



Member of the Coastal Tri-Counties Child Abuse Prevention Coalition

September 13, 2012 ♦ 10am - 12pm

Buellton Recreation Center ♦ 301 Second Street, Jonata School ♦ Buellton, CA

FIVE YEAR PLAN WORKGROUP MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Deborah Holmes welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Deborah stated that this was not an official meeting but a workgroup to help with the development of the Santa Barbara County Five Year Plan.

Attendance: Ashleigh Erving, Barbara Finch, Deborah Holmes, Teresa Rodriguez-Johnes, Amy Krueger, Alma Marquez, Ann McCarty, Arcelia Sencion

Staff: Liz Drake

2. System Improvement Process (SIP) Meeting & Feedback

Amy Krueger thanked those who attended the System Improvement Plan (SIP) meeting on September 10th. The County Self-Assessment is complete, which is the large process of gathering input from all of the county's community stakeholders and evaluating how they're faring in relation to outcome goals. The county is now working on the SIP, which is where they take all of the feedback and decide which areas to target based on performance. It was decided that the following areas will be targeted:

- a. **No recurrence of maltreatment** – This is a carryover from the last SIP. The county is currently at 90.7% on this measure and the federal standard is 94.6%. Since there's so much energy around this topic, it was decided that the county would move forward with strengthening what's already working and add to it. The group discussed the improvement goals and strategies for this measure and the following conclusions were made:
 - i. **Improvement Goal 3.0 Enhance and expand existing prevention/early intervention strategies that are working to prevent recurrence of maltreatment.**
 1. **Strategy 3.1 Expand the Differential Response – Front Porch Program to include service delivery by the Family Resource Centers.** Amy stated that this was accomplished; however, there are still some components, such as consistency with referrals, which could use improvement.
 2. **Strategy 3.2 Define and enhance/expand the use of existing already proven techniques to reduce child abuse and neglect.** Amy mentioned that the milestones for this strategy include providing resource information to social work staff for use as a client referral source, sharing information/cross training between agencies, and identifying the roles/responsibilities of participating partners. Those in attendance agreed that there needs to be follow up on creating a referral source and that the information isn't readily available in a way that Child Welfare Services staff can access it. Deborah added that the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) has pledged to pull together information on resources within the county in order to collaborate more effectively with Child Welfare Services (CWS). She stated that she will follow up with Rubayi on the list she created for the Orfalea Foundation Grant. Ashleigh Erving stated that 211 may be the ideal candidate and has the capacity to do this with their new system. Ann McCarty and Barbara Finch shared concern that although 211 is very useful for

finding resources, the relationships between the agencies and CWS are very important and need to be developed. In conclusion, this strategy was to be determined to be an area of needed improvement over the next five years.

ii. Improvement Goal 4.0 Introduce more evidence based Home Visitation service delivery models into prevention and intervention service delivery systems.

1. **Strategy 4.2 Define evidenced-based home visitation models that have proven effective in mitigating child abuse/neglect and expand the use of such models as a tool for prevention and a resource for intervention services.** Amy explained that the feedback she received at the SIP meeting was to keep working on this strategy. Although the county is not doing badly in this area, there is more work that can be done as far as identifying resources and then coordinating and using them. Since safety is the number one outcome goal for CWS, everyone felt that it was important to work cooperatively to ensure that families involved in the system have knowledge of and access to all available resources.

Deborah asked if anyone else had thoughts or impressions from the SIP meeting that might inform the discussion of moving forward as a Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC). The following feedback was given:

- Teresa stated that although there were a lot of great ideas, her impression was that there is still work that needs to be done around prevention. Even though the protective factors framework has been adopted, there are still several people who aren't aware of what it is. The challenge is how to get the information out to everyone in CWS, Probation, other county agencies and community based organizations. Teresa also mentioned that there was discussion around supporting fathers and suggested expanding the work that's already been done. Ann agreed and added that it would be nice to have a consultant or somebody that could go to entities involved with the CAPC and speak about what the different components are and what the different agencies do. Ann also suggested CWS opening its doors to different agencies in order to do cross training.
- Teresa, Ann and Deborah mentioned that there are not enough resources to support the foster parent program. Ann suggested having a foster care advocate who works in CWS and focuses only on foster health. This person would be a link between the caseworker and the foster family. Deborah stated that her table had a passionate discussion about this as well and feels that it is relevant to the prevention focus. Focusing on the foster parents will help the social/emotional well being of the child, and collaborating with CWS is important. Deborah stated that there seems to be a gap in mental health services for these children, especially for those under five years old. Amy explained that that good news is that the Katie A. settlement actions will start in January and should help close this gap.
- Arcelia stated that parent mentors and leaders were discussed at her table and apply to the aforementioned strategies. Parent leaders/mentors are an important component of prevention.
- Deborah shared that she heard Parents Anonymous discussed in conjunction with parent leadership at the SIP meeting. This may help the CAPC's effort to move parent leadership forward. Barbara mentioned that Parents Anonymous has done wonderful work and they're very structured in what they provide, so it's something to put on the front burner; however, they don't have the contract with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) anymore. Parent Services Project (PSP) has the OCAP contract and is looking to choose several counties across the state to support. Our county may be one of them. OCAP really wants to see a Child Welfare Services link. The clearer we are about what we want to accomplish in this area, the better. Barbara added that whether PSP helps or not, taking parent leadership to the next level should be included in the SIP. Ventura County has been very successful in engaging parents who have been through the CWS system to help those who are going through it.
- Teresa addressed what she heard regarding Probation's role in this process. The representatives from Probation expressed that they feel there are no advocates for their clients and often have nobody to support them. The parents are sometimes less motivated to reunify because they feel the child is out of control, violent and/or a sex offender. Probation has a long list of challenges many haven't considered and it is a challenge to engage them in this process. Barbara suggested increasing conversations with Probation and providing them with information and resources that may help. Barbara added that in Ventura County, Probation is working together with CWS in order to identify common geographic areas where both Probation and CWS clients reside. Once the common areas are identified, they are looking to provide services for those communities. This would be an ideal place for Family Resource Centers; however, funding may be an issue.

3. Matching CAPC Priorities with the Five Year Plan Needs Assessment & Analysis

- a. **Review Priorities from Previous Three Year Plan** - Deborah distributed copies of the 2009-2012 Santa Barbara County Three-Year Plan for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention. She reviewed the priorities on page 25 and the outcome matrix on Page 28. Deborah stated that this was revisited before Katharina left. At that time, the CAPC decided they would continue moving forward with the current priorities. Deborah asked for feedback from the group and if anyone had anything they wanted to add, delete or edit after attending the SIP meeting. The following items were discussed:
- Mental health services for children needs to be on the forefront. In terms of prevention, if children get help early, it's so much easier for them and the parents to cope.
 - The target population of families with children who have special needs should be strengthened.
 - High quality affordable child care is an important part of prevention. There have been improvements and the Race to the Top grant is funding the development of a rating system; however, need exceeds capacity in our county. There is a need for 35,000 slots and total capacity is 19,000. Also, there is no automatic shoe-in for foster parents to get affordable child care. State preschools are now charging and some parents are choosing to keep their children at home because they can't afford it. Lastly, there is no central eligibility list anymore.
 - In terms of re-entry into the CWS system, family reunification statistics have improved. Reunification need to continue as a focus.
 - Domestic violence services need to be increased and should be identified as a separate item in the SIP outcome matrix. If Family Resource Centers could have a licensed therapist on board, perhaps they could deal with this issue as it comes up with clients.
 - There needs to be follow-up with organizations that are receiving funding to make sure the identified services are being provided.
 - The words abuse and neglect should be used together in the outcome matrix.
- b. **Parent Partnerships** – Deborah reported that parent partnerships came up at the SIP meeting and the CAPC has some exciting opportunities that Barbara mentioned. Deborah led a discussion on this topic and the below areas were determined to be important strategies in prevention plan:
- Parent partnership is evidence-based and impacts reunification. Amy mentioned that developing an alumni group from the Family Drug Treatment Court may prove successful in supporting other parents in the program. Ventura County has had success with parent mentors working with CWS through Parents Anonymous.
 - The protective factors need to continue as a strategy for parent leaders as they work with parents who have gone through the CWS system.
- c. **Father Engagement** – Deborah asked if anyone had thoughts regarding father engagement in regards to the Five Year Plan. Barbara explained that since both the parent partnerships and father engagement are happening county-wide, it seems like it would be a good idea to include both in the Five Year Plan since the Five Year Plan drives prevention funding. Teresa asked if targeting fathers is an acceptable strategy for funding under prevention. Barbara replied that there are different levels of participation and that the evidence-based curriculum, *Supporting Father Involvement* is being considered as an approved parenting intervention for CWS families in a couple of counties. Teresa stated that if this can be braided into prevention funding, then First 5 may look to see if it's a strategy they want to fund. Barbara stated that because SFI is evidence-based, it would be good for the county's list of resources. Teresa said that she feels SFI would be a great strategy to discuss in the prevention funding and would be willing to discuss it further before the Request for Proposal (RFP) is complete. Amy added that that she believes father engagement is included as a strategy for reunification and also intends to get it into the SIP as one of the strategies. As far as funding, Amy added that she doesn't think father engagement has to be specifically mentioned.

4. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm. The next regular CAPC meeting is October 18, 2012.