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*Member of the Coastal Tri-Counties Child Abuse Prevention Coalition*

June 18, 2020 ♦ 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
via Zoom

MINUTES

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Ashleigh Erving and Alison Wales welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

**Attendance:** Elizabeth Adams, Jacqui Banta, Jeff Banta, Florene Bednersh, Maria Chesley, Ashleigh Erving, Lori Goodman, Michelle Graham, Tony Hollenback, Maribel Landeros, Carrie Martin, Shana Pompa, Michelle Robertson, Isabel Ruiz, Kimberly Valenzuela, Alison Wales

**Staff:** Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

**2. Approve Minutes from May 21, 2020**

Florene Bednersh motioned to approve the May 21, 2020 minutes; Alison Wales seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**4. Protective Factor of the Month**

Ashleigh referenced the [Living the Protective Factors Playbook](#) from [Be Strong Families](#) and chose an activity from the playbook. Folks discussed what they did as children to have fun and bring joy.

**5. Parent and Teen Voices in Ventura County / Parent & Youth Resources**

The CAPC in Ventura County is called the Partnership for Safe Families and they are the designated CAPC for their County. During the month of April they did a series of videos, one on each Protective Factor and posted them online. Leah Davis is part of the Coastal Tri-Counties Child Abuse Prevention Coalition and she has been a parent representative in that group. Click here to see a message from Leah:

<https://youtu.be/shqJyQh6kbl>

Barbara shared that Parents Anonymous has a Parent & Youth Helpline that is open from 8am to 8pm Monday through Sunday. The number is 1-855-427-2736. You can call, text, or live chat for emotional support. Ashleigh added that Family Service Agency launched a parent coaching warm line on April 1<sup>st</sup> with parent coaches in each region of the county. They are averaging almost 100 calls a month. In April, the main reasons for calls were parent support, relationship support, and homework help (navigating technology). More recently, calls are seeking help in managing and coping with depression and anxiety.

## 6. Reimagining Parent Cafés

Be Strong Families developed the Parent Café around the Five Protective Factors as a way to create transformative change for parents. The model provides opportunities to explore the challenges and the strengths of each family while supporting one another in the journey of parenting. Ground rules establish physical and emotional safety, inclusivity, confidentiality and nonjudgement. Last year, CAPC Family Strengthening Educators included information about ACEs, trauma and resilience. The café questions are chosen from the Parent Café in a Box cards, which include questions for each Protective Factor in English and Spanish. Many of our CAPC organizations have done Parent Cafés and we did a Parent Café with CSOC at our Joint Meeting a couple of years ago. Barbara asked folks to share their experiences.

**Michelle R.** mentioned that when she was with Santa Barbara Unified, Parent Cafés were a good introduction to getting families engaged without it being a full enrollment and a longer class. They were able to come in as they were available. They found that the more they participated in Parent Cafés, the more likely they were to enroll in a formalized parent education class and become more involved in the schools.

**Ashleigh** stated that Family Service Agency has been facilitating Parent Cafés in partnership with parents for a very long time and also on school district campuses. A few years ago they invited the school-based counselors to join the Parent Cafés. It provided a safe way for parents to ask their questions about therapy. She added that they have been impressed with the new materials that the Be Strong Families has produced, the Dad Café, Vitality Café, and the new Parent Café cards. Be Strong Families recently created a youth version as well and are offering free webinars twice a week on strategies for transitioning to virtual Parent Cafés.

**Barbara** added that Be Strong has an online certification course and that the Virtual Café webinars are for people who are already certified. It might be something to consider for the Family Strengthening Educators. Be Strong also offers webinars about COVID-19 that are open to anyone. They recently published a deck of cards called Recovering Together for families who have a family member that is in recovery.

**Tony** mentioned that parents are struggling with issues of race and culture. They need a place to find support for talking to their children about what is going on in the world. He also sees parents needing in-person connection. He has started to see people gathering in church parking lots and parks where they are still physically distanced but present with each other. He suggested coordinating something, still offering some of the same content, but doing it in a different way to meet the needs of parents.

**Barbara** reminded the group about the new set of cards called A More Perfect Union that has questions to explore social justice issues. The cards were developed by parents in Be Strong communities. CAPC can try out these cards for future Protective Factor activities and add ideas from members for meeting parents' needs.

**Jacqui** stated that they are going to start their Resilient Fathers group again. They have been working with a group of 20 men and they have participated in two Resilient Father groups in the past..

**Barbara** appreciated Tony's suggestion to do a safe, socially distanced, outdoor version and also saw benefits in doing Cafés virtually because folks might feel safer to participate. The Innovative Partnership project supports Family Strengthening Educators in leading the Parent Cafés. She suggested bringing together all facilitators who are leading Cafés. Florene suggested inviting facilitators to join CAPC.

- Michelle– will give Barbara names for Santa Barbara Unified
- Elizabeth – suggested presenting at the countywide Homeless and Foster Youth Liaison meetings

## 7. Strengthening Partnerships for Child Abuse Prevention

The Partnership for Strengthening Families has a convening every August where folks come together from the Child Care Planning Council, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Network of Family Resource Centers and Child Welfare Services. At the last convening, we talked about ways to strengthen the partnerships between Child

Welfare Services and Family Resource Centers. We have also discussed the need to partner with teachers and schools. This summer, funding was provided for FRCs, with encouragement to partner with resource families and foster youth to make sure that they had the materials, supplies, and support that they needed around COVID-19. Another idea is to link youth to the resource centers for civic engagement, mentoring, or life coaching opportunities, to strengthen protective factors for youth before they move into adulthood and eventually parenthood.

Barbara challenged the group to identify partnerships that they would like to strengthen and come up with action plans. What are the existing opportunities and/or barriers? What can we commit to doing in the next two months (group or individual)? A robust discussion ensued covering a diverse array of topics and concerns. The following highlights represent key issues, actions, and focus areas that members raised.

#### **Concerns:**

- Lack of diversity in CAPC membership – continue conversations about race and culture
- There has been a decrease in referrals to CWS, kids silent and stuck in unsafe situations, crisis brewing
- Referrals that are coming in are more severe and traumatic
- Also a decrease in RISE referrals for commercially sexually exploited children
- What is the community's capacity for responding to trauma when kids return to school
- Lack of supervision at home where parents have to work; children exposed to high risk behaviors
- Funding the gaps in after school care, given COVID adjustments to school schedules

#### **Partnerships that would enhance the CAPC vision and mission:**

- Black Lives Matter Santa Barbara (organizations active in the movement for justice, equity & inclusion)
- Youth-serving organizations and networks
- Businesses and Chambers of Commerce
- Schools / School Districts throughout the county
- Legal System (Courts, Law Enforcement, CASA workers, DA, Probation)

#### **Opportunities to enhance existing partnerships:**

- **CWS:** enhance connection and communication; outreach to system-involved families, resource families, biological families, adoptive families, foster youth; focus on knowledge of and access to community resources
- **Early Care & Education:** partner with First 5's Early Learning grantees, bringing CAPC expertise on community-focused solutions for strengthening families and family engagement; give input to First 5's Home Visitation coordination efforts
- **Tri-Counties Regional Center (TCRC):** ensure that persons with intellectual/developmental disorders and those who support them are considered when identifying at risk populations; link Crisis Support Services with CAPC resources and prevention efforts
- **Behavioral Wellness:** link to Cultural Competency Action Team for building awareness around cultural humility and culturally sensitive outreach and engagement

#### **CAPC Member Recruitment**

- Youth, especially transition-age youth with lived experience in the Child Welfare System
- Representatives of the courts / legal system / law enforcement
- Representative from the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council / Probation
- CASA workers
- Diversity in all areas, to invite, welcome, include and amplify voices of Black, Indigenous, People of Color who have an interest in child abuse and neglect prevention

### Topics for future CAPC meetings

- Update on the 2016 Racial and Ethnic Disparity Study (Probation, BeWell, Schools, CWS)
- Overview of TCRC prevention training from Crisis Support Services
- North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center overview of curriculum being delivered in junior high/ high schools and community college (child abuse, human trafficking, sexual harassment)
- Resources needed for adoptive and foster kids
- Youth empowerment efforts in Santa Barbara County

### Opportunities for Action

- Review Board of Supervisors meeting where community members made recommendations for county action around diversity, equity, and racial justice
- Educate the courts (ACEs, trauma-informed approaches, protective factors, local resources)
- Educate law enforcement about differential response and community resources
- Increase public awareness about prevention – how to recognize families in need of support
- Create a PSA or media campaign with information and a call to action
- Provide ACEs education in health classes; reach future parents with prevention curriculum
- Contribute expertise to conversations about redistributing funds from law enforcement to mental health and social services
- Outreach to people services directors and health & government teachers for professional development opportunities related to prevention
- Develop new ideas for engaging community members and youth
- Monitor CWS data as schools reopen

### Top Priorities from the Chat Box

- #1 Strengthen partnerships and work more closely with schools
- #2 Support families and youth, link to services
- #3 Expand CAPC membership

## 8. Member Updates & Announcements

- **Michelle R.** announced that Mari Ortega-Garcia has taken a position with Guadalupe Union School District as the new Director of Early Education and Support.
- **Florene** shared that her department received a grant from The Fund for Santa Barbara to train the three lead Promotoras in the companion to the CSEFEL Teaching Pyramid, which is Positive Solutions for Families. The three leads will be trained and available to do trainings for Promotoras across the county. The grant also includes funding for purchasing resources and books in Spanish.
- **Ashleigh** requested to get an update from child welfare at the next meeting in terms of trends and what they are seeing when calls come in that will inform some of their prevention practices.
- **Kimberly** announced that the CEO at Casa Pacifica is officially retiring and he will be staying on part time. Their new CEO, Shawna Morris is due to start later in July. She is currently the CEO of Phoenix House in Texas in California and has a lot of experience in children's mental health.
- **Barbara** shared that KIDS Network was awarded a grant through the ACEs Aware initiative to grow the Bridges to Resilience Conference to be a tri-county event and focus on engaging medical professionals, especially Medi-Cal providers. The Pediatric Resiliency Collaborative, which is focused on getting doctors to screen for ACEs, got a grant to work on the training component. Community Health Care Centers of the Central Coast also got a grant. She looks forward to connecting with them and seeing what their plans are for engaging the provider network.

## 9. Adjourn at 11:00 am - Next meeting - July 16, 2020

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz*