



Los Angeles Community
Child Abuse Councils



The Children's Advocate

Summer 2017 Newsletter

Welcome readers and fellow child advocates!

It is with great pleasure that the Los Angeles County Community Child Abuse Councils release our summer newsletter! Thus far, 2017 has been filled with invaluable collaboration, the exciting launch of our newly redesigned website, and a true desire to change outcomes for our most vulnerable children and families! As we look forward into the second half of 2017, we are excited to bring you timely and informative professional trainings and events while promoting child abuse prevention and advocacy campaigns for our local communities. Please feel free to contact me and/or your Council of interest for more information and to get involved!

Warmest regards,

Sara La Croix, MSW/MPA

LAC-Community Child Abuse Council Coordinator with Children's Bureau

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Council News & Updates



Advocacy Council for Abused Deaf Children (ACADC)

On March 25, 2017, the ACADC was able to provide a second community event entitled "HealingDay: Changing Ourselves, Our Families and Our Community" which offered workshops for the Deaf Community. These workshops were a collaborative effort by the ACADC members including: Five Acres Deaf Services, Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness, Peace Over Violence and MyChoice Counseling. The workshops focused on positive ways to heal from trauma and abuse via hands on therapeutic arts, movement and resources. This year we were able to provide both adult and youth focused activities. Additionally, the ACADC distributed American Sign Language materials to families in order to support communication within the home for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children.

Asian & Pacific Islander, Children, Youth and Family Council (API CYFC)

In order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service provision, this year the API CYFC came together to create a service map to help providers identify the most appropriate child abuse prevention and/or intervention programs available in order to best address each family's individual needs. The service map, geared towards Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and community partner agency staff, explains the differences between programs serving children and families along with language capacities and a general flow chart. The map also provides information on the API agencies involved in order to create a smooth referral process. If you would like copies of the API Child Abuse Prevention Services Map, please contact Nina Y. Loc (213) 808-1720 or Nayon Kang (213) 365-7400.

CCAP of San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valley (SPA 2)

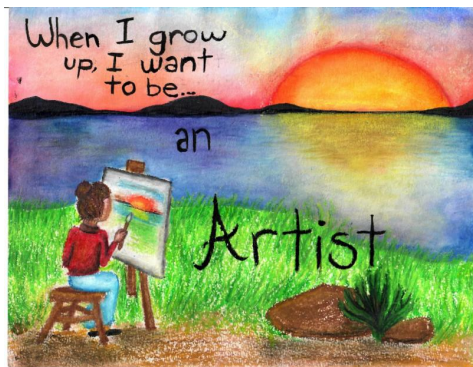
On April 22, 2017, the SPA 2 Council for Child Abuse Prevention partnered with the SPA 2 Council for Family Well-Being, a joint collaborative of the DCFS Regional Community Alliance and the Friends of the Family Prevention & Aftercare Program, to provide a community gathering entitled "Working Hand in Hand: Fostering Strong Families." This event targeted parents, youth, agency and institutional partners living and working in SPA 2. The gathering took place at Los Angeles Mission College and was attended by 278 people. Participants were inspired by event ambassadors that included Georgia Carranza (Parent & Community Organizer), Ruth Beaglehole (founder of Echo Parenting), Alan-Michael Graves (Director of Project Fatherhood) and Jose Miguel Paez (Professor - CSUN). In addition, attendees selected from 9 special workshops that ranged from "Brave Interventions" (focusing on bystander responsibility in preventing child abuse) all the way to "Building Resilience Through Play" (how parents can utilize everyday family activities to build resilience). This event was the first of what stakeholders hope will be an annual event, bringing parents and agency staff together to learn from each other in support of safe communities, thriving children and strong families!"

From left to right: Deborah Davies (SPA 2 Council Chair), Jose Paez (Professor - CSUN), Ruth Beaglehole (Founder - Echo Parenting), Alan-Michael Graves (Dir. Project Fatherhood), Adrienne Olson (RA - DCFS)

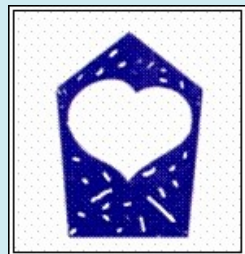


Eastside Child Abuse Prevention Council (El Monte)

In the 2016-17 contract year, the Eastside Council supported a variety of events and activities aimed at improving the lives of families in the El Monte area. In November, the Annual SPIRITT "Parent's as Leaders and Support Parent Conference" focused on providing families in the local community with links to essential resources to enhance the protective factors. A total of 229 people attended the event. Additionally, Eastside hosted their "Annual Art Contest" for children in April for Child Abuse Awareness Month with a total of 52 entries. This year's theme was "If I were President..." or "When I Grow Up..." The art entries were judged within age categories for a total of 9 winners. In conjunction with the Art Contest, Eastside also co-sponsors the "Annual Resource Fair for Providers" with the SPIRITT Partnership for Families Program. This year, the Fair included a panel presentation regarding immigration as well as recognition of the art contest winners with their awards. The resource tables are staffed by representatives of local community agencies and a total of 110 individuals attended. Lastly, two parent workshops were offered to the community in the month of May. The themes were "Understanding the DCF System" by the Parents in Partnership Program and "Breakthrough Parenting" by Alma Family Services. For this event, we collaborated with the El Monte/South El Monte Best Start group for sponsorship (child respite care and a healthy dinner was provided). Both workshops had approximately 50 attendees and all workshop themes were informed by the community and offered in Spanish due to demand.

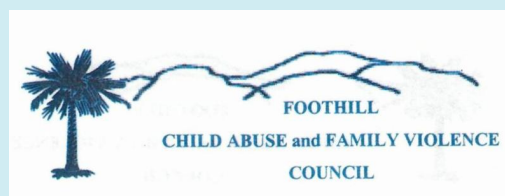


Congratulations Savannah Phan,
Eastside Child Abuse Prevention
Council Grades 6-8th Art Contest
Winner!



End Abuse Long Beach (EALB)

On March 9, 2017, the EALB Council hosted a training on "Child Trauma, Clinical Ethics and Political Advocacy as it Relates to Mental Health." The presenter was Patricia Costales, LCSW, Chief Executive Officer of The Guidance Center. Additionally, on April 13, 2017, Michael Kass, Facilitator/Coach presented on the art and importance of "Storytelling." All trainings were held at Alpert Jewish Community Center, 3801 E. Willow St, Long Beach, CA 90815.



Foothill Child Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Council

The Foothill Council hosted their annual Spring Conference on March 3, 2017 from 9am-4pm at the Almansor Court in the City of Alhambra. This conference trained social workers, mental health clinicians, and other social service providers in the Pasadena and surrounding areas on the topic of "Fetal Alcohol/ Neurobehavioral Conditions, a Brain-Based Approach." The training provided CEU's for attendees.

LAC-FCCAC sponsored a conference on April 26, 2017 entitled "Protection and Hope: Lessons Learned About the Impact of Child Abuse in the Past 50 Years" at the Calvary Chapel Christian Church-Crenshaw. Advocates for child abuse prevention have made a lasting and positive impact in the lives of vulnerable children and their families. Therefore, LAC-FCCAC's conference focused on the practice skills, policies, procedures and community organizing that child abuse prevention workers and advocates have utilized to PROTECT children and provide them with HOPE for the future. The conference also explored best practice interventions in child welfare and incorporated both past and present trends in working with children and families. LAC-FCCAC was honored to have the following exceptional speakers at the conference: Aprille Flint, MSW, Child and Family Policy Institute of California; Dr. Gloria Morrow, Director of Behavioral Health, Molina Health Care; and Alan-Michael S. Graves, Director of Project Fatherhood in the Leadership Center at Children's Institute, Inc. (CII).

Additionally, LAC-FCCAC has continued a partnership with Elevate Your G.A.M.E. to mentor youth utilizing positive songs and music created in the hip/hop genre. The music is uplifting, affirming and encourages youth to pursue their goals and develop healthy and respectful relationships. These songs are not only listened to by the 300 mentored students, but by hundreds more as the students share the songs with their friends. To date, these positive songs have been listened to 3,331 times over just a ten-month period. Elevate Your G.A.M.E. will continue to add more songs to impact the Mentoring Through Music Project in 2017. The songs and corresponding curriculum are available at www.elevateyourgame.org

IN MEMORY OF CONSTANCE WATSON (1951-2016)

She was known as "Connie" by her friends and co-workers. She served as the Executive Director of People Who Care Youth Center, a non-profit youth and family services agency for the past 25 years. Connie was a driving force in many Los Angeles City and County organizations. She was also an active member of LAC-Family, Children, Community, Advisory Council for the past 21 years. The impact Connie had on the City of Los Angeles in family and children's services is immeasurable. She met the challenges of the community by developing programs to meet the



needs of children and families in South Los Angeles. She sought creative means to fund such programs, and participated in educating and influencing local and national policy makers. Connie became a foster parent because she witnessed firsthand the effects of abuse and neglect on innocent children. She made a full-time commitment to the mental, social, economic, educational, and physical well-being of children and families. In loving memory, for our friend and colleague, Constance Watson, whose strength and kindness will forever inspire us all. We will deeply miss you. ~Sandra J. Guine, LCSW, ACSW



LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council

For the seventh year in a row, the LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council has planned and coordinated the annual Embracing Diversity of GLBTQ Youth (E.D.G.Y.) Conference with Penny Lane. The conference increases knowledge and awareness of the needs of GLBTQ youth and families, and empowers social service and mental health professionals to support the GLBTQ community

through an array of workshops, services and resources. The conference was held in October 2016 at the Skirball Center. The LGBT Council was able to sponsor 40 professional scholarships which went to parent groups, social service providers, mental health

professionals, law enforcement, probation, legal service providers for children, and educators who otherwise could not attend.

San Gabriel Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council

On June 2, 2017, the San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center, The Parents' Place Family Resource and Empowerment Center, the San Gabriel Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council, and the Department of Mental Health, held a dynamic half day training with Jessica Richards, MS, MSW, IFECMHS & RFP II which provided vital information gained through the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) research. From ACES, we learned that negative life events that occur in childhood, such as the death of a parent or divorce, affect the developing brain and in turn, later impact adult health outcomes such as heart disease, depression substance abuse. Jessica introduced practical tools from the Neurorelational Framework (www.nrfgc.com) to detect and document the impact on physiology, toxic stress, as well as track social-emotional engagement in relationships. We know brains grow best with safe environments and healthy relationships, yet many children exposed to abuse and neglect have neurobiological changes long before the onset of diseases and disorders are detected. Participants gained hands-on experience using these essential clinical tools with video clips and lively activities. This training served approximately 65 individuals from school districts, agencies serving children in out-of-home care, foster parents, Regional Center and Department of Mental Health staff.



SPA 7 Child Abuse Prevention Council

On March 24, 2017, the SPA 7 Child Abuse Prevention Council hosted a "Youth Male CHOICES Conference" at Rio Hondo College to encourage youth to overcome obstacles to achieve success. In May, the SPA 7 Council also hosted a "Father's Conference" to support fathers so they can fully understand the importance of their involvement in the lives of their children.

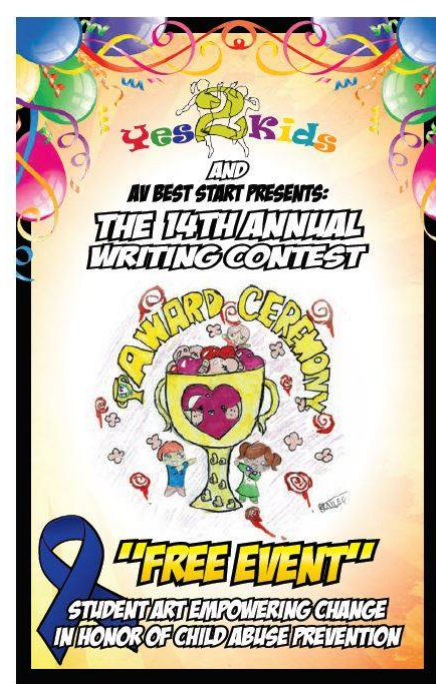
Westside Anti-Violence Authority (WAVA)

This year, the Westside Domestic Violence Network initiated a makeover. We are now the Westside Anti-Violence Authority (WAVA). The new name reflects an expansion of our focus from violence in the home to a broader focus on the intersection of domestic violence, community violence, child abuse, and marginalization in our community. For example, one of the primary causes of homelessness for women and their children is domestic violence. Understanding such connections affords WAVA and its community partners a stronger platform for advocacy and the delivery of protective and supportive services to the children and families in the Westside community. WAVA's special project, therefore, revolved around building an infrastructure for this transition. Activities included development of a new strategic plan, strengthening of partnerships with community providers, and building a more effective social media communication system. With these changes in place, WAVA will be set to enhance our mission with regard to training, support, and advocacy for children and families in our community for years to come.

Yes 2 Kids - Antelope Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council

For the past 14 years, Yes2Kids has conducted a Writing Contest for students in the Antelope Valley (1st grade through 12th grade) that encourages them to write about topics such as respect, bullying, and how to stop child abuse. Twenty four winners (1st and 2nd Place in each grade level) are chosen to read their essays, and receive prizes at our Annual Awards Night

in April. This year's awards ceremony was held on April 12, 2017 from 5-8pm at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center.



Need **FREE** Community Friendly Child Abuse Prevention Materials in Multiple Languages?

Materials Available Include:

- “Daily Acts of Kindness Towards Children” Calendars
- “Guide to Positive Parenting” Booklets
- “California Mandated Reporting, Easy Steps...” Pamphlet
- “It only takes a minute to brighten a child’s life” Bookmarks
- “Together We stand Up Against Bullying!” Pamphlet

Please contact Sara La Croix for more information at:
saralacroix@all4kids.org

Want more information about a Council? Contact Us!

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Asian and Pacific Islander Children, Youth and Family Council:

Nina Y. Loc (213) 808-1720

Nayon Kang (213) 365-7400

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Children's Bureau Prevention Dept.

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Eastside Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Connie Preciado-Gonzalez (626) 442-1400 ext. 202

End Abuse Long Beach:

Rosa Velazquez-Gutierrez (Rosa.Velazquez-Gutierrez@longbeach.gov)

Foothill Child Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Council:

Erica Villalpando (626) 373-2900

LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Mark Abelson (323) 646-2419

LAC-Family, Children, Community Advisory Council (LAC-FCCAC):

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Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN):

Cathy Walsh (626) 258-2059

San Gabriel Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Karen Nutt (626) 919-1091

SPA 7 Child Abuse Council:

Norma Yoquez (562) 777-1410 x112

Maria Duarte (562) 777-1410 x181

Westside Anti-Violence Authority:

Mary Alvin Nichols (info@westsideanti-violenceauthority.org)

Yes 2 Kids – Antelope Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Charles Avila (661) 940-9530



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In memory of Marjorie Gins, Champion for Children