

Memorandum of Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

I. BACKGROUND

In 2010 representatives from Santa Barbara County's Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) and Child Care Planning Council (CCPC) met to share mission and vision and to explore collaboration on behalf of children and families. Child abuse and neglect prevention emerged as a unifying issue that would provide opportunities for professional development and link the fields of family support and early care and education. CAPC shared the Strengthening Families framework, developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, to build awareness about effective prevention strategies that increase safety and promote optimal child development. Santa Barbara's Network of Family Resource Centers (NFRC) also adopted the Strengthening Families framework as a best practice for promoting protective factors and building upon family strengths. In 2011, CAPC, CCPC and NFRC formally developed a partnership to leverage resources, coordinate child abuse and neglect prevention efforts, and strengthen understanding of family support principles. Because each council offers a different area of expertise and the networks are working together to improve systems of support for children, parents, families and service providers, the partnership strengthens overall wellbeing in Santa Barbara County.

A brief description of the three entities follows:

CAPC - The Child Abuse Prevention Council is a community council with cross-sector representation that is mandated by the state of California to coordinate countywide efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect.

CAPC priorities include:

- Raising community awareness and educating the public about child abuse and neglect;
- Providing prevention resources and education to organizations and community groups whose work involves regular contact with children and families;
- Encouraging and facilitating community support for child abuse and neglect prevention that is responsive to local needs;
- Educating service providers about the Mandated Reporting Law, Risk and Protective Factors and effective strategies for preventing child abuse and neglect; and
- Engaging parents as leaders in child abuse and neglect prevention activities.

CCPC - Every county in California has a state-mandated Child Care Planning Council that is funded by the California Department of Education. The Santa Barbara County CCPC operates under the joint authority of the County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools. The overarching responsibility of the Council is for planning and coordinating early care and education services in Santa Barbara County. Specific responsibilities include:

- Establishing local priorities for state funded early care and education expansion;
- Completing a needs assessment of early care and education every 5 years;
- Developing a countywide strategic plan for early care and education; and
- Providing a forum for the input of diverse stakeholders, such as parents, child care providers, public agency and other community representatives, to ensure the developmental needs of all children are being met.

NFRC -The Santa Barbara Network of Family Resource Centers, established in 2009, is a countywide collaborative of organizations united in:

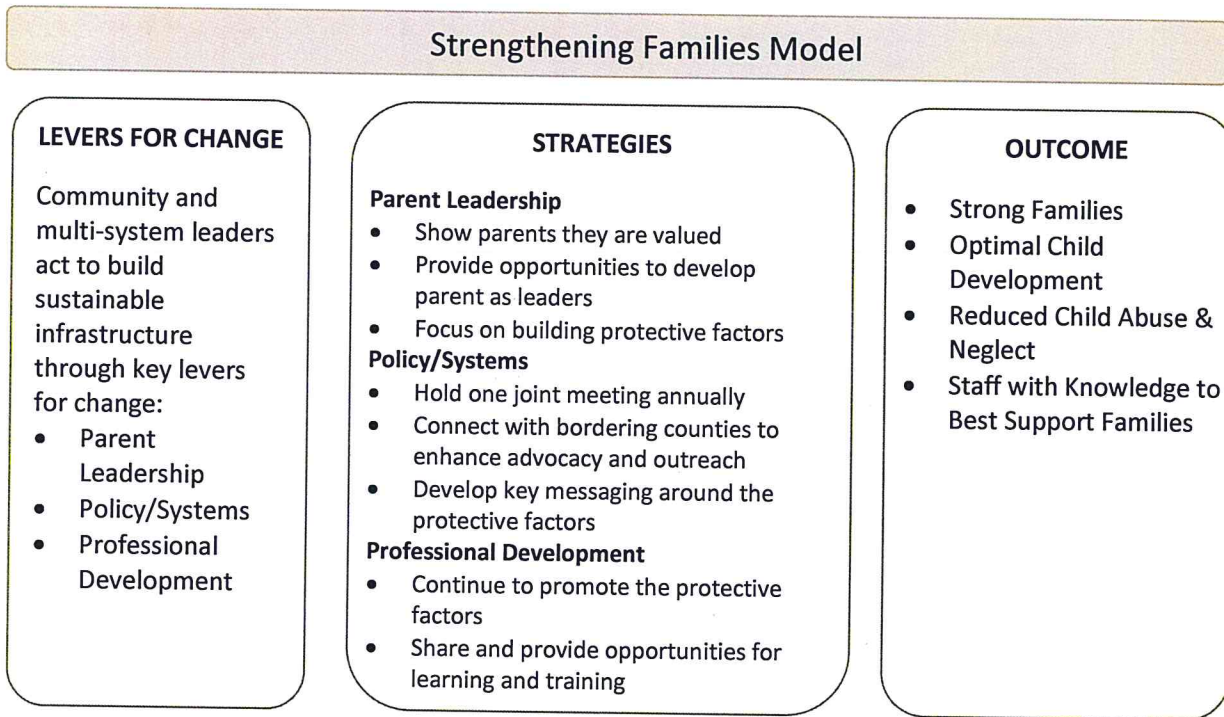
- Providing quality family support services to reduce risks and strengthen protective factors in children, families and communities;
- Working collectively to promote best practices in the field of family support; and
- Promoting high-quality, family-centered practices that foster social change and mobilize efforts to strengthen children, families and communities.

II. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish shared responsibility and clarify the role of each entity in strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect. Specifically, this MOU is intended to:

- Strengthen relationships among the three entities to coordinate and improve child abuse prevention efforts
- Increase understanding, awareness and commitment around the Strengthening Families Framework
- Increase staff knowledge about strategies and specific activities that engage parents, support families, promote optimal child development and strengthen protective factors
- Establish the foundation for a mutually agreed upon work plan that identifies desired outcomes, roles and responsibilities of each entity and methods for evaluating the effectiveness of the agreement

III. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU



IV. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the CAPC, CCPC and the NFRC and shall remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. Parties indicate agreement with this MOU by their signatures.

Joyce Stone
 Printed Name & Signature
 Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council

2/17/15
 Date

Barbara Finch
 Printed Name & Signature
 Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council

2/19/15
 Date

Ashleigh Erving
 Printed Name & Signature
 Network of Family Resource Centers Santa Barbara County

2/19/15
 Date