

Children's Case Management Who's Who

CHILDREN'S CASE MANAGERS

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Halloween Fun!



FSSP: New Receipt Due Dates!

Our partners in Finance and Accounting have adjusted the due date to allow more time for processing.

As of October 21, the bi-weekly due date for receipts and invoices has been changed from Tuesdays to Fridays. Complete details, including an updated calendar were emailed to all FSSP-enrolled families on October 31. The updated calendar has also been posted to the FSSP Portal.

Fond Farewell

For five years, Colin Kenzlo has provided administrative support to the CES, SLS, CHRP, CHCBS and FSSP teams at Foothills Gateway. Although we are sad to share that Colin will be leaving us at the end of November, we wish him the best in his new endeavors!



Employee Spotlight: Q&A with Kristine Escamilla

Describe your role at Foothills Gateway. What initially drew you to FGI, and what do you like about working here?

I have been working at Foothills Gateway for 5 ½ years. As a Children's Case Manager, I aid families to get the resources and support they need. All of my professional experience is as a case manager, or with individuals with I/DD. Prior to FGI, I was a case manager in parent education for children from birth to age 5, in both in San Antonio and Fort Collins. FGI was recommended to me by a former supervisor, who thought I would be a great fit. I was drawn to FGI because I really enjoy helping and interacting with families and children. I appreciate the camaraderie of my team; because we are a small team, I am able to get to know my coworkers well. I find the work I do to be very rewarding.

Where did you grow up, and how did you end up in northern Colorado?

I grew up in San Antonio, Texas. I lived there for 25 years. I moved to Fort Collins just over 18 years ago, with my 3 cats and my 2 ½ year old daughter. I didn't know anybody when I moved here! I truly enjoy Fort Collins, and have created a wonderful life here with my two children.

What are some things you've learned from working with people with I/DD?

I've learned that everybody is different, but we all have our own struggles – some are just more obvious than others. Our struggles affect us all in different ways. We are diverse, but we are more alike than different, and everyone should be treated with respect and dignity.

What do you do for fun outside of work? What are your hobbies?

I am very creative and social. I've been a single parent for so long, that I am just now finding myself again after becoming an empty nester. I am tapping back into my creative side and who I used to be before I became a parent. I enjoy drawing, painting, coloring, reading, cooking, and spending time with friends. I love children and I enjoy babysitting. I also do a lot of volunteer work, and recently started volunteering at the Women's Care Unit at Poudre Valley Hospital.

What are some issues facing individuals with I/DD and their families that people may not be aware of?

Fort Collins and Loveland have a lot of great resources for the people with I/DDs, but families don't always tap into these resources or utilize their case management services as much as they could. I want everyone to realize how much of a resource case managers are, and that if their case manager is unable to help, we can provide other resources or supports that may aid their family.



A Conversation with Juni

BY JUNI & HOLLY, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GENEVIEVE MARMADUKE

Juni is a 13-year-old girl who lives in Larimer County with her family. She is in the 7th grade, and is bright, passionate, and has a lot to say! Juni and her mom, Holly, recently talked about what it's like to have a disability.



Having a disability can mean different things to different people. It can be a central part of someone's identity, or it could just be a piece of information that's shared between the person and their care team. Juni appreciates the diversity created by people with disabilities, sharing, "it's pretty cool to have disabilities . . . my mom says that if everyone was the same, the world would be boring."

Juni has epilepsy, a medical condition that produces seizures when electrical communication between neurons is disrupted. Last summer, she and her family utilized FSSP funds so that Juni and her brother, Skip, who also has epilepsy, could attend a camp put on by the Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado and Wyoming. "It was really cool to meet people with epilepsy, like me,"

Juni shared. She said "[while at camp] I got to ride a horse! At first I was nervous, but then I got in a good mood for some reason!" Holly shared that Juni was able to support Skip during a recent seizure, and "knew exactly what to do because of the things she learned at epilepsy camp."

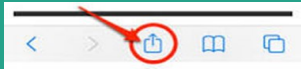
When asked about what challenges she faces, Juni shared, "sometimes it is hard for me to calm down". When this happens, Juni says it's helpful for others to use "clear, simple language, be patient, and give me space to calm down." Singing, music, art, and Disney are some of the things that bring joy into Juni's life. She isn't sure what she'd like to do when she grows up, and stated that her focus is always on getting through her current school year. However, Juni's mom, Holly, shared that she recently gave Juni a tour of Front Range Community College, and said "she has since been talking about going to college." Holly shared that "it's important to start expanding kids' world of possibilities early so they [and their families] can plan and prepare." For now, though, Juni says she's "doing good in 7th grade, because nothing is going to stop me!"



FSSP Reimbursement Tips and Payment Dates

Did you know you can create shortcuts on your smart device to more easily access the FSSP Portal?

From your iPhone or iPad:

1. Open Safari (other browsers won't work for this)
 2. Navigate to the FSSP Portal home page
(<https://fgweb.foothillsgateway.org/communitylogin>)
 3. Tap the share button at the bottom of the screen
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4. From the list of options that appear, tap "Add to Home Screen"
A dialog box will appear that includes the website's icon and URL
 5. Choose a name for the shortcut, such as "FSSP Portal", then tap "Add" in the upper right corner
 6. The shortcut will now look like an app on your device's home screen; you will still need to enter your login information to gain access to the FSSP Portal

From your Android:

1. Open Chrome
2. Navigate to the FSSP Portal home page
(<https://fgweb.foothillsgateway.org/communitylogin>)
3. Tap the menu icon (three dots in the upper right corner)
4. Choose a name for the shortcut, such as "FSSP Portal", then tap "Add"
5. The shortcut will now appear on your device's home screen; you will still need to enter your login information to gain access to the FSSP Portal

Upcoming Payment Dates

November 10, 2022 · November 28, 2022
December 9, 2022 · December 23, 2022
January 13, 2023 · January 27, 2023

FSSP: Updates from Council

The Family Support Council plays an important role in how the Family Support Services Program is implemented at Foothills Gateway. Council meets quarterly, in March, June, September and December, to discuss and plan FSSP activities and trainings, vote on procedure changes, and monitor the implementation of the program. Meetings last 90 minutes and are currently held virtually. The FSC is composed of family members of individuals with developmental disabilities, and interested community members. Individuals with disabilities are also welcome to join.

- Respite returns! The Family Support Council will once again partner with Respite Care, Inc. to offer *free* Respite (respite + hospitality) events for children enrolled in FSSP and their siblings. Respite will resume in December. Stay tuned for more information!
- The FSSP Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 has been completed and sent via email to all enrolled families. It can also be viewed here: [Foothills-Gateway-FSSP-ANNUAL-REPORT-FY22-23.pdf](https://foothillsgateway.org/foothills-gateway-fssp-annual-report-fy22-23.pdf) (foothillsgateway.org)
- Council is looking for new members! Please contact Jeneen Viens (jeneenv@foothillsgateway.org) if you are interested.



Fun at The Farm



FYI: Hippotherapy

Hippotherapy is the use of horseback riding for therapeutic or rehabilitative treatment. Developed in the 1960s, it can be beneficial for individuals with autism, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, head injuries, and behavioral and psychiatric disorders. While hippotherapy is well known to improve coordination, balance, and strength it also has other physical, cognitive, and psychological benefits, including improving postural symmetry, reducing abnormal muscle tone, improving gross motor skills and range of motion, improving respiration and circulation, enhancing sensory integration, supporting speech and language functions, reducing feelings of self-consciousness, and supporting emotional control.

Hippotherapy can be utilized as a treatment tool or strategy by speech, occupational, and/or physical therapists, and is typically covered by Medicaid or your private insurance. It is different from therapeutic riding, which is essentially adapted horseback riding lessons, and typically not covered by Medicaid or private insurance. There are hippotherapy providers in Fort Collins and Loveland. For a list of local hippotherapy providers, contact your case manager!



Upcoming Events

Foothills Gateway Events

- **FSSP Skate Party · January 7, 2023 10 AM-NOON· Rollerland 324 S. Link Ln Fort Collins**
Free to all families enrolled in FSSP!
Sponsored by the FGI Family Support Council RSVP: jeneenv@foothillsgateway.org

Community Events

- **Mosaic Compass · Webinars and Family Connection Group**
Webinars are held the third Tuesday of each month (November 15, December 20, January 17)
Family Connection Groups are held the fourth Tuesday of each month (Nov 22, Dec 27, Jan 24)
Sign up for email information [Mosaic in Northern Colorado \(list-manage.com\)](https://list-manage.com)
- **Connection Call for Adults with I/DD · The Arc of Larimer County**
Weekly on Thursdays from 10-11 AM Registration required!
[Connection Call - for Adults living with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities - The Arc \(thearcoflarimercounty.org\)](https://thearcoflarimercounty.org)
- **Night on the Town · Downtown Loveland**
Second Friday of every month · 5-9 PM
Take stroll, grab a bite, or enjoy live music in downtown Loveland! visitlovelandco.org
- **Elf the Musical presented by Fort Collins Children's Theater · Lincoln Center**
November 18, 7 PM · November 19, 2 PM and 7 PM · November 20, 2 PM
More information at visittcollins.com

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SPONSORED BY THE FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL

January 7, 2023 10 AM-NOON	ROLLERLAND 324 S. LINK LANE FORT COLLINS RSVP: jeneenv@foothillsgateway.org
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