

## Meeting Notes: January 18<sup>th</sup> 2007 DR Task Force Meeting: Progress Report and Planning Next Steps

**Participants were:** Katharina Zulliger, KIDS Network and CAPC, Nancy Madsen, Human Services Program and CAPC, Katrina Nordmeyer, UCSB Intern, Carolyn Contreras, CAC, Anna Kokotovic, CALM, Pat Wheatley, First 5 Santa Barbara, Megan Riker-Rheinschild, SB County DA's Office, Lois Phillips and Barbara D'Incau, Consultants.

1. American Humane Association DR CONFERENCE THEMES: Lois Phillips reviewed key points of conference presentations that seemed particularly relevant to our work. What emerged was the need for collaboration between public/non profit/grassroots/private sector partners, need to find funding to support a 'point person' who coordinates DR partnerships and oversees MOU's, need to develop trusting relationships and mutual respect between CWS and grassroots organizations/CBO's in terms of follow through and tracking impact of counseling or programs, etc.
2. CALM PROGRAMS: Dr. Anna Kokotovic, ED of CALM, briefly described three evidence-based programs that they are publicizing/promoting, which are: Great Beginnings, The Incredible Years, and PCIT (Parent-Child Interactive Therapy). New brochures are available. She is optimistic that they will be well attended because they are of high quality and tested, based on evidence and partnerships/training.
3. Barbara briefly shared information from an AHA publication, *Protecting Children*. The issue reviewed Front Porch models, training, collaboration, and outreach. There are many parallels between the literature and the process that is unfolding in Santa Barbara County with Front Porch. Key questions from the literature were discussed and reviewed for their relevance to SB County. When holding Key Informant Interviews regarding services for indigenous populations,

Consultants need to be sure to ask: Who are the trusted individuals that families turn to in time of need?

ISSUES FOR FAMILIES AT RISK: Pat reminded the group of the difficulty in serving families/children who are at risk due to problems of 1) illiteracy, 2) poverty, 3) poly-substance abuse, 4) the vulnerability of illegal immigrant status, and 5) cultural norms that dictate an ethic of privacy and insularity. These issues create ongoing crises and interrupt participation in attending counseling or a program/group.

- a. PRIOR RESEARCH REPORT: We learned that there is a CRLA survey of indigenous people (farm workers) available on the internet at <http://www.ccehp.org/>. These resource people would be used to help families in need before anyone in the family spoke to a paraprofessional or social worker, as *Promotoras* have an understanding of indigenous culture, and/or the parent's fear of being reported to an immigration agency if they went outside their immediate community for help.
  - b. Barbara shared a quote of the Vision Statement from the Casey Family Program in Colorado as an example of a dynamic, change-oriented vision statement.
  - c. Barbara recommended that the taskforce develop a Vision and Mission statement. This should be done prior to the February 15 Retreat so that participants will be able to use the Vision and Mission to frame their activities and discussion.
  - d. Members indicated the Family Services Agency Annual Family Conference that will be held March 3 at Lompoc High School would be a good place to make contact with community parents and conduct focus groups. 600 family participants are expected to attend. The name of a contact individual Susan Williams of Lompoc Adult Ed. was provided.
4. FEEDBACK REGARDING PROPOSED / DRAFT SURVEY: Lois presented draft survey to follow up with agencies/individuals who attended the 2003

Community Conversations workshops and others who are involved in Front Porch and related partnership efforts.

- **RATIONALE:** There was agreement that a survey was a good idea after 3+ years in order to see what happened as a result of that process and other activities initiated since then. While there many lists emanating form brainstorming discussions at those CC workshops, the product did not result in nor did it lead to a recommended structure or system for the DR operation. This is what will result from the consultants’ final report.
  - **PROCESS:** The survey will be reviewed within the week by Task Force members, who will send feedback to Katharina Zulliger; she will organize list of suggestions and send it to the consultants who, in turn, will revise the survey.
    - a. **TARGETED PARTICIPANTS FOR SURVEY:** The group discussed to whom the survey should be sent. KZ will aim for a broad countywide mailing; use the existing email list with names of persons whose role crosses agencies and disciplines.
  - **ANONYMITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY:** We would use [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) to ensure confidentiality and anonymity as well as ‘real time results’ and ability for participants to access the summary reports.
5. **DRAFT AGENDA FOR RETREAT:** Barbara presented the Draft Agenda for the February 15<sup>th</sup> retreat and asked for feedback. The response was positive about having a retreat. The purpose of the retreat is to bring together individuals who are appropriate to discuss the assumptions we /they are presently making about DR, the gaps to operationalizing DR, the strategies to bridge the gaps and locate community resources. The retreat would use a “logic model’ to develop a logical path to identify community resources and assets, define desired results (outcomes), and discuss the assumptions and factors that support or impede progress toward implementation of an action plan. Task Force members were interested in learning more about this model. Information can be posted on the KN Homepage.

- **PARTICIPANTS:** The participants must be from a variety of disciplines, geographic communities, and also be multicultural, and able to represent previously untapped such as the Oaxacan community. KZ proposed a list of about 5 groups of persons who were approved by the Task Force at our meeting; she asked that other names be provided to her. The list includes CAPC, Kids Network, First 5, CWS, and other grassroots/CBO representatives who understand DR and the underlying obstacles and challenges.
- Megan wants to invite a few appropriate persons from the DA's Victim's Assistance Program to complete the survey. She commented that the DA's office has access to medical and mental health dollars for funding needed programs/projects.
- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS:** There were some concerns about how to structure the small group discussions (geographic, by discipline, mixed groups), as people from different disciplines and fields and have different roles and agency expectations that impact their ability to implement particular actions.
- **POSITIVE FEEDBACK:** Feedback about the draft agenda for the retreat was that it was good to make the underlying assumptions about DR transparent to everyone. The goal would be to work toward community consensus as to what is needed, what will work, etc.—and then identify gaps and strategies to meet those gaps. Misunderstandings can occur when people are operating from different assumptions.
- **PROCESS:** The facilitators will take all suggestions into account. Further feedback about the event should be sent to KZ who will pass it on to the consultants.
- **PERSPECTIVE ON STRENGTHENING DR:** It was seen as advisable to take a 'county-wide' perspective at this retreat so that people aren't going to have the same conversations they would have in-house or with community resource people or professional peers elsewhere. This meeting needs to seize the opportunity to open up the dialogue to foster a broader perspective.

- **CRITERIA FOR INVITING PARTICIPANTS:** Participants at the retreat need to meet certain criteria; e.g., they need to represent untapped geographic areas, people with knowledge of community resources and resource people who provide services and programs to the at-risk families and children.
- **OUTCOME:** Pat indicated that one outcome from the retreat could be to reassure CWS staff that CBO's can handle the referrals effectively and to the CBO's an understanding that there needs to be ongoing communication about referrals and involvement by those involved. The dialogue and clarity can 'raise the bar' for everyone.

Feedback to KZ from all the Task Force members about the survey and the retreat was encouraged by KZ. A "save the date" announcement will be sent to all potential participants in the week of January 22. The final invitation needs to provide information so that potential participants who are unfamiliar with DR will have a framework for understanding the purpose and tasks of the Retreat.