



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

Vision

The vision of the KIDS Network is that 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 Network's mission is to provide leadership and vision for a countywide system of comprehensive, collaborative, community-based services that support children, youth and families. The mission will be achieved by:

- Improving coordination, planning, communication and cooperation among service agencies;
- Identifying gaps and overlaps in services;
- Identifying strategies and setting priorities for interagency projects;
- Providing a forum for soliciting community input and clarifying perceptions and expectations among and between county agencies and the community;
- Ensuring that family voices are heard and valued throughout the service system;
- Increasing collaboration across service sectors for community level systems change;
- Attracting resources from both the public and private sectors to meet the needs of children, youth and families;
- Actively advocating for geographic, linguistic, ethnic and economic diversity in membership and in respect to all services provided by members;
- Promoting trust-based relationships throughout the service system as a foundation for community resilience.

KIDS Network Focus Areas

A. Information and Analysis:

Gather and disseminate reliable information relevant to the well-being of children and families in Santa Barbara County for the purposes of community mobilization, strategic planning and to inform allocation of resources.

B. Communication, Coordination and Capacity Building:

Convene meetings of the KIDS Network (Executive Committee and General Membership), engaging health, education, juvenile justice and human services providers as well as community members for the purpose of prioritizing needs and actions that will enhance services and build network capacity for addressing issues relevant to children, youth and families.

C. Cross-Sector Initiatives:

Provide leadership, support and advocacy for priority initiatives identified by the KIDS Network, including health equity, family support, and prevention and intervention services for children and youth.

D. Outreach and Community Support:

Inform decision makers and increase public awareness and support for programs and services dedicated to meeting the needs of children, youth and families. Recognize and honor young people whose service to the local community supports the realization of the KIDS Network vision.

Key Projects & Activities

- Coordinate the Youth Impact Awards
- Publish the Santa Barbara County Children's Scorecard
- Facilitate the Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Convene the Santa Barbara County Grants Consortium
- Participate in County Self-Assessment and System Improvement Plan for Child Welfare Services
- Allocate and oversee Child Abuse Prevention Funding for Santa Barbara County
- Promote and coordinate efforts to integrate knowledge about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Resilience into programs and services across Santa Barbara County

