



KIDS NETWORK / RSBC
November 4, 2020

MINUTES

Attendance: Sarah Adams, Connie Alexander, Terri Allison, Eulalia Apolinar, Ama Atiedu, Jacqui Banta, Paige Batson, Bridget Baublits, Florene Bednersh, Jennifer Bergquist, Lisa Brabo, Jenny Bruell, Holly Carmody, Emily Casarez, Tammie Castillo-Shiffer, Maria Chesley, Steven DeLira, Luz Diaz, Peggy Dodds, Esmeralda Estrada, Alice Gleghorn, Lori Goodman, Jessica Guajardo, Gabriela Hanson-Lopez, Alma Hernandez, Karen Hord, Anne Hubbard, Hanna Kiefer, Valerie Kissell, Amy Krueger, Ann McCarty, Karyn Milligan, Lorraine Neenan, Carl Palmer, Taundra Pitchford, Shana Pompa, Alice Villarreal Redit, Arcelia Senci3n, Saul Serrano, Rachael Steidl, Nancy Tillie, Kimberly Valenzuela, Alana Walczak, Elaine Webber

Staff: Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

1. **Welcome**

Barbara Finch welcomed everyone.

2. **Roll Call to Approve Minutes September 2, 2020**

Florene Bednersh motioned to approve the September 2, 2020 minutes and Valerie Kissell seconded the motion. Paige Batson, Alice Gleghorn, Jessica Guajardo, Anne Hubbard, and Alice Villarreal Redit abstained from voting; all others voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

3. **Public Comment - Items not on the Agenda**

There was no public comment.

4. **Centering**

• **Participating in the virtual space**

Carl asked the attendees to give themselves the gift of being fully present and maximizing their Zoom window on their screen, to be present with a community of people committed to the same vision.

• **KIDS Network founding principles**

Centering in the Resilient Santa Barbara County Principles reminds us of the agreements that we have about how we want to be together. The Executive Committee suggested revisiting the origins of the KIDS Network, which is in Welfare and Institutions Code 18986-186986.3, also known as the Presley-Brown Interagency Children's Services Act. (Introduced in the late 1980s) Some key points:

- California population of children is growing
- Children are becoming more linguistically, culturally and ethnically diverse
- There are large numbers of immigrant children in California
- Poverty has increased and is associated with low educational performance, poor nutrition, child abuse, and delinquency
- There has been an alarming increase in extremely vulnerable children

- Services are provided by many different departments and agencies, with no comprehensive or coordinated system in place for the delivery of services to children and youth
- There are gaps in services and program duplication, and a lack of resources for preventive services

The legislation directed each county to establish a council to guide planning and coordination, and to organize and allocate resources across different entities. This continues to be the role of the KIDS Network, to be responsive to our community's needs with an emphasis on local decision making and flexibility, prevention and early intervention strategies, and a continuum of family-centered, child-focused services that utilize public-private partnerships to create the best opportunities within our communities. We are fortunate to have partners from many different sectors. Multiple organizations provide family centered strength-based services.

The KIDS Network strives to be a place where participants can be inspired to build relationships and to carry this very important work of multi-sector coordination and collaboration back out into the world. What happens at the meetings has the potential to ripple outward to other networks and projects and into every organization. As we come to the end of the year, the Executive Committee felt it was important to reflect and appreciate how far we have come. Each member is valued for the support given to collaboration.

5. Weaving Connections

Today's Invitation: Reflect for a moment on your sense of self... What gifts do you bring to this work and what are you most grateful for when it comes to your personal strengths and/or character traits? After the breakouts, people shared the following:

- It is so rare that we talk about our gifts! Self-appreciation and self-acceptance can be uncomfortable to share but gratifying.
- Wonderful to hear such wonderful attributes that we have. Recognizing the tendency we have to speak to the things we see as negatives in ourselves, and to realize we don't need to diminish our gifts that way, that we can just focus on our gifts.
- Grateful to be in the same Zoom room-- so unique to be with people who are able to speak their truth and be so committed to children and families in SBC

6. Elements of a Strong Care Network

During September's meeting, breakout groups invited people to talk about the elements of a strong care network, a concept that is at the center of the KIDS Network / ACES Aware initiative Provider Engagement grant. Steering Committee members summarized key points from the September meeting.

- **What sectors are most important for addressing the ACEs epidemic? Who are the key partners and what role would they play? (Steve DeLira)**
 - When you know your "why", it gives your "what" more impact. What we do, and how we do it may be different, but our "why" is what brings us all together. We are all coming together to help heal our community and help address the adversities that our children face.
 - All sectors are important and everybody plays a vital role, including healthcare, social services, education, behavioral health, law and justice, community-based organizations, and families. No one sector can handle ACEs by itself - it takes a village.
 - It is important to understand the cultures in our community and to including cultural brokers, people who identify as LGBTQ, and support for youth.
 - Important to have partners who do screening (developmental, ACEs) and early intervention
 - Schools have a role in the implementation of trauma-informed approaches and longitudinal data collection /evaluation to show how kids are doing.
 - All agencies have a role in ensuring trauma-informed supports for staff.

- **What programs, services and activities are essential for mitigating or preventing ACEs and strengthening resilience? (Florene Bednersh)**
 - Focus on protective Factors to help families deal with ACEs: Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Concrete Supports, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development and Social and Emotional Competence of Children.
 - Invest in structural and organizational issues such as advocacy & policy development, cultural relevance, networking and building connections.
 - Reimagine services in a different way, given the situation that we are in and the impacts of trauma that we have experienced from the pandemic and past events.
 - Ensure a continuum of family-centered and child- focused programs and services.
 - Include both organizational and network activities.
 - Build trust and create a supportive, safe, equitable, accessible, inclusive network. Bring our whole selves with fidelity and integrity, hear and honor all voices and grow our capacity to collaborate.

- **What characteristics are most important for organizations within the care network? (Lori Goodman)**
 - It is important to have organizations that value collaboration.
 - Partnerships need to embody the values of representation, equity and cultural competency.
 - Organizations need to be open to learning and doing things differently. There needs to be transparency and communication.
 - We need awareness of others to make sure that each organization in the collaborative is doing their work and not somebody else's.
 - There is a benefit in being able to use technology to break down barriers. (Zoom is one of them –the language interpretation feature has been transformative for IVYP in engaging their Spanish and English-speaking communities at the same time.
 - Organizations need to have agreements and principles to create a safe space.
 - Take time to center, to reflect on the purpose, and to build relationships with one another.
 - Bring whole selves into other spaces – take the things that are working in this space (being intentional about strengthening relationships, creating time for weaving connections)

- **How do we work together effectively? (Maria Chesley)**
 - Allow yourself to be inspired by this group.
 - Show up in service to the community, look beyond barriers, and think creatively.
 - Set aside worries about what is in our own agency's best interests and trust that we don't need to have a scarcity mindset.
 - Trust each other and trust that somehow these things will take care of themselves if we are keeping the greater good in mind.

7. The Stress Test of Convergent Crises

- **How are we experiencing the care network?**
- **What actions could make it stronger?**

Terri introduced the idea of network assessment - how well the group is functioning, how well each individual and organization is functioning, and how that affects our work together. It is important to be able to talk about how we are holding up when we are under stress. Where are the weaknesses? Where are the strengths?

Terrie shared the Stress Response Continuum & Functional Changes slide from Dr. Bruce Perry. She stated that we have been in the Flock, Freeze and Flight part of stress for a long time and it really does take a toll on us as

agencies and as human beings. One of the things that that we might want to try is to do more with less – this is not trauma-informed or trauma-responsive. Breakout groups of were asked to answer the following questions:

- How are we experiencing the care network?
- What are we learning from the stress test?
- What would be helpful?
- What actions could make it stronger?

Please see the shared Google Doc for responses.

8. ACEs Aware & ACEs Connection Updates

Barbara stated that KIDS Network is leading an effort to strengthen cross-sector collaboration across the tri-county region of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura. As one of the activities associated with the ACEs Aware Provider Engagement grant, we hosted a Care Network Leadership Convening on October 19th. There were 64 attendees, evenly split between the three counties, who were given opportunities to discuss the concept of the care network and to share ideas for how each county might strengthen their network. The feedback was very positive. RSBC principles and objectives were shared to help partners in Ventura and San Luis Obispo think about organizing their work. Child Abuse Prevention Councils and Prevention Teams provide a foundation for the cross-sector work in each county. This event was designed to build momentum for the virtual Bridges to Resilience Conference. The goal this year under ACEs Aware is to connect healthcare providers and physicians that are screening for ACEs with other sectors that are supporting children and families.

Resilient Santa Barbara County (RSBC) joined the ACEs Connection Cooperative of Communities and we are looking for a part time Community Manager to help increase our presence on ACEs Connection. Through the Cooperative of Communities there are exciting trainings coming up and wonderful resources. RSBC currently has 24 signed Community Partners, and others are welcome to join to take advantage of these opportunities.

Barbara added that the ACEs Aware initiative also offers virtual trainings, webinars and other resources on their website, www.acesaware.org

Steve mentioned that they encouraged their staff to submit 1-3 minute videos and they gave them topics. It was fun to see what their staff are doing out in the community. He suggested doing “virtual tables” for the Bridges Conference where people can go, click on Family Service Agency and hear somebody give like a one to three minute shot of what their agency does. Barb thought it was a great idea. They also want to bring those local resources into the rooms where the breakouts will be happening. Terri added that they have begun to look at different platforms and some have Marketplaces where that can happen. Barbara added that they are looking for ways to include parent voices this time, to share this opportunity with the Parent Leaders that we have developed through the Child Abuse Prevention Council. Perhaps parents can make videos talking about their experience with health care, their experience with adversity, or their experience with the pandemic.

9. Closing

10. General Meeting Adjourns – Executive Committee will do a brief check-in on scheduling

Next Meeting – March 3, 2021

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.