



The Santa Barbara County Partnership for Strengthening Families 3rd Annual Convening

VISION: The Partnership for Strengthening Families envisions safe and nurturing communities throughout Santa Barbara County that value all children and their families; where families are supported, engaged and empowered to be resilient, resourceful and self-reliant; where children are protected from adverse experiences and have equal access to high-quality care and early learning.

August 30, 2017 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Cachuma Lake Recreation Hall, Santa Barbara, CA

Agenda

Working Together to Increase Family Engagement

Definition of Family Engagement: The systematic inclusion of families as partners in children's development, learning and wellness. Engagement is enabled by positive relationships between families and staff in the environments where children live, learn and play. The goal of family engagement is to support family wellness and children's learning. (Adapted for the Partnership for Strengthening Families from the Draft Policy on Family Engagement from the Early Years to the Early Grades for the Department of Health and Human Services & U.S. Department of Education).

Goals for today's meeting:

- Understand family engagement as the key to improving outcomes for children & families
- Identify strategies in each network to increase *meaningful* family engagement that:
 - Build trust
 - Enhance parent-child relationships
 - Strengthen protective factors and promote resilience
- Explore Learning Stories as a strategy for meaningful family engagement

Desired Outcomes:

- Shared understanding of the Partnership and its commitment to Strengthening Families
- Increased collaboration across networks at the local and regional level
- Increased understanding of network projects and how they intersect around Protective Factors
- Inspiration, creativity and innovation in the implementation of Strengthening Families

9:30 am: Registration, Networking & Continental Breakfast

10:00 am: Welcome, Agenda Review & Introductions

10:15 am: Icebreaker – Parent Café Questions

10:30 am: Partnership Updates on Family Strengthening

- Overview of Family Strengthening Partnership
 - Child Abuse Prevention Council Update
 - Network of Family Resource Centers Update
 - Child Care Planning Council Update

10:50 am: BREAK

11:00 am: Using Learning Stories to Support Family Engagement & Strengthening with Guest Speakers Annette Muse & Leslie Voss

- What is a Learning Story?
- Activity: Writing Your Story
- The link to Protective Factors, Resiliency, Parent Engagement & Social Emotional Early Learning

12:30 pm: LUNCH

1:15 pm: Regional Resiliency Contest

- Introduction of Contest Concept & Rules
- Regional Group Strategizing
- Group Sharing & Voting

2:15 pm: Wrap up & Evaluation

Partnership for Strengthening Families Leadership Team

- **Karin Dominguez**, *Child Care Planning Council*
- **Barb Finch**, *Child Abuse Prevention Council & Network of Family Resource Centers*
- **Maria Chesley Fisk**, *Network of Family Resource Centers*
- **Flo Furuike**, *Child Abuse Prevention Council & Child Care Planning Council*
- **Deborah Holmes**, *Child Abuse Prevention Council*
- **LuAnn Miller**, *Child Abuse Prevention Council, Child Care Planning Council & Network of Family Resource Centers*
- **Teressa Rodriguez-Johnes**, *Network of Family Resource Centers & Child Abuse Prevention Council*
- **Joyce Stone**, *Child Care Planning Council*

