448

Denti-Cal (800) 322-6384

Foster Care Auxiliary of Orange County

Kathy Harvey
(714) 778-3383
www.fostercareaux.com

Kinship Center
(714) 957-1004

Olive Crest Kinship Support Program
(657) 622-4094

Orange County Mental Health
(714) 834-5015

Vision Services Plan
(800) 877-7195

*Spanish Speaking

**Vietnamese Speaking

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