

# The Santa Barbara County Partnership for Strengthening Families



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL POLICY'S  
**strengthening families**  
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK

# Overview

## Context

- Prevention makes sense
- Prevention is possible
- Strengthening Families is an effective approach

## Approach

- Interagency collaboration
- Strengthening Families framework at the center
- Tracking of outcomes

## Partners

- Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)
- Child Care Planning Council (CCPC)
- Network of Family Resource Centers (NFRC)

## Vision

- Safe and nurturing communities
- A strong web of support for children and families

# Outcomes

Desired Outcome	What it looks like...
Strengthened families	Families are supported, engaged and empowered to be resilient, resourceful and self-reliant
Optimal child development	Effective interventions for trauma and toxic stress Starting Kindergarten healthy and “ready to go”
Reduced incidence of child abuse & neglect	Reduction of risk factors Strengthening of protective factors Help for families before abuse occurs

# Context

- Prevention Makes Sense
  - Child abuse & neglect is associated with toxic stress

## Incidence of abuse in 2013

- 4748 reports of suspected abuse
- 2143 referrals to Front Porch

### Children ages 0-5 comprise:

- 48% of substantiated cases (272)
- 32% of Front Porch referrals (689)

## Impacts of toxic stress

- Disrupted brain & organ development
- Higher cognitive impairment risk
- Higher mental & physical health risk
- Higher substance abuse risk

**Effects can last a lifetime**

# Context

- Prevention Is Possible
  - Successful prevention is universal
  - It reduces risks AND strengthens protective factors

<b>Risk factor</b>	<b>Protective factor</b>
Poverty	Concrete support
Isolation	Social connections
Life stress	Parental resilience
Lack of parenting skills	Knowledge of parenting & child development
Children with challenges	Social & emotional competence of children

# Context

- Strengthening Families  
at the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center



Protective factor	Example
Concrete support	Food distribution Health insurance enrollment
Social & emotional competence of children	Supervised playtime
Knowledge of parenting/ child development	Structured learning activities CALM parenting classes
Parental resilience	Therapeutic support
Social connections	FRC events, family gatherings Opportunities for parent leadership

# Approach

## The Partnership for Strengthening Families

- Alignment across early care, family support and prevention systems
- Unifying principles guide attitudes and worker practices:
  - A **changed relationship** with parents
  - Focus on the **protective factors** all families need to thrive
- Collaboration for child abuse and neglect prevention

# Approach

- How Partnership Works in Isla Vista



## Quality practices (strategies) for front-line workers

Value and support parents

Recognize and respond to crises

Link families to services & opportunities

Facilitate friendships & mutual support

Strengthen parenting

Further children's social & emotional development

Observe & respond to early warning signs of abuse & neglect



# Approach

- Outcomes & Measurement Tools

Desired Outcome	Measured using...
Strengthened families	Family Development Matrix Protective Factors Survey
Optimal child development	Ages & Stages Questionnaire Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP)
Reduced incidence of child abuse & neglect	Child Welfare data Recidivism rates

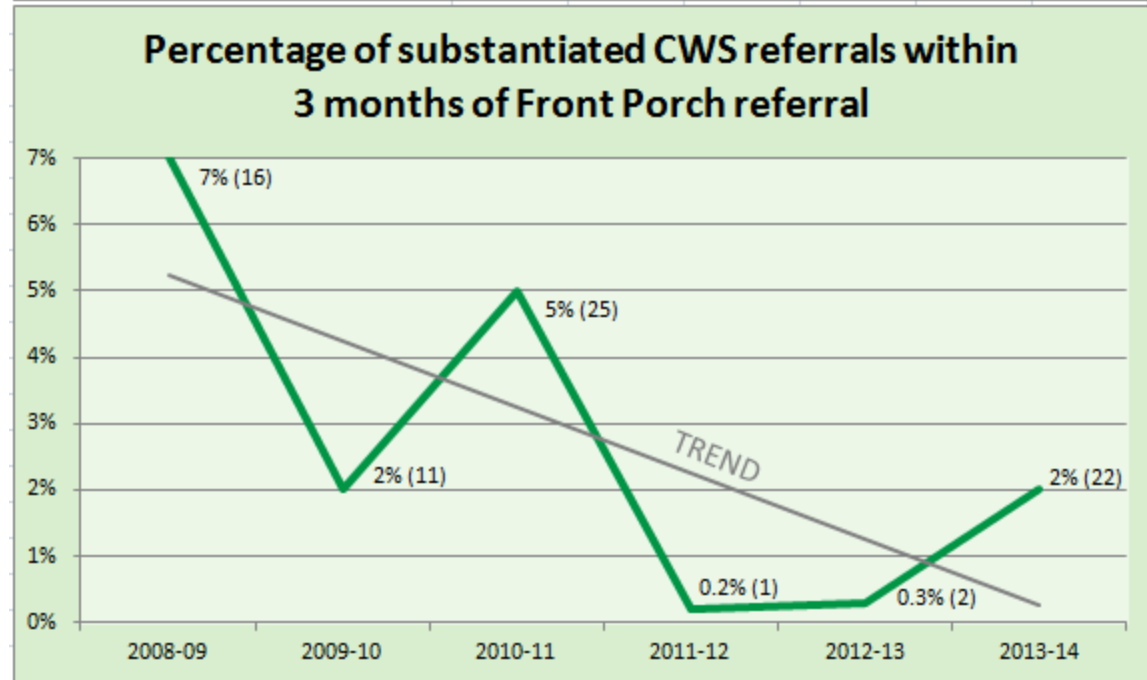
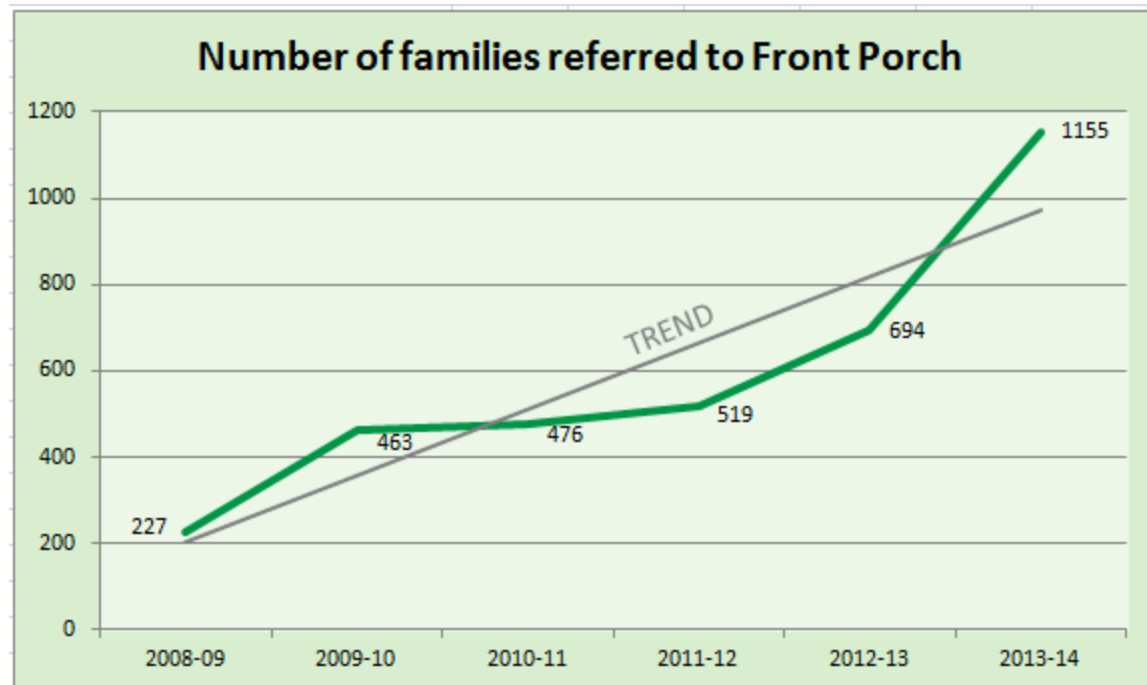
# Outcomes

- Family Development Matrix 2010-14
  - Percentage of families at the “safe” or “self-sufficient” level in all indicators considered for the protective factor

Desired Outcome	1 <sup>st</sup> Assessment	2 <sup>nd</sup> Assessment	Difference	n
Children's social and emotional development	59.1	76.8	17.7	1,438
Knowledge of parenting & child development	73.4	85.3	11.9	1,906
Concrete support in times of need	23.8	49.2	25.4	1,503
Parental Resilience	79.8	89.0	9.2	1,933
Social connections	79.7	90.6	10.9	1,936

# Outcomes

- Differential Response



# Partners

Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)

Child Care Planning Council (CCPC)

Network of Family Resource Centers (NFRC)



# Partners



## Child Abuse Prevention Council

<b>Focus</b>	cross-sector collaboration	
<b>Members</b>	providers of services including prevention, intervention, and treatment	<i>Child Welfare Services is a necessary and reliable partner</i>
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• raising community awareness</li> <li>• professional development/training</li> <li>• engaging parents as leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April awareness campaign</li> <li>• Child Abuse Prevention Academy</li> <li>• Mandated Reporter training</li> <li>• Leaders for Change</li> </ul>
<b>Engages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• community partners</li> <li>• parents</li> <li>• current/future professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public &amp; nonprofit</li> <li>• Parents Forever</li> <li>• Early care, health care, educators</li> </ul>
<b>Urgency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4748 reports of suspected child abuse</li> <li>• 2143 referrals to Differential Response</li> </ul>	<i>CAC and CALM provided intensive services to 1100 high risk families</i>

# Partners



## Child Care Planning Council

<b>Focus</b>	early care and education	
<b>Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parents</li> <li>• early care providers</li> <li>• early care &amp; education professors</li> <li>• representatives of county organizations</li> </ul>	<i>Organizations represented include county government, First 5, and Children's Resource &amp; Referral</i>
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• needs assessment and local priorities</li> <li>• promotes high quality care</li> <li>• shares expertise on child development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Countywide Strategic Plan for Early Care &amp; Education</i></li> <li>• <i>Child Development Conference</i></li> <li>• <i>Accredited Centers Tour</i></li> </ul>
<b>Engages</b>	parents, providers, and partners to ensure the developmental needs of all children are met	
<b>Urgency</b>	only 53% of children needing care are placed in licensed programs	<i>19,403 spaces needed... 10,290 spaces available</i>

# Partners



## Network of Family Resource Centers

<b>Focus</b>	strength-based family support services	
<b>Members</b>	community-based family support organizations located countywide	<i>Supported by First 5. Members represent 12 agencies covering all parts of the county.</i>
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote quality, family-centered practices</li> <li>• staff development and support</li> <li>• prevention, early intervention, and family empowerment</li> </ul>	<p><i>FRCs provide a unique approach to services and support, e.g.:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parent education</li> <li>• help with basic needs</li> <li>• advocacy for social change</li> </ul>
<b>Engages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• family support workers</li> <li>• parents and children</li> <li>• government/community partners</li> </ul>	<i>Comprehensive training and support for FRC directors ,front-line staff and community partners</i>
<b>Urgency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 in 5 children living in poverty in 2010</li> <li>• 162 referrals from Differential Response</li> <li>• Families in-crisis or at-risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7500+ families accessed services</li> <li>• 935 parents in parenting classes</li> <li>• 990 case-managed families</li> </ul>

# Partners





# Shared Vision

- The Partnership for Strengthening Families envisions:
  - safe and nurturing communities throughout Santa Barbara County that value all children and their families;
  - where families are supported, engaged and empowered to be resilient, resourceful and self-reliant;
  - where children are protected from adverse experiences, and have equal access to high-quality care and early learning

# Expanding the Partnership

- Join the Partnership
- Strengthen families and communities

## 2015 Legislative Principles and Platform

Job growth & economic vitality

Inter-agency collaboration

Health & human services

Safety net preservation

Restored funding for subsidized child care

## Support for system improvements

Adequate resources

Integrated service delivery models

# Thank You!

From the Center for the Study of Social Policy:

- [http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/2014/The-Strengthening-Families-Approach-and-Protective-Factors-Framework\\_Branching-Out-and-Reaching-Deeper.pdf](http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/2014/The-Strengthening-Families-Approach-and-Protective-Factors-Framework_Branching-Out-and-Reaching-Deeper.pdf)



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