


**Promising Practices:**  
**Exploring Homeless Education Initiatives in Florida**



2012 – 2013 FASFPA/ECTAC SPRING  
 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FORUM

May 7, 2013  
 10 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
 Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay  
 Tampa, Florida

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**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Opening Activity
- Promising Practices and Initiatives
  - Families In Transition (F.I.T.) Social Media – Lake County Schools – Kathy Entler
  - Advocates for Unaccompanied Youth Task Force – St. John’s County Schools - Joann Johnson
  - Project PRAISE – Putnam County Schools – Courtney Carter
- Group Activity
- Closing

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**Opening Activity**

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**Families In Transition (F.I.T.) Social Media**  
2012 -2013  
Student Services  
Lake County Schools

Presenter: Kathy Entler

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**Topics – Lake County Schools**

- Number of F.I.T. Students in Lake County
- Approval Process
- Limitations
- F.I.T. Program and Social Media
  1. Web Site
  2. Newsletter
  3. Facebook
  4. Twitter

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**Lake County School District**

Total Homeless Students: 2,230



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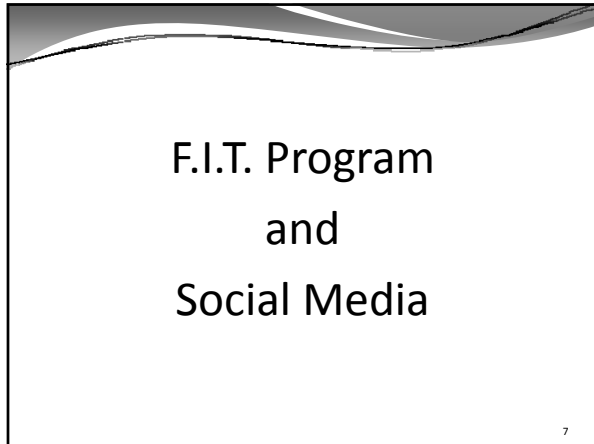
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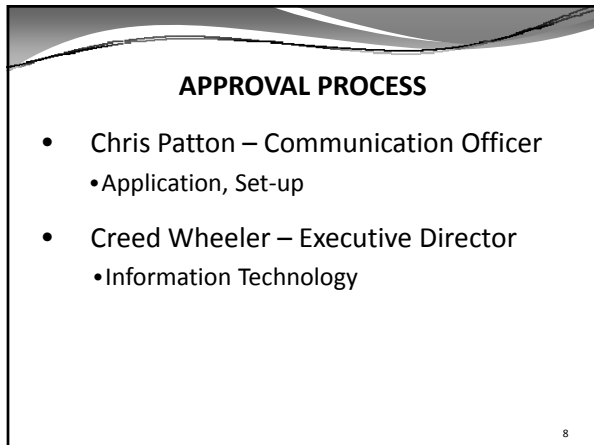
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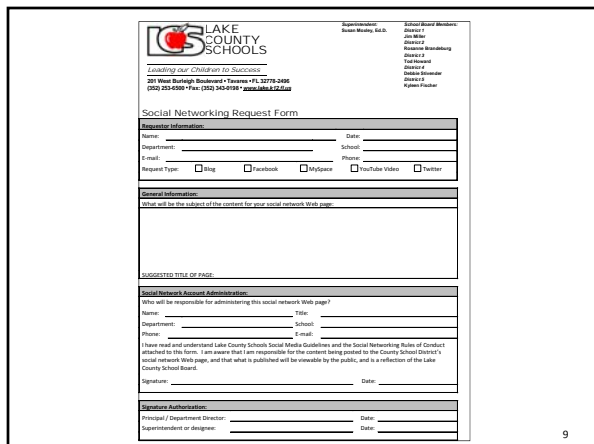
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### Social Networking Rules of Conduct

- Lake County Schools' social network administrators are personally responsible for the content they publish on any approved social network Web page. Be mindful that what you publish will be public for a long time.
- Respect copyright, fair use and public records laws.
- Avoid expressing opinions, because your posts should represent facts, and are a reflection of the Lake County School Board.
- Don't provide confidential or other proprietary information.
- Stick to your area of expertise and check your facts before posting.
- Don't cite or reference clients of Lake County Schools, partners or suppliers without their approval. When you do make a reference, where possible link back to the online references and original source materials directly.
- **Do NOT** post jokes or use ethnic slurs, personal insults, obscenity, or engage in any conduct that would not be acceptable in the workplace. You should also show proper consideration for others' privacy and for topics that may be considered objectionable or inflammatory.
- **Do NOT** discuss topics such as politics and religion.
- Try to add value by providing worthwhile information. If there is no point to your post, then people might not read it or come back to read anything else you write.
- Talk to your readers like you would talk to real people in professional situations. Avoid overly obscure or "composed" language, but remain professional at all times.
- Never make misrepresentations or dishonest statements.
- Acknowledge and correct mistakes promptly.
- Do not delete or remove comments unless they are spam, off-topic or defamatory.
- Always check your spelling and grammar.
- Avoid using acronyms or abbreviations. Just because you use certain terms in your job every day doesn't mean that the everyday reader will know what it means.

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### Limitations

- Accessibility at work
- F.I.T. families and students do not have internet access at home



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### Lake County Schools Families In Transition Web Site

<http://lake.k12.fl.us/Page/23549>

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LAKE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Home Departments & Programs Student Services

## Welcome to Families in Transition Program F.I.T.

**Krista McCall**      **Kaiti Carter**  
 352-762-6864      352-762-6867  
 kristam@lcsk12.net      kcarter@lcsk12.net

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Lake County School Board

**FAMILIES IN TRANSITION NEWSLETTER**

**Bright Futures Scholarship Program**  
 http://www.brightfutures.org/naep/nahcyl  
**REMINDER!** You MUST apply for Bright Futures before your High School graduation date.  
 NO application = NO award, EVER!

<p><b>NAEP/NAHCY Higher Education Helpline</b></p> <p>For assistance with issues related to students experiencing transitional issues accessing higher education, contact the NAEP/NAHCY Higher Education Helpline at 1-800-446-2273 (toll-free) or <a href="mailto:help@naepnahcyl.org">help@naepnahcyl.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.FAFSA.gov">www.FAFSA.gov</a></p> <p>APPLY NOW! FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.</p>
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**Navigating Your Financial Future**

The Helpful Links section is an important resource for students and their families. This section links to government websites as well as many other useful sites that provide information on how to Navigate Your Financial Future. The Helpful Links are listed in categories based on specific topics to make your search easier and faster.

[http://www.aavp.org/volunteer/naepnahcyl/naepnahcyl\\_Helpful\\_Links.aspx](http://www.aavp.org/volunteer/naepnahcyl/naepnahcyl_Helpful_Links.aspx)

The Florida Department of Education and the Office of Student Financial Assistance administers a variety of financial aid resources such as grants, loans, and scholarship programs.

Please visit their website at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/> or call 1-888-827-2004 for information and applications.

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**Families In Transition Face Book Page**  
[www.facebook.com/familiesintransition](https://www.facebook.com/familiesintransition)

Families in Transition (F.I.T.) program is approved for a LCSB face book page. This new F.I.T. page will provide community resources, resources to access higher education and local event information, along with information on current community collaborations and projects. Check out the F.I.T. page and "like"!

What are the types of Financial Aid?  
 If you visit [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org) you will learn more about Florida's specific scholarship and grant programs with associated application instructions and forms. At the same site you can apply directly for the FAFSA - Federal Student Aid website from the above site.

- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Stafford Loans
- Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)
- Federal PLUS Loan for Graduate and Professional Students
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
- Federal Work-Study Program
- Federal Perkins Loans

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

Converge  
[www.converge.com/converge/](http://www.converge.com/converge/)

211  
[www.211.org/211.html](http://www.211.org/211.html)

Job Corps  
[www.jobcorps.gov](http://www.jobcorps.gov)

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**Lake County Schools  
Families in Transition  
facebook**



[www.facebook.com/FamiliesinTransitionofLakeCountySchools](http://www.facebook.com/FamiliesinTransitionofLakeCountySchools)

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<https://twitter.com/>

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**Lake County School District Liaisons**  
**352-742-6920**

**Jan Tobias**  
Student Services Director  
tobiasj@lake.k12.fl.us

**Kristin McCall**  
F.I.T. Program Manager  
McCallK@lake.k12.fl.us

**Kathy Entler**  
F.I.T. Program Manager  
EntlerK@lake.k12.fl.us

**Lillian Lopez**  
Migrant/Homeless Resource Advocates  
LopezL@lake.k12.fl.us

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**Thank you!**

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**ADVOCATES FOR UNACCOMPANIED  
YOUTH TASK FORCE INITIATIVE  
2012 -2013  
St. Johns County Schools**

**Presenter: Joann Johnson**

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**Promising Practice – St. Johns**

Advocates for Unaccompanied Youth Task Force

- Advocates for Unaccompanied Youth is a Task Force of local community partners merging resources to strategically address barriers presenting our Unaccompanied Youths.
- Our **VISION** is to ensure every unaccompanied youth is educated regardless of their situation
- Our **MISSION** is to unite our community in support of our Unaccompanied Youth so they may stand tall, strive and succeed by staying in school and achieving their goal of graduation and reaching their highest potential.”

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**Promising Practice – St. Johns**

**WHY?**

- Barriers to Education
- Lack of parent or legal guardian
- Lack of school records and other paperwork
- Lack of stable housing
- Emotional crisis/mental health issues
- Employment and need to balance school and work
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of school supplies, clothing
- Fatigue, poor health, hunger
- Credit accrual and attendance policies
- Concerns about being captured by authorities

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**Promising Practice – St. Johns**

**HOW IT BEGAN**

- Recognizing how vast the needs and barriers for our Unaccompanied Youths were, we enlisted caring community partners to address basic needs.
- The task force were divided into sub-categories to address, housing, employment, education, legal, social/life skills, mentoring, medical and mental health issues.
- The Advocates for Unaccompanied Youth Task Force began in August 2012.

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**Promising Practice – Partners – St. Johns Co. (SJC)**

- **Attorney for the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Program:** Cathy Altman
- **Business Solutions Unlimited:** Bridget Van Landingham
- **Community Member:** Raymond Randolph
- **Continuum of Care Head Agency:** Debi Redding
- **ESHC:** Michele Miller
- **First Coast Technical College:** Renee Stauffacher, VP
- **Freedom Baptist Church/Betty Griffin House:** Jeff Gatlin
- **Haven Hospice:** Linda Scaz
- **Home Again St. Johns:** David Hoak
- **Lighthouse Labor of Love Ministries:** Bertie Huff
- **Psychological Services:** Deborah Dungan, Therapist
- **SJC Housing:** Ben Conney
- **SJC Housing Partnership:** Bill Lazar
- **SJC Legal Aid Attorney:** Megan Wall
- **SJCS:** Walter Kelly, Kelly Barera
- **SJC Schools:** Joann Johnson, Kim McNickle, Chris Stone
- **SJCSD:** Gina Fallica, Executive Assistant to CFO
- **Somebody Cares STA:** John Clifton, Founder
- **Wells Fargo Bank:** Brent Surriano

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**Promising Practice – St. Johns**

Program Benefits

- Community Awareness and Support
  - “Shocked”
  - Monthly meeting with local Dependency and Delinquency judges, GAL & Legal Aid Attorneys
- Better able to serve students individual needs
  - More persons touching students lives (e.g., mentoring, banking management class for UY)
  - More knowledgeable about their legal rights
  - Coat Drive
  - Post-high school career oriented
  - Although all UY may not chose to accept one, a mentor is encouraged for all UY

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**Promising Practice – St. Johns**

**Program Cost:** None

**Printing Cost:** Somebody Cares STA

**Mentors:** Trained by SJCS-D-RSVP

“Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve.  
 You don't have to have a college degree to serve.  
 You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve.  
 You only need a heart full of grace.  
 A soul generated by love.”  
 --Martin Luther King, Jr.

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**WE CAN HELP!**

St. Johns County Legal Aid can assist you free of charge to obtain the documents you need to have legal authority to assist a child in your home — with or without the parents' cooperation (or if they cannot be located).

St. Johns County Legal Aid  
222 San Marco Avenue  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
904.827.9921

A collaborative effort between the St. Johns County Legal Aid, St. Johns County 7th Judicial Circuit and the St. Johns County School District ASSIST program



St. Johns County Family Services Coordinator  
904.547.7442 FAX 904.547.7593  
St. Johns County Family Advocate  
904.547.7593  
St. Johns County School District  
60 Orange Street  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

**CAREGIVERS OF UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH:**

**FREE LEGAL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU!**



St. Johns County Legal Aid  
222 San Marco Avenue  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
904.827.9921

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**WE CAN HELP!**

You may be eligible for:  
Supportive services under the St. Johns County School District's ASSIST program (Aid and Support for Students in Sudden Transition) including but not limited to:  
free breakfast/lunch, bus transportation, school supplies, etc.  
-Food stamps  
-TANF  
-Florida Kids Care Medicaid  
-DCF Medicaid

- **If you are a relative to the child..**
- A Temporary Relative Custody can be filed.
- **If you are not related to the child...**
- A Guardianship case can be filed.

No need to call in advance as the person answering the phone will instruct you that you need to come in and complete an application. For other questions, please call 827-9921. We look forward to assisting you with your legal needs.



- Go to St. Johns Legal Aid today and complete an application for free legal assistance at:
- 222 San Marco Avenue
- St. Augustine, FL 32084
- 904.827.9921

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**PROJECT PRAISE/INITIATIVE**

**2012 -2013**

**Putnam County Schools**

**Presenter: Courtney Carter**

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**Promising Practice – Putnam**



- Project PRAISE:
  - 11,000 students, 21 schools
  - 875 homeless identified in 2012
- Our Families have many needs our funding cannot support.

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**Promising Practice – Putnam**

Project Christmas



- Pairing of families to sponsor
- Sponsor is matched with a wish list from student (<\$50)
- Sponsor purchases and wraps gifts
- PRAISE staff delivers gifts with addressed thank-you note to be sent to sponsor
- PRAISE staff delivers framed certificate to sponsor in January

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**Promising Practice – Putnam**

- Program Partners
- Program Benefits
- Program Costs

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**Promising Practice – Putnam**

Back to School--Dress a PRAISE student

- Flyers distributed to sponsors
- Sponsors asked to donate \$35 gift cards to purchase pants, shirt, underwear for one student



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**Promising Practice – Putnam**

- As students are qualified and needs assessed, PRAISE staff meet with families and take shopping
- Students have new clothes to wear the first day of school
- Separate organization contributes shoe store gift cards (\$25 each)

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**PROMISING PRACTICE – PUTNAM – PROGRAM PARTNERS**

- Ministerial Associations
- Church Groups
- Women's Clubs
- Rotary, Jaycees, Lions,
- Community College
- Professional Organizations
- Probation Office
- Youth Groups (4-H, Girl/Boy Scouts)
- Businesses



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**GROUP ACTIVITY**

Exploring Homeless Education Initiatives in Florida



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**Group Activity: Instructions**

- Each person pick up an Interview sheet at table
- Pair up with a partner at your table
- Each partner interviews the other using the sheet
- After interview, discuss identified promising/best practices/initiatives with the whole group at table
- Select a reporter and share one practice/initiative that hasn't been shared with whole room
- Leave sheets on table for compilation

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Florida Homeless Education  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**INTERVIEW SHEET FOR HOMELESS EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

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**Details:**

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Program (i.e., school based, community based, grant funded, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Information:**

Program Benefits: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Partners: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group Activity**  
Report Out

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**Closing**  
Evaluations

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**Useful Websites**

Florida Department of Education Homeless Students  
<http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/titlex.asp>

National Center for Homeless Education  
[www.serve.org/nche](http://www.serve.org/nche)

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth [www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org)

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty  
[www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org)

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**Contact Information**

**Lorraine Husum Allen**  
Director  
DOE Homeless Education Program  
[Lorraine.Allen@fldoe.org](mailto:Lorraine.Allen@fldoe.org)

**Courtney Carter**  
Homeless Liaison/ Title I  
Resource Teacher  
Putnam County School District  
[ccarter@putnamschools.org](mailto:ccarter@putnamschools.org)

**Kathy Entler**  
Homeless Liaison  
Lake County Schools  
[entlerk@lake.k12.fl.us](mailto:entlerk@lake.k12.fl.us)

**Skip Forsyth**  
Program Specialist  
FDOE Homeless Education Program  
[Skip.Forsyth@fldoe.org](mailto:Skip.Forsyth@fldoe.org)

**Joann Johnson**  
Family Services Coordinator St. Johns County School District  
[johnsoj5@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:johnsoj5@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

**FDOE Homeless Education Program**  
<http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/titlex.asp>

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