

IX. Collaboration and Coordination

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15, the OCAP collaborated with federal, state, local and private partners in order to reduce child abuse and neglect, and promote promising prevention programs, strategies and activities. The OCAP collaborates statewide through grantees' prevention efforts and with counties during the California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) process to provide direct services to families and children who are at risk of child abuse and neglect.

Federal Funded Programs

As the designated statewide lead for child abuse and neglect prevention efforts, the OCAP administers federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) and Child Abuse Prevention Action (CAPTA) funding. These funding streams present the OCAP with opportunities to collaborate on statewide prevention efforts.

CBCAP

Fifty-seven of the 58 counties⁸ received CBCAP funding in FY 2014-15. Sixty percent (\$2,007,983) of CBCAP funds were allocated to the counties for primary and secondary prevention as reflected in their county plans. Most counties partnered and collaborated with community based organizations such as behavioral and mental health agencies, alcohol and other drug treatment facilities, domestic violence organizations and other community partners to deliver prevention services which identify and serve families at-risk of child abuse and/or neglect. More than 2,500 families (n=2,565) received direct preventative support services to remain safe, healthy and intact due to CBCAP funding. Keeping families safe and intact for approximately \$800 per family is a tremendous value, improving the overall health and well-being of California.

PSSF

More than \$28 million in PSSF funds were allocated to all 58 counties in FY 2014-15⁹. Counties use PSSF funds for a variety of intervention and prevention program within four broad sub-categories: Family Preservation, Family Support, Time-Limited Reunification and Adoption Promotion and Support. Through braiding CBCAP and PSSF funds, California counties were able to provide direct prevention services to 5,183 families, 3,066 individuals, 2,621 parents and 436 children. This includes 73 children and 33 parents with disabilities.

⁸ San Bernardino opts out of the CBCAP program.

⁹ http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/EntRes/getinfo/cfl/2014-15/14-15_06E.pdf

CAPTA

CAPTA funds were used in combination with other federal and state funding sources to support the following prevention purposes. In FY 2014-15, the OCAP saw more than \$3 million in CAPTA funds directed toward various programs and efforts to reduce child abuse and neglect.

A majority of CAPTA funds (approximately \$2.8 million) were directed toward strategies in support of three FRC supporting organizations: Youth for Change, Interface Children Family Services and Children's Bureau.

STRATEGIES

Strategies collaborates with other agencies through training and technical assistance efforts to meet the prevention education needs of the state. Specifically, Strategies partnered with county welfare agencies to teach the importance of protective factors through the Strengthening Families Framework. Each of Strategies' FRC supporting organizations (i.e., Youth for Change, Interface Children Family Services and Children's Bureau) conducted technical assistance projects. The Strategies collaborative worked within the following counties to provide technical assistance during FY 2014-15: Shasta, Butte, Marin, Placer, Tehama, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Plumas, Amador, Calaveras, Mendocino, Lake, San Joaquin, Yolo, Kings, El Dorado, Stanislaus, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Monterey, San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino (for detailed project list, see Attachment A).

Examples of County Collaborations with Strategies

Amador and Calaveras County

Strategies collaborated with Amador and Calaveras Counties on an innovative rural initiative to build services for families experiencing maternal mental health issues. The resulting coalition had participation from a variety of entities in both counties, including hospital birth centers and physicians. Strategies-Youth for Change used a developmental template from Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration to lay out the work plan for coalition development. When complete (the project will continue in FY 2015-16), the group will have:

- A fully formed coalition.
- Two-county capacity for prevention and treatment.
- A referral algorithm to ensure that all families are routed correctly for support or treatment.
- An independently functioning coalition that will bring support to families for years to come, as well as positively impact child abuse and neglect in the counties.

Los Angeles County

Strategies collaborated with the faith community and Los Angeles County Department of Children Family Services (LACDCFS) to promote the Five Protective Factors. The project included training for faith leaders on the Five Protective Factors, and resulted in church leaders utilizing this framework to lead eight week parenting classes at six partnering churches. This collaboration led to the faith community partnering in the delivery of child abuse and neglect prevention programs and services. This project helped LACDCFS leaders to view churches as partners in their child abuse prevention efforts. Other community impacts of the project include the creation of a community garden, the start of a community center and the designation of the churches as a community contact for child abuse and neglect prevention resource referrals.

Northern San Joaquin Valley Family Resource Center Network

Strategies provided technical assistance to the Northern San Joaquin Valley Family Resource Center Network to develop a story telling structure in an effort to define critical issues facing families and organizations in the San Joaquin Valley. The project was broken down into four components:

- Defining the issues by using existing county and organizational data sets on domains including poverty levels, homelessness, school dropout rates, unemployment, mental and physical health problems, crime and instability in the region for families.
- Assisting the network to identify key activities and structures that form their network.
- Examining qualitative and quantitative changes to individual network partner agencies as a result of the joining network.
- Supporting the network to identify lessons learned, limitations of the evaluation, new opportunities and recommendations for network improvement.
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Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Council

Strategies technical assistance project collaborated with Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Council to develop a Training of Trainers (TOT) on the Strengthening Families Framework and the Five Protective Factors. This training was designed to promote deeper knowledge and sustainability for ongoing implementation of the Strengthening Families framework. More than 60 county leaders participated in the TOT.

Ventura County

Strategies collaborated with the County of Ventura Children and Family Services Department to plan three countywide “learning communities” trainings to be offered in collaboration with the Ventura County Child Abuse Prevention Council. In addition, technical assistance was provided to assist child welfare services in incorporating the Five Protective Factors at both the staff and leadership levels. Strategies provided

customized training specific for child welfare services staff on the protective factors with an emphasis on linking child welfare services to community-based partners.

CEBC

The FY 2014-15 also saw the OCAP braid CAPTA, CBCAP and State Children's Trust Fund (SCTF) funds to support the dissemination of evidence-based and evidence-informed practices to reduce child abuse and neglect through the [California Evidence Based Clearinghouse](#) (CEBC).

The CEBC is a web-based database of evidence-based and evidence-informed practices for children and families involved with the child welfare system. The CEBC gives practitioners and program administrator's guidance on how to select and implement programs, and the tools and materials necessary to support the process of choosing, implementing and sustaining a program. A collection of stakeholders help to maintain and improve the content shared by the CEBC. These include the Children and Family Services Division of the California Department of Social Services, county child welfare departments, the County Welfare Directors Association of California, representatives from child welfare training, foundations, public and private community partners within the state and respected national child welfare research centers, including:

- A statewide Advisory Committee comprised of state and local child welfare leaders, supporting organizations, and nationally respected authorities on child welfare.
- A national Scientific Panel comprised of seven core members who are nationally recognized as leaders in child welfare research and practice.
- A national Implementation Science Panel comprised of five core members who are nationally recognized as leaders in the field of Implementation Science and Child Welfare.

PARENT SERVICES PROJECT

The Parent Services Project (PSP) leads the state by collaborating with other agencies to increase parent leadership opportunities. The PSP collaborated with Strategies staff to implement Leaders for Change (L4C) trainings for parents within 19 California counties. These collaborative partners included, but were not limited to: local non-profits, FRCs, Head Start, city school districts, First 5 California, county child protection services agencies and other county agencies. The L4C trainings are tailored to meet the unique needs of the host communities based on input from local advisors and agencies. The 20-hour parent leadership training program is focused on:

- Building parent and family knowledge of the Five Protective Factors and their role in strengthening families.
- Developing leadership, communication and advocacy knowledge and skills to create change in systems servicing families.

PARENTS ANONYMOUS

In addition, Parents Anonymous was funded to organize the State Parent Leadership Team (SPLT). The SPLT members engaged in shared leadership to improve statewide policies, programs, procedures and practices that affect families across multiple systems to prevent child abuse and neglect. Parent leaders collaborated by participating actively in the following:

- The Child Welfare Council including Permanency and Prevention Subcommittees.
- Pathways to Well-Being (formerly Katie A.): Statewide Training and Education Committee and/or Community Team.
- Essentials for Childhood Leadership Action Team and Subcommittees
- Strengthening Families California: Policy and Communications Committees
- Local Child Abuse Councils in Glenn, Los Angeles, Riverside, Shasta and Ventura

In addition to CAPTA, CBCAP and PSSF funds, the OCAP also administers three state funding sources: Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) funds, the Safely Surrendered Baby (SSB) Fund and the SCTF.

CAPIT

The CAPIT funds serve as California's federal match for CBCAP funds. In FY 2014-15, counties used approximately \$12.9 million in CAPIT funds for child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment purposes. Given California's county-administered approach to implementing child welfare services, the county board of supervisors is responsible for finalizing the use of CAPIT funds. The OCAP remains a committed collaborative partner to the counties by providing technical assistance during the C-CFSR process and Annual Report, and by offering CQI technical assistance throughout the year.

In FY 2014-15, counties reported more than 7,000 Californians received direct preventative service through a braiding of CBCAP and CAPIT funds. Specifically, 2,783 individuals, 1,588 parents, 1,267 children and 1,402 families received services through the braiding funding. Counties further reported that 37 of the children, and 28 of the parents, who received services had disabilities.

SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY

The SSB fund provides monies for the operation of the 24 hour statewide BabySafe Hotline. The Hotline connects parents to SSB sites to drop off their babies in situations where the parent is unable or unwilling to care for the child. The Hotline collaborated with identified safe surrender sites, approved by county BOS, to reduce the number of abandoned infants. Additionally, the OCAP used SCTF funds to promote awareness of the SSB program through printed materials and social media.

STATE CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND:

Additionally, the OCAP administers the SCTF. In FY 2014-15, SCTF funds were used to support statewide awareness of the SSB program, technical assistance projects, dissemination of evidence based and informed programs and practices, marketing of the Kid's Plate¹⁰ program, Mandated Reporter Training and CEBC. To increase the possible amount of the SCTF, Governor Brown signed AB 924 reestablishing the SCTF as a donation option on state income tax forms.

CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS

During the FY 2014-15, the OCAP supported a Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) in both San Mateo and Ventura County and a Statewide CRP. The CRPs are comprised of volunteers, former consumers of child welfare services, foster parents, children's attorney, law enforcement, education, tribal governments, health and mental health professionals and others interested in child welfare. Each CRP engaged in meaningful activities to assure the well-being, safety and permanence of children and families in their communities and throughout the state.

The Statewide CRP was established in December 2013 as the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Subcommittee of the California Child Welfare Council (Council). Supported by ongoing technical assistance from the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, the Statewide Citizen's Review Panel is well-positioned to make substantive recommendations to the CDSS and OCAP that pertain to critical statewide issues. Experts from the fields of child welfare, academia and public health, and executives from public agencies and community based organizations comprise the Statewide CRP.

The Prevention and Early Intervention Statewide Citizen Review Panel's efforts to date have focused on two broad areas: quality and uniformity of prevention practice statewide and on resourcing/financing prevention.

2014 – 2015 Activities and Accomplishments

To fulfill its responsibilities for this year, the Statewide Prevention and Early Intervention Citizen Review Panel selected two policy review areas for consideration:

1. Review of prevention policy to identify core elements of practice that are a fit for California. Identification of the core elements of prevention practice could serve to unite prevention providers for a greater collective impact. It could also serve to inform policy and resource decisions regarding prevention practices.
2. Review of prevention cost/benefit policy and determination of whether a cost/benefit analysis of prevention practices in California could set the stage for improving return on investment of federal, state, and county funds. Identification of cost effective

¹⁰ The Kid's Plate program is a specialty license plate, with a portion of the money received going to the SCTF.

prevention practices could serve to promote greater uniformity of prevention practice among community-based organizations, networks, family strengthening organizations, family resource centers and others, leading to improved outcomes.

Intra-Departmental Collaboration

California-Child Family Services Review

During the C-CFSR process counties collaborate with stakeholders to assess the county's current process of providing services to families and children. The C-CFSR process itself is a collaborative process at different levels. First, the OCAP partners with Children's Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau (CSOAB) of CDSS to oversee and navigate counties and community stakeholders through the C-CFSR process. The OCAP coaches and encourages counties to choose prevention programs that are meeting the needs of the county and ensures that counties are spending funds appropriately. Federal and state child welfare data outcome measures that determine a state's ability to uphold the federal and state standards are reviewed by CSOAB to determine how the counties data compares to the federal and state child welfare measures. Secondly, as part of the C-CFSR process, child welfare, probation and community stakeholders collaborate to assess the needs of the county and determine how to improve the federal measures and provide services to meet the needs of the county. Thirdly, as a result of the C-CFSR process, counties could choose increasing the number of collaborations as a county strategy to meet a specified county need.

California Well-Being Project

Another collaboration occurring within California Department of Social Services is the OCAP currently working with the California Well-Being Project team to assist county agencies in more efficiently utilizing federal funding streams and improving child welfare practices.

Nine counties are participating in the California Well-Being Project which leads counties to try innovative ideas with how Title IV-E money is being spent. The OCAP and the California Well-Being Project team meet to discuss the benefits the participating counties have experienced due to the California Well-Being Project.

The California Well-Being Project provides participating counties with the flexibility to invest existing resources more effectively in proven and innovative approaches that better ensure the safety of children and the success of families. This flexibility enables the opportunity to reinvest resources into more cost efficient approaches that achieve better outcomes.

The Project has the following goals:

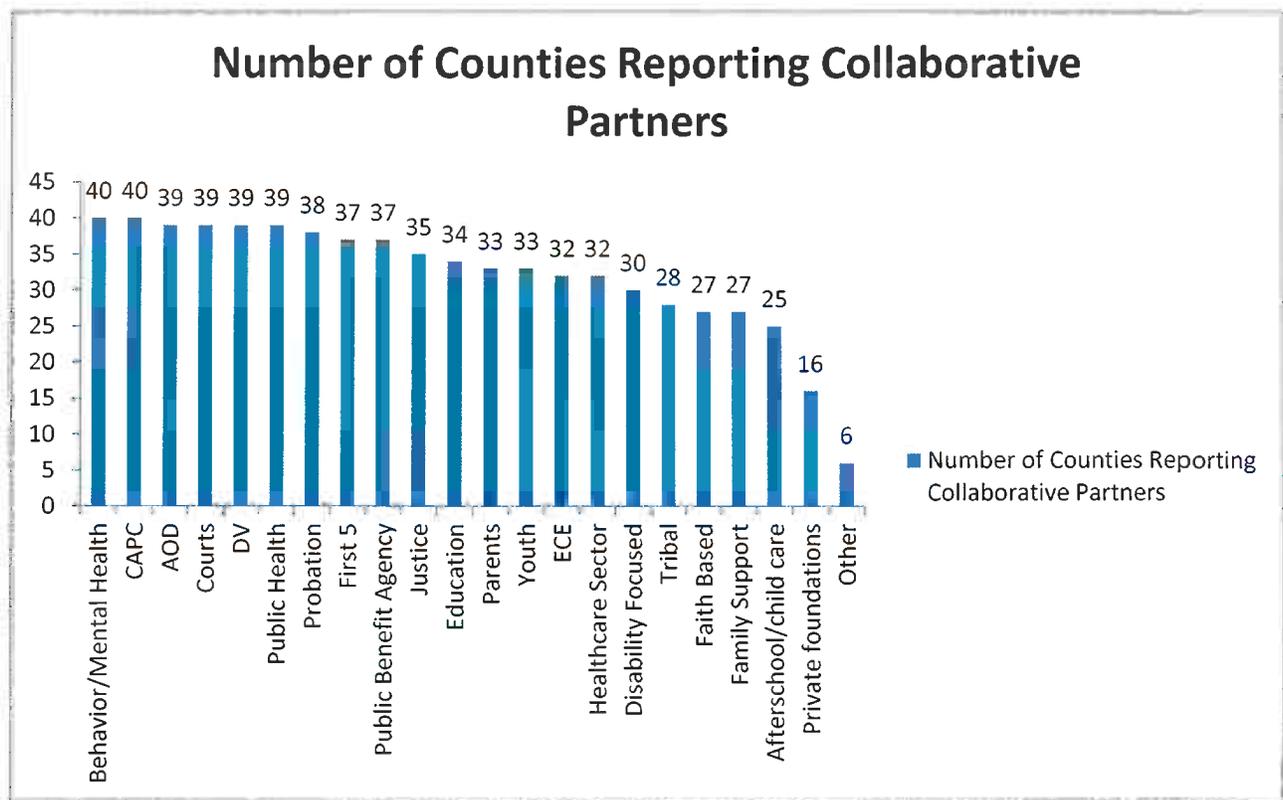
- Improve the array of services and supports available to children and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile probation systems.
- Engage families through a more individualized casework approach that emphasized family involvement.
- Increase the child safety without an over-reliance on out-of-home care.
- Improve permanency outcomes and timelines.
- Improve child and family well-being.
- Decrease recidivism and delinquency for youth on probation.

One component of the California Well-Being Project is Safety Organized Practice (SOP). The SOP is a collaborative approach to both practice strategies and concrete tools for "on-the-ground" child welfare workers, supervisors and managers to enhance family participation and foster equitable decision making. This approach encourages counties to think of family engagement and prevention when deciding on services for children and families. Other counties that are not involved in the project have also implemented SOP.

County Collaborations

As previously mentioned, with coaching, encouragement and oversight from the OCAP, counties design and implement their prevention programs. In FY 2014-15, child welfare agencies continued to work collaboratively with various partners to best identify and strengthen families at-risk of abuse or neglect. This year, the most counties reported collaborating with behavioral/mental health agencies (40), CAPCs (40), alcohol and other drug agencies (39), courts (39), domestic violence agencies (39) and public health agencies (39). The county reports indicated the collaborations with community partners that were active last year, continued into this reporting year with the same reported community partners.

The following chart summarizes county reports of collaboration and coordination of preventative services in California. The entities listed below are considered "natural partners" of child welfare as identified by counties in their Annual Report.



The following are county supplied examples of OCAP funded collaborations, partnerships and the coordination of services needed to strengthen families during the FY 2014-15 reporting period:

Alameda County

Safe Sleep East Bay Agency for Children - Child Assault Prevention Training Center is a collaborative program that reached nearly 6,000 individuals. The public education service is aimed to provide pregnant or parenting teens with information in regards to the Safe Sleep campaign. The developed demographic information regarding families that are at high risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death due to unsafe sleeping environments is utilized in high traffic public transportation corridors and routes to provide information to key areas within Alameda County. Utilization of Alameda County Transit buses and Bay Area Railway Transit stations within the geographically locations contained the bulk of the campaign advertising.

Alpine County

Alpine County collaborates with a childcare program called BusyBears Preschool and Child Care. BusyBears is a licensed exempt public recreation program that collaborates with the Bear Valley Parents Group, Inc. (BVPG) to provide a preschool curriculum, after school care and childcare. It also provides childcare for infants and toddlers. Children may attend up to 20 hours per week depending on their age. It offers preschool curriculum through circle time and skill centers to attendees of ages three and

up and after school care for students that ride the bus from Hazel Fischer Elementary. There is abundant free time to play in a large indoor space and daily excursions outside in all seasons. They also set up science projects, cooking, seasonal and holiday crafts. Throughout the day providers conduct several activities and practices to engage children. These practices and activities include: dispensing hugs, reading books, serving warm food, making eye contact, listening, providing tactile projects and quiet time and encouraging outdoor play. They also routinely provide verbal and written feedback to parents about their child's day and their child's interests, activity level and progress throughout the year.

BusyBears is an invaluable collaboration for families of Alpine County that live and work in the resort community. Most parents have low wage jobs or part time and seasonal work, so affordable childcare is vital. BusyBears is also a critical socializing environment for the children who would otherwise not have playtime or school with others of their age group. Likewise, without a school in town, BusyBears provides a hub for parents to socialize and share their emotional life and coping mechanisms for parenting. One provider stated that several parents have commented on the affordability and access to BusyBears as a major factor in their decision to stay in Bear Valley. An impact of the collaboration was the recent offer of Bear Valley Parents Group to pay for bicycle parts to repair several bikes in storage at BusyBears and now every child at BusyBears has a bicycle.

The collaboration has increased awareness of the BusyBears program in Bear Valley (BV). Except the monthly Cub Reporter, there are few avenues for publicity in Bear Valley. The BV Parents Group and the providers at BusyBears created avenues of disbursing information to families. The BV Parents Group and BusyBears have a presence on NextDoor, the neighborhood online bulletin board. Also, as BV Parents Group members walk and bike around the neighborhood, they promote the benefits of the BusyBears program to new residents.

Amador County

Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA) collaborates with the Amador County Jail to offer weekly Positive Parenting and Life Skills classes at the Amador County Jail. This class is provided through an in-kind funding source from the Amador County Sheriff's Office. All parenting education participants are provided information and referrals to a variety of community resources, to ensure children and families receive adequate and effective services to meet their needs. The ATCAA Parenting Education courses incorporate the evidence-based Protective Factors Framework and the Nurturing Parenting Program.

The ATCAA also collaborates with Early Start/Head Start parent meetings to offer positive parenting tips and strategies, as well as to encourage and promote enrolling in a parenting course.

El Dorado County

After data showed that substance abuse was a high, unmet need in El Dorado County, the county collaborated with the University of California at Davis to provide an in-person training to community members. The training was titled "Working with Substance Abusing Parents". Ninety participants attended the training from across El Dorado County, representing child and family service areas including health, mental health, education, parents, home visiting, family support staff and outreach staff. In response to the training, El Dorado County partnered with Maternal Child Adolescent Health Program and Alcohol and Drug Programs on a multi-year effort to address the issues of substance abusing parents in the local community.

Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County blended CBCAP Funds with PSSF Family Preservation (PSSF-FP) and local funds to address poverty and general neglect issues within the county. The funds support collaboration between the County, Strength United, Whole Foods and LA Marathon to raise funds to implement healthy activities and diets for the underserved and underrepresented populations. The program is offered in 11 different languages, which has been effective towards meeting the needs of vast diverse communities located within the nine service areas of Los Angeles County. There are 36 service providers offering these services to 2,513 families. Anger management, impulse control, child development, and alternative discipline are some of the services provided to protect children from abuse. In addition, the program offers Teaching and Demonstrating Services (T and D), where a T and D worker demonstrates and teaches primary caregivers the skills to successfully manage and maintain a home including, but not limited to, home safety, cleanliness, meal planning and budgeting.

San Francisco County

San Francisco blended CBCAP and CAPIT funds to implement SafeCare an evidence-based training curriculum for parents of children aged 0-5 at-risk of child maltreatment. This in-home parenting model program provides direct skill training to parents in child behavior management and planned activities training, home safety training, and child health care skills to prevent child maltreatment. SafeCare is offered in five different languages in order to meet the needs of a diverse population. SafeCare coordinates with Differential Response programs offered by FRCs. The SafeCare and FRC agencies as well as county staff meet monthly to ensure coordination and communication. The collaboration and coordination of services were provided to 193 families.

Santa Cruz County

Santa Cruz County has collaborated with the United Way of Santa Cruz, using CBCAP funds to provide services and activities which enhance the coordination and capacity building functions of the Children's Network. The Children's Network is a countywide child abuse prevention coordinating council whose primary purpose is to coordinate the

community's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and to reduce fragmentation of programs for at-risk children and families in Santa Cruz County. The Network serves as a vehicle for planning, coordination, collaboration, networking and information sharing. The intent of the Children's Network is to encourage the development of a comprehensive and collaborative delivery system of services to the children and youth of Santa Cruz County. The program does not provide direct services, yet it does work with the community towards the improvement of prevention practices and awareness.

Tuolumne County

Through the collaboration of community partners, child welfare services and Prevent Child Abuse Tuolumne County (the local CAPC) a strategic planning session was held to launch a trauma informed practice model communitywide for working with families. The training was held during the annual Victim's Rights and Child Abuse Prevention week. The training provided in depth teaching on the impact of trauma on the brain, and how community partners can improve delivery of services to people impacted by trauma.

The vast array of attendees at the training session led to several mini trainings in the area of trauma informed practices. One of these mini trainings was provided at the request of the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB). The SARB is tasked with directing youth to attend school. The process can be adversarial and the SARB felt it was beneficial to learn how trauma impacts the motivations of parents and children to attend school. Because of the trauma-informed training, SARB uses a trauma-informed lens when working with families in order to more effectively re-engage them in school. By acknowledging historical trauma and recognizing the signs of trauma on family functioning, the SARB expects to see improvements in school attendance as a result of better assessment of family need.

Prevention with Local Partners

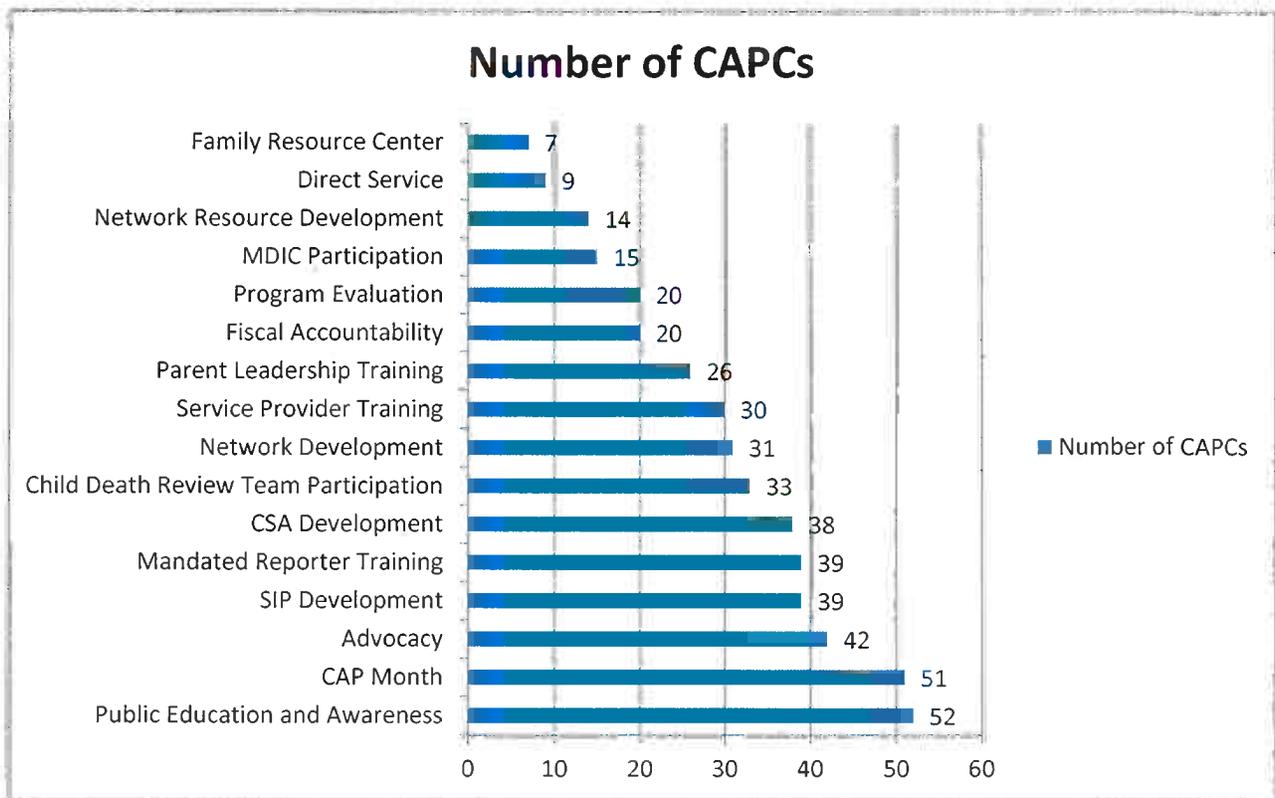
A key partner in promoting awareness of child abuse and neglect and associated prevention efforts are CAPCs. The CAPCs are designated by a county's BOS, either as an independent organization or operated by the county. The primary purpose of a CAPC is to coordinate efforts for the prevention of child abuse and neglect at the local level. All counties are required by statute to designate a CAPC¹¹. Naturally, CAPCs vary depending upon county size, demographics, organizational structure and capacity but typically perform the following functions as specified in statute:

- Provide a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment and legal processing of child abuse cases. In FY 2014-15, 31 CAPCs engaged in developing prevention networks and 14 engaged in developing network resources.

¹¹ WIC 18980

- Promote public awareness about child abuse and neglect of children and the resources available for intervention. In FY 2014-15, 42 CAPCs engaged in advocacy efforts around child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention.
- Encourage and facilitate training for professionals. In FY 2014-15, 39 CAPCs provided Mandated Reporter Training, 30 provided training to service providers and 26 provided parent leadership training.
- Recommend improvements in services to families and victims. To this end, 20 CAPCs provided program evaluation services and 20 provided fiscal accountability to programs in FY 2014-15.
- Encourage and facilitate community support for child abuse and neglect prevention programs.

Most CAPCs blend private and public funds to support local activities and provide regional services to children and families. The following table shows the primary prevention activities carried out by CAPCs across the state during this report period:



The CAPCs are a respected third voice adding enormous value to the state supervised, county administered child welfare system. The CAPCs raise a shared awareness and responsibility to prevent child abuse and neglect, while promoting collaboration in the community. In FY 2014-2015, 52 counties reported that their CAPC undertook Public Education and Awareness activities and 51 CAPCs conducted Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. Seven CAPCs reported functioning as a family resource center, while nine CAPCs provide direct services to consumers. Additionally, CAPCs also play a

valuable role in identifying county needs and subsequent solutions to meet these needs via the C-CFSR process. In FY 2014-15, 38 counties reported CAPCs being involved with the County Self-Assessment. Additionally, 39 CAPCs were reported being involved in the System Improvement Plan.

Beyond their valuable role as public champions of child abuse prevention efforts, CAPCs engage in valuable collaborative work to further the security of children in California. In FY 2014-15, more than half of the CAPCs (33) reported being involved in county Child Death Review Teams. Additionally, 15 CAPCs reported being involved in county Multi-Disciplinary Interview Centers (MDICs). Typically, MDICs are locations where a variety of investigative agencies (i.e., child welfare and law enforcement) can interview children recently exposed to abuse and/or neglect in a safe environment. The MDIC is key to ensuring that the victimized-child can provide authorities with valuable information.

Plan for Collaboration and Coordination

2016-17 APPLICATION

The success of the OCAP's Strategic Plan over the next five years will depend on collaboration and coordination. The OCAP will pursue this two prong strategy at every level of its prevention work, beginning with work with the counties as part of the C-CFSR process, implemented through funded partners and finally practiced by the OCAP staff through partnerships with other organizations, parents and stakeholders. The OCAP requested input on its Strategic Plan from these partners and gained excellent insight.

Collaboration and coordination begins with the counties through the integration of the CBCAP, CAPIT and PSSF plans into the C-CFSR process, which results in coordinated plans spanning the continuum of care from prevention and early intervention through permanency at the county level.

California-Child and Family Service Review (C-CFSR)

The OCAP has strengthened its prevention role in this process, by beginning to train consultants in needed areas and in expanding their role from government processors to "prevention coaches." The OCAP has regionalized Prevention Coaches' territories and will provide prevention coaches with tools and trainings to become experts in their assigned regions. Also, the OCAP is developing and improving orientations to increase the engagement of child welfare, probation and community stakeholders in the process. The OCAP believes a more engaging C-CFSR process will improve the effectiveness of counties recognizing and meeting the needs of the community.

New Grant Opportunities

In FY 2016-17, the OCAP will release new funding opportunities to promote community collaborative networks. These grants will promote “community in unity” aligning with the OCAP Child Abuse Prevention Month Theme and social media campaign of “Community in Unity.” Increasingly, evidence shows the power of collective impact approaches within communities make a greater difference than agencies and organizations working in silos. To promote collective impact approaches, the Community in Unity grantees will be supported by training and technical assistance provided by Strategies. The goal of these grants is to bring community representatives from varying disciplines together for the common cause of mitigating the predominant risk factors of child abuse and neglect within their community and building protective factors.

The other grant opportunity to be released will focus on identifying up to six applicants to develop regional collaborative networks of Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs) and key stakeholders, in an effort to improve child abuse prevention outcomes. These regional collaboratives are tasked with working strategically to mitigate the major contributing factors of child abuse and neglect and building prevention networks within their communities. Activities may include collaboration and coordination with county child death review teams.

Workgroups

The OCAP will continue collaborating with the California Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Advisory Council to learn of best practices to reach the public with safe sleep information to prevent sudden infant death syndrome and revising Mandated Reporter training for childcare providers.

As part of the Health in All Policies workgroup, a collaboration among multiple state agencies including the Department of Justice, California Department of Public Health, and Department of Social Services, a focus will be placed on violence prevention. Preventing violence and promoting resiliency are important strategies for promoting and strengthening families. The purpose of the workgroup is to build state agency capacity to address the drivers of violence and violence-free and resilient communities.

The OCAP will continue participation in the Critical Incident Workgroup (CIW), a State Interagency Team with participation from community partners as well as county and state government representatives, working to reduce child abuse and neglect fatalities in the state of California. Participating stakeholders include First Five California, the Child Abuse Prevention Council, the National Center on Child Fatality Review, County Child Welfare Agencies, the California Judicial Council and agencies from the healthcare sector. State agency representatives include the California Departments of Education, Social Services, Public Health, and Justice. The CIW will focus on specific objectives in the coming year, such as developing and sharing best practices and recommendations for Child Death Review Teams and Child Welfare Services reviews;

Identification of common trends and risk factors to build capacity and implement prevention strategies for communities and local agencies; and the creation of a data sharing framework between and among state, local and community partners. This group will continue meeting quarterly and will address recommendations made in spring, 2016 by the Federal Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

The OCAP will continue to be a participant of the State Interagency Reducing Poverty Workgroup to determine ways to reduce poverty for children and families across the state.

Child and Family Service Plan

The OCAP will promote stakeholder involvement in the federal Child and Family Service Plan for the next five years and assert a prevention focus. This has been reflected in the Strategic Plan, and will be actualized over the coming years.

Safely Surrender Baby

The OCAP will continue to partner with 211 LA to promote and disseminate the SSB hotline.

X. Criteria for Funded Programs

CBCAP Funded Programs

Sixty percent of CBCAP funds are distributed to counties participating in the California Child and Family Safety Review (C-CFSR) process. The C-CFSR is a five-year cyclical process, which begins with the identification and analysis of a county's current child welfare system, implementation of solutions which are tested and an ongoing evaluation and revision of those solutions using continuous quality improvement (CQI) coaching.

During the C-CFSR process, the OCAP Prevention Coach works directly with the county and its stakeholders in the identification of unmet needs, priority populations and eventually the selection of the best practice to mitigate these needs and populations. Additionally, the OCAP Prevention Coach remains engaged with the counties when they are out of process vis-à-vis CQI.

This CQI engagement is reflected in the review of the OCAP Annual Report, on-site visitations and technical assistance calls. These engagements are especially important to ensure that stated program outcomes are progressing toward success and allocations are being effectively used. However, the most significant role in the establishing the criteria for the award of Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds is the county board of supervisors (BOS).

Through the C-CFSR process, the county BOS holds the ultimate decision-making power when it comes to the allocating of CBCAP funds. Per Welfare and Institutions Code section 18966.1(b) (2) the BOS "may establish criteria for determining which

programs shall receive funding. Board of supervisors may accept all program proposals, prioritize those proposals, and make the final decision as to which programs shall receive funds.”¹²

Statewide, the OCAP distributes funds toward projects and programs which improve child abuse outcomes. The OCAP utilizes a competitive grant and/or contract process. The OCAP’s grant managers work with management and various bureaus within the State to issue prevention Request for Applications (RFAs) and Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFAs and RFPs to be issued are informed by research, data, and advisors such as CRPs and field experts. Once an RFA or RFP has been released, grant managers work to ensure an objective selection process. In FY 2016-17, OCAP will fund the following prevention priority areas to strengthen systems and networks:

- Data collection
- Research
- Capacity Strengthening and Building
- Strategic, targeted and collaborative prevention projects within communities
- Education and Awareness

All grants and contracts have specific performance measures to be achieved. Once awards are made to funded partners, grant managers will work with partners to solidify the scope of work (SOW) and the performance measures to be achieved. In FY 16-17, grant managers will provide CQI activities similar to those provided to counties by the OCAP’s prevention coaches. Grant managers will provide training and technical assistance to funded partners, review quarterly reports, and perform site visits. Grant managers have on-going communication with funded partners to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved.

State Match Programs

In FY 2016-2017, California will once again use Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) funds as the match for CBCAP funds, in support of child abuse and neglect prevention programs for at-risk children and families. According to WIC section 18961(a) (2), CAPIT prioritizes service provision through nonprofit agencies, including where appropriate, programs that identify and provide services to isolated families, particularly those with children five years of age or younger, high quality home visiting programs and services to child victims of crime. The OCAP Prevention Coaches will provide technical assistance on the use of CAPIT funds, and also provide financial monitoring of these funds during the OCAP Annual Report. In FY 2016-17, the OCAP anticipates approximately \$13.4 million in CAPIT funds to be distributed to the 58 counties.

¹² WIC 18966.1(b)(2)

XI. Outreach Activities for Special Populations

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) supports outreach efforts which maximize participation of underserved and underrepresented populations statewide and at the county level. Annually, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funding is directed to programs, outreach efforts, trainings and technical assistance to meet the specific needs of underserved and underrepresented populations.

Using the Strategic Plan as a guide, the OCAP identified children aged 0-5, children of any age with disabilities and children in or, at risk of, poverty as priority populations in FY 2014-15. Additionally, the OCAP worked to direct resources and assistance to American Indians and African American children as these populations are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. Equally, the OCAP is working to ensure that interventions and resources are offered in a culturally competent manner. Through county coaching efforts, the OCAP works to prioritize funding projects that seek to elevate and support special populations, including but not limited to: single mothers, fathers, racial and ethnic minorities, military families and pregnant or parenting teens.

Strategies

Strategies was the OCAP's primary vehicle for providing trainings and technical assistance for special populations and cultural humility training to service providers statewide. In FY 2014-15, Strategies conducted 26 trainings relating to special populations, including two conducted in Spanish, to 428 participants. These trainings focused on the needs of military families, families with adolescents, homeless families, father involvement, monolingual Spanish-speaking populations and children and adults with disabilities. Emphasis was on the unique traits of each population and the best practices to work with those chosen populations. Strategies provided technical assistance regarding specific special populations to community partners, county welfare workers, other county agencies, state agencies, community based organizations and American Indian tribal organizations.

Strategies conducted eight in-person trainings, in six counties¹³, to teach professionals how to reach and provide services to underserved and underrepresented populations. A total of 215 individuals participated in these trainings. The table below provides the name of the training, topic addressed location and number of recipients.

¹³ Amador, Monterey, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

Strategies In-Person Trainings Regarding Special Populations

Title	Topic	Location	Number of Recipients
A Call To Action: Building Protective Factors to Strengthen Military Families	Protective Factors for Military Families	San Diego, San Diego County	24
ReEntry Fathers: Myth Busting and Practical Strategies	Father Engagement	Camarillo, Ventura County	19
Introduccion a los 5 Factores de Proteccion (SPANISH)	Strengthening Families	Oxnard, Ventura County	8
MICOP Reunion de Desarrollo Profesional (SPANISH)	Staff Professional Development	Oxnard, Ventura County	6
Incorporating Father Friendly Practices at Your Organization	Father Engagement	Salinas, Monterey County	17
Perinatal Mood Disorders: Components	Mental health, child abuse prevention, staff competency	Sutter Creek, Amador County	45
Postpartum Depression and Beyond: The Perinatal Basics	Mental health and child abuse prevention	Jackson, Amador County	36
Cultural Proficiency-Increasing Knowledge, Reflect, Practice	Staff Professional Development	Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County	60

Strategies reached an additional 213 participants through the provision of four webinars and one e-learning module which supported teaching how to interact with special populations. The table below provides the name of the webinar, topic addressed and number of participants.

Table 1: Strategies Web-Based Trainings Regarding Special Populations

Title	Topic	Number of Recipients
Postadoption Depression Syndrome: Supporting Adoptive Families Effectively	Staff competency	61
Limited Father Involvement: Which Families are at Risk?	Father engagement	60
Support Father Involvement Implementation Evidence-Based Practice	Evidence-Based Practice	20
Utilizing Effective Practice with Families Affected by Substance Abuse	Strengthening Families	17
Youth Thrive, presented by Francie Zimmerman	Protective factors for families with adolescents	55

Lastly, Strategies also provided technical assistance relating to special populations to the counties of Mendocino, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara and Ventura. The table provides the organization served, type of technical assistance provided, location and description of the technical assistance.

Table 2: Strategies Technical Assistance Regarding Special Populations

Organization Served	Type	Location	Description
Omni Youth Programs, Inc.	Capacity-building grant technical assistance	Sacramento County	Provide \$3,000 of funding and technical assistance to develop, post, and evaluate prevention-oriented YouTube videos for teens and parents integrating protective and promotive factors related to substance abuse and violence prevention.
San Joaquin County Youth Network	Group technical assistance	San Joaquin County	Provide technical assistance to support the development of an emerging youth network creating a common approach to working with youth in San Joaquin County.
Mendocino County FRC Network	Group technical assistance	Mendocino County	Provide technical assistance to develop a countywide approach to substance abuse prevention through the FRCs to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.
Teen Parent Project: The Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center	Capacity-building grant technical assistance	Ventura County	N/A
Early Childhood Mental Health Project: Child Abuse Listening Mediation	Capacity-building grant technical assistance	Santa Barbara County	N/A
Dreams for Change Project: Innovative approach to supporting homeless families	Direct Technical Assistance	San Diego County	Dreams for Change is a young program providing services at two locations for homeless families living in their cars in San Diego.

Bear Valley Community Healthcare District (BVCHD): Mom and Dad Project: Father involvement	Direct Technical Assistance (Capacity Building Grantee)	San Bernardino County	Strategies provided training on implementing a father-friendly atmosphere and father-friendly practices.
Family Support Network's Camp TLC: Camp for disabled children and their families	Informal Technical Assistance & Coaching	Orange County	Coaching and informal technical assistance was given to the Family Support Network's Camp

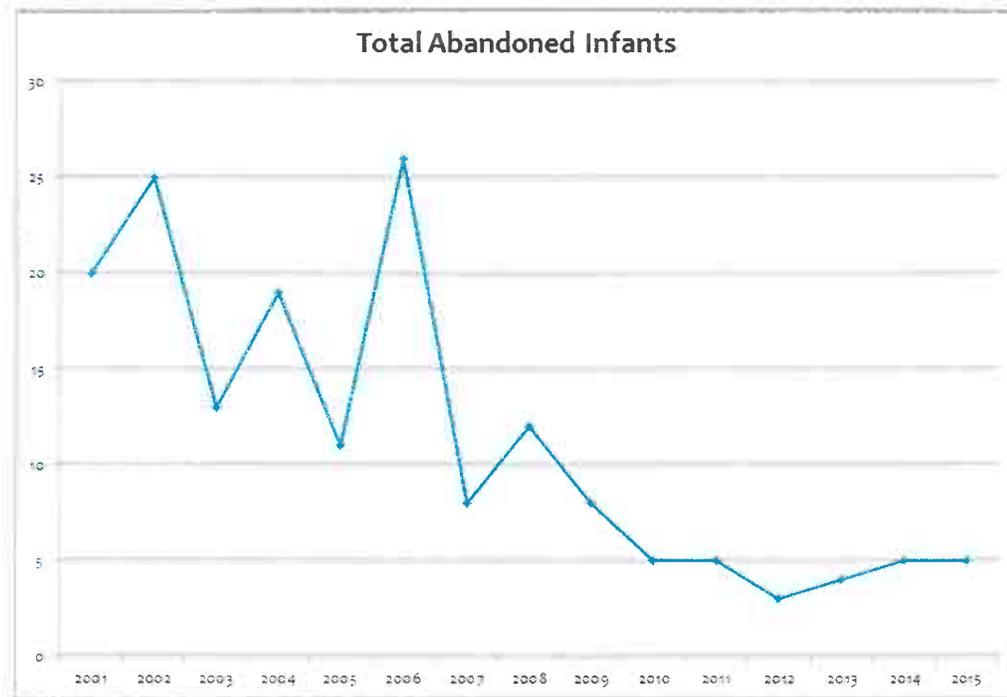
Safe Surrender Baby

In FY 2014-15, the Safe Surrender Baby (SSB) BabySafe Hotline provided outreach to youth, including teen parents. During this period the SSB BabySafe Hotline answered 1,587 calls and handled each call in an average of eight and one-half minutes. The SSB Babysafe Hotline is staffed 24 hours per day and staff can communicate in several languages including: Armenian, Spanish, Cambodian, Cantonese and Tagalong. Since the SSB BabySafe Hotline went live in 2010, the number of safely surrendered infants has increased from 71 newborns in 2010 to 84 newborns in 2015.

As part of the SSB law, schools are required to provide information about how to safely surrender babies during sexual education classes. This informs possible teen parents of other options when struggling with an unwanted pregnancy and may contribute to less babies being abandoned or otherwise abused or neglected.

Available data indicates a generally decreasing trend of abandonments since the enactment of the SSB Law, from 25 cases in 2002 to five or fewer cases per year since 2010. The figure below indicates the overall decreasing trend of the number of abandoned infants over the past 15 years.

Abandoned infants in California: 2001-2015



County-Level

At the county level, counties and contracted community-based organizations are encouraged by OCAP to target underserved and underrepresented populations through programs and outreach activities. Specific outreach activities are determined in-part during the California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) process, where a county aligns programs with unmet needs and at-risk populations. As program goals are met, the prioritization of populations can necessarily change. In FY 2014-15, California reported a shift in the prioritization of underserved populations. In FY 2013-14, 41 counties reported outreach activities to fathers. However, in FY 2014-15, 38 counties reported outreach efforts directed toward single mothers and racial or ethnic minorities.

Descriptions of outreach efforts and programs targeting special populations provided by the counties are listed below.

Merced County

The [All Dads Matter](#) (ADM) program has three components: parent education, peer support and parent leadership. This parenting education is delivered in the form of a three-hour workshop taught by fathers. Utilizing a “man-to-man” approach, veteran fathers and their babies prepare rookie and expecting fathers. In addition, the ADM program provides peer support through a weekly peer support group. This peer support group offers a safe environment for fathers to discuss issues related to fatherhood. Topics covered in the support group include, but are not limited to, stages of

development, positive discipline, communication and accountability. Moreover, ADM operates a resource center for fathers to access a variety of community resources and tools to improve parenting skills and receive support. The ADM program builds the protective factors of knowledge of parenting and child development and social connections between fathers.

In FY 2014-15, the All Dads Matter program served 774 fathers including 470 Hispanic, 156 Caucasian, 78 African American, 32 Asian, 14 identified as two or more races and two American Indian. Twenty-two fathers identified as another race. Due to community awareness, Merced County is hiring new staff for the ADM program to support the growing need of parenting education services for the County. In addition, the ADM program collaborates with the Merced Office of Education; Migrant Education program to reach migrant Spanish speaking families. Through this collaboration, bilingual staff conducted forums for Spanish speaking migrant families at several migrant camps across Merced County. These forums presented information about community resources and workshops that empower fathers to increase the positive impact they have on their children's safety, permanence and well-being.

Solano County

Solano County reaches underserved youth, aged 13-18, in Vallejo schools who are at risk of pregnancy through the Positive Youth Development Project (PYDP). The PYDP strives to meet the social and emotional developmental needs of the youth in the program. To do so, the PYDP utilizes the evidence-based practices of Botvin Life Skills, Nurturing Parent Project, Girls Circle, Boy's Council and Jr. Achievement. Additionally, the PYDP conducts group and individual counseling, life skills groups, peer mentoring, parenting education, resource linkage, community involvement and social support. To gain an interest in the PYDP, outreach was conducted at Vallejo schools and with partner agencies by presenting in classrooms, handing out flyers and brochures, collaborating with school administrations to implement the programs at the schools and conducting outreach at local events.

In FY 2014-15, the PYDP served 64 youth including 22 who identified as two or more races, 17 African-American, ten Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, seven Hispanic, four Asian, two children with disabilities and two children who identified as another race.

Sutter County

Sutter County supports special populations in the community through Family Soup, an FRC located in Yuba City. Family Soup provides supportive resources to help families with children with disabilities. Family Soup provides programs for community members who are at risk of being involved with CWS. One service provided by Family Soup is psycho-educational counseling for children with disabilities.

These psycho-educational counseling services consist of short-term counseling for parents of children with disabilities ages 0-5. The services are designed to help parents during times of crisis and strengthen social connections, especially in some of the more

isolated Sutter County communities or those with limited transportation options. Other services offered by Family Soup are monthly Attention Deficit Hyper-Activity Disorder support meetings and sibling support groups for brothers and sisters, ages seven through 11, of children with disabilities and other programs to reduce stress and provide coping mechanisms for parents. Services are offered in English, Spanish, and Punjabi due to Sutter County having a large population of Punjabi speaking families. The program utilizes the evidence-based practice of cognitive behavioral therapy. In FY 2014-15, Family Soup served two children with disabilities and two parents with disabilities.

Humboldt County

Humboldt County implemented efforts to connect Hoopa Indian Tribe families with the SafeCare program. The SafeCare program uses assessment tools that identify early indications of postpartum depression as well as early intervention for developmental delays creating an opportunity for education, counseling and additional support for parents and children. To increase Hoopa Tribe participation in this program, staff completed multiple outreach events. SafeCare program staff attended Hoopa Family Network Resource meetings, presented to Headstart staff in Willow Creek, and attended the Hoopa Health Fair. Each of these events was held in the east Humboldt County area where a large percent of the population is from the Hoopa Tribe. In Federal Fiscal Year 2015, the Humboldt County SafeCare program reached 32 American Indian children and 28 American Indian parents.

Lake County

The Snuggle Nests Distribution Project of Lake County also makes an effort to reach the American Indian population. Snuggle Nests provides a safe co-sleeping device for infants. The Snuggle Nests assist families who have no space for a crib in their home. In collaboration with local agencies that serve families, Lake County Public Health provides the Snuggle Nests to Lake County Tribal Health Consortium to expectant parents or parents of very young infants. In FY 2014-15, Lake County reported serving three American Indian children and five American Indian parents.

Kern County

Kern County ensures reaching primarily Spanish speaking families who are at-risk of experiencing child abuse or neglect by distributing calendars printed in Spanish. These calendars help families keep track of work, school and family activities; doctor appointments; parenting classes; and appointments with family support agencies. A child abuse prevention message is included for each month on topics ranging from parenting tips to child injury to healthy meal planning. There is a section in the front of each calendar for families to write the names and phone numbers for key contact people/helping agencies. In addition, a resource directory located in the back of the calendar includes the names, addresses and phone numbers for family support

agencies that are available to assist families with basic needs items and counseling services.

San Luis Obispo County

The Promotores Collaborative of San Luis Obispo County is a community-based model of outreach that works to eliminate barriers between public and private organizations and underserved populations. Promotores are community volunteers who act as trusted liaisons between the underserved community and the services available to them. Promotores become certified by completing a 40-hour training focused on health education and utilizing community resources. Promotores assist families of underserved populations by doing outreach in their communities, providing translations services at community events, conducting community presentations and working alongside family advocates to assist families and in crisis with services. In FY 2014-15, the program provided services to 37 Hispanic parents.

Madera County

Madera County targeted the underrepresented inmate population by providing inmates parenting education, child abuse and neglect awareness training, domestic violence training and the effects of crimes on victims. In FY2014-15, over 1,000 inmates in Madera County were served with these trainings.

Los Angeles County

For Child Abuse Prevention Month, Los Angeles County promoted alternative parenting practices to increase positive bonding and attachment through the “Just One Moment” poster campaign. The campaign targeted the San Fernando and Santa Clarita areas, and focused on all ethnic and cultural backgrounds of these service areas including African-American, Caucasian, Persian, Armenian and Latino parents. The posters created by California State University Northridge students, featured parents engaging their parents in a range of activities.

2016-2017 APPLICATION

Moving forward into FY 2016-17, the OCAP plans to continue to focus on underserved and underrepresented populations and implement new strategies to serve these special populations. The OCAP will continue to promote outreach efforts to special populations statewide and at the county level. The OCAP has started a social media plan to raise awareness of several issues regarding the maltreatment of children. Included in the social media plan are messages to raise awareness of, and tips to address, commercial sexual exploitation, no name calling, children’s dental health, colic awareness, water safety, domestic violence, the SSB Program, Child Abuse Prevention Month, Parent Leadership Month, etc. The use of social media allows the OCAP to potentially reach younger, at-risk populations, including pregnant and/or parenting teens.

The OCAP Strategic Plan focuses on recognizing the most at risk children and families, and children 0-5 and parenting teens will be a high priority in the coming years. The OCAP plans to work with counties and OCAP funded grantees to determine how to best identify these at risk children by considering which risk assessment tool can be used by community-based organizations that see at risk families. Thus, special populations will continued to be reached through the OCAP's comprehensive, statewide system of community-based family resources, as well as through county child welfare organizations.

The OCAP will continue to support innovative projects and initiatives that support outreach activities to underserved and underrepresented populations, including:

- Community Café Parent Engagement and Leadership Project.
- Strategies (training and technical assistance to reach special populations).
- Reducing Abusive Head Trauma through outreaching to young parents.
- Supporting an emerging leaders program to help build diversity and inclusion in the field.
- Parent leadership activities seeking an increase in cultural competency in delivery of services.
- Participation in a "Critical Incident" workgroup to reduce child deaths due to abuse and neglect.
- 211 LA County will continue the operation of the SSB BabySafe Hotline and develop and implement an outreach program including medical information questionnaires in several languages.

At the county level, the OCAP will continue to promote and encourage counties throughout the C-CFSR process to focus on underserved and underrepresented populations. During the C-CFSR process with the counties, OCAP prevention coaches will be strategic to encourage counties to provide programs and outreach activities that maximize the participation of underserved and underrepresented populations.

XII. Plans for Parent Leadership and Involvement

2014–2015 ANNUAL REPORT

To increase parent leadership and involvement in influencing systems, the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) supported funded partners and counties to provide parent leadership training and encouraged opportunities for parent participation in systems discussions and decision-making. Statewide, the OCAP provided funding to the Parent Services Project (PSP) and Parents Anonymous® Inc. (PA) to empower parents in becoming effective leaders and to provide opportunities of leadership activities. At the county-level, the OCAP encouraged parent leadership and involvement through the C-CFSR process. With funded partners, the OCAP conducted site visits and collected information through the Annual Report.

PARENT SERVICES PROJECT

In an effort to better equip parents to serve as leaders of their families and as cross-system advocates for their communities, the OCAP awarded a three-year grant (Fiscal Years (FYs) 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15) to the PSP to design and pilot parent academies in several counties within California. The parent academies, also known as Leaders for Change (L4C), offer low income parents a 20 hour training program grounded in the evidence based Strengthening Families Framework.



The goals of the L4C training program are to:

- Build knowledge of the Five Protective Factors in parents and families and their roles in strengthening families.
- Develop knowledge and skills in leadership, communication and advocacy in order to create change in the systems which serve families.

The L4C training program is tailored to meet the unique needs of the host community based on input from local advisors. Participants complete 20 hours of parent leadership training in the following topical areas:

- Leadership of self, family, community and systems.
- Goal setting, communication, advocacy skills and action planning.
- Understanding the Five Protective Factors.
- Building support networks and allies, outreach and mentoring strategies.

Between February 2013 and July 2015 the PSP provided L4C academies to 19 of California's 58 counties. Through conducting a culturally appropriate outreach plan, the

PSP succeeded in recruiting a diverse group of 241 low income emerging parent leaders as participants. L4C training participants consisted of 48 percent married, 24 percent single, 14 percent partnered, 12 percent divorced or separated and two percent widowed. Moreover, 62 percent were Latino, 22 were percent white, five percent were African American, three percent were multi-racial, three percent were Native American or Alaskan Native, two percent were Asian and three percent self-identified as other. In addition to the parent participants, 75 county staff completed the L4C training.

An outside evaluator, Philliber Research and Evaluation, measured the effectiveness of the PSP in building parents into stronger leaders. Philliber Research and Evaluation used the following surveys to measure parent leadership, protective factors, community advocacy and parent's actions taken in their own families: Yourself as a Communicator and Leader; Five Protective Factors Survey; Community Advocacy; About You and Your Own Family.

The survey "Yourself as a Communicator and Leader" was administered to participants before the training and after the training. Upon completing L4C, participants' answers reflected an average increase of one full point (from three to four, on a five point scale) on the 13 questions about how each parent viewed themselves as a communicator and leader.

The Five Protective Factors survey was administered after the training to assess the level that parents understood the Five Protective Factors in action. Parents matched 20 statements to the correct protective factors. Of the 20 statements, the average number of correct answers was 12.5. Statements regarding "Social Connection" were the most often correctly identified Protective Factor.

The survey "Community Advocacy" was administered before and after the training. In this survey, parents reported the number of times in the past three months that they had advocated within their community. Following the training, a statistically significant increase occurred for five of the 13 community advocacy activities. Parents taking a leadership role at a school or community organization saw the largest increase.

Lastly, parents completed an "About You and Your Own Family" survey. The survey was administered before and after the training. Parents reported an increase in their knowledge, confidence and skills on all thirteen items. The largest change occurred with statements about personal family discussions and being able to ask for help from others.

Based on the surveys taken after attending the training, parents demonstrated increases in parental and child developmental knowledge, confidence and building skills related to implementing the Five Protective Factors in their families. Parents increased their community advocacy actions at schools and communities by attending community meetings, public speaking and providing leadership at more meetings. Parents also reported an increase in their frequency of: writing letters or e-mails about a community

problem; speaking face-to-face with public officials about community issues; and volunteering with a local organization, agency, church or school.

PARENTS ANONYMOUS® INC.

The PA continued to develop the State Parent Leadership Team (SPLT) in FY 2014-15. The SPLT consists of parents who have had previous involvement across multiple systems, such as child welfare, mental health and community-based organizations. To select the parents on the SPLT, Parents Anonymous sent 500 e-mails through their Constant Contact list of participants from the California Parent Leadership Conference. Strategies assisted with the distribution of nomination forms. The PA received a diverse group of nominees from different ethnic backgrounds and various experiences in child welfare systems. From these nominations, six parents were selected to be on the SPLT. The SPLT had quarterly calls with the members of the SPLT and the Program Director from PA.

The SPLT members participate on different statewide committees that meet monthly or quarterly. FY 2014-15 saw members of the SPLT participate in the following organizations

Organization	Committee Assignments
Child Welfare Council	Prevention (subcommittee), Permanency (subcommittee)
Pathways to Well Being	Statewide Training and Education (committee), Community Team
Essentials for Childhood Leadership	Action Team
Strengthening Families California	Policy (committee), Communications (committee)

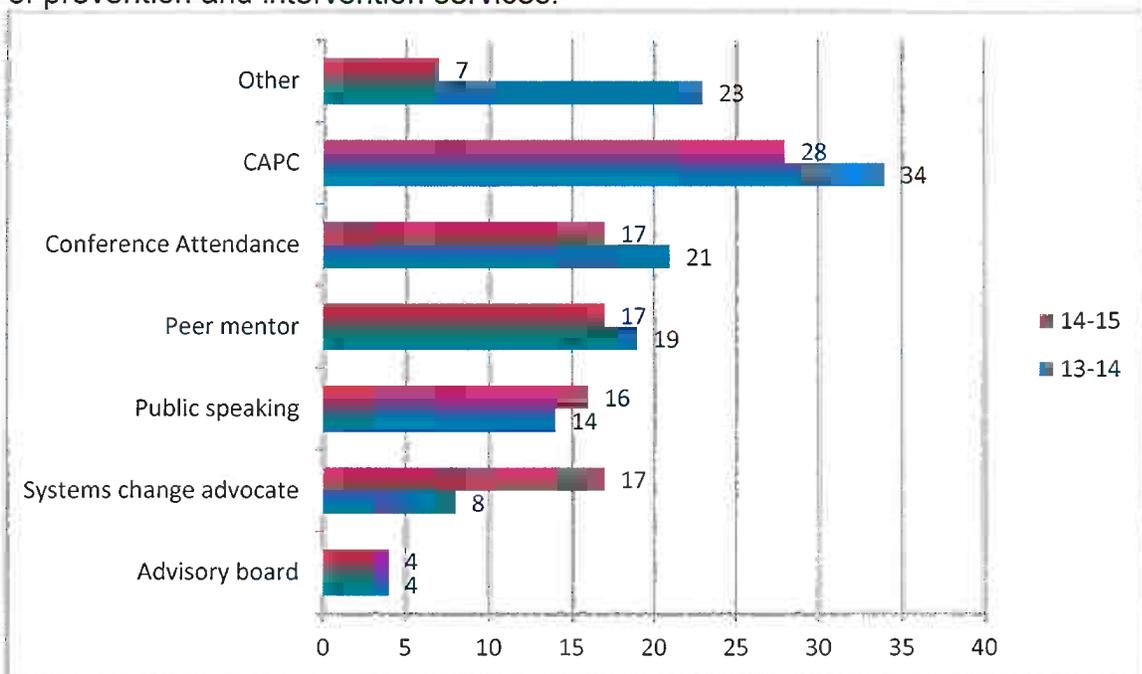
Furthermore, during FY 2014-15 SPLT members:

- Developed key supportive documents for the meaningful Shared Leadership portion of an online toolkit for Katie A. [The Child Welfare/Mental Health Learning Collaborative Toolkit](#) provides a compendium of resources designed to assist county administrators and staff to implement integrated child welfare and mental health services for families and children participating in both systems.
- Planned and conducted a workshop regarding meaningful Shared Leadership with California Youth Connections with county staff at a statewide convening.
- Prepared and presented at the Strengthening Families Leadership Summit.
- Shared statewide prevention strategies from the Essentials for Childhood, Strengthening Families Roundtable and California Partners for Prevention with local councils, parents, agencies and community partners in the following counties: Glenn, Los Angeles, Riverside, Shasta and Ventura.

In addition to statewide parent leadership opportunities and trainings, the OCAP coaches and encourages counties to provide parent leadership opportunities.

COUNTY-LEVEL PARENT ENGAGEMENT

The OCAP encourages and supports parent leadership opportunities at the county-level through the California Child and Family Service Review (C-CFSR) process. In addition, the OCAP Prevention Coaches encourage counties to implement activities, training and incentives to enhance parent leadership and involvement within the continuum of care of prevention and intervention services.



In FY 2014-15, slightly less than half of the counties (28) reported parent involvement in Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) meetings and Child Abuse Prevention Month planning. In FY 2014-15 counties reported an increase in offering parent leadership activities in the categories of public speaking and systems change advocates.

Forty-five counties reported engaging parents in leadership opportunities through CBCAP funded programs. Thirteen of the counties offering leadership opportunities reported using a variety of incentive approaches to motivate parents to participate in the leadership opportunities including in-kind and cash incentives.

Below are examples of parent leadership reported by the counties.

Calaveras County

The [Prevent Child Abuse Council Calaveras](#) (PCACC) includes one parent representative. The parent is given opportunities for professional development through workshops, conferences, and participation at family-centered events. The parent assisted with activities for children at the Family Harvest Day and Kids' Day in the Garden events and gave insight into outreach opportunities. The parent has also served on committees to develop the PCACC Strategic Plan, select mini-grant recipients, recommend new PCACC members and has become a vital source of child abuse prevention information in the community.

Colusa County

Colusa County's CAPC is diligent in keeping parents involved by assisting the parents in leadership activities. The County is engaged in the North Fatherhood Conference, and active parents assist with recruiting fathers to attend the Conference and providing resources to educate others about the needs and common issues. Parents are also engaged in CAPC meetings, attend other conferences, develop programs and assist in implementing projects to promote and fight against child abuse.

Mariposa County

The Mariposa County Shared Leadership group gives parents the opportunity to take a stand and take charge. It gives them the chance to build their leadership skills by facilitating their own monthly meetings and attending various other meetings to discuss topics of importance to them. They have attended Mariposa County Board of Supervisors meetings, school board meetings as well as annual conferences to network with other parents in their positions who strive to make positive change in their communities.

Nevada County

Parent leadership opportunities are provided by the Foothill Truckee Healthy Babies (FTHB) supervisors and the program manager by encouraging parents' participation on the FTHB Community Advisory Board, being interviewed as a FTHB program participant during regular site visits and by participating in focus groups and other survey opportunities as they become available to the program.

Sacramento County

Parents lead by co-facilitating Birth and Beyond parenting education workshops. Parents are identified as leaders, complete a three day "Train the Facilitator" course, demonstrate competency to deliver the curriculum and then are matched with a service provider.

San Francisco County

San Francisco County works to provide parents with leadership experiences that help provide role-modeling experiences for others. The counties Parent-Child Center Parent Committee at St. Elizabeth has opportunities for parents to facilitate and record minutes at meetings. The facilitator leads and manages discussions as parents share ideas and experiences to help each other think of alternative ways to have positive parent-child interactions. The discussions include parenting styles and the process of learning new techniques.

Stanislaus County

Some years ago, Haven (a local women's shelter) provided office-based services to a woman named "Connie" who learned about Haven through her child's participation in one of the school-based "Kids Count!" groups. Over time, as "Connie's" personal safety increased and her family grew more stable, she began to transform-as so many of us do-from client to advocate. "Connie" expressed a strong interest in giving back to others in the community and to helping our agency further our prevention work with children as a mentor. Last year "Connie" completed Haven's 65-hour advocate training in order to meet the confidentiality standards set by the State of California which enables all staff and volunteers to provide direct client services. This year "Connie" began actively volunteering in Haven's Youth Department. She now co-facilitates hour-long, topic-based, weekly sessions alongside a trained Youth Educator for six consecutive weeks at elementary schools throughout Stanislaus County. Her role includes leading art activities and facilitating age-appropriate discussions about non-violence, safety, bullying, feelings, self-esteem and healthy expressions of anger.

Tehama County

Alternatives to Violence hired a former participant in CBCAP-funded services to become a current staff member of the domestic violence emergency shelter. This staff member's responsibilities include providing peer counseling to current residential and non-residential participants, assisting in facilitating a support group for both residential and non-residential participants using an evidence-based curriculum that includes modules that cover child development and effects of witnessing violence on child development, conflict resolution, appropriate discipline, boundaries and providing safe and appropriate environments for children. As the weekend shelter staff, this staff member also facilitates residential activities that promote healthy parent-child interaction, including recreational outings and cooking projects.

Tulare County

The Child Well-Being project started a dance class similar to Zumba that was later named Dance Therapy. Participants completed a five question test before and after class regarding their level of emotional state. The parent leader created the class survey, administered the survey, became a certified dance instructor and helped initiate

the 2nd Cup of Coffee peer support group for parents who wanted to connect with other parents. The dance class grew in size because of social connections made with other parents.

Tuolumne County

Tuolumne County offers parent leadership training. The experience includes a three day training focused on the Five Protective Factors, what makes a family strong, strategies on how to become an advocate for creating systemic change, communication skills and identifying individual leadership styles. Facilitation of the event was performed by graduates from the prior year leadership program who had attended the Training the Trainers program in Sacramento.

Plan for Leadership and Involvement

The OCAP continues to emphasize the importance of parent leadership activities, training and involvement both statewide and at the county-level. The OCAP extended funding for the PA and PSP for FY 2015-16 to lift the capacity of parents and prevention partners to protect children from abuse and neglect. The PA and PSP will continue their development of parent leadership. In FY 2016-17, the OCAP will remain committed to preventing child abuse and neglect and its lasting effects by promoting parent leadership and strengthening families and the communities that surround them. In alignment with the Strategic Plan, the OCAP will release a Parent Leadership grant.

The purpose of the Parent Leadership grant will be to create parent leaders through training and technical assistance in order to build a statewide team of parent leaders, including those previously involved in the child welfare system. The grantee will be responsible for organizing the training logistics, such as training formats, coordinating staff, time schedules, travel and facilities, as well as evaluation. It is the OCAP's expectation that this training and technical assistance funded program will empower parent leaders to actively participate in program planning, development and modification of policies and procedures, and the evaluation of systems in the area of child abuse prevention, at both the state and local levels, specifically to mitigate the major risk factors of poverty and substance abuse.

The OCAP has identified overall goals for the Parent Leadership program that are consistent with the goals of the federal funding sources (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and CBCAP) and the OCAP Strategic Plan. Applicants will be expected to describe the activities they plan to execute to engage and empower parents as parent leaders. Goals of those activities include:

- Providing strategic education and training.
- Strengthening the capacity of parents to build resiliency in families, particularly for families over-represented in the child welfare system.
- Providing technical assistance to parents to promote parent leadership in local communities and serve as state advisory board members, task force members,

implementation committee members and in other such capacities to effectively engage parents and elevate the parent voice.

- Providing a team of parent leaders that have previously been involved in the child welfare system (biological parents, relative caregivers, adoptive parents, etc.) to ensure meaningful involvement of parents.
- Working cohesively with the OCAP and its partners in engaging and empowering parents through the use of data, performance measures, and the utilization and implementation of evidence-based practices to maximize the effectiveness of prevention efforts for vulnerable children and families.
- Advancing innovative partnerships that increase and leverage prevention funds and/or embeds prevention-focused policies.

At the county-level, the OCAP Prevention Coaches will continue to emphasize the importance of parent leadership involvement with the 13 counties who will be involved in the C-CFSR process. The OCAP Prevention Coaches will also continue to conduct site visits, provide technical assistance and improve technical assistance and training for the Efforts to Outcomes system to assist counties in providing the most accurate data on parent leadership activities.