



# Annual Report 2016-2018



Children's Network





## COUNTYWIDE VISION STATEMENT

We envision a complete county that capitalizes on the diversity of its people, its geography, and its economy to create a broad range of choices for its residents in how they live, work, and play.

We envision a vibrant economy with a skilled workforce that attracts employers who seize the opportunities presented by the County's unique advantages and provide the jobs that create countywide prosperity.

We envision a sustainable system of high quality education, community health, public safety, housing, retail, recreation, arts and culture, and infrastructure, in which development complements our natural resources and environment.

We envision a model community which is governed in an open and ethical manner, where great ideas are replicated and brought to scale, and all sectors work collaboratively to reach shared goals.

From our valleys, across our mountains, and into our deserts, we envision a county that is a destination for visitors and a home for anyone seeking a sense of community and the best life has to offer.

### **Children's Network would like to thank the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and Chief Executive Officer for their continued support of the Children's Policy Council**



**Curt Hagman**  
Chairman,  
Fourth District Supervisor



**Josie Gonzales**  
Vice Chair,  
Fifth District Supervisor



**Robert A. Lovingood**  
First District Supervisor



**Janice Rutherford**  
Second District Supervisor



**Dawn Rowe**  
Third District Supervisor



**Gary McBride**  
Chief Executive Officer

## INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Children's Network, we are thankful for the continued support of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and the County Executive Officer. We are also thankful to our many valuable partners who are working towards a better tomorrow for our children.

We are especially appreciative of our continued partnership with First 5 San Bernardino. Without their support many of our projects, programs, campaigns and events, that are highlighted in this annual report, would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Janki Patel  
Children's Network Officer

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1985, the San Bernardino County Grand Jury recommended an inter-agency council be established to study and coordinate services for the children in San Bernardino County. The following year, 1986, the Children's Network was formed. On Oct. 3, 1988, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) formally established Children's Network and approved the Powers and Duties of the Children's Policy Council (Council) in an effort to improve outcomes for children and their families.

Children's Network helps to establish and support partnerships with other public and private child-serving agencies throughout San Bernardino County and beyond. The Council serves as the directing board of the Children's Network and is comprised of representatives from the Board of Supervisors and child-serving County departments and private sector agencies.

Under the Council's guidance, Children's Network works to improve coordination, planning, communication and collaboration among children and youth-serving agencies; identifying gaps and overlaps in services; providing a forum for clarifying perceptions and expectations among and between County agencies and the community, setting priorities for inter-agency projects; implementing collaborative programs, both public and private, to better serve children and youth.

Much like the San Bernardino County Community Indicators Report of 2018, which views our community as a system of inter-connected elements, this year's Children's Network Annual Report will focus on the connectivity and coordination between the child serving agencies in San Bernardino County. We will showcase our projects, programs and accomplishments as collaborative efforts made possible through close working relationships with County and community partners.

### **Vision of the Children's Policy Council**

We envision strong, sustainable systems that ensure good outcomes for children in San Bernardino County.

### **Mission of the Children's Policy Council**

Members will work together to improve the lives of San Bernardino County children through communication, coordination and collaboration.



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### Children's Policy Council

Children's Policy Council provides overall direction to the partnerships established through the Children's Network, with the intention of improving services to vulnerable children and their families. The Children's Policy Council was established by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18986.10 and is composed of department heads or designees of San Bernardino County agencies and other non-County organizations that either provide services to children or administer such programs. Council members include representatives from each of the following agencies:

- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
- Assistant Executive Officer, Human Services
- Behavioral Health
- Board of Supervisors
- California State University San Bernardino
- Chief Executive Officer
- Child Care Resource Center
- Child Support Services
- Children and Family Services
- Children's Assessment Center
- Children's Fund
- County Counsel
- County Library
- County Superintendents of Schools
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (C.A.S.A.)
- District Attorney's Office
- First 5 San Bernardino
- Inland Empire Health Plan
- Inland Regional Center
- Loma Linda University
- Molina Health Care Plan
- Office of Homeless Services
- Preschool Services Department
- Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court
- Probation Department
- Public Defender's Office
- Public Health
- Sheriff's Department
- Transitional Assistance Department
- United Way 2-1-1



## Committees, Boards and Collaborations

### Administrative Joint Management Steering Committee (AJMSC)

The Children's Policy Council is currently tasked with making recommendations to the San Bernardino County CEO regarding new group homes, changes/expansions to existing group homes for children and also legislation effecting the out-of-home placement for all children in San Bernardino County. In an effort to keep the Council and the CEO current on changes to the Group Home Continuum of Care Reform, the Children's Network Officer, or Associate Network Officer, attends the Administrative Joint Management Steering Committee. AJMSC was established in response to Katie A. to ensure that Children and Family Services (CFS) and Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) collaboratively provide regular mental health screenings to every child with an open CFS case and, when necessary, appropriate mental health assessment and/or treatment. In July 2016, CFS and DBH expanded the scope of this committee to include oversight of all CFS/DBH/Probation collaborations and the implementation of AB403 Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) and AB1299, which makes it easier for the mental health money to follow a child in the foster care system.

AB403 was designed to ensure that children in the foster care system grow up in home-based settings by providing foster children with access to mental health treatment and transitional supports in all types of placements. To accomplish this, all foster families, including relative, adoptive, county licensed and Foster Family Agencies (FFA) will convert to resource families, who go through the same approval, home study and training process. FFA's will be accredited and certified to provide mental health services to children in their care when needed or partner with a provider who can. Counties can contract with FFA's to provide the same mental health services to other resource families.

Group homes will be required to transform into accredited Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs, which will provide individualized, intensive treatment designed to transition the child back to a home-based setting within 6 months. Mental health services are expected to remain in place for at least 30 days after the transition to a new placement to eliminate gaps in treatment. Another important CCR change is the rate structure, which will now be related to the child's need for services, not their age, and will have the same home-based foster care rates for all resource families. AB 1299 provides for the presumptive transfer of responsibility from the county of original jurisdiction to the foster child's county of residence for proving or arranging mental health services for foster youth.

### Court Appointed Special Advocates (C.A.S.A.) Board Of Directors

The mission of C.A.S.A. of San Bernardino County is to improve the quality of life for foster youth and youth on probation through stable and consistent advocacy and mentoring provided by trained community volunteers. In 1984, Judge Patrick Morris established the program in San Bernardino County to serve the growing number of children entering the county's child welfare system. Because Children's Network houses a Mentoring Resource Specialist, the Network Officer is an active member of their Board to ensure that the mission and goals of the Network align with and enhance the services that they provide.

The C.A.S.A. CEO is the vice chair of the Mentoring Taskforce which steers the work of the Mentoring Resource Specialist. The two groups have worked collaboratively on a number of projects that are referred to under the Program Description of the Mentoring Taskforce. Children's Network also provides training to C.A.S.A. volunteers on child abuse prevention, the ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children). We have enjoyed a 30 year working relationship with this organization and look forward to working with them well into the future.

## COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COLLABORATIONS

### **Children's Fund Board of Directors**

In 1988, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors established the Children's Fund as the non-profit component of Children's Network. It was designed to be a true private-public partnership. Every dollar raised by the Fund goes directly into a trust account to meet the needs of children that are at risk. Goods and services that are not available through other agencies are provided by Children's Fund. Although they are no longer a component of Children's Network, there still exists a strong, collaborative relationship. The CEO of Children's Fund is an active member of the Children's Policy Council and the Children's Network Officer is an appointed member of their Board of Directors.

### **Children's Fund Program Committee**

In keeping with the mission of Children's Fund, the Program Committee seeks to invest in organizations and programs that benefit San Bernardino County at-risk youth primarily in the areas of prevention of child abuse, early intervention, homelessness, substance abuse and social and personal development. Non-profit organizations, schools and government agencies that serve at-risk children are invited to submit a proposal to the Program Committee for a grant to help their needs. The Program Committee meets bi-monthly to review the requests and to determine whether the proposed project fits within the Children's Fund guidelines. The Children's Network Officer participates on this committee along with Children's Fund staff and various other community partners that have an interest in the well-being of at-risk children.

This committee is also interested in the gaps in services and needs, especially in remote areas such as Adelanto. A recommendation for the committee was to conduct a needs assessment of the High Desert area, with a focus on Adelanto. A summary of The High Desert Stakeholders Forum is highlighted in this report under Children's Network Collaborative accomplishments on page 50.

### **Children's Assessment Center Governing Board**

The Children's Assessment Center of San Bernardino is a public-private partnership between San Bernardino County and Loma Linda University Children's Hospital established in 1994. They provide forensic interviews and evidentiary medical examinations in the evaluation of child abuse allegations. They coordinate services in a child-focused atmosphere, thus reducing trauma to child victims and their families.

The main purpose of the Governing Board is to review and advise on staffing and funding concerns. Membership includes representation at a directors level from law enforcement, Children and Family Services, Loma Linda Medical Center Pediatrics, Public Health, Behavioral Health, Children's Fund, Children's Network and of course, the Children's Assessment Center Forensic Pediatrician and Program Manager.

### **Domestic Violence Council**

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors acknowledged this newly-formed Council with a proclamation recognizing their formation and importance to the community at the April 2016 Board meeting. The first official meeting of the Council took place in May 2016. The Council was formed as a call-to-action that arose out of the Domestic Violence Summit hosted by the San Bernardino Superior Court. The Council is tasked with ensuring countywide coordination and enhancement of domestic violence education and prevention efforts.

As a member of the Council, Children's Network will address the 'effects of violence' on children. All marketing material and trainings are approved by Children's Policy Council prior to dissemination. Our current campaign on the effects of violence on children includes posters, billboards, brochures, trainings and bus advertising.



### **Foster Youth Advisory Council**

In 2008, the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and the DBH director took action at the Children's Policy Council meeting to form the Foster Care Advisory Council. The Council took on the task of coordinating the Foster Care Summit. The primary purpose of the Summit was to address the needs of children in San Bernardino County that were placed in out-of-home care. The Council continued to meet monthly after the first Summit in order to devise solutions to the needs that were identified by the youth at the Summit.

### **Head Start Shared Governance Board**

The purpose of Head Start Shared Governance Board is to serve as a representative of and on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County in the development, participation and monitoring of Head Start shared decision making with the Head Start Policy Council. This includes the development, review and approval of various program procedures and objectives as described in the Federal Head Start Performance Standards.

The Board is comprised of the following: one member of the SB County BOS; the Network Officer for the Children's Network; the Superintendent of County Schools; the director of Public Health or County Health Officer; the director of Behavioral Health; and three advisory representatives from the Head Start Policy Council.

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Foster Youth Services was chairing a similar meeting to address the needs of foster youth. Many of the same County departments were being represented at both meetings. A decision was made to combine the two committees with three co-chairs: Children and Family Services, SB County Superintendent of Schools and Children's Network. This council continues to meet monthly to discuss needs and solutions and to share resources.

### **Interagency Placement Council (IPC)**

IPC is a legislatively required county meeting for the purpose of providing a forum for partners to discuss service and placement options for children and youth who are dependents and wards. Membership includes a supervisory personnel or designee from the following departments: Children and Family Services, Department of Behavioral Health, Probation, County Schools, Inland Regional Center and Children's Network.

Beginning in 2017 with implementation of the AB403 Continuum of Care Reform, as described in AJMSC, community-based organizations that provide specific programs will be invited to attend IPC. They will be encouraged to present their available options in order to meet the needs of the children in the timeliest manner possible.

## COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COLLABORATIONS

### **Child Death Review Team (CDRT)**

The Child Death Review Team is an inter-agency, multi-disciplinary team comprised of professionals who are knowledgeable about child abuse and neglect from specific county agencies and the private sector.

The purpose of the CDRT is to:

- Improve public policy and public safety relating to child welfare.
- Increase the thoroughness and effectiveness of system processes related to the following children's services: child protection, public health, prevention, intervention, investigation and legal representation of abused/neglected children.
- Support cooperation and communication between agencies providing services to children at risk of abuse/neglect.
- Ultimately improves the delivery of services to children and families in San Bernardino County.

The data trends observed during the review of the cases directly impacts what child safety campaigns Children's Network will highlight. For example, for the past few years, we have seen a rise in the number of sleep related deaths in infants in unsafe sleep environments. After observing such a trend in our case reviews, Children's Network put together an awareness campaign that informs parents about the safe sleeping practices with their infants.

The goal of CDRT is to review all child deaths, through 17 years of age, which fall within the criteria established by Government Code 27491, Penal Code Section 1164.9 of the Child Abuse Reporting Law, and as determined by our local CDRT. CDRT will continue to track the data trends seen during the CDRT case reviews and hopefully see a decline in the number of cases we review related to any awareness campaign that is highlighted.

### **First 5 San Bernardino Advisory Committee**

The First 5 San Bernardino Advisory Committee was created to satisfy the mandate of Proposition 10 legislation. The function of the Advisory Committee is to provide information to the Commission for the use in making its policy and funding decisions. The Committee is composed of diverse community representation reflecting the diverse backgrounds and abilities of San Bernardino County and represent different ethnic, linguistic, cultural, socio-economic, religious, geographical and/or currently under-serviced communities. The Children's Network Officer has been an active member of this committee since its inception.



## The 30th Annual Children's Network Conference

Children's Network hosted our 30th annual conference on Wednesday, September 14 and Thursday, September 15, 2016, at the Ontario Convention Center.

### Workshops

Over 500 social workers, mental health professionals, counselors, health care providers, resource parents, kin caregivers, teachers, law enforcement and safety personnel attended the 35 workshops offered this year. Some of the topics covered in this year's breakout sessions included: fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, prenatal drug exposure in children, mentoring, the connection between animal abuse and human violence, autism movement therapy, mindfulness, positive psychology and purpose, state resources to help victims of crimes, support for kin caregivers, latest trends among the young, and human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

This year, 348 attendees provided valuable feedback by completing overall evaluations regarding their experience at the conference. Approximately eighty-eight percent (88%) of the respondents reported feeling 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the workshop variety. Eighty-nine percent (89%) felt 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the content of the 35 workshops and ninety-four percent (94%) 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the content of the workshops was informative. Ninety-two percent (92%) of the respondents 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the conference raised their awareness on issues that impact their jobs and/or life. Additionally, ninety-three percent (93%) of the respondents 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that they gained additional knowledge on topics that will help them in their job and/or life. Children's Network will continue to recruit and present information on topics relevant to our attendees and the variety of settings they work or live in.



### Keynote Speakers



Day one's keynote speaker was **John Quiñones**, journalist, host, and creator of the highly-rated, hidden camera ethical dilemma newsmagazine, *What Would You Do?* Mr. Quiñones shared stories of his childhood with the attendees. John explained that as a child of migrant farm workers, people expected him to go into a manual trade; however, he really

wanted to go to college. John credits a teacher in helping him take the necessary steps to reach his goals. This teacher encouraged John to apply for the federally funded Upward Bound program, which afforded John with the opportunity to attend college. He is hopeful that the stories he shares as a journalist will bring awareness to topics people do not often talk about and will help change the lives of others.



Day two's keynote speaker was "Rapping Dad" **Derek Clark**.

At the age of five, Derek's mother and step father abandoned him at a psychiatric hospital. They refused to take any sort of parenting classes to learn how to better parent their child, leaving him to grow up in the foster care system. Derek went through a number of foster homes until he met a foster family who would not give up on him. He told the attendees how his foster father instilled in him the love of music and taught him to play a variety of instruments; both of these have helped Derek get through life. He talked of using his rapping skills as an outlet when he was a rebellious teenager and how he now uses these skills to relay the positive messages he sends out via YouTube.

“Keynote speakers were amazing and inspirational. They instill hope.”

“I am very grateful to have this experience. The resources will help me serve my clients better.”

“I will share some of my conference workshop experience to my co-workers. The conference was very informative. Thank you!”

“Great conference. Clearly very organized, ran smoothly. Great, educated speakers, presenters. Shared some awesome and helpful information and ways to integrate strategies and tips into everyday life.”

“What a wonderful experience this was! The content was thought-provoking and really aimed at the core/critical issues surrounding authentically supporting and engaging all children.”

### Youth in Attendance

New this year was the approximately 100 youth who were in attendance on the second day of the conference. The youth were from various Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Centers in San Bernardino County and students from the Law and Society program at San Bernardino High School. There were workshops geared specifically for the youth. The feedback from both the youth and general conference attendees about the youth's presence at the conference was positive and suggestions were offered for future youth-related workshops.

### Overall Conference Evaluation

In addition to attendee satisfaction with conference workshops and keynote speakers, Children's Network also obtained attendees' feedback regarding their overall conference experience. Ninety-three percent (93%) of the respondents agreed that the conference met their expectations and ninety-two percent (92%) felt it was worth their time and money. Moreover, ninety-eight percent (98%) of respondents were satisfied with the overall organization of the conference. Ninety-six percent (96%) of the respondents reported they would recommend the Children's Network Conference to others with ninety-five percent (95%) reporting they would like to attend a future Children's Network Conference. As part of the overall evaluation, respondents were asked if they had previously attended; fifty-two percent (52%) of the respondents reported this was their first time attending. For those that previously attended; most have attended at least three, while others reported at least 10 past conferences, and one reporting they have attended 22 previous Children's Network Conferences.

Through this annual regional conference, we aim to provide a meaningful learning opportunity to as many people as possible. The exhibit hall offered a variety of resources and the 35 diverse workshops provided great learning opportunities to attendees of all ages. Celebrating our 30th conference was a milestone and shows a continued interest in this annual training event.

## Children's Network Conference Sponsors:

Due to the generous contributions from a variety of funders and supporters, Children's Network was able to successfully celebrate our 30th annual conference. Without these continued partnerships we would not be able to provide such valuable information and resources on a wide variety of topics. The support of our funders helps to make this a quality conference, with something for everyone. This year's funders included:

First 5 San Bernardino  
Children's Policy Council  
Children's Fund  
Crittenton Services for Children and Families  
Inland Empire Health Plan  
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital – Department of Pediatrics

Children and Family Services  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (Sponsored the Youth's Attendance)  
Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation  
Department of Behavioral Health  
Kaiser Permanente  
Molina Healthcare





### The 31st Annual Children's Network Conference

Children's Network hosted our 31st annual conference on Wednesday, September 20 and Thursday, September 21, 2017, at the Ontario Convention Center.

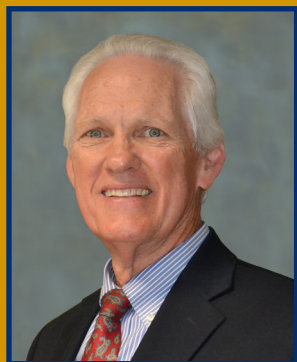
#### Workshops

Over 500 social workers, mental health professionals, counselors, health care providers, resource parents, teachers, law enforcement and safety personnel attended the 48 workshops offered this year. Some of the topics covered in the breakout sessions this year included: early childhood development, trauma informed care, father involvement, child abuse prevention, mentoring, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, support and resources for kinship families, human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, and resources for parents' and students' rights in their school.

This year, 285 attendees provided valuable feedback by completing the overall evaluations of their experience at the conference. Approximately ninety-four percent (94%) of the respondents reported feeling 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the workshop variety offered at the conference this year. Additionally, ninety-four percent (94%) of the attendees felt 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the content of the 48 workshops and ninety-five percent (95%) of those attendees felt that the workshops were informative. Ninety-one percent (91%) of the respondents 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the conference raised their awareness and felt they gained information on issues that impact their jobs and/or life. Children's Network will continue to recruit for presenters who have topics relevant to our attendees and the variety of settings they work or live in.



#### Keynote Speakers



**Dr. Ronald J. Powell** was the keynote speaker for day one of the conference. Dr. Powell is the former chief executive officer of the California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions and has over 40 years of experience in public education. Dr. Powell began his keynote address by discussing data related

to children, trauma and the ACEs Study. He said that trauma is more common in children than we first thought and that sixty-six percent (66%) of the population has had at least one traumatic event before the age of 18. The overall message that Dr. Powell wanted the attendees to take away was that adults need to develop nurturing relationships with everyone they come into contact with, especially children. He ended his address by saying that a child's biology is not their biography and by having caring and supportive adults in their lives, children can change the trajectory of their lives and if we, "save one life, we are saving the world."



**Tim Burns** was the keynote for the second day of the conference. Tim is an educator and author whose background includes 40 years of experience as a high school teacher, counselor, program facilitator, university instructor and presenter. Tim's keynote

address focused on the anatomy of possibility and the neural foundations of happy, healthy childhood development. Tim's presentation was full of activities that got the attendees moving and interacting with other people at their tables. Much of his presentation focused on the neurobiology of childhood development and how adult interactions with children, especially in their first three years of life, help to develop the foundation for development for the rest of their lives. He pointed out that children growing in today's environments have almost 2.5 hours of screen time which can affect brain development. Tim's final message was that there are three non-negotiable requirements for proper brain development: nurture, feedback and play.

"These couple days were so well worth the time and money. I have information to really make some changes in how I work with children and community."

"Always leave feeling I have information to share."

"Love this conference!  
It is a treat for me each year."

"This conference was even better than last years.  
Great set of vendors, presenters and topics."

### Overall Conference Evaluation

In addition to attendee satisfaction with conference workshops and keynote speakers, Children's Network also obtained attendees' feedback regarding their overall conference experience. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of attendees felt that the conference met their expectations and ninety-two percent (92%) of the attendees felt that it was worth their time and money. Furthermore, ninety-six percent (96%) of the attendees were satisfied with their overall experience of the conference and ninety-four percent (94%) would recommend this conference to their colleagues. Lastly, ninety-three percent (93%) of conference goers stated that they would be interested in attending next year's conference. As part of the overall evaluations, attendees were asked if they had previously attended a Children's Network Conference; eleven percent (11%) of the respondents stated that it was their first time attending the conference, thirty-two percent (32%) had attended at least three times, and we had four people that have attended over 20 conferences.

### Youth in Attendance

Last year, we opened our conference up to 100 youth to attend and found that to be a huge success, not only amongst the youth, but the adults in attendance as well. This year, we were able to invite 100 youth on each day of the conference. Those in attendance were Transitional Age Youth (TAY) in San Bernardino County, students from the Law and Society program at San Bernardino High School, and youth from various high schools in the county. The youth were able to experience the whole conference, had a workshop presented to them by the keynote speakers, and were able to visit the exhibit hall. The feedback from the youth and general conference attendees about the youth attending was positive. Many attendees found that including the youth in the conference was a great addition and an excellent educational opportunity for them. The youth enjoyed themselves and said that the experience was great.

# CHILDREN'S NETWORK CONFERENCE

## Children's Network Conference Sponsors:

Due to the generous contributions from a variety of funders and supporters, Children's Network was able to successfully celebrate our 31st annual conference. Without these continued partnerships we would not be able to provide such valuable information and resources on a wide variety of topics. The support of our funders helps to make this a quality conference, with something for everyone. This year's funders included:

First 5 San Bernardino  
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Inland Empire Health Plan  
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital – Department of Pediatrics

Children and Family Services  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (Sponsored the Youth's Attendance)  
Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation  
Behavioral Health  
Kaiser Permanente  
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools





## The 19th Annual 'Shine a Light' on Child Abuse Awards Breakfast

On Thursday, April 6, 2017, the Valencia Room at the National Orange Show Events Center was filled to capacity when Children's Network held its 19th Annual Shine a Light on Child Abuse Awards Breakfast. This annual awards breakfast honors individuals and organizations for their outstanding dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of at-risk children in our communities. The breakfast is a way to "shine a light" on those who are making a difference in the lives of children and youth. Sixteen individuals and organizations that make a difference by selflessly giving and going that extra mile for at-risk children in San Bernardino County were honored this year.

The event started with welcome and introductions from Kathy Turnbull, Network Officer, and acknowledgment of our partners who support this event. Kathy then introduced Sheriff McMahon who took a moment to recognize the work between community partners and the multi-disciplinary departments within the County that work together, every day, to ensure children are being kept safe. The awards portion started off with the presentation of the Lifetime Advocate Award to Principal Assistant County Counsel, Michael Markel. Mike has dedicated his life to helping children and families by working behind the scenes, bringing together multiple departments to make sure that children in San Bernardino County are being adequately taken care of.

The celebration continued with guests clapping and cheering as the remaining sixteen honorees' stories of commitment and compassion to helping others were told. As each honoree walked across the stage, they were greeted by Third District Supervisor James Ramos, Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, field representatives from the First and Second districts, Children's Network Officer Kathy Turnbull and Associate Network Officer Linda Revoner. Each honoree was given a beautiful engraved plaque with a blue ribbon on it signifying this acknowledgment as an effort in preventing child abuse.

Once the awards were completed, Kathy invited Deputy Director Nicky Hackett to present a special in-memoriam plaque to the late Jeff Luther's wife. Nicky spoke about Jeff's influence on Children and Family Services and thanked his wife for all the work he had done. Kathy then introduced Deputy Director Teri Self who was accompanied with the K-9 Special Victims Comfort Dogs, Dozer and Lupe, and the CAC's comfort dog, Mac. This was an opportunity for the attendees to see the dogs that are taken into court with children when they have to testify. It was very well liked by those in attendance.

In addition to the honorees, sixteen students were awarded scholarship checks from Children's Fund. The scholarship recipients included current and former foster and probation youth who continue to demonstrate their ability to work through the challenges they have encountered. The youth were proud to be honored for their hard work and beamed as they walked across the stage to receive their certificate and scholarship funds.

As has become tradition, the morning ended with a performance of *This Little Light of Mine* by the Mill Center Head Start State Preschool children. As the lights dimmed, the children held glow sticks, the guests shined their light pens, and the children and guests joined together in singing the signature song. It was a touching and enjoyable moment.



Lifetime Advocate  
Michael Markel



## SHINE A LIGHT BREAKFAST

This year's additional 'Shine a Light' on Child Abuse honorees included:

**Golden Eagle Moving Services**  
Business

**Jennifer Karns**  
Children and Family Services

**Darren Guentert**  
Children and Family Services

**Faith Powell**  
Community Partner - Youth

**The Open Door**  
Community Partner

**Frank Kelly**  
Education

**Susan Culbertson**  
Education

**Stacey Chapedelaine**  
Law Enforcement

**David Foy**  
Legal

**Robin Ferguson**  
Medical

**Michelle Coit**  
Probation

**Nikole Wilkins**  
Volunteer

**Jermaine and Amber Wright**  
Foster Parents

**Jeff Luther**  
Posthumous Award



## The 20th Annual 'Shine a Light' on Child Abuse Awards Breakfast

On Thursday, April 5, 2018, the Valencia Room at the National Orange Show Events Center was filled to capacity when Children's Network held its 20th Annual Shine a Light on Child Abuse Awards Breakfast. This annual awards breakfast honors individuals and organizations for their outstanding

dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of at-risk children in our communities. The breakfast is a way to "shine a light" on those who are making a difference in the lives of children and youth. Seventeen individuals and organizations that make a difference by selflessly giving and going that extra mile for at-risk children in San Bernardino County were honored this year.

The event started with welcome introductions from Kathy Turnbull, Network Officer, and acknowledgement of our partners who support this event. Kathy then introduced Chairman Lovingood who spoke to the work that is being done in the County for our children and that all the departments present in the room have and should work together for the betterment of children. Sheriff McMahon who took a moment to recognize the work between community partners and the multi-disciplinary departments within the County that work together, every day, to ensure children are being kept safe.

After the introductions, Kathy presented the two Lifetime Advocate Awards this year. We first showed a short video that introduced our first Lifetime Advocate, Michele Tacchia. Michele has been teaching music in the Inland Empire for more than 30 years. She currently runs the Symphonie Jeunesse that allows for children in middle and high school to join a string orchestra. This orchestra allows for youth who would not readily have this kind of opportunity or means, to be a part of something bigger. After accepting her award, Michele conducted her youth orchestra to play three songs, displaying not only the childrens' talents, but also her own. Kathy introduced our second Lifetime Advocate Award that was handed out posthumously to Dr. Albert Karnig, who sadly passed away last year. His lifetimes work was a commitment to bring the dream of a university education to all who are willing to work for it. Dr. Karnig's wife, Marilyn Karnig, was there to accept the award on his behalf. Lastly, Kathy presented Phyllis Morris, the retiring Public Defender of the County, with a Shine a Light Award and thanked her for all her years of work and dedication to the County and the children.

The celebration continued with guests clapping and cheering as the remaining seventeen honorees' stories of commitment and compassion to helping others were told. As each honoree walked across the stage, they were greeted by First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood, Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, field representatives from the Second, Third and Fourth districts, Children's Network Officer Kathy Turnbull and Associate Network Officer Linda Revoner. Each honoree was given a beautiful engraved plaque with a blue ribbon on it signifying this acknowledgment as an effort in preventing child abuse.

In addition to the honorees, fifteen students were awarded scholarship checks from Children's Fund. The scholarship recipients included current and former foster and probation youth who continue to demonstrate their ability to work through the challenges they have encountered. The youth were proud to be honored for their hard work and beamed as they walked across the stage to receive their certificate and scholarship funds.

As has become tradition, the morning ended with a performance of *This Little Light of Mine* by the Mill Center Head Start State Preschool children. As the lights dimmed, the children held glow sticks, the guests shined their light pens, and the children and guests joined together in singing the signature song. It was a touching and enjoyable moment.



Lifetime Advocate  
Michele Tacchia



## SHINE A LIGHT BREAKFAST

This year's additional 'Shine a Light' on Child Abuse honorees included:

**Service Coordination Team**  
Children and Family Services

**Devin Baze**  
Community-Based Provider

**Frank Navarro Jr.**  
Law Enforcement

**Centralized Children's Intensive  
Case Management Services (CCICMS)**  
Department of Behavioral Health

**Maria Camacho-Nuno**  
Youth Volunteer

**Loretta Schnaus**  
Public Health

**Paul Durham**  
Education

**Dr. Kendra Carter**  
Medical

**Genelyn Torres**  
Probation

**CJ Cook**  
Volunteer

**Greater Hope Foundation**  
Foster Services

**Maryanne Choi**  
Legal, Deputy District Attorney

**Phyllis Morris**  
Legal, Deputy Public Defender

**Dane Burcham**  
Legal

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Empire**  
Organization



## Collaborative Efforts

From July 2016 through June 2018, Children's Network was involved in a number of collaborative efforts in a variety of areas. Of particular note is our involvement in Children's Assessment Center's Keep Me Safe Parenting Conference, Safe Kids Inland Empire Hot Car Media Awareness Event, health and resource fairs, Safe Sleep for Infants Campaign and Crib Program, and the hospital-based Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome Program.

### Keep Me Safe Parenting Conference

The 11th Annual *Keep Me Safe Parenting Conference* was held Friday, April 28, 2017, and the 12th Annual *Keep Me Safe Parenting Conference* was held Friday, April 13, 2018. Both conferences were held at the Wong Kerlee Conference Center on the campus of Loma Linda University. The *Keep Me Safe Parenting Conference* is geared towards expectant young women and inexperienced parents with infants or young children. The goal of the conference is to decrease the prevalence of child abuse and childhood injuries in San Bernardino, as well as present helpful parenting tips and advice for young mothers and fathers.



The 11th Annual *Keep Me Safe Parenting Conference* featured Detective Floyd Blue, an investigator with the Rialto Police Department and currently assigned to the Special Victims Unit. He spoke to the group about ways to prevent child abuse, to reach out to others when feeling overwhelmed, and the importance of safe, secure relationships. Returning this year was International Youth Communicator, Chad Daniel. His message of focus to the youth in attendance was of "A Life Worth Living." He used humor, stories and live reptiles to let the attendees know their lives matter and to reach out to others if they need help. The final presenter of the morning was Dr. Amy Young, Forensic Pediatrician and Associate Medical Director of the Children's Assessment Center, whose message was about positive parenting.

During the 12th Annual *Keep Me Safe Parenting Conference*, there were three keynote speakers that spoke to the young parents. Cid Pinedo, the CEO and President of Children's Fund, spoke to the kids about his life and the struggles that he had gone through. He spoke about how it was his parents that helped him develop a resiliency to better his life and pursue an education. His message to the young parents was to give their child all the encouragement and support they could. The second speaker was Courtney Henderson, the Child Protection Team Coordinator at the Children's Assessment Center. She spoke about dating and partner safety around young parent's children. She spoke to the group about how it is important to make sure that those people who are in their lives are appropriate people to have around their children. She was interactive and the kids really enjoyed her presentation.

The importance of the ABCs of Safe Sleep for Infants was presented to the attendees and a 5-minute DVD on the same topic was shown to the group. It was an opportunity for us to talk to these new parents about the importance of safe sleep environments for their infants.

In addition to the speakers and videos, there were nine vendors set up that attendees visited during their breaks that provided different types of services for the young parents.





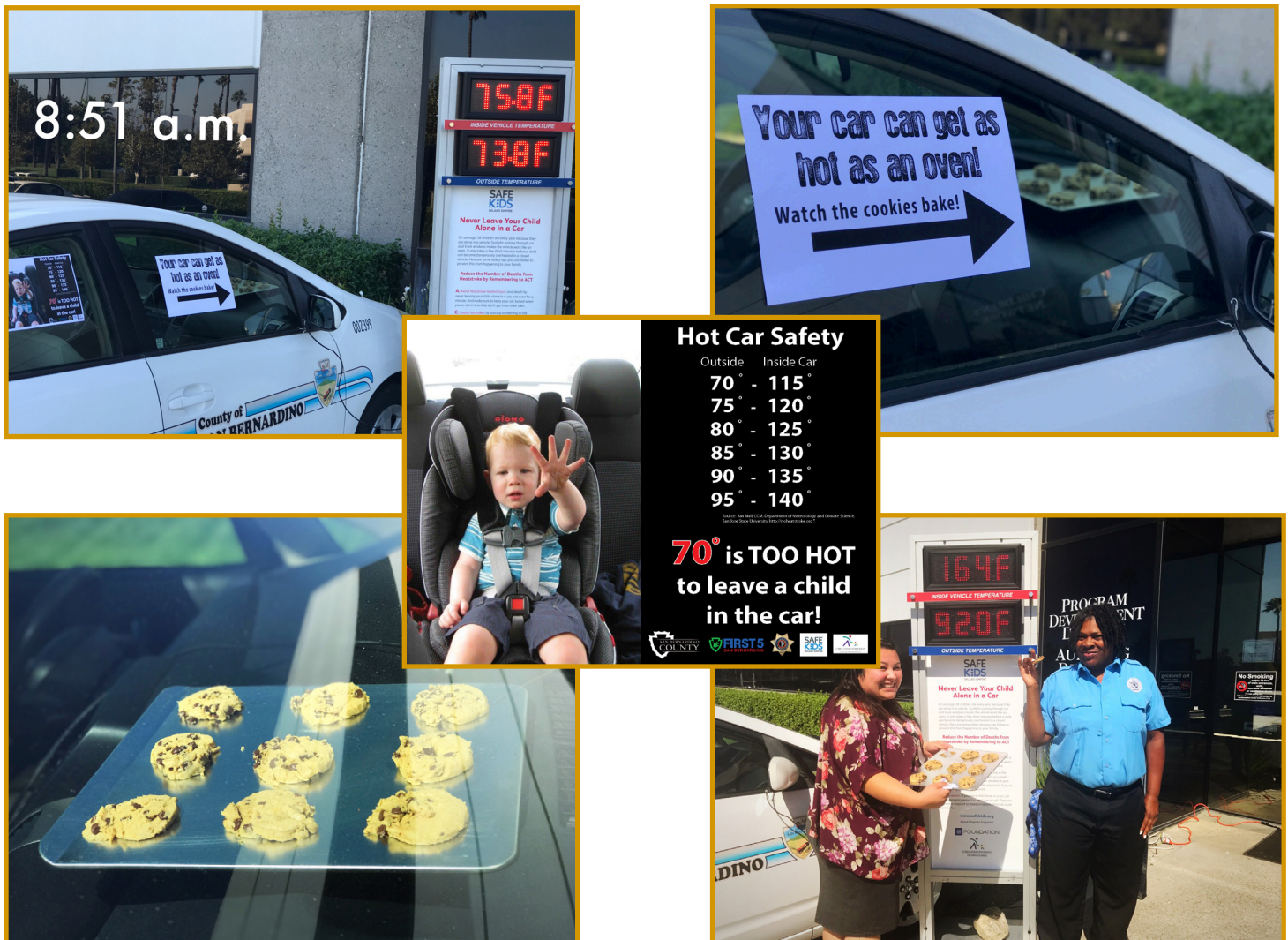
## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Children's Network's Hot Car (Hyperthermia) Awareness Event in Collaboration with Safe Kids, Inland Empire

During the week of August 7-10, 2017, Children's Network held their Hot Car/Hyperthermia event and partnered with Safe Kids Inland Empire. The goal of this event was to give families who visit our office an opportunity to see how hot a car can become, especially on a hot day. During this particular week, the temperature was slightly above normal, so it really showed how hot cars can become. We thought a good representation to see how hot it can become in a car, was to see if the heat within the car would bake cookies. We left the cookies in for a full day and by the time we took the display down, the cookies had cooked thoroughly. During the summer, there were a couple of news articles that talked about the hot car deaths that were happening across the nation, as well as a couple of incidents in San Bernardino County where parents were leaving their children in the car even for a few minutes. This demonstration was to show parents that even a few minutes, during a heat wave, can be dangerous for children.

It is important to create awareness regarding leaving children and/or pets in vehicles. On average, 37 children die each year after being left in a car and with temperatures rising, the risk is even greater. Many factors can contribute to responsible parents/caregivers unknowingly leaving a child/pet behind in a vehicle, such as a change in routine, simple distractions, stress or fatigue.

Children's Network and Safe Kids are reminding our San Bernardino County residents to never leave a child or pet in a vehicle. This event was also covered by our local newspaper outlet, the San Bernardino Sun.



## Community Resource Fairs and Events

An integral role of Children's Network is the dissemination of child abuse prevention material to the greater community. From July 2016 through June 2018, Children's Network staff participated in 85 community resource fairs and events where we distributed material regarding child safety, positive parenting and appropriate child discipline.

We are particularly proud to have participated in the following events:

*First 5's Talk. Read. Sing. Fest* was held Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016, in Hesperia and Saturday Nov. 5, 2016, in Highland. In 2017 the events were held Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017, at the San Bernardino County Museum in Apple Valley and Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017 at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands. These event were a great opportunity for families to find out about resources available to them and allow for children and families to become familiar with their local museum. Children were provided free books and there were several educational activities to keep the children entertained. It was a well-attended event with families genuinely interested in the information available to them.

First 5's annual *Swim Fest* took place Friday, June 2, 2017, and Friday, June 1, 2018, at the Jerry Lewis Family Swim Center at Perris Hill Park in San Bernardino. Not only is this a health and resource fair for local families, but the families enjoy a day of swim sponsored by First 5. The families gain entrance into the pool after they have visited the Safe Kids Inland Empire booth to learn about the ABCs of Water Safety and receive their Water Watcher tag. The June events in the afternoons were perfect hot weather days for swimming. The ABC's are - A is Active Supervision (Water Watcher), B is Barriers (i.e. fences, locked gates, alarms on and around the pool), and C is for Classes (swimming and CPR classes). The families were grateful to receive this information and to be able to go swimming. One of the important pieces of information shared at this event is the dangers of blow-up water wings. Water wings often create a false sense of security for parents and children and it is highly recommended they not be used. In fact, any flotation device that consists of air is not recommended due to the high failure rate. Instead, parents should provide their children with Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices, namely a life vest or life jacket.





### Safe Sleep for Infants Program

Children's Network continued to implement the multi-faceted Safe Sleep for Infants campaign which is designed to raise awareness of the *ABCs of Safe Sleep for Infants*. The message is based on the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, that is, babies should sleep Alone, on their Back and in a Crib. The components of our media campaign include a modified 30 second advertisement and 4 minute video that were made appropriate for California audiences, billboard advertising bus advertising, development of posters, an easy-to-read *ABCs of Safe Sleep* brochure and the development of Children's Network's *Safe Sleep for Infants Crib Program*.

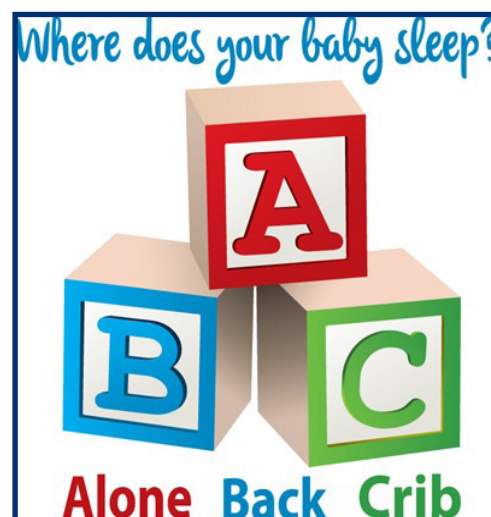
### Children's Network's Safe Sleep for Infants Crib Program

Children's Network's *Safe Sleep for Infants Crib Program* offers community organizations mobile cribs for distribution to families whose babies need a safe place to sleep.

Data from San Bernardino County's Child Death Review Team showed a rise in infant deaths due to unsafe sleep practices. From 2009 to 2017, there were 162 infant deaths in their sleep environments. Children's Network had developed informational brochures on the *ABCs of Safe Sleep for Infants* to distribute, but we recognized that while we can educate families about a safe sleeping option, if families cannot afford the alternatives, parents will continue to use the methods they are familiar with, such as co-sleeping.

With funding provided by First 5 San Bernardino, Children's Network became a partner of the *Cribs for Kids Program* (based in Pennsylvania) and purchased mobile cribs at the partner rate. We reached out to our Public Health Department's Family Health Services Program and found that they have two programs where Public Health Nurses (PHN) visit families in their homes; the Partnership for Healthy Mothers and Babies and the Student Coordination Clinical Placement. Both of these programs were perfect opportunities for nurses to see where the infant sleeps and provide educational information to the family about the importance of a safe sleep environment for their baby.

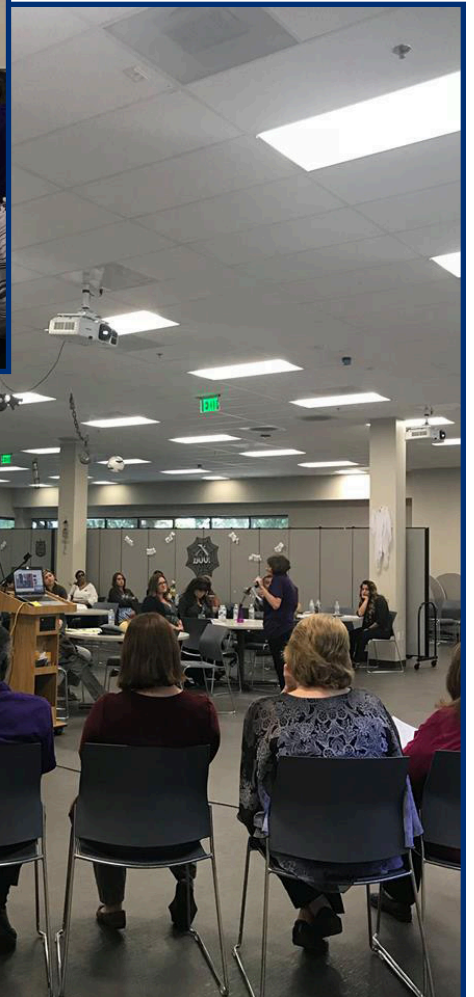
A Children's Network staff member provides hands-on training to the PHNs and nursing students, demonstrating how to set up and take down a mobile crib. Each PHN and student is required to demonstrate the set up and take down of the mobile crib to each family and requires each member of the household to set up and take down the mobile crib. In addition to providing a mobile crib to the family, an important component of the *Safe Sleep for Infants Crib Program* is educating families about the importance of a safe sleep environment for their baby.



Children's Network is the child abuse prevention arm of San Bernardino County and while we do not provide direct services, we partner with other County agencies and community-based organizations to assist in their child abuse prevention efforts. There is no other agency in San Bernardino County distributing mobile cribs and safe sleep education materials to families whose baby is in need of a safe place to sleep. Children's Network's *Safe Sleep for Infants Program* has led to partnerships between other San Bernardino County departments and community-based providers, whose collaborative efforts may not have happened otherwise. In addition to the Department of Public Health nursing staff and students, Children's Network is now collaborating with Public Health Nurses in San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department's Low Income First Time Mothers (LIFT) program and San Bernardino City Unified School District's Cal-Safe Program.

## Family Violence

In our efforts to bring awareness about violence in the home and its effects on children, Children's Network collaborated with the San Bernardino County Coalition of Domestic Violence Shelters and Children and Family Services to host two domestic violence awareness trainings at the Morongo Tribal TANF office in San Bernardino on Thursday, October 26, 2017. The two trainings were held on the same day, one in the morning from 9 a.m. to noon and the other in the afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. Members of the San Bernardino County Coalition of Domestic Violence Shelters participated in a panel discussion of county domestic violence resources that are available for participants to receive at each of their locations.





### Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome Program

Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) is the leading cause of death in abusive head trauma (AHT) cases. An estimated 1,200 to 1,400 children are injured or killed by shaking every year in the United States. Actual numbers may be much higher as many likely go undetected. Over 300 babies a year die from being shaken in the United States. Approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of all SBS/AHT victims die as a result of their injuries. Of those who survive, eighty percent (80%) suffer permanent disability such as severe brain damage, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, behavioral disorders and impaired motor and cognitive skills. Many survivors require constant medical or personal attention, which places tremendous emotional and financial strain on families. Medical costs associated with initial and long-term care for these children can range from \$300,000 to more than \$1,000,000. (National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome, [www.dontshake.org](http://www.dontshake.org)). In an effort to educate parents about the dangers of shaking their baby and what to do before reaching this point, Children's Network implemented a hospital-based Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program in San Bernardino County. With funding for training and materials provided by First 5 San Bernardino, several prevention programs were reviewed by the Children's Policy Council. Ultimately, the prevention model developed by Dr. Mark S. Dias was chosen for the hospital-based program.

In March 2014, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC), in collaboration with Children's Network, began the hospital-based Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program. This program is comprised of four components:

- Prior to a newborn's discharge from the hospital the parent(s)/caregivers/family members /friends are asked to watch a 12-minute video titled, *A Life in Your Hands: Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome*
- The parent(s) have a one-on-one discussion with the nurse about Shaken Baby Syndrome with the nurse answering any questions the parent(s) may have
- The parent(s) are provided the easy-to-read "Never Never Shake a Baby" brochure, which has the 24/7 child help hotline number on the back
- The parents sign a Certificate of Commitment, which states they received information about, and understand what happens if they shake their baby and what they can do to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome. The parents are given the beautiful certificate to display in their home.

Attached to each Certificate of Commitment is a small demographic card that is filled out by the nurse and deposited in a designated box in the hospital nursery. Children's Network collects the cards each month and records and stores the data.

In March 2015, Barstow Community Hospital (BCH) implemented the Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program. The monthly births at BCH may be significantly lower than those at ARMC; however, the important factor is simply that more families are learning ways to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome and what they can do when they get frustrated when their baby is crying.

The feedback from nurses and patients about this program has been positive. Children's Network plans to continue our efforts to reach out to local hospitals in an effort to bring the Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome Program to other hospitals in San Bernardino County.

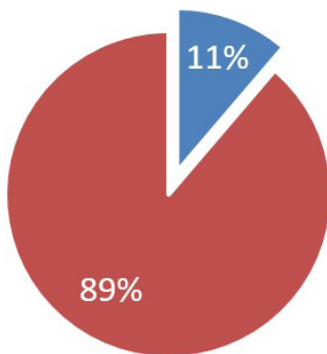
### Demographic Sheets Collected from July 2016 through June 2018 for the Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome Program

According to the demographic sheets collected from July 2016 through June 2018, there were 2,097 babies born at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center whose parents received the preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome information prior to their infant's discharge from the hospital. Barstow Community Hospital implemented the Shaken Baby Prevention Program close to the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Between July 2016 through June 2018 BCH was able to provide Shaken Baby Prevention information to the parents of 240 babies born at their hospital.

Information captured from the demographic sheets of the Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome Program from July 2016 through June 2018 is reflected in the graphs below:

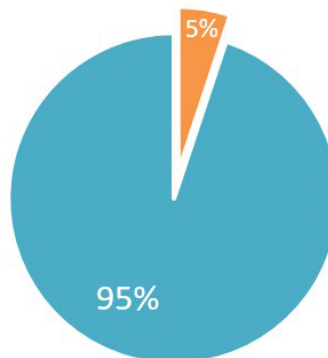
## ARMC

DISCUSSED WITH NURSE



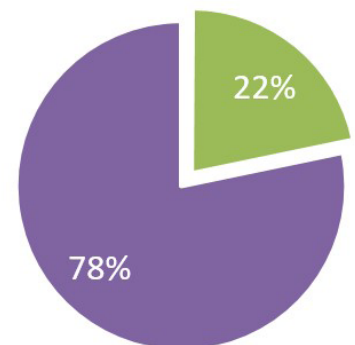
Discussed with Nurse No/None Given

VIEWED VIDEO



Viewed Video No/None Given

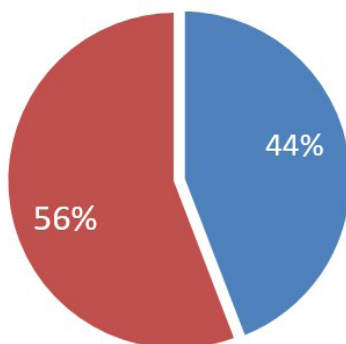
RECEIVED BROCHURE



Received Brochure No/None Given

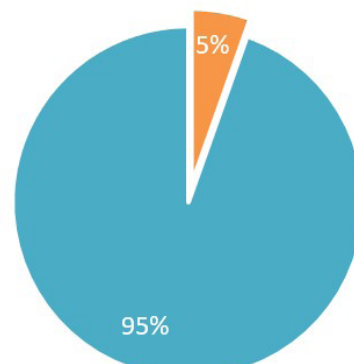
## BARSTOW COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

DISCUSSED WITH NURSE



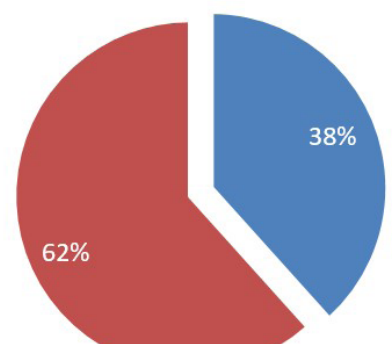
Discussed with Nurse No/None Given

VIEWED VIDEO



Viewed Video No/None Given

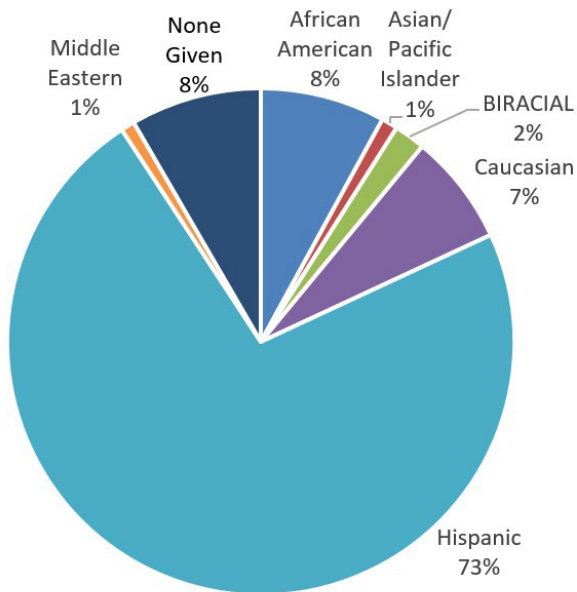
RECEIVED BROCHURE



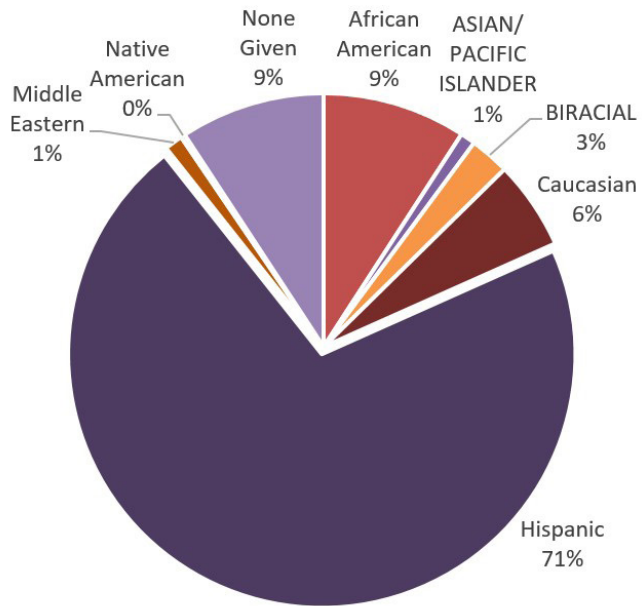
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## ETHNICITY

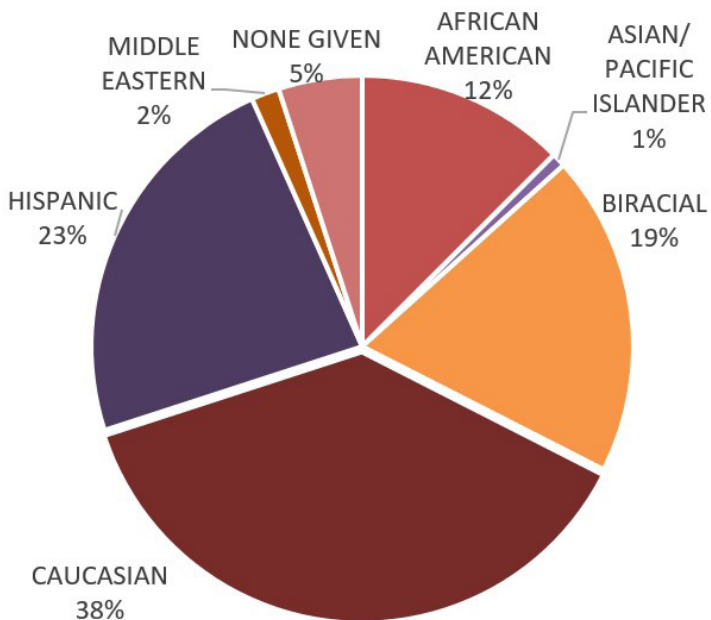
ARMC FY 2016-17



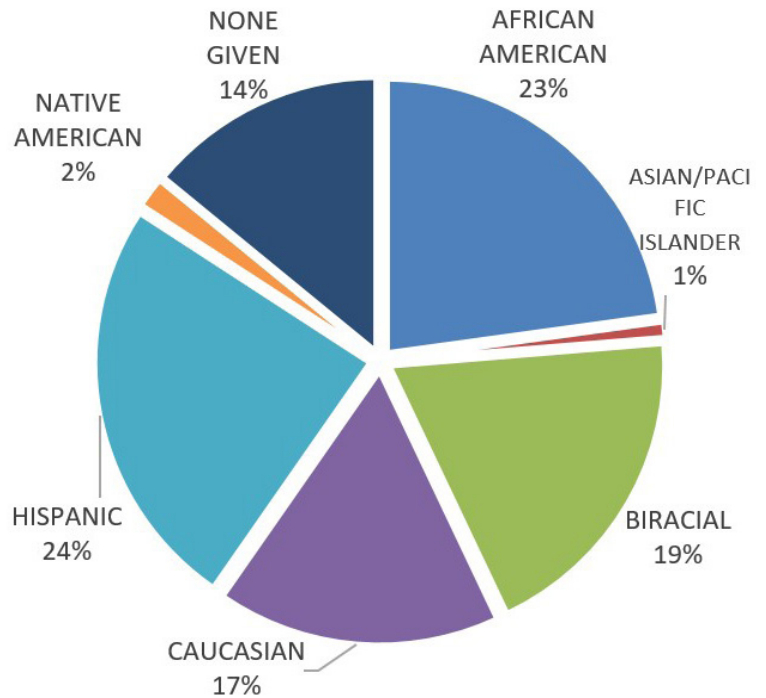
ARMC FY 2017-18



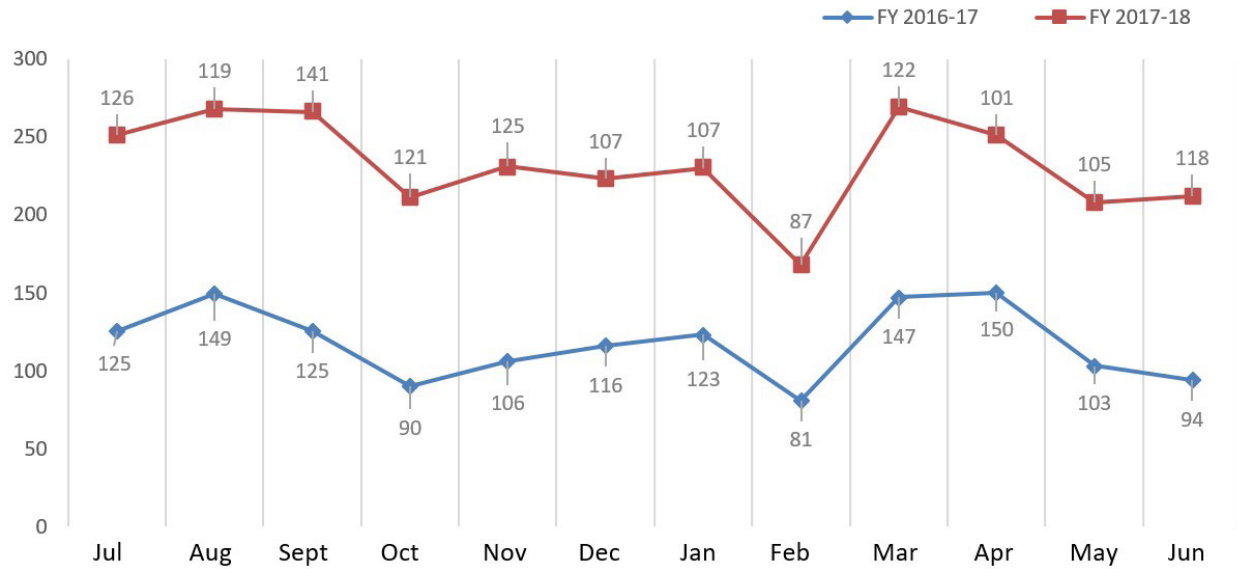
BARSTOW FY 2016-17



BARSTOW FY 2017-18

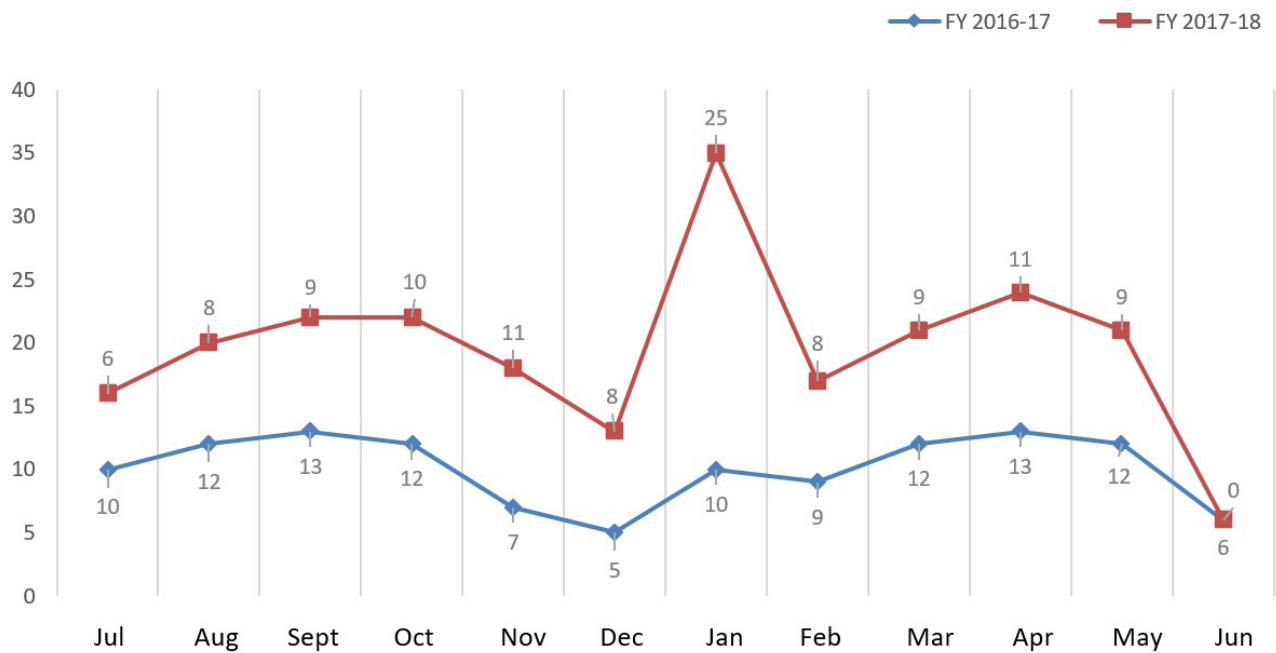


## DEMOGRAPHIC SHEETS RECEIVED PER MONTH



### ARMC

## DEMOGRAPHIC SHEETS RECEIVED PER MONTH



### Barstow



### Media Campaign

Between FY 2016-2017 and FY 2017-2018, Children's Network focused our efforts on child abuse prevention, maternal mental health and fatherhood campaigns. The messaging used for safe sleep education was "This side up" during January, "What you teach your child about violence, you teach them for life" during February for family violence awareness month, child abuse prevention was the "I am too small to make the call" during April, for maternal mental health it was the, "You're Not Alone" message during May for maternal mental health month, and for fatherhood, "Be the hero of their story" during June. Children's Network continues to focus their efforts to include Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in all of our campaign materials and the slogans do just that.

#### Radio Broadcasting

In 2016-2017, Children's Network contracted with two local radio stations for radio commercials. One is an English speaking station, KGGI 99.1 FM and the other is a Spanish speaking station, Que Buena 96.1 FM. We chose these two radio stations because KGGI FM has a listening audience that is close to our target population in the county and Que Buena because our Spanish population has actually called our office for more information due to hearing commercials on their station.

The radio commercials played a message about the costs of family violence in both medical costs and loss of productivity in the work place. The radio message emphasizes that the family unit should be loving, safe and nurturing. Additionally, it relays that anyone who sees violence or would like to learn more about what resources are available in San Bernardino County, should dial 211.

With Que Buena, we had a total of about 100 spots that played the safe sleep message over the course of February 2016. The hours that the commercials played were between: 5 a.m.- 7 p.m., 7 p.m.-12 a.m., 10 a.m.- 7 p.m., and midnight - 5 a.m.

KGGI FM played our radio spots Monday through Friday, for a total of 144 spots in February. The commercials played during the following times throughout the day: 5 - 6 a.m., 5 a.m.- midnight, 6 a.m. - 3 p.m., and 7 - 9 p.m. The commercials also played on their iHeartMedia app radio station, RGGI FM, where the radio spots played Monday through Thursday, from 5 a.m.- midnight, for a total of 230 spots.

In 2017-2018, Children's Network worked with KFROG and Que Buena to develop the radio scripts for the educational messaging for April through June 2018. For all three months, we developed the scripts in English and then had them translated for the Spanish radio station. The KFROG contract would also include radio commercials on their sister station KVGF that broadcasts out of Victorville, so that it would reach the High Desert population. We ran our 30-second commercials Monday - Thursday over the course of 6 months for a total of 373 spots on KFROG and 330 spots on KVFG. The commercials ran between 5 am and 12 am; 7 pm to midnight.

For the Spanish radio station, Que Buena plays our 30 and 60-second radio commercials Monday through Sunday over the course of 6 months totaling for 410 total spots. The commercials ran between: 5 a.m. - 7 p.m., 7 p.m. - midnight, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and midnight to 5 a.m.

#### Movie Theaters

In 2017-2018, Children's Network contracted with National CineMedia to have our educational messages played in movie theaters. We found that due to having a captive audience in the theater, we were able to successfully run our educational PSAs. The theaters that played our messages were: San Bernardino Theatre Square on 14 screens, Cinemark 16, Victorville on 16 screens and AMC Ontario Mills on 30 screens. The ads are 30 second intervals. The movie theater ads played when the theater was filled to seventy-five 75% capacity, so that our message reaches a larger, captive audience.

## Billboards

During 2016-2017, two highly visible billboards were selected for the campaigns, one in the High Desert and one in the West End. The billboards are rotated between the East Valley/Central and the West End. The billboard in the High Desert is located along the I-15 freeway, south of Main St. in the city of Hesperia. This billboard is in an area that is travelled by locals and has 294,809 weekly impressions. The other billboard is located on the I-10 freeway, west of Cherry Ave., with 650,748 weekly impressions. All three campaigns were displayed on the two billboards during the months of April, May and June.

During 2017-2018, the billboard displayed in the High Desert off of the I-15 south of Bear Valley Rd. had 265,746 impressions/week. Further, it was decided to have three billboards in the Central Region this year. There is one billboard on the I-10 west of the Cedar exit that has 583,858 impressions/week. There are two billboards on local streets where there is a lot of foot traffic that provides an opportunity for our message to be seen. The two street billboards are located at: Waterman Ave. north of Mill St. and on Foothill west of Mt. Vernon, with 91,216 and 463,092 impressions/week, respectively.



## Bus Advertisements

Similarly, bus advertisements were utilized as a medium for our media campaign. We have chosen to have King (message is located on the sides of the bus) and Tail (message is located on the tail end of the bus) messaging sections. Each of the 10 buses will either have a King or Tail message with the same message that was being displayed on the two billboards. The buses depart from both of the bus garages in the county. The East garage covered: San Bernardino, Highlands, Redlands, Loma Linda, Yucaipa, Grand Terrace, Colton, Rialto and Fontana. The buses from the West garage covered: Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Upland, Montclair, Chino and Chino Hills. Currently, buses are not allowed to have any kind of advertisements in the High Desert, so we are unable to use this medium up there. Each bus with a tail display has 437,000 impressions in a four week period.

## MEDIA CAMPAIGN

### Campaign Reach

Children's Network campaign messages have one central theme that if anyone needs help or would like more information about the billboard, radio, or theater ads they saw, they should dial 2-1-1. Children's Network works closely with 2-1-1 San Bernardino because they have a centralized location and are well suited to help our community find resources that are closest to them, especially if they are in crisis. We reached out to 2-1-1 to review their call logs when these campaigns were playing. It was found that between April and June 2018, 2-1-1 received 21 calls related to new mothers seeking out assistance or resources - these ranged from single mothers to mothers looking for parenting classes to perinatal/postpartum depression counseling services. This shows that the messaging is slowly beginning to make its way into our county and mothers are seeking out help when they need it. There was one call made to 2-1-1 regarding a father looking for parenting skills classes. Finally, between April and June 2018, 2-1-1 received 324 calls to report suspected child abuse in the county. Data from 2-1-1 shows that the volume of calls increase as the year goes on.

The data from 2-1-1 shows that the messaging we are putting together and disseminating is certainly making an impact.

### Children's Memorial Flag Ceremony

On Friday, April 27, 2018, Children's Network in partnership with Children and Family Services, the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, Department of Behavioral Health observed a moment of silence and flag raising ceremony that was being done statewide. The goal is to increase awareness of child abuse and neglect through a unified message and facilitate broader community involvement in child abuse prevention. This was also to honor the Californian children who had died from violence within the year. It was a great way to promote prevention of child abuse and neglect and strengthen the theme of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

For the ceremony, opening remarks were made by Marlene Hagen, Director of Children and Family Services. Comments were also made by Chairman Lovingood, Supervisor Gonzales, District Attorney Michael Ramos and Dr. Ohikhuare the County Health Officer. Each of the speakers provided important stats and took time to reflect on the children that were lost. The ceremony concluded with Pastor Clyde Stewart's invocation and a moment of silence while the flag was raised.





## Inland Empire Father Involvement Coalition (IEFIC)

*"I am a Parent Partner with Riverside County Children Services, DPSS. I have been attending the Fatherhood Coalition for a little over two years and have been enriched with valuable resources. I was a father that has been through the child welfare system years ago and struggled to get through it. Years later, being a part of this Coalition and seeing the wonderful events, the support fathers receive and the awareness that is being brought to the attention of diverse agencies is amazing and is making a difference. It has inspired me to work with my fathers on my case load and bring awareness to my County agencies. We have also been able to begin a fatherhood coalition out in Riverside County and have been supported by the IEFIC with knowledge and ideas that are vital. I would like to thank the IEFIC for all the valuable support, encouragement, welcoming embrace and valuable information and resources that it has brought to me."*

**- Roger De Leon, Parent Partner, Riverside County Children Services**

The Inland Empire Father Involvement Coalition, started in 2013, is a group of County, community-based and faith-based organizations collaborating and pooling resources, services, and expertise to reduce father absenteeism and support father engagement. One of the most consequential social trends of our time is widespread father absence in the lives of children. According to U.S. Census data reported for 2016, thirty-four percent (34%) of households in San Bernardino County were single-parent homes. This is close to the national average of thirty-five percent (35%) according to the same census. Of all households in San Bernardino County without a father and with children under the age of 18, as of 2013, forty-three percent (43%) were below the poverty level (compared to a two-parent household percentage of twenty-two percent (22%) in San Bernardino County, and the national average of fifteen percent (15%). An absent father increases a child's risk for experiencing a host of poor outcomes in the short-and-long term, such as poverty, poor school performance, child abuse and neglect, emotional and behavioral problems and incarceration. Fathers in our communities report a lack of support and father-friendly resources, a presence of barriers both within the home and from our systems, and an increase in destructive images portraying "deadbeat dads" in the media. The IEFIC emerged as a true collaboration between multiple sectors, addressing these issues and reducing barriers.

The mission of the IEFIC is to encourage healthy child development by promoting the involvement, necessity and value of the role of fathers in the family and community. The vision is that men fully engage as stable, supportive educators and providers and serve as healthy family role models.

We do this by providing:

- Education opportunities for fathers
- Support services that are accessible and father-friendly
- PR/Outreach to develop community partnerships and to promote positive images of fatherhood through media
- Evaluation of our program's outcomes and identification of best practices for father engagement

In 2018, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors recognized the importance of having a positive father and role model in the home, and issued a five-year countywide proclamation declaring the month of June as Fatherhood Awareness Month.

San Bernardino County, along with First 5 San Bernardino, also approved the one-year funding of a Father Engagement Coordinator. This coordinator position will provide support for all IEFIC members and oversee day-to-day operations of the program including working collaboratively with multi-agency teams.



### Maternal Mental Health Work Group (MMH)

*"The Inland Empire Maternal Mental Health Collaborative (IEMMHC) works on maternal mental health issues in both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. I have been part of this group for several years now and have found that there is great networking amongst participants about events, programs and grants. I serve as a liaison between hospitals and the public health arena about these important issues. The meetings give professionals a venue to discuss the needs in our communities and advocate for more screening and services. To raise awareness about Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders, this group coordinated a film showing in 2018 that was very well attended! We are now planning another Film Showing in 2019."*

**-Pat Spier**, BSN, RNC-OB, EFM-C, Program Manager, PAC/LAC  
Southern Inland Counties Regional Perinatal Programs of California

The San Bernardino County Maternal Mental Health Work Group was established in 2014 to address gaps in services and barriers to accessing maternal mental health care, especially for postpartum depression. In an effort to collaborate with Riverside County, the Inland Empire Maternal Mental Health Collaborative was established in 2016 joining the San Bernardino County Maternal Mental Health Work Group and the Inland Empire Perinatal Mental Health group. Up to eighty percent (80%) of new mothers experience the "baby blues," a temporary condition including feelings of irritability, stress and mood swings. However, 1 in 7 new mothers will experience postpartum depression. When unaddressed, postpartum depression may lead to difficulties for the mother in developing secure bonds with their child during the years most critical to their development. This leads to higher risks of child abuse and neglect. In rare cases (1-2 in 1,000), new mothers may develop a severe postpartum mood disorder known as Postpartum Psychosis within the first several weeks after delivery that may include symptoms of delusions, hallucinations, rapid mood swings, paranoia or thoughts of hurting themselves or their baby.

The goals of the Inland Empire Maternal Mental Health Collaborative are:

- To identify and pull together existing resources in the community that support mothers experiencing postpartum depression
- To build the capacity of organizations, such as family resource centers, healthcare providers, and SART (Screening Assessment Referral and Treatment) centers, through training on maternal mental health
- To reduce the stigma that exists around maternal mental health issues through general and culturally-relevant campaigns and to encourage mothers to reach out for help in its initial meetings

A resource directory that was established from this list grew as more outreach was done to organizations in the community. The evolving product of this directory is now available through our County's social service call center, Inland Empire United Way 2-1-1, as well as on the Department of Behavioral Health's website. The IEMMHC developed a social media presence with Facebook and coordinated a website resource with the collaborative efforts of the IEMMHC members: San Bernardino County's Children's Network, Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Public Health, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, First 5 San Bernardino, Inland Empire United Way 2-1-1, IEHP, Dignity Health, Riverside County Public Health, Riverside County Department of Mental Health and the Wiley Center.

In order to meet our goal of building the capacity of organizations to appropriately screen, serve and/or refer mothers experiencing postpartum depression, the IEMMHC provided trainings in 2017 and 2018 for over 500 social service and healthcare practitioners. These trainings were provided by our subject matter expert, Dr. Katayune Kaeni, and her colleagues. Dr. Kaeni is a licensed psychologist specializing in maternal mental health, offering pregnancy and postpartum therapy, as well as grief, anxiety and depression counseling. Dr. Kaeni, as well as Emilia Ortega-Jara (therapist with Corazon Counseling), and Kendra Carter (Medical Social Worker with ARMC), also provide technical assistance to member agencies of the MMH Work Group, especially in developing postpartum support groups and effective outreach strategies. We have also collaborated with community partners to host awareness events and film screenings of *When the Bough Breaks*, a documentary telling the intimate story of maternal mental health, and exploring postpartum depression and other pregnancy and postpartum mood disorders.

Children's Network continues to promote a culturally-relevant, multimedia campaign to reach mothers and families experiencing the effects of maternal mental health issues, and to reduce the stigma around reaching out for help. The tagline of this campaign is "You Are Not Alone," emphasizing the fact that 1 in every 7 mothers experience postpartum depression and that there should be no fear or hesitation in reaching out for help from family and friends and from a healthcare professional. Some of the campaign media used included: PSA's in English and Spanish, billboard ads, radio ads, brochures and posters. Our English PSA Maternal Mental Health – 'You Are Not Alone' (4.5 minutes) and Spanish PSA 'No Estan Solas: Reconociendo la Depresión Postparto' (7 minutes), have been viewed and shared widely. Over 300 DVD's were distributed to County and community organizations and service providers. They've been aired in loop in agency lobbies and the San Bernardino County Board Chambers, as well as on social media and as a part of health education classes.



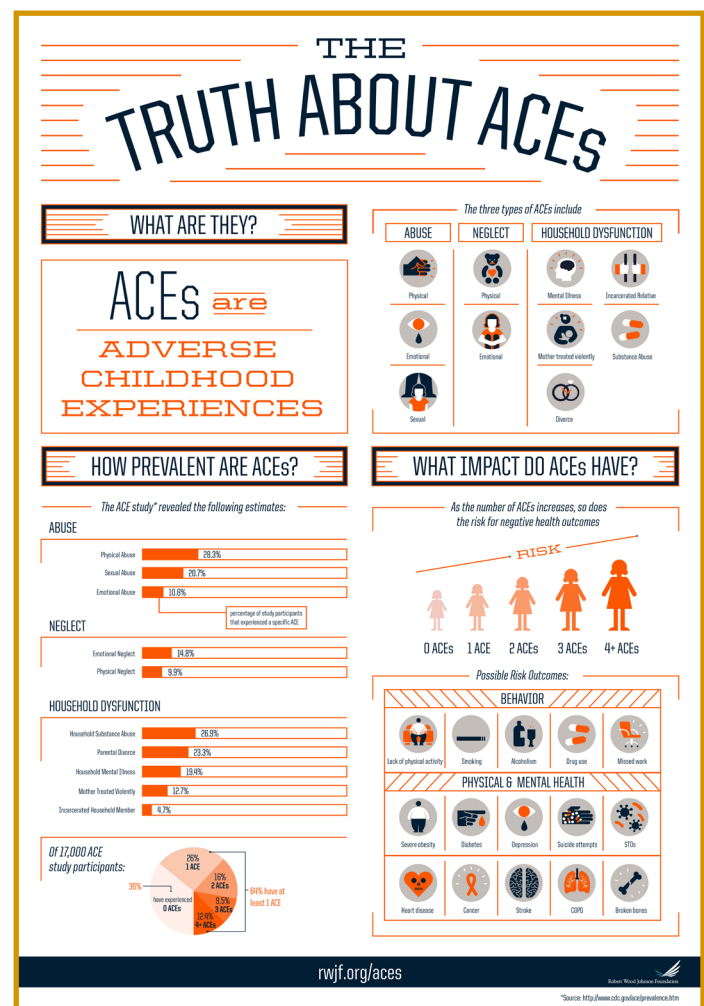


## Child Abuse Prevention and the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

According to the former president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Robert Block, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are the single greatest unaddressed public health threat facing our nation today. Child abuse, neglect and household dysfunction are epidemics in our community that require a collaborative approach, including all members of the community, to be addressed. In order to better inform our community about the effects of ACEs and to strengthen our efforts in child abuse prevention, Children's Network has provided 2-hour trainings as well as shorter presentations to social service and healthcare providers, educators, law enforcement agencies and community members throughout the county. These presentations highlight the major forms of childhood maltreatment; their impact on the child, prevalence within our community and effects on individuals and communities over the long term. We've shared the findings of the Adverse Childhood Experience Study, conducted by Dr. Vincent Felitti and Dr. Robert Anda, in a very practical way that has added meaning to professional practice and increased awareness for parents, caregivers and concerned community members.

Children's Network has joined with the ACEs Taskforce of San Bernardino County in collaboration with Loma Linda University, San Bernardino County Departments of Public Health and Children and Family Services, First 5 San Bernardino, as well as several other community stakeholders, to help increase the community's awareness of ACEs and develop practices to reduce their long-term effects. The groups strategic planning goals include:

- Increasing community awareness of ACEs and resiliency through education
- Building and maintaining a list of organizations focused on services effecting families with high ACE scores for residents of San Bernardino to easily access those services
- Developing a learning collaborative focused on creating trauma-informed and resiliency-building organizations



## Screening, Assessment, Referral, Treatment (SART) and Early Identification and Intervention Services (EIS)

*"A mother brought her son to West End Family Counseling Services because he struggled with transitions which triggered tantrums as well as sharing problems which led to aggression. During the sessions he was receptive in learning coping skills to calm down and Mom learned to assist him when he became dysregulated. Mom learned behavior management strategies such as preparing her son with expectations, providing warnings, using the timer, and following through with age-appropriate consequences to decrease her son's tantrums and assist with anxiety.*

*Her son also enjoyed a social skills group that he joined to help with peer relationships and disruptive behaviors in a social setting. Our group therapist reported that he was initially very disruptive and needed time to adjust to routine and rules in the group. The mother and her son made significant gains while in the program. Mom learned additional ways to assist her son with new situations, such as reviewing expectations, reviewing a schedule and utilizing a token economy in a community setting. Her son's risky behaviors, aggression, defiance and tantrums have all decreased and he appears less anxious, more regulated and happier. Mom reports that her son is functioning much better in the home and she agrees that strategies such as warning her son and using the timer have made a huge difference in his behaviors. Her son continues to make progress in social/school settings with his anxiety."*

Submitted by **West End Family Counseling Services**

*"For two months, a foster mother has been participating in weekly mental health sessions as well as weekly sessions with occupational therapist. This foster mother has been very receptive to psychoeducational information provided and has been open to suggestions and strategies provided. The foster mother has done a great job in using the suggestions and strategies she learned in the home and has made adjustments to support and promote her foster child's overall functioning and development. Significant progress has been made in the child's daily routine, gross motor skills, decrease in disengagement cues, ability to maintain social interactions, improvement in communication between the child and foster mom. For example, there is an increase in age-appropriate vocalizations on the child's part which assists the foster mom to read and attend to the child's cues appropriately. A positive change the foster mom has noticed in her foster child is an increase in persistency during challenging tasks and smiles as foster mother praises his efforts. Foster mother's response to treatment has been very positive and says, "I don't want to see him go because I've had him since he was 14 days old and he's part of my family. I love him! I know that if we work as a team we can help him and it will work out for all of us."*

Submitted by **West End Family Counseling Services**

These are two distinct, but similar programs that provide services countywide by six different agencies.

**Screening, Assessment, Referral, Treatment (SART)** serves children between the ages of zero to five who are experiencing social, physical, cognitive, behavioral, developmental, and/or psychological issues. It is an intensive program that serves at-risk children, many of whom have been exposed to abuse, neglect and/or substances in utero.

**Early Identification and Intervention Services (EIS)** serves a similar, but less severe population than the SART population. These services are intended to improve the social, cognitive, emotional, behavioral and developmental functioning of these children. In addition, these children may or may not have experienced abuse or trauma, but are perceived as being at-risk for manifesting problems in the above areas without the provisions of attachment enrichment activities.

## PROGRAMS

### SART/EIIS Annual Trainings

Children's Network plans SART/EIIS provider trainings that continue to develop the therapeutic skills of the professional behavioral and occupational providers, so that they can provide the best care to our children and families. We also ask our SART centers to give us ideas and suggestions as to what trainings would be of value to them.

*Drug Endangered Children:* This training was requested by and provided for the Children and Family Services (CFS) adoption workers. It was developed to help the adoptions worker to better understand and identify the needs of the pre and/or postnatally drug exposed infant/child. This training was offered also at the Children's Network Conference in September 2017.

*Food & Trauma Series:* This was a 4-part series offered at Victor SART with both Victor and CCS SART staff in attendance. This training covers the various trauma symptoms that are related to food and eating; e.g. pica, starvation, food refusals, lack of satiation, allergies, etc. The training addressed both assessment and intervention.

*Trauma and Treatment:* A follow up on a previous series and clinical intervention training.

*Movement and Mental Health:* This training examined the link between physical health and mental health and more specifically movement or exercise and impact on mental health. It discussed how movement might be incorporated in treatment with children offered services in the SART program.

*Watch, Wait & Wonder:* This training series is based on attachment theory and is an Infant/Child-led approach to psychotherapeutic intervention. The approach is relational and therapists use questioning to put parents in the role of "expert."

*Parent-Infant Dyadic Art Therapy:* This 6-part training is in dyadic art therapy for 6 month through 6 year olds. This intervention is based on the technique and book written by Lucille Proulx. This therapeutic modality is based on certain principles from the fields of child psychiatry, psychology and art therapy. This intervention proposes a creative, imaginative, visually-oriented experience for both the parent and the child and a non-verbal and symbolic self-expression. It enhances attachment and interaction.

#### *Parent Child Interaction Scales Training:*

The Parent Child Interaction (PCI) Scales are the most widely used scales for measuring parent-child interaction today. It is a well-developed set of observable behaviors that describe the communication of and interaction between, caregiver and child in either a feeding or a teaching situation. The training teaches the participant how to observe and assess parent child interaction in the areas of sensitivity to cues, response to distress, social emotional growth fostering, cognitive growth fostering, clarity of cues and responsiveness to caregivers and to use the FEED and the TEACH scale. To complete the training, the participants must be eighty-five (85%) reliable with the University of Washington on both scales. All participants who attain reliability with University of Washington on both the FEED and TEACH scales will attain a certification in this measure.





## Countywide SART/EIIS – Early Childhood Systems of Care Collaborative Presentations

Systems of Care presentations are conducted at the Quarterly Countywide SART/Early Childhood Systems Collaborative meetings to connect County and community partners. The purpose of providing these presentations is to enhance all aspects of child development by providing current information on services provided to the zero to five population and their families. Below are the presentations that took place in the 2016-2018 year.

*SART/EIIS Program overview:* Presentation was made to those in attendance of Children's Network role in the SART/EIIS program. The overview also included a history of how Children's Network came into existence, its role, task and functions as related to the SART/EIIS program.

*"Taking Care of Ourselves – Promoting Growth, Strength and Resiliency:"* Information on subjects relating to "A Practical Guide to Coping," "Taking care of our children, and "What caregivers can do for children affected by tragedy."

*Maternal Mental Health Awareness:* Presentation included information on identifying existing resources in the community that support mothers experiencing postpartum depression, providing training on maternal mental health and to reduce the stigma that exists around maternal mental health issues.

*Children's Assessment Center (CAC):* Presentation provided information to the SART providers, County departments, community partners and other stakeholders about the services provided to children. The CAC facilitates multi-disciplinary cooperation with its partner agencies which fosters a unified response for families in need. Team members from these partner agencies meet on a monthly basis for training and case review. The multi-disciplinary approach protects suspected child victims of abuse from undergoing multiple, duplicative interviews and examinations for child protective, law enforcement, medical, legal and clinical purposes.

*Behavioral Health Department:* Information provided on identification and the perception of cultural competency. Resources and information regarding the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Healthcare were provided.

*ACEs Study and ACEs Taskforce Collaborative:* Presentation of the County's collaborative effort to build resilient communities through training and implementation of a trauma-informed learning collaborative.

*Fatherhood Engagement Initiative:* Presentation on the importance of father engagement in improving outcomes for children by encouraging healthy child development by promoting the involvement, necessity and value of the role of fathers in the family and community.

*Kinship Services:* Presentation provided information of the day-to-day offerings of Kinship centers and the services provided to families. The support services focus on the unique needs of each Kin-caregiver and child by providing referrals to basic services, support from others who've "been there," and time-off from daily stresses. It's a principle that works for caregivers and their children.

*Inland Empire United Way 2-1-1 "Connecting People to Resources":* 2-1-1 San Bernardino County is the central source for providing free and confidential information and referrals for all health and human services in San Bernardino County through our 211sb.org website, text or our 2-1-1 call line. Phone lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with trained Community Resource Advisors prepared to offer helpful information with any situation, any time—whether financial, domestic, health or disaster-related.

## PROGRAMS

### SART/Early Childhood Systems Collaborative Specialized Trainings

Children's Network coordinates Specialized Trainings that are open to the broader community. These trainings are attended by SART/EIIS providers, child welfare professionals, educators, health care providers and other community partners and stakeholders who work with and provide services to children ages zero to five and their families. Below are the trainings that took place in 2016-2018.

*Sensory Processing and Early Childhood Trauma: From Home to School, Promoting Healthy Attachment:* In May 2017 and in June 2018, Dr. Arezou Salamat provided an all-day training to SART providers and to the broader community. The training discussed the impact of trauma, prenatal alcohol on sensory processing; promoting active participation in childhood occupations to promote healthy relationships; how caregivers (parents, childcare providers and teachers) can create a healthy environment to promote participation and inclusion in the family and community. Development of sensory systems and identify red flags, sensory strategies to support caregivers to promote bonding and healthy relationships.

*The Road of Risk: A C.A.S.E. (Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation) and DEC (Drug Endangered Child) Training:* In June 2017 and in November 2017, Dr. Kiti Freier along with a panel of experts from the San Bernardino County C.A.S.E. Multi-disciplinary Team including representatives from law enforcement, District Attorney's office, and community victim advocates, conducted a training offered countywide to engage the broader community. The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation or distribution. They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment. In sum, children + drugs = RISK. These risk factors include significant potential impact on neurodevelopmental and psychosocial functioning. However, environment (home and community) is also an extremely impactful risk for these children. This training included both individual and environmental risk related to the drug endangered environment. Further, it discussed how the ecology of the child to the drug endangered environment puts them at the highest risk for sexual exploitation. Legal and social welfare perspectives on sexual exploitation were also shared.

*Infant Massage Certification – TouchTime®:* In March 2018 Dr. Elaine Fogel Schneider provided training and certification in infant massage to SART/EIIS providers. Dr. Schneider stated that TouchTime® massage brings forth full self-expression through the first language, the language of touch, while improving health, happiness and calmness within the child, the parents and the family unit. In this dynamic process, parents gain confidence, learn to read their babies' cues, foster secure attachments and improve physical and social-emotional well-being. TouchTime® provides hands-on instruction on the importance of touch and the benefits massage provides for infants and caregivers.



## Mentoring

*"The Mentoring Task Force is a fantastic collaboration that links many youth and community providers in our county. I have found the meetings both personally and professionally beneficial. Thanks to the people I met through this network I have been able to grow and impact even more folks. I am forever grateful and wish the Task Force continued success!"*

- **Ami Davis** (She/her/hers) Queer Person of Faith; Author; Counselor; LGBTQ Educator, Advocate, Trainer; LGBTQ Awareness Sub-Committee Co-Chair

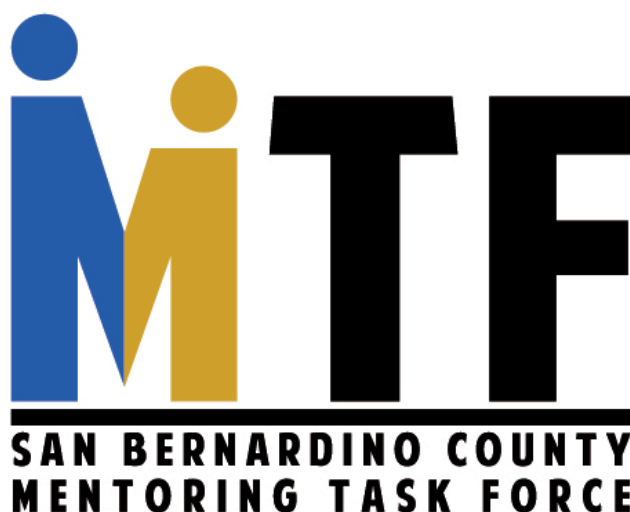
*"One in three young people, ages 8-18, are growing up without a mentor to offer real-life guidance- This is what's known as the "mentoring gap" in America. This translates to over 107,000 youth in San Bernardino County. The San Bernardino County Mentoring Task Force membership includes our County's child-serving agencies and community-based mentoring agencies and programs. The Task Force works together to reduce this "mentoring gap," through recruitment of new mentors, development and administration of mentoring education and awareness campaigns, identifying gaps in mentoring services and increasing the capacity of new and established mentoring programs."*

- **Doreen Ivery**, Mentoring Resource Coordinator Children's Network

## Media Campaign

In 2016-2018, the Mentoring Task Force further developed our media campaign to increase awareness of the Mentoring Network Task Force around the County and educate our residents on the positive effects of youth mentoring. The Mentoring Task Force has increased the utilization of its Facebook page to include training and workshop information, partner agency information and promotions and mentor/mentee testimonials. Several newspaper and radio interviews and podcasts were utilized to further promote mentoring throughout the county.

In 2017 a new logo was developed to promote the Task Force. This logo has been instrumental to increase the visibility of the Mentoring Task Force. New postcards and brochures are currently in the development stage.





## PROGRAMS

### National Mentoring Month

January is National Mentoring Month. The Mentoring Task Force observes and celebrates each year with a variety of activities and outreach. In 2017, a social media campaign was launched: the #SBCMentorChallenge where individuals posted or made a short social media video stating how important their own mentors were/are in their lives. Several community leaders throughout the county participated, including Board of Supervisors Lovingood, Gonzales and Hagman, Fontana Mayor Warren and former County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. In 2018, we launched another social media campaign, #ThankYourMentor, where community members could utilize a sign stating why they wanted to thank their mentor and post a picture or video. Each year, the Task Force also reaches out to our city officials throughout the County to receive a proclamation declaring January as National Mentoring Month in those cities. This has provided a collaborative partnership with our County Board of Supervisors and city governments to promote youth mentoring. In addition, the Mentoring Training Series offers trainings in January focused on recruiting new mentors and overcoming obstacles that can increase the mentoring gap in San Bernardino County.

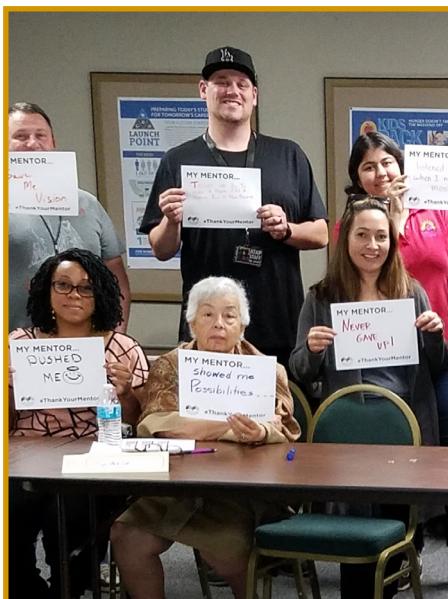
### National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award

In 2018, San Bernardino County and Children's Network received a National Association of Counties Achievement Award for its program titled "Engaging and Connecting Volunteer Mentors with System-Involved Children" in the category of Human Services. The NACo awards are given to counties who develop innovative programming, which yields positive results for its residents.



### The State of Mentoring in San Bernardino County

In August 2016 the Task Force utilized our Community Collaborative meetings to hold four regional stakeholder meetings that would address the specific needs of each county region concerning youth mentoring. These meetings were well-attended and each region identified the specific resources for the area, as well as, the area's unique needs. This information was used as the guidelines to develop the Mentoring Task Force Strategic Plan.



## Mentoring Training Series

In 2017-2018, the Mentoring Task Force offered free trainings held throughout the county. These trainings were open to the public, our non-profit and county agency partners and the mentoring community. Held on a bi-monthly basis, topics included: Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid, Mentoring 101, Mentoring Youth of Color, Mentoring Trauma-Exposed Youth, Mentoring LGBTQ Youth, The Mentoring Gap in San Bernardino County, Building Resiliency in Our Youth and Mentoring Our Youth in Foster Care.

## Regional Community Collaborative/Mentoring Task Force Meetings

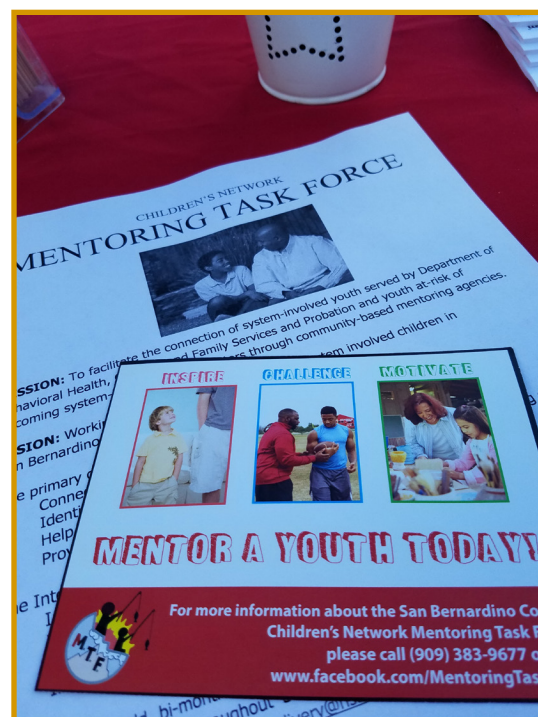
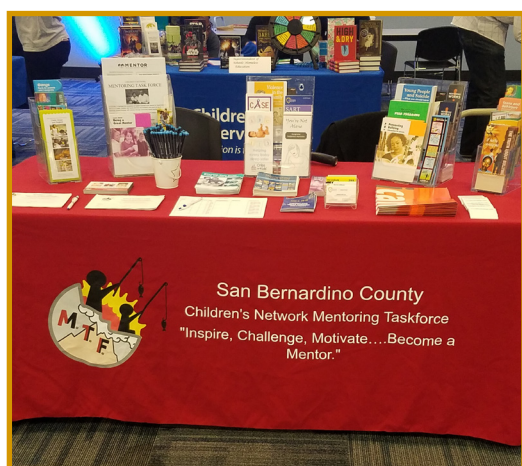
The Regional Community Collaborative meetings held in San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga, Apple Valley and Big Bear were merged together with the Mentoring Task Force meetings, in order to be more accessible to our collaborative agencies and bring together a broader base of partners. These meetings combine our child-serving community partners seeking opportunities to network and receive ongoing educational opportunities with our local mentoring agencies. These meetings were held bi-monthly and offered presentations, such as, Suicide Prevention, Child Abuse Prevention and ACE's, Drug & Alcohol Trends in the LGBTQ Youth Community, Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying, Cultural Competency During the Holidays, Volunteerism and Children and Family Safety Programs. In May 2018, we held the Mentoring Task Force Appreciation Luncheon. On this day, we paid special honor to our many partners who volunteered their time to facilitate our mentoring trainings and our community collaborative presentations.

## Collaboration/Resource Fairs

The Mentoring Task Force is very active in participating and supporting collaborative efforts with our community partners. Throughout 2016-2018 the Mentoring Task Force has supported multiple resource fairs, workshops and conferences sponsored by our partner agencies. One example, is the Day of King Celebration, held annually at MLK Middle School in San Bernardino. The Mentoring Resource Specialist sits on the planning committee and acts as vendor coordinator for the event. This event is also a special opportunity to promote Dr. King's views on volunteerism and community participation as it pertains to mentoring.

## Recruitment/Community Presentations

Recruitment of quality mentors is a major focus for the Mentoring Task Force and this is accomplished through direct contact with the community at health and resource fairs, trainings and community presentations to various agencies and community groups.



### **Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (C.A.S.E.)**

The Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation program is a collaborative approach between 11 public agencies that serve commercially sexually exploited children (ages 12-15), Transitional Age Youth (TAY, ages 16-25), and those at risk for sexual exploitation through a centralized referral mechanism managed by the C.A.S.E. Coordinator and Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT). The program conducts community outreach and education as well as direct services. Services include mental health assessments, crisis intervention, case management, academic assistance, therapeutic interventions, transportation, placement and linkage/referral to community resources.

The collaborative partners include: Behavioral Health, Public Health, Children and Family Services, Children's Network, District Attorney's Office, Probation Department, Public Defender, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Court Appointed Special Advocates of San Bernardino (CASA), Sheriff's Department and Superior Court of California-Juvenile Court. In addition to county/city collaboratives, C.A.S.E. works with the faith-based communities and local non-profits to provide additional support to the youth and their families within their communities.

The California Mental Health Services Act's (MHSA) legislative goals and related key outcomes of the C.A.S.E. program are to: reduce prolonged suffering, improve life satisfaction, decrease hopelessness/increase hope, increase resiliency and decrease impairment in general areas of life functioning (e.g., health/self-care/housing, occupation/education, legal, managing money, interpersonal, social).

C.A.S.E. was originally a MHSA Innovations project introduced in 2010 through the approved MHSA plan. San Bernardino County Behavioral Health conducted an extensive Community Program Planning (CPP) process involving a variety of community stakeholders. After careful review of the Innovations component intent, principles and priorities, Innovations dedicated efforts on building from prior stakeholder input received during the CPP process for Community Services and Supports (CSS) and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), as well as solicited new input specifically for Innovation projects. Through the CPP process, C.A.S.E. was identified as a project necessary to address the need in "specialty" communities.

The initial intent was to develop a model of collaborative care that facilitated clinical rehabilitation for a specific group of children/youth who had been commercially sexually exploited, and to develop approaches to mental health education that assist in the prevention of future exploitation. The long-term goal of the project was to make use of an innovative collaboration to strengthen clinical practice for systems that serve sexually exploited children/youth, by developing creative clinical strategies and combining best practices in trauma care with local collaborative expertise.

With stakeholder support, C.A.S.E. was transitioned into a PEI program in July 2014 to continue to provide effective elements of the project. Since that date, the C.A.S.E. program has been collecting data consistent with the other PEI programs.

#### **Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Walk and the Apathy Effect Exhibit**

C.A.S.E. continued its efforts to raise awareness about human trafficking in San Bernardino County by building on previous years' successful Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Walk. In January 2015 and January 2016, C.A.S.E. hosted its annual Walk Against Human Trafficking. Held at the Children's Network in San Bernardino in 2015 and in Ontario in 2016, both walks were attended by over 300 community members and dignitaries.

In January 2017, C.A.S.E. partnered with California State University, San Bernardino in bringing the Apathy Effect Exhibit to their campus for three days. The Apathy Effect, produced by iEmpathize, "immerses its audience in international stories of resilient young survivors of human trafficking and the response of everyday people who were ignited with empathy when confronted by exploitation and the apathy that fuels it." The exhibit was very successful with over 400 people touring it over the three days it was open.



## Southwest Conference Against Trafficking

In 2018, C.A.S.E. co-hosted the Southwest Conference Against Trafficking (SWCAT) in Ontario, January 11 and 12. Beginning in 2009, SWCAT brings together hundreds of people wanting to end modern-day slavery in our society. Law enforcement agencies, healthcare professionals, attorneys, social workers, non-profit organizations, survivors, families of missing children, journalists, politicians, clergy and educators gathered to be educated and inspired to take action against human trafficking and violence.

## San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

In December 2015, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors issued a proclamation designating January as “Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month” bringing our County’s efforts in line with those at a national level and raising awareness to the issue of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in our community. We are very grateful to the Board of Supervisors for all of their support in the work we do!

## Outreach and Education Committee

In FY 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, the C.A.S.E. Outreach and Education Committee met on a quarterly basis on the second or third Tuesday of the month. This meeting provides the community an opportunity to come together to learn more about the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the county and to network with other community members and professionals who are also interested in these issues. It provides C.A.S.E. with the opportunity to present guest speakers and reports from the C.A.S.E. team members who work with sexually exploited minors on their case loads. The meetings are traditionally held in San Bernardino and to expand C.A.S.E. outreach efforts additional meetings are held in Victorville to allow community members from the High Desert to attend.

## Training and Prevention

In FY 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, C.A.S.E. continued to be dedicated to providing training to anyone in San Bernardino County interested in learning more about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). This included social workers, therapists, probation officers, law enforcement, medical professionals, community members, educators, at-risk youth and others. Since 2011, C.A.S.E. continues to facilitate two and four-hour trainings on the “Identification and Assessment of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation” and “Domestic Minor Trafficking.”

In addition to trainings on human trafficking, C.A.S.E. has collaborated with other agencies to bring specialized trainings to professionals growing their capacity to identify and engage CSEC youth. In July and November 2017, C.A.S.E. hosted “The Road of Risk” trainings which examined correlations between children who are exposed to drugs in early childhood and their increased risk of being sexually exploited in adolescence/young adulthood. A specialized training held in June, 2018 for the C.A.S.E. Multi-disciplinary Team in conjunction with the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) Team focused on “Forensic Interviewing of CSEC Youth.” This was a two-day training, facilitated by Dr. Linda Steele from the National Children’s Advocacy Center, the focus of the training was forensic interviewing techniques to interact with at-risk or CSEC youth to obtain forensic information to aid in the prosecution of their traffickers and sexual offenders.







## Children's Network

### About The Children's Network

The Children's Network of San Bernardino County concerns itself with at-risk children who are defined as minors who, because of behavior, abuse, neglect, medical needs, educational assessment, and/or detrimental living situations, are eligible for services from one or more of the member agencies of the Children's Policy Council.

The overall goal of Children's Policy Council is to help at-risk children by improving communications, planning, coordination, and cooperation among youth-serving agencies.

**Janki Patel**  
Network Officer

**Linda Revoner**  
Associate Network Officer

**Hillary Steenson-Ray**  
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**Nicholas McGhee**  
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Compliments of



Children's Network

