



Independent Living

Recruiting for thinkLAW

Now more than ever, youth must be equipped to think critically about their constitutional rights and how these rights impact their day-to-day lives. Enhanced critical thinking skills can impact every aspect of one's life. The Independent Living unit wants to extend an invitation to youth to participate in thinkLaw.

ThinkLaw Social Justice, highlights real-life legal cases involving issues youth are already living and breathing on a daily basis. This highly-relevant subject matter will improve youth's critical thinking, writing, reading, and speak-

ing skills and increase their civic and political engagement.

Think Law builds critical thinking skills through adult facilitated sessions where youth will: argue both sides of a case, conduct investigations, settle disputes, make difficult decisions based on evidence and the law, and write persuasively.

The Independent Living unit will be offering Think Law beginning June 7th. Youth will meet every Thursday from 10-12 over the next 8 weeks at 121 S. Martin Luther King Blvd. Youth will receive a \$50 gift card up-

on completion,

If interested, please contact your assigned IL worker or Rebecca Lucente at 702-455-0573 or Rori Brantley at 702-455-8029.



Clark County, NV

May 2018

Think Law Meeting Dates

- ☺ June 7th
- ☺ June 14th
- ☺ June 21st
- ☺ June 28th
- ☺ July 5th
- ☺ July 12th
- ☺ July 19th
- ☺ July 26th

FAAYT Meetings

May	15
June	19
July	17
August	21
September	18
October	18
November	20

Foster and Adoptive Youth Together

Clark County's Youth Advisory Board, FAAYT, continues to meet the third Tuesday of the month from 4-6pm at 301 E. Clark Avenue. The group is currently discussing our system of care and areas in which they would like to see improve-

ments. Youth have been meeting with various individuals from the Department to gain a better understanding of how our system works in preparations for the 2019 legislative year. All current and former foster youth are invit-

ed to attend, If you are interested in attending or have questions, please contact Rebecca Lucente at 702-455-0573 or Rori Brantley at 702-455-8029.

Spring Break Fun-Gravady and SeaQuest

Members of the Youth Advisory Board, FAAYT, had additional fun this Spring Break with two trips into the community at Gravady Extreme Sports and SeaQuest Interactive Aquarium.

The IL unit took 22 youth to Gravady Extreme Sports for a day where they enjoyed time "flyin' high" within the trampoline park. Youth played dodge ball, jumped off elevated walls, and glided down the zip lines.

The group also experienced land and sea life at SeaQuest Interactive Aquarium. Youth were able to interact with a variety of animals: holding

starfish, petting stingrays, holding parrots, and touching snakes.

Members of the FAAYT group enjoy these social outings. The IL unit assists in planning a monthly secondary event for the Youth Advisory Board members. This provides fun and the opportunity to socialize with their peers outside of the monthly FAAYT meetings.

FAAYT is currently in the planning stages of a summer kick off event to occur June 15th at the Hollywood Aquatic Center. This event will be open to all current and former foster youth aged 14-21. Stay tuned...



IL staff, Tiffany Schmidt, prepares for the trapeze.

Something New-Financial Aid Workshops

Financial aid workshops have been facilitated by the Independent Living unit to educate our high-school aged youth about post-secondary educational and scholarship resources. The workshops have reviewed the essential higher education resources such as: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), how to develop and write a college application essay, and how to budget and plan for the costs of pursuing college, trade or vocational opportunities. Youth had the opportunity to log on and complete their FAFSA application with the help from IL staff.

Also covered were, open scholarship opportunities as well as foster youth specific scholarships (ETV and Otto Huth). The staff reviewed scholarship deadlines and application materials required for submission.

The Independent Living unit has been working with their community partners in reaching as many youth as possible to provide this essential information. The first workshop was held in the computer lab at the DFS Central office, while the second convened at Eagle Quest.

Sixteen youth participants received an expandable folder containing a copy the PowerPoint presentation which included all pertinent information for application and submission of scholarship materials. Additional materials were also provided, including a flash drive containing links and resources to other scholarship resources not covered in detail during the workshop.

Future workshops will include completing specific scholarship

applications and working with high school juniors to inform them of the importance of their grades, working with their school counselors, and participation in community activities.

In the fall, the IL Program will offer the workshop again, including how to find financial aid, completing the FAFSA, and then focusing on completing both general and former foster youth scholarship applications.

