

**Monterey County Children's Council
Report to the Community
May 2016**

ORGANIZATION HISTORY and PURPOSE (In this section please summarize [within one page or less] answers to some or all of the following as it relates to the BCC);

- **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 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?**

A child's health and well-being is impacted by multiple sectors of society that extend beyond the reach of a single organization or agency. Social service agencies, schools, businesses and non profit organizations must work together to develop comprehensive support systems that enable all children and young people to have equal opportunities and support to succeed and realize their full potential. This is why the Monterey County Children's Council develops child and youth development initiatives that use cross-sector, data driven approaches to address critical issues that impact the health and well-being of children and youth. These collaborative approaches address the root causes of issues by encouraging the comprehensive delivery of services to children and youth rather than relying on single organizations or agencies trying to address problems that arise from the interplay of actors across sectors.

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

The All Kids, Our Kids initiative seeks to address gaps in equity by training districts in positive behavior reinforcement. The Early Childhood Development Initiative seeks to ensure all children have bright beginnings with their family and in their community that foster thriving childhoods and readiness for learning.

All Kids, Our Kids is a countywide movement dedicated to creating positive, caring and equitable schools, communities, and peer groups for all children and youth using principles of positive youth development. There are three assets all children and youth need in order to succeed in school and life: caring relationships, high expectations and opportunities for meaningful participation. Research shows that when children and youth experience these important assets in their home, school, community and amongst their peers, they develop the internal strength needed to overcome adversity and reach their full potential.

In 2014-15, a major accomplishment of the initiative is that 44 schools throughout Monterey County are now actively engaged in implementing the research-based Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program throughout the school communities.

The Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) was recently renamed Bright Beginnings to align more closely with the community initiative started by California State University Monterey Bay called Bright Futures. Bright Beginnings/ECDI aims to maximize community efforts to improve early childhood development outcomes through effective coordination, capacity building, empowerment and strategic action for children from the prenatal stage through 3rd grade and their families.

ECDI/Bright Beginnings is concentrating its efforts on improving six indicators of early childhood development in Monterey County. The six indicators are 3rd Grade Reading Level, Prenatal Care, Maternal Education Level, Social Emotional Skills, Reading to Children and Licensed Childcare.

In June 2014, ECDI released an Engagement Opportunity Request (EOR) application that communities completed to be considered a Collaborative Action Team (CAT). In the EOR, communities stated their request for support services along with their community readiness to move forward with a collective impact approach. Five communities came forward to submit an EOR and in October 2014, the MCCC decided to support all five communities: Seaside/Peninsula, Pajaro, North Monterey County, Salinas and Greenfield.

Using the Collective Impact approach to addressing complex social issues requires long-term commitment. We embrace the collective impact model, working to align the efforts of community members and organizations to improve the quality of life and outcomes for children.

- **Who is your constituency (be specific about demographics such as race, gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation and people with disabilities)? 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 (In this section, please summarize [within one page or less] answers to some or all of the following as it relates to the BCC):

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

All Kids, Our Kids 2014-15 Goal

Building Leadership Capacity- Provide data systems training to school communities throughout Monterey County. MOUs outlining commitments for participation between County, City, School District and Community partners to assure long term sustainability. Continue developing a local pool of trainers and consultants.

Expand Training Services to Build Capacity for Systems Change- Provide training in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Tier 2 to City of Salinas schools and South Monterey County, North Monterey County and the Monterey Peninsula. Develop and adopt effective policies at the county, city and district to sustain commitment to work.

Integration and alignment with existing initiatives- Develop integrated restorative justice and PBIS trainings and implementation plans. Engage the juvenile justice system in PBIS implementation. Develop policies and programs with the Community Restorative Justice Commission.

ECDI/Bright Beginnings 2014-15 Goal

Research and Assessment- Create structure for Continuous Improvement Coach Design Collaborative Action Team supporting structure

Outreach- Strategize media campaign for early childhood development awareness. Engage unrepresented and underrepresented community groups to participate in the ECDI process. Present informational sessions on ECDI to various stakeholders.

Capacity Building- Prepare and conduct local community asset mapping in communities with Collaborative Action Teams. Research, identify and train on data measurement systems, where necessary. Strategize alignment of collective impact approaches throughout Monterey County. Explore partnerships with individuals and organizations to leverage existing resources. Support the formation of

Collaborative Action Teams around the county Assist Collaborative Action Teams to create a local ECDI action plan

Implementing, Improving and Expanding- Implement Policy Advocacy Network. Conduct Request for Engagement process through the Monterey County Children's Council to identify the Collaborative Action Teams. Support Collaborative Action Teams in the implementation of their action plans. Develop communication tools for use by ECDI and Collaborative Action teams.

- **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 (In this section, please summarize [within two pages or less] answers to some or all of the following as it relates to the BCC):

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

Three major accomplishments of the council in the FY 14-15 are:

1. **Early Childhood Development Initiative aligning with Bright Futures:** *The Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) was recently renamed Bright Beginnings to align more closely with the community initiative started by California State University Monterey Bay called Bright Futures.*
2. **Gaining significant progress on the All Kids, Our Kids initiative:**
In 2014-15, a major accomplishment of the initiative is that 44 schools throughout Monterey County are now actively engaged in implementing the research-based Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program throughout the school communities.
3. **ECDI/Bright Beginnings creation of Collaborative Action Teams:**
In an effort to maximize the foundational work done since 2012, ECDI has focused on planning and aligning activities with the communities. In June 2014, ECDI released an Engagement Opportunity Request (EOR) application that communities completed to be considered a Collaborative Action Team (CAT). In the EOR, communities stated their request for support services along with their community readiness to move forward with a collective impact approach. Five communities came forward to submit an EOR and in October 2014, the MCCC decided to support all five communities: Seaside/Peninsula, Pajaro, North Monterey County, Salinas and Greenfield.

- What accomplishment is your organization most proud of?

The Council is most proud of the development of community centered Collaborative Action Teams.

- Describe three primary goals (specifically for the upcoming year).
 1. **All Kids, Our Kids initiative** primary goal is to show significant measureable improvements through the collection of data using the SWIS database system and other school data systems.
 2. **ECDI/Bright Beginnings** Continue collaboration with Bright Futures, IMPACT Monterey County and other collective impact initiatives.
 3. **More fully engaging members of the council.**

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.