

By-laws of the KIDS Network of Santa Barbara County

I. NAME

The council established by these by-laws shall be known as the Santa Barbara County KIDS Network (the “KIDS Network”).

II. PURPOSE (MISSION STATEMENT)

The mission of the KIDS Network is to provide comprehensive, collaborative community services to children, youth and families by:

- improving coordination, planning, communications and cooperation among service 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 interagency projects;
- implementing collaborative programs, public and private, to better serve children, youth and families;
- attracting resources from both the public and private sectors to meet children, youth and families' needs; and
- actively striving for geographic, linguistic, ethnic and economic diversity in membership and in respect to all services provided by its members.

III. AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the Welfare and Institutions Code Sections §18986-18986.30 and the authorization of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, the KIDS Network is established as an independent organization under County government.

IV. GEOGRAPHIC AREA

The KIDS Network shall serve the entire Santa Barbara County.

V. ORGANIZATION

The KIDS Network shall be comprised of the following organizational components:

- a) KIDS Network General Membership – all members at large
- b) KIDS Network Executive Committee – elected or appointed members from the General Membership responsible for providing oversight and accountability to members at large, the Board of Supervisors and the public.

VI. Functions and Operations

Section 1. General: The KIDS Network shall act in an advisory capacity to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the community with respect to issues relevant to children, youth and families.

Section 2. Specific Functions

a) KIDS Network – The specific functions of the KIDS Network General Membership shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Serve as a forum for public and private agencies to collaboratively discuss issues relevant to children, youth and families and develop recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Issues may be identified by the KIDS Network or may be referred to the KIDS Network by the Board of Supervisors or the Executive Committee, and may include developing priorities for resource allocation.
2. Participate in a planning process, which identifies issues relevant to children, youth and families in Santa Barbara County requiring the County's and community's attention. Such a planning process shall be designed to review needs, priorities, services, gaps in services and special programs and shall identify strategic focus areas which could benefit from collaborative action. Any strategies developed based on this process shall include goals and objectives in accordance with the County of Santa Barbara's Policy on Children, Youth and Families, as adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Proposed actions deemed appropriate activities for the KIDS Network may include, but are not limited to, coordination, advocacy, public education, facilitation of services or resource development.

3. Serve as the Board-appointed advisory body responsible for needs assessments, planning and priority setting, such as for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF).
4. Designate members to serve on task-forces and committees as appropriate.

b) The Executive Committee - The specific functions of the Executive Committee shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Provide overall accountability regarding all KIDS Network activities to the Board of Supervisors and the public.
2. Provide Strategic Plan oversight.
3. Plan activities and set agendas for general meetings of the KIDS Network as advised by the full membership. Communicate plans, activities and outcomes to the KIDS Network, the Board of Supervisors and the general public when deemed appropriate.
4. Where appropriate and available, commit and direct resources and discretionary funding for services or activities identified by the KIDS Network as priorities.
5. Appoint task forces or committees, incorporating existing planning groups as appropriate, to study and recommend solutions on issues raised by the KIDS Network, the Board of Supervisors or the Executive Committee.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. KIDS Network General Membership: The KIDS Network shall encourage a geographically, linguistically, ethnically and socio-economically diverse membership including, but not limited to, community-based organizations, parents, community members, faith based groups, educators, County and other public agencies. Members shall live, work, volunteer or be otherwise engaged in supporting children, youth and families in Santa Barbara County and shall support the vision and mission of the KIDS Network. In addition, General Membership shall include but not be limited to, the following members:

- (a) Persons responsible for management of the following county functions:
- (1) Alcohol and drug programs.

- (2) Children's services.
- (3) Housing and redevelopment.
- (4) Mental health services.
- (5) Probation.
- (6) Public health services.
- (7) Welfare or public social services.
- (b) The presiding judge of the county's juvenile court, or representative.
- (c) The superintendent of the county office of education and at least one superintendent of a unified school district within the county.
- (d) A prosecuting attorney of the county or city and county, or representative.
- (e) A representative of a private nonprofit corporation which has a goal of entering into a public private partnership with the county to meet the needs of children that are not adequately met by existing public or private funds.
- (f) One member of the County Board of Supervisors.
- (g) A representative of law enforcement.
- (h) A representative of the local child abuse council.
- (i) A representative of a local planning agency participating in the California Early Intervention Program pursuant to Subchapter VIII (commencing with Section 1471) of Chapter 33 of Title 20 of the United States Code.
- (j) A representative of the local child care resource and referral agency or other local child care coordinating group.
- (k) A representative, or representatives, of one or more community-based organizations with ties to the ethnic communities served in the area.

Section 2. Executive Committee Membership: The Executive Committee shall be comprised of members of the KIDS Network General Membership. Membership is limited to no more than 15 members. Member composition is determined as follows:

- (1) One member of the Board of Supervisors;
- (2) Director of the Department of Social Services (County Department appointing and supervising the KIDS Network staff) or designee;

- (3) KIDS Network Community Vice-Chair, defined as any KIDS Network member not representing a public agency;
- (4-5) Two Community Representatives, defined as any KIDS Network member representing the community at large, including but not limited to a parent, a volunteer, a faith-based representative or any other group or collaborative;
- (6) A School Representative;
- (7) A Representative of the First 5 Children and Families Commission serving the 0-5 Population;
- (8) A Representative of Special Needs Children;
- (9-12) Four Representatives from non-profit corporations whose primary focus of service is to children, youth and families, and whose programs and services reflect the strategic focus areas and geographic regions of this county;
- (13-15) Three additional Representatives from County Departments as recommended by the KIDS Network and appointed by the Chair whose services reflect the Network's current strategic focus areas.

Section 3. Terms of Membership:

- a) **KIDS Network General Membership** – There is no term limit for KIDS Network general members. Membership may be terminated by a member at any time by notifying KIDS Network staff in writing. If a member misses more than two consecutive meetings, KIDS Network staff shall re-evaluate the member's ability to serve.
- b) **Executive Committee** – The term of each member is three years. Members may serve unlimited consecutive terms. If a member misses more than two consecutive meetings, KIDS Network staff shall alert the KIDS Network General Membership, which will make a recommendation regarding the member's continued ability to serve as a representative on the Executive Committee. Executive Committee members may select one alternate who may vote on his or her behalf when the Executive Committee member is unable to attend a meeting.

1. **Non-profit representatives** – Should more than four non-profit representatives meeting the above stated criteria step forward to serve on the Executive Committee, the KIDS Network General Membership will elect the representatives by vote. Elections shall be held at the June KIDS Network Meetings, unless deemed necessary by staff to conduct a vote during another regularly scheduled meeting. Only members present at the meeting may vote and no member of the KIDS Network may vote by proxy. In the event of elections not scheduled for the June meeting, members must receive at least fifteen (15) days prior written notice of the intent to elect a new non-profit representative at another regularly scheduled meeting.
2. **County representatives** – County representatives will be recommended by the KIDS Network General Membership and appointed by the Chair.

VIII. Meetings

Section 1. General. The KIDS Network shall meet monthly or as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. The KIDS Network General Membership will hold at least three regular open meetings per year on a posted schedule. In addition, the Executive Committee shall hold at least three additional regular open meetings per year on a posted schedule. Members of the public may attend the open KIDS Network General Membership and Executive Committee meetings, but only members of the KIDS Network General Membership or Executive Committee, respectively, may vote.

Section 2. Special Meetings. In addition to the regular meetings, any three members may call special meetings in accordance with Brown Act noticing requirements.

Section 3. Quorum. Executive Committee meetings shall require a quorum to conduct business. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be defined as the presence of a simple majority of the filled seats. No member of the KIDS Executive Committee may vote by proxy with the exception of a designated alternate determined at the beginning of the term.

IX. OFFICERS

Section 1. Chair and Vice Chair. The Board of Supervisors appoints the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Section 2. Community Vice-Chair.

a) The Community Vice-Chair will be elected by the KIDS Network membership. All members not representing a public agency are eligible to serve as a Vice-Chair. Elections shall be held at the June KIDS Network Meetings, unless deemed necessary by staff to conduct a vote during another regularly scheduled meeting. Only members present at the meeting may vote and no member of the KIDS Network may vote by proxy. In the event of elections not scheduled for the June meeting, members must receive at least fifteen (15) days prior written notice of the intent to elect a new Community Vice-Chair at another regularly scheduled meeting.

b) The Community Vice-Chair term shall be for three years and he/she may serve unlimited consecutive terms. In the event that prior to the expiration of his or her term, the Community Vice-Chair resigns or becomes ineligible for service, a new Vice-Chair will be elected at the General Membership meeting immediately following the date of the resignation, provided at least fifteen (15) days prior written notice of the intent to elect a new Community Vice-Chair was given to each KIDS Network member. In the event a resignation occurs less than 15 days before a scheduled meeting, the election shall be held at the subsequent regularly scheduled meeting after notice has been provided.

X. KIDS NETWORK STAFFING

The activities of the KIDS Network will be administered by the Network Coordinator with clerical support. The Coordinator shall be based in the Department of Social Services and the Department of Social Services Director shall be deemed the appointing authority for the position, as well as provide general supervision. The KIDS Network Coordinator will receive general direction from the KIDS Network, the Chair and the Executive Committee.

XI. COMMITTEES

The KIDS Network may form standing committees or ad-hoc committees to work on specific issues and propose a recommended course of action for the General Membership. Committees shall be composed of no less than three members and shall include members of the General Membership and the Executive Committee.

XII. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the General Membership by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that each member of the membership received at least fifteen (15) days prior written notice of the intent to amend the Bylaws.

KIDS NETWORK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009-2010 ROSTER

TITLE & AGENCY		SEAT
Bill Batty	Executive Director, Family Service Agency	CBO County-Wide
Frank Bush	Director of Consumer Services, Tri-Counties Regional Center	Special Needs Children
Joe Centeno, Chair	Santa Barbara County Fifth District Supervisor	County Board of Supervisors
Shannon Rose Chavez	Executive Director, North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center	Community Vice Chair
Jan Clevenger	Assistant Superintendent, Santa Barbara County Education Office	School Representative
Kathy Gallagher	Director, Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services	County Social Services
Suzanne Grimesey-Kirk	Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Division Chief, Children and Adult Services	Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services
Georgene Lowe	SBCEO Health Linkages and Children's Health Initiative Chair	Community Representative
LuAnn Miller	Executive Director, Isla Vista Youth Projects	CBO South County
Norene Nims	15 th District PTA President	Community Representative
Dean Palius	Executive Director, Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People	CBO Mid-County
Susan Klein-Rothschild	Assistant Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health	County Department of Public Health
Patti Stewart	Chief Probation Officer, Santa Barbara County	County Probation
Eddie Taylor	Chief Executive Officer, Northern Santa Barbara County United Way	CBO North County
Patricia Wheatley	Executive Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County	Santa Barbara County First 5

**KIDS Network of Santa Barbara County 2009-2010
MEMBERS**

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address
Florene	Bedhersh	Special Education, SBCEO	flogo@sbceo.org
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Hilda	Zacarias	CA Family Resource Association	Fidel.Villanueva@sbcphd.org hildazacarias@yahoo.com

KIDS Network of Santa Barbara County 2009-2010
EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address
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Christina	Thielst	FACHE	cthielst@cox.net



Strategic Plan Update 2008-2010

Created by the Board of Supervisors in 1991 as an advisory body on children and family issues, the KIDS Network is a county-wide umbrella organization including members from public agencies, law enforcement, education, community-based organizations, school-linked programs and parent groups. The Network was formed to strategically determine priorities for improving outcomes in the areas of human services, health, education and juvenile justice for children and families. It also serves as a forum for coordinating existing public and private services and resources.

Vision

All children will grow up in safe, healthy and nurturing homes, schools and communities. Their resultant sense of self-worth, along with equal access to resources, will empower children to develop their unique potential, with a strong sense of responsibility to self, culture and society.

Mission

The KIDS's Network mission is to ensure the provision of comprehensive, collaborative community services to children, youth and families by:

- improving coordination, planning, communication and cooperation among service agencies; (A-2) *
- identifying gaps and overlaps in services; (A-1, B-1)
- providing a forum for clarifying perceptions and expectations among and between county agencies and the community; (A-2, B-1, B-2, B-3, C-3)
- setting priorities for interagency projects; (B-1, B-3, C)
- implementing collaborative programs, public and private, to better serve children, youth and families; (C-1, C-2, C-3)
- attracting resources from both the public and private sectors to meet children, youth and families' need; (C-1, C-2) and

- actively striving for geographic, linguistic, ethnic and economic diversity in membership and in respect to all services provided by its members. (B-1)

* Letters and numbers in parenthesis refer to **Objectives** and **Strategic Goals** on following pages.

A. INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

One of the main responsibilities of the KIDS Network is to gather and disseminate to the Board of Supervisors, other policy makers, the community and KIDS members reliable information relevant to the well-being of children and families in Santa Barbara County for the purpose of strategic planning, priority setting and allocating resources. Such information may include: community assets, community needs, chronic and emerging issues, best practices research and other information requested by policy makers or required for special projects.

Strategic Goal A-1

DATA. Continue to collect and analyze local data on the well-being of children and serve as a resource and referral hub for access to data regarding children and families.

Strategic Actions FY08/09 and FY09/10

- Update, maintain and promote the www.kidsdata.org/sbc website.
- Annually form a committee from General and Executive Memberships to analyze data and identify issues of note or concern.
- Publish a “Santa Barbara County Children’s Scorecard” that highlights selected indicators, trends and recommendations for action based on the committee’s analysis and recommendations.
- Periodically publish materials that update, support or expand upon the Children’s Scorecard and the KIDS Network focus areas.
- Explore the feasibility and desirability of researching, compiling and disseminating other types of reports of interest to the board or members. The purpose of providing these reports is to assist with priority setting and directing resources to areas of need. Such reports may include data by local jurisdictions, a children’s budget, children’s services summary, or annual report.

Strategic Goal A-2

DISSEMINATION AND EDUCATION. Maintain active communication and education efforts that connect service providers, policy makers and stakeholders with data, information and resources about children and family well-being.

Strategic Actions FY08/09 and FY09/10

- Maintain a KIDS Network Website with relevant publications and links.
- Schedule two presentations to the Board of Supervisors
- Regularly present to other groups regarding KIDS Network goals, activities and findings.
- Co-host conferences, training and education events with other organizations and networks promoting priorities in alignment with the KIDS Network objectives.

Key Projects for FY09/10

- Compile, edit and publish the 2009 Children's Scorecard by following the existing format.
- Present document and findings to the Board of Supervisors.
- Present impact report to the Board of Supervisors.
- Promote and assist with the dissemination of the Child Abuse Prevention Summit Report.
- Assist with www.kidsdata.org state-wide launch.

B. IN-NETWORK COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION AND MEETINGS

Through its meetings and membership lists, the KIDS Network works to facilitate communication, collaboration and coordination among health, education and human services providers, in order to enhance services to children and families.

Strategic Goal B-1

MEETINGS. Schedule regular meetings for Executive and General Membership for the purpose of clarifying issues, prioritizing needs, and determining Network actions for selected priorities, while ensuring that relevant members are engaged in the process.

Strategic Actions FY08/09 and FY09/10

- Schedule six (three annually) General Membership meetings that provide an opportunity for discussion of issues to be taken to the Executive Committee for action, provide updates and receive feed-back on work in progress, as well as exchange of information among members relevant to their programs and services.
- Schedule eight (four annually) Executive Committee Meetings that serve as a platform for reviewing the issues identified by the General Membership, deciding on actions, agreeing on desired collaborative outcomes and reviewing results of work in progress.
- Engage members in planning meetings, leading committees, assuming responsibility for selected focus areas and activities, and facilitating at special events.

Strategic Goal B-2

LINKAGES. Maintain linkages and communication pathways among members of the KIDS Network and between the KIDS Network and other relevant organizations.

Strategic Actions FY08/09 and FY09/10

- Facilitate regular e-mail communication between meetings with relevant updates and for agenda setting purposes.
- Periodically request input or presentations with information relevant to objectives in focus areas, such as current projects or special population needs.

- Ensure a KIDS Network presence in all County-wide councils and collaboratives addressing issues relevant to children and families.

Strategic Goal B-3

COMMUNITY INPUT. Serve as a community coordinating council for issues or funding relevant to children and families or support mandated community councils and community input processes.

Strategic Actions FY08/09 and FY09/10

- Periodically as mandated by the State Office of Child Abuse Prevention or as requested by the KIDS Network membership, establish a committee from KIDS Executive and General Membership to evaluate and strategically determine the use for the Santa Barbara County Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) allocation.
- Collaborate with Child Welfare Services and other County Departments to serve as a representative voice in state-mandated plans.

Key Projects for FY09/10

- As the designated PSSF Collaborative, participate in the development of the Three-Year Plan for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and in the resultant Request for Proposal process.
- Participate in Child Welfare Services' Self-Improvement Process.

C. PRIORITIES FOR NETWORK ACTION

One of the primary functions of the KIDS Network membership is to agree on cross-agency priority issues for action in the area of children's services, set corresponding goals, determine objectives and define progress measures and indicators.

Strategic Goal C-1

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE. Kids Network supports the priority of the Children's Health Initiative to promote access to health care for children by emphasizing advocacy, coordination and policy issues with a focus on outreach, enrollment, retention and utilization.

Strategic Actions FY08/09 and FY09/10

- Develop multi-agency health-related outcomes for children enrolled via CHI and related efforts (school attendance, physical activity, health management, etc.)

Strategic Goal C-2

FAMILY SUPPORT. Santa Maria Valley has an integrated array of family support services, which meet the needs of its growing and changing population.

Strategic Actions FY08/09 and FY09/10

- Building on community strengths, the KIDS Network Coordinator and Executive Committee members represented in the Santa Maria Valley will develop and convene a structure (including the existing Healthy Start Collaborative) for consistent communication and coordination among programs to include county departments, relevant CBO's and schools at the executive, management and line staff levels to promote the access, expansion, and integration of services. Once this priority has been addressed, the Network will consider other geographical areas for this focus area.

Strategic Goal C-3

CHILDREN AT-RISK OF ENTERING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DEPENDENCY SYSTEMS. Available resources are created & coordinated effectively to the best advantage of the child.

Strategic Actions FY08/09 and FY09/10

- Continue to provide staff support to the Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council, which includes hosting ten scheduled meetings per year and executing special projects as directed by the council.
- Identify barriers including communication among county departments and community partners and pursue solutions, such as convening groups working on similar issues or outcomes.
- Create sub-committee to enable the smooth flow of information and data among agency partners, including addressing confidentiality and utilization of Network meeting time to address communication issues.

Key Projects for FY09/10

- In collaboration with the Children’s Health Initiative Santa Barbara (CHISB), facilitate the development of data collection to measure:
 - Effectiveness of efforts already in process (countywide evaluation) to health insurance coverage and utilization (HK, HF, M/C)
 - Medi-Cal enrollment
 - General Health-related outcomes for children
- Facilitate North County Summit Workgroup to address North County Capacity Building issues.
- Coordinate public outreach and education activities of the Child Abuse Prevention Council (see separate work plan).

D. Community Support

The KIDS Network draws attention to children and families to gather community-wide support for prioritizing the needs of children and families in Santa Barbara County.

Strategic Goal D-1

Publicly recognize and honor children and youth.

Strategic Actions FY08/09 and FY09/10

- Annually organize and promote the “Awesome KIDS” Awards luncheon.

Key Projects for FY09/10

- Form 2009 committee to determine theme and winners of Awesome KIDS Awards Luncheon December 11, 2009.