



Member of the Coastal Tri-Counties Child Abuse Prevention Coalition

September 16, 2021 ♦ 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Mindful Moment

Barbara Finch guided the group through a mindful moment.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth Adams and Yvonne Nelson were unable to attend. Folks shared one word about how they are showing up today.

Attendance: Jacqui Banta, Maria Castro, Luz Diaz, Flo Furuike, Tony Hollenback, Karla Huizar, Armando Hurtado, Maribel Landeros, Cynthia MacDuff, Lydia Marquez, Carrie Martin, Natalia Mendez, Teresa Mitchell, Taundra Pitchford, Shana Pompa, Marianne Reagan, Michelle Robertson, Rynn Schumacher, Eva Tagle, Kimberly Valenzuela, Alison Wales

Staff: Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

3. Approve Minutes from July 15, 2021

Michelle Robertson motioned to approve the July 15, 2021 minutes and Natalia Mendez seconded the motion. Maribel Landeros abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Partnership for Strengthening Families Protective Factor of the Month

The Protective Factor of the Month was Resilience. Folks were divided into triads and asked to discuss the following: *Reflections on the turning of the seasons... What are you letting go of? What are you harvesting? How are you nourishing yourself?* Folks shared the following themes:

- Nourishing through love – it resolves conflict, heals worlds, bridges gaps and creates a different energy – add it to the agenda!
- Letting go of what we don't have control of.

6. Highlights from Statewide Prevention Convening

Barbara went over the following highlights of the Statewide Prevention Convening held on August 4th & 5th (see attached PPT):

- Equity, Community Leadership & Systems Change – featured speaker was Junious Williams, JD
 - Lydia mentioned that they may bring Junious back at some point for one of their Learning Exchange Convenings or a webinar. He is amazing. If anyone is interested in watching his keynote, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/Ff7ZuaWAduY>. Lydia will also send the Community Engagement Toolkit.
- ICWA: Indian Child Welfare Act – featured speaker was Stephanie Weldon, MSW
 - There are 109 federally recognized tribes and 104 of those are based in California. The 109 is only 20% of all tribes so there are many tribes that do not have federal recognition and perhaps do not have the same protection. Nationally, over 51% of substantiated CWS cases that involve American Indian children enter into foster care. This is a high rate and there is also a very high percentage of children who are removed from their homes even though they are deemed safe. These may not be trends that are happening in our county, but they are important to pay attention to.
 - We have not been successful in engaging our Chumash partners in the work of child abuse prevention. Barbara connected with our field liaison, Donald Rodriguez, whose role is to strengthen relationships and provide technical assistance and training. She hopes there will be opportunities to learn about ways to approach these partnerships.
 - Marianne mentioned that under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) they ask all families they encounter whether they have any Native American or Native Alaskan heritage. If the answer is yes, that requires them to do certain things. For instance, if a child is taken into protective custody, they are required to ask parents about relatives that share their heritage, and they contact those relatives. They also notify the tribe about the child. Marianne added that tribes can legally intervene in the court system if they want to but they typically do not. CWS mainly works with our local Chumash tribe so when they do have a child who is of Chumash heritage they try to place with relatives or in a Chumash home. The tribal liaison will usually consult with them on this process. Carrie added that the Chumash will also support children that are from other tribes if they don't have representation in the area. Marianne also shared that they have worked with the Chumash tribe in the past to help them develop their resources for foster care.
 - Tony shared that he attended a Home Equity Conference in June and one of the things that they highlighted in working with Native American indigenous families is that our system is rooted in the western culture in terms of how we look at Mental Health, Human Services, and Child Welfare, and there is a big movement about integrating different traditions from Latino families, Native indigenous families, and others to help us better understand their culture, traditions, and healing practices. He added that substance abuse is a huge issue in many tribal communities but most traditional substance abuse interventions are not very effective because they don't integrate the values of native indigenous people. Wellbriety is an example of a common treatment modality that incorporates tribal traditions.
- Creating Communities of Hope – featured speaker Hasan Davis
 - Spoke about acknowledging the racist history of our country and recognizing the contributions that have been made by African Americans and people of Latino heritage in building this country and making it what it is.
 - Suggested investing in youth without guarantees that they are going to succeed and trying to create experiences that can change their lives through creative expression, telling their own stories and encouraging each person to be a hero in their own story..

7. Community Engagement for Prevention- Inspiration from the Convening

- Results- driven and purposeful
- The Community Engagement Spectrum
- Equity and lived experience
- Leadership development

The idea behind community engagement for prevention is to build better strategies to achieve better results for children, families, and communities. Barb invited folks to consider the following: ***Why is community engagement important for child abuse and neglect prevention? How will it contribute to our results?***

- **Shana:** People who interact with families and kids everyday often only see the outside of the person. Sometimes they see behaviors like not going to school meetings or not following up on phone calls and automatically there can be an assumption that a parent does not care or a kid just has bad behavior. But if community members understood the impact of ACEs and toxic stress perhaps they can see that this might be a reflection of an underlying need that has not been met.
- **Michelle:** Community engagement is almost like added peer pressure because the more it is in people's face the harder it is to say that it does not have anything to do with them.
- **Maria:** Maria shared that she wears one of the pins normally used during Child Abuse Prevention Month that reads "Protecting kids is everyone's job." She catches people being drawn to the pin and feels that they walk away with those words in their head. She feels that the way we can best engage the community is seeing the community. When you speak you have to show you care and always be authentic and genuine. Maria gave an example of the importance of relationship building. It is important to have the trust of the kids, the parents, and law enforcement.
- **Maribel:** They encourage the Promotores to be the voice for the community. It is important to be respectful and understand the values that the families have. They want people to use their voice and ask questions. For example, when people say, "You need to be educated", to really digest and figure out what this means to each family. This can be taken as a disrespectful message that they are being ignorant or they do not know what they are doing. Instead someone can ask: What tools do you need? What would you like to learn? Education goes both ways and respect is very important.
- **Lydia:** When looking to be trauma-informed sometimes we focus so much on the trauma that we do not see the person and sometimes that dehumanizes folks, as groups of people. Lydia added that some communities are starting to look at healing-centered approaches. How do we help families heal in ways that honor their culture and where they are from? If we want to see an equitable and just system we have to think: Is this system causing trauma to families? Ask families, how is my system impacting you? How can we change so that we are actually helping people heal from trauma versus continually traumatizing and them coming back into our systems?
- **Ryyn:** At Public Health they work with lot of the community members and they try to emphasize community engagement as much as possible, with a goal of policy. He mentioned perhaps there is some sort of policy that can be created through the efforts of community engagements. He added that biggest voice that government officials listen to when trying to change policies within the schools or cities is the youth and how it's affecting youth and parents of youth. If this is the direction or goal we want to create, creating a policy and emphasizing the prevention of child abuse and neglect, this might be a bigger piece of a discussion that we should have in the future.
- **Natalia:** Community resources can offer support to buffer stress and share tools for parents to be able to know better/do better.

Small group exercise: What are the outcomes that the Child Abuse Prevention Council is trying to achieve? For each outcome, why do we want to engage the community – how might engagement advance those results? What roles do you see community members playing to advance those results?

- Barbara's group spoke about the number of calls to child welfare and how that is an indication of concern. During the pandemic people weren't calling but this didn't necessarily mean that child abuse was going down. They discussed the complexity of trying to capture what is really happening in our community around the wellbeing of children and our ability to protect and build protective factors and reduce risk factors. How are we measuring this? How can engaging community help us to do this?
- Carrie's group discussed the reduction of foster care and if there are changes in the rates. They also discussed being confused about the roles that everybody plays and where there is the most need. Are they in the right places? Is the prevention being targeted in those areas of higher need? How can CAPC play a role and is there a strategic plan? Barbara mentioned that we do not have a strategic plan and that is one of the goals of the Prevention Team and the County Self-Assessment (CSA).

- Lydia’s group talked about how to build capacity among people who aren't doing this work. Do they really understand what child abuse and neglect is, what the risks are, and what services are out there? Lived experience is also really important. If you are looking at equity, it is important to make sure that you are building leadership within the community so that people can see that leadership reflects who lives in their community, who speaks their language and who looks like them.

Barbara went over the Community Engagement Spectrum chart (see attached PPT). Barbara asked folks for their thoughts and where they are currently operating. Folks shared the following:

- As a CAPC we are probably “informing” and sometimes “consulting”. Our Parent Leadership efforts include a bit of “involving”.
- Michelle mentioned that CALM work directly with persons in the CWS system and wondered if they have done focus groups around how folks got to where they are.

Barbara had the attendees take a poll to see if we represent the beneficiaries that we are trying to help:

1. Have you been directly impacted by child abuse and/or neglect?
 - Yes – 62%
 - No – 38%
2. Do you identify with the population you are serving?
 - Yes – 77%
 - No – 23%
3. Are you a front line worker who engages with families daily?
 - Yes – 31%
 - No – 69%
4. Did you grow up or live in the community you are serving?
 - Yes – 46%
 - No – 54%

Folks shared their thoughts on the results:

- Do we have any parent voices at CAPC? We have, but not at this point. It is a powerful strategy to have parents who are passionate about this work, who believe in the message and can share it.
- Perhaps we can get parents who participate in the Parent Cafés to attend.
- Natalia mentioned that their focus is in getting parents engaged, encouraging them to take a lead in the Parent Cafés, and continue building these parents as leaders in the community.
- There was a suggestion to do a talk about the Protective Factors on the radio and have a one or two minute clip. Parents can get invited to these meetings to engage in the conversation as to how we can support the community. Maria volunteered to translate or interpret. The theme of community voices or community engagement could be a focus for the April campaign.

8. Announcements & Closing Thoughts

- **Shana** announced that Fighting Back will be offering three different types of parenting classes starting next week. They will be virtual in English and Spanish. She encouraged folks to spread the word and send to families that may be interested.
- **Luz** invited everyone to register and share about their upcoming Youth Empowerment Summit @ https://whova.com/web/yesys_202110/

9. Adjourn at 11:06am - Next meeting: October 21, 2021

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz