

Monterey County Children's Council
Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Report to the Board of Supervisors

ORGANIZATION HISTORY and PURPOSE

- **Describe your organization's history. When/how/why was your organization formed?**

The Monterey County Children's Council is an interagency council designed to provide better coordination of children and youth services. The Council was formed to enhance services and decrease duplicative efforts in child and youth service provisions. The Council was established by the Board of Supervisors on June 9, 1992 with the passage of resolution 92-256 in order to enable the County to more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of its children and their families, and to ensure that the law set forth in Section 18986 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is effectively implemented. The purpose of the Council is to facilitate the development of comprehensive and collaborative delivery system of services for children and their families.

- **Summarize the mission and/or purpose of your organization.**

The purpose of the Monterey County Children's Council is to facilitate the development of comprehensive and collaborative delivery system of services for children and their families.

The vision of the Council is that all children in Monterey County live in safe, nurturing homes and communities; they are healthy, valued, succeed in school and realize their full potential. The mission of the Children's Council is to provide leadership and policy direction to encourage the development of a comprehensive and collaborative delivery system of services to children and youth in Monterey County.

The guiding principals of the Council are:

Collaborative – promoting cross-agency policies and procedures that enhance seamless service delivery; encourage interdisciplinary problem-solving and support; and address the barriers to success;

Comprehensive, Coordinated and Integrated – recommending a full array of services and supports where the entire range of needs are addressed in an efficient, responsive and effective manner;

Family-Centered and Family-Driven – honoring, respecting and empowering families as their child's first teacher and strongest advocate;

Culturally Responsive – ensuring diverse populations receive culturally responsive services and supports;

Community-Based/Community Driven – ensuring that services are available and accessible in a variety of settings and locations;

Participatory – ensuring that program recipients participate in making and shaping decisions; and

Outcomes-Oriented – measuring outcomes for children, youth and families and using data to facilitate decision-making, identify obstacles and improve services.

- **What problems, needs or issues does your organization address? How does your work address and/or change the underlying or root causes of the problem?**

As a community, the greatest investment we can make is to ensure the success of each and every child gifted to us. When children and youth do not receive the support they need to succeed in school and life, the negative impacts can last throughout their lifetime and ripple through a community for generations. Every year, Monterey County spends millions of public and private dollars on major economic and social problems that are a direct result of our children living in poverty; instability; entering kindergarten underprepared; and failing to graduate high school, enter college or start a career.

The systemic issues that affect the children and families in our community are complex, as a child's health and well-being are impacted by multiple social and ecological factors that extend beyond the reach of a single organization or agency. Solutions require deep commitment and a shared vision for success.

- **Describe your current programs and activities.**

This year has been an exciting time for us as we continued our work on two very important initiatives that embrace the collective impact model for solving complex problems: the *Early Childhood Development Initiative* and the *All Kids, Our Kids* initiative. Using the collective impact model for community action, we are working to align the efforts of community members and organizations to improve the quality of life and outcomes for children and youth.

The *Early Childhood Development Initiative* aims to develop a countywide strategic vision, road map, and action plan to help our youngest children, prenatal stage through age 5, reach their full potential in safe and nurturing families. *All Kids Our Kids* aims to build stronger, more resilient children and youth by creating positive, caring and supportive schools and communities through positive youth development. As a Council, we believe that these efforts to promote deep and meaningful investments in childhood will yield returns for generations to come.

- **Who is your constituency? How are they actively involved in your work, and how do they benefit from your organization?**

The Children's Council provides comprehensive support to all children and youth from birth to age 26 throughout Monterey County. This objective is achieved by creating more comprehensive and collaborative systems of support and care through strategic initiatives and policy change. The Council is also developing a focus on under-resourced communities throughout the county by designating specific geographic priority areas to receive added attention and focus. These areas are selected through an analysis of social vulnerability indicators. The constituency is engaged in the work to help identify pressing needs and issues at appropriate intervals as work unfolds. This constituency benefits from the Council's work through the creation of a more comprehensive system of service provisions.

GOALS

- **What goals were set by the BCC for the previous year?**

The Council's goals for the FY 2013-2014 were to provide leadership and oversight, while leveraging relationships and resources to ensure the success of its two strategic initiatives – the Early Childhood Development Initiative and All Kids, *Our Kids*.

- **What is the long term strategic vision for your BCC?**

The long term vision for the Council is to develop initiatives throughout the county that aim to provide a continuum of support to children and youth from the “cradle to career.” These initiatives will focus on building collaborative relationships between communities and schools and coordinating efforts to address a limited number of critical academic and social milestones such as kindergarten readiness, third grade reading, eighth grade math proficiency, supportive adult relationships and college or career enrollment. By aligning efforts across sectors and focusing on specific indicators and metrics, the Council hopes to achieve measurable outcomes in our most under resourced communities and to develop collaborative models that can be replicated elsewhere in the county.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Describe three major accomplishments of your organization (specifically from the previous year).**

Early Childhood Development Initiative:

1. Developed structure and framework for community opportunities and commitments.
2. Held 14 meetings in 4 regions throughout the county to identify cross-sector collaborative action teams, and receive feedback on strengths, challenges, and needs of communities for the ECDI process.

All Kids, *Our Kids*:

3. Developed a strategic plan for funding, capacity building, and evaluation.

- **What accomplishment is your organization most proud of?**

During 2013-2014, ECDI has focused on research, outreach and capacity building throughout Monterey County. There were 14 regional meetings held throughout Monterey County to capture feedback from residents who are working to change the state of early childhood development. There were also sessions held throughout the county to hear from transitional kindergarten through 3rd grade teachers. Based on the community discussions and the collective impact framework, when communities maximize assets and work together the greatest impact will be achieved. ECDI will support the development of county-wide advocates and local communities through capacity building such as, meeting facilitation, data analysis, communication and advocacy geared to advance community work.

- **Describe three primary goals (specifically for the upcoming year).**

Early Childhood Development Initiative

1. Engage unrepresented and underrepresented community groups to participate in the ECDI process.
2. Prepare and conduct local community asset mapping in communities with Collaborative Action Teams.

All Kids, *Our* Kids

- a. MOUs outlining commitments for participation between County, City, School District and Community partners to assure long term sustainability.
- b. Develop integrated restorative justice and PBIS trainings and implementation plans.

POLICY ISSUES:

- **Are there policy issues that you would like the Board of Supervisors to consider and/or be aware of?**

The policy issues that are of concern to the Council were outlined in the Early Childhood Development legislative priority submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

FISCAL SUMMARY:

- **What is the total budget for your organization (current year)?**

Not applicable

- **Provide a summary of revenue.**

Not applicable

- **Provide a summary of expenditures.**

Not applicable

- **Provide a narrative of the cost benefit of your organization. Explain any financial benefits experienced by the County as a result of this organization, any general fund expenses incurred by this organization, etc.**

Not applicable