



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMUNITY CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCILS (LAC-CAPCS)

OVERVIEW

The Los Angeles County Community Child Abuse Councils consist of 12 community-based councils throughout Los Angeles County. The mission of the Councils is to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect and educate the public about child abuse and family violence issues.

The membership of the Councils consists of child abuse prevention advocates, professionals working in the fields of child welfare, education, law enforcement, health and mental health, as well as parents and anyone concerned about the issues surrounding child abuse and family violence.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020, the Children's Bureau of Southern California (www.all4kids.org) continued to support the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Los Angeles County Community Child Abuse Councils Coordination Services Grant (\$100,000 each year from 2015-2020). Children's Bureau provided technical assistance and administrative oversight to the 12 Child Abuse Prevention Councils with the Child Abuse Prevention Council Coordinator bringing all Chair Members together monthly to align the joint service activities of the group and meet collective goals. Furthermore, the Council Coordinator interfaced with several ICAN committees on a regular basis (Child Death Review, Child & Adolescent Suicide Review, and Operations) to cross-share information and provide a community-based perspective with regard to child abuse prevention.

WHO ARE THE COUNCILS?

Geographically Based Councils

- AFFIRM AV – Antelope Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council (formerly Yes2Kids)
- Eastside Child Abuse Prevention Council (El Monte)
- End Abuse Long Beach
- Foothill Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Prevention Council
- Council for Child Abuse Prevention – Serving the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys (SPA 2)
- San Gabriel Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Service Planning Area 7 Child Abuse Council
- Westside Anti-Violence Authority

Population Specific/Countywide Councils

- Advocacy Council for Abused Deaf Children
- Asian and Pacific Islander Children, Youth and Family Council
- LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Los Angeles County - Family, Children, Community Advisory Council (African-American Council)

The Los Angeles Child Abuse Councils are involved in the following joint projects:

- The Blue Ribbon Child Abuse Prevention Campaign (held in April for Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month);
- Publication of The Children's Advocate Newsletter;
- The Report Card Insert Project;
- Establishment and Maintenance of the Los Angeles County Child Abuse Prevention Council website;
- Training and Technical Assistance to the Community Relating to Child Abuse and Family Violence Issues;
- Monthly Meetings of the Council Chairs; and
- Special Projects for Individual Councils.

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 SPECIAL PROJECTS

Between October 2019 and March 2020, each of the Los Angeles County Child Abuse Prevention Councils prepared and presented their Annual Child Abuse Project Applications to their peers and DCFS. Each presentation illustrated how the Council intended to use their allotted funds to support child abuse prevention activities within their respective communities and/or for their target populations. The types of activities varied by Council and included many creative, resourceful and impactful primary prevention projects.

Examples of past special projects include:

- Mandated Reporter Trainings for the Community;
- Caregiver workshops: "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren";
- Monthly trainings to service providers (Continuing Education Units often available) on topics such as Domestic Violence and Family Law Basics & Understanding Human Trafficking;
- Understanding & Combating Institutional Racism in Child Welfare;
- Transformational Leadership Development of Adolescents and Young Adults; and
- Cultural Awareness and Child Protective Services.

In FY 2019-2020, the Councils each had \$3,500 to spend on their special projects and most were implemented in April during Child Abuse Awareness Month. The following illustrates a brief description of each Councils' activities during the year; however, most are implemented during the months of March and April.

SUCCESS STORIES

In the 2019-2020 contract year, 100% of the Councils self-reported they were successful in completing their projects and met their previously identified goals within their Annual Project Applications. The following are several success stories shared by the Councils which provide a view of their work and accomplishments.

Advocacy Council for Abused Deaf Children (ACADC)

Originally, on June 6, 2020, ACADC was scheduled to have Ruth Beaglehole present her work with Non-Violent Parenting to parents and/or children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (HOH). However, due to COVID-19 our focus shifted to addressing the mental health needs of the Deaf (parents and children) during this pandemic by presenter Jayne Kim, LMFT. In American Sign Language (ASL), Ms. Kim addressed concerns of child abuse during COVID-19, coping skills for parents, and the ways that stress manifests in children during this time. Instead of an in-person event, a Zoom webinar was hosted allowing those across the country to attend and access the information. Voice over interpretation was provided for those not familiar with ASL.

The most successful aspect of our training was the variety of professionals across the country that attended and felt they had received useful knowledge that could be applied to their work with families and children. They also expressed passing on the knowledge they received in the training to other professionals. One participant responded with the following:

“I felt validated with what I am doing for kids and felt more reassured after the presentation that we are probably not missing signs of child abuse during this quarantine time but we need to do more check ins related to depression and anxiety.”

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

API-CYFC goals this year, even prior to the pandemic, were to provide two webinars for parents on the (1) middle to high school transition, and (2) high school to college transition. During the planning phase, we decided to provide one webinar with two speakers on high school to college transition due to the speakers' expertise and the community's interest. We also aimed to provide child abuse prevention materials along with masks for children to increase the health and safety of our clients once COVID-19 issues began. Overall, we were able to meet our goals. The most successful element of our project was recruiting speakers who not only had expertise on access to higher education, but also student wellness and mental health.

Assisting Families to Find Information and Resources Mindfully (AFFIRM) – Antelope Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, AFFIRM AV planned to host our 17th Annual Writing Contest Awards Dinner in April. Traditionally, winners read their submissions and awards were given to both the kids and the social workers from the Palmdale and Lancaster offices. However, this year, given the global health crisis, we had to pivot our activities. Since AFFIRM traditionally begins advertising the writing contest early in the year and selected the winners prior to April, our contest concluded but we were not able to hold our celebratory dinner.

The most successful part of our annual activities was sharing the news of the children who won with their families; this was the happiest part of the project. The majority of the students who participated had forgotten they even submitted an entry due to the time lapse under the LA County safer at home orders. When we contacted and met with the winners, at first, they were confused, suspicious, and then super happy! One student did “the happy dance” (as his mom called it) and he proceeded to ask questions, “How many students did I compete against? Was it just my grade level or others? Was it only my school I competed against?” When he learned that the contest was open to all Antelope Valley school districts, charter and private schools, the child's pride and happiness could not be contained. This happened with many students. All the families were incredibly proud and thankful to get a celebratory restaurant gift card for the family (in lieu of our usual in-person dinner celebration). Each family took pictures of their student in front of our AFFIRM banner, followed by a shower of hugs and kisses for the child.



Eastside Child Abuse Prevention Council (El Monte)

Once the Eastside Council realized that we had to cancel our original events due to COVID-19, we explored virtual/zoom ideas to reach out stakeholders. After exploring the needs of the community and looking into what other organizations and programs were doing to support families during this time, the Eastside Council decided to hold a food distribution. Safety protocols were discussed and established, and we were able to provide each family with two large baskets of food that included fresh fruits and vegetables, grains, beans, dairy products (eggs and milk), and other common foods. In addition to the two baskets of food, each family who had an infant or toddler than needed diapers received one to two bags each. Along with their baskets also came a tote bag with the LACCCAC logo and educational items. We put coloring books, bookmarks, pens, pencils, and other information related to child abuse prevention, healthy communication, and services for pregnant women inside the bags. The families expressed feeling thankful and noted that food and diapers was a great need, especially with COVID impacting jobs, access, etc.

End Abuse Long Beach (EALB)

Starting in April, EALB cancelled the monthly in person trainings due to COVID-19 and the health orders. Instead, EALB held a board meeting and discussed how we could serve the community and our council members more holistically during this difficult time. We decided to add a section to our website and Facebook page about resources related to COVID-19 and communicated with our members via social media not only to offer information, but to publicize their resources and services as well. In May, we resumed monthly training but launched a series of virtual zoom presentations. We held 3 EALB trainings that had over 50 people join. We also were able to continue to offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to our members and provide a virtual space for networking prior to the meetings.

Despite the pandemic, EALB planned and successfully executed 11 community presentations/trainings with premier speakers on a range of topics including: end of life issues; intersection of homelessness and domestic violence; mental health; opioid addiction; suicide prevention; diversity and inclusion; non-violent parenting; positive relationships; population health; and business etiquette and communication prior to the pandemic. Our EALB series included topics on trauma in children both before, during and after COVID as well as creatively coping with stress during COVID and improving telehealth encounters. EALB started working on new marketing tools, a communications plan, and building our capacity by enlisting interns to assist with managing these systems. As a whole, when the pandemic hit, EALB pivoted to a virtual model that has proven very successful. In prior in-person trainings, we averaged around 35-40 participants each month and virtually the organization averaged 52 participants over the last three months.

Foothill Child Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Council

For the 2019-20 contract year, the Foothill Council realized we could not host a training due to the health crisis and decided to focus on our infrastructure development as well as on our online presence. The Council also decided to support children and families during this health pandemic by providing care packages that included PPE (personal protective equipment) of masks and hand sanitizer, parenting support information, and protective factors information (attributes in families or communities to effectively deal with stressful events or reduce risks of abuse/violence). Families were appreciative of the care packages and showed gratitude for receiving the family board games enclosed as well as the other protective items.

LAC-Family, Children, Community Advisory Council (African American Council)

This year, LAC-FCCAC held their board meetings via Zoom as well as conference calls. Given our inability to hold our traditional spring conference due to the pandemic, the Council decided to do something different that would directly impact children. LAC-FCCAC's two projects this year focused on children, families, youth, and community support.

Our first project provided much needed books to children in the community around famous and historical African American figures. The majority of the children selected for the book distribution unfortunately live within low income households where many parents cannot afford to buy books that focused on positive African American leaders both past and present. Additionally, since many of the parents were young, they became involved in

reading the books and were also educated. This project became a way to also support community-based small Black business as well as Khocolate Keepsakes Children's Literacy Museum, a community agency. Eso Won Bookstore was so grateful to LAC-FCCAC for this critical support during this period of time in our community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to again support our community-based partner Elevate Your Game. LAC-FCCAC (along with others) supported Elevate Your Game's summer internship for employment program for students. The internships were all conducted via Zoom. Our small but impactful financial support to the students also supported the students' families. Elevate Your Game provided a Zoom graduation program for their seniors, with two positive inspiring messages from a graduating Black youth and a Latina youth. The recorded messages have been shared with the mentoring community nationwide.

LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council

E.D.G.Y. Conference Scholarships – In FY 2019-20, the LGBT Council (in collaboration with Penny Lane) participated in the planning and development of, and provided professional scholarships to, the 11th Annual Embracing Diversity of LGBTQ Youth (E.D.G.Y.) Conference on November 9, 2019, at the Skirball Center. The conference increased knowledge and awareness of the needs of LGBTQ youth and families, and empowered social service and mental health professionals to support the LGBTQ community through an array of services and resources. The Council sponsored 30 scholarships which went to social service providers, mental health professionals, educators, court advocates, probation and law enforcement who otherwise could not attend. This special project supported all five protective factors. In total, 535 staff from DCFCS, LAUSD, DMH, Probation, LAPD, LASD and other social service providers participated in the EDGY Conference this contract year.

Social Marketing Campaign – This special project allowed us to additionally produce and distribute social marketing materials including our “5 Things to Know” cards in English/Spanish, “8 Laws to Know” cards in English/Spanish, and our Safe Zone stickers. These materials are for service providers to show their openness to working with LGBTQ youth, and as a resource to the families they serve in better understanding and accepting their LGBTQ youth. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we did not have the opportunity to distribute as many social marketing materials as we would have liked this year, however, we did manage to get 12,500 child abuse prevention materials to service providers for distribution to the community.

San Gabriel Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council (SGV)

This year, the SGV Council had to pivot due to COVID-19 and provide our originally scheduled in-person training and workshops virtually instead. We chose the topic of “Trauma Informed Care for the Early Interventionist,” and had 130 participants; the event was a huge success. Additionally, the SGV Council participated in a virtual Youth Summit in El Monte for over 500 youth in the surrounding areas. This summit targeted leadership, education and empowerment within their community. The youth summit was held weekly from June 12-June 30, 2020. We purchased books on empowerment by Laurie Hernandez for participants, and a Nintendo Switch to raffle for those with consistent attendance. Lastly, the Council supported the Parents' Place in making and distributing parent support kits for families with special needs. These kits included: food, support items, hand sanitizer, masks, and literature on child abuse prevention.

SPA 2 Council for Child Abuse Prevention

The SPA 2 Council for Child Abuse Prevention had been planning for our 4th Annual “Working Hand In Hand” (WHIH) community gathering, an event bringing together parents, child welfare workers and social service organizations in order to have a dialogue about child safety and abuse prevention. We began our planning for the event in September 2019 and had secured the location and other community partners in order to be ready for this yearly well attended, and well received, event scheduled for April 18th, 2020. In mid-March, families and businesses in LA County and the State of California were placed under the “Safer at Home” order, prohibiting social gatherings of more than 10 people due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council made the decision to cancel our event not knowing whether we would be allowed to hold the event which was one month away.

Within a few weeks, it was clear that one of the biggest consequences of the stay at home order was the loss of income to some of the most vulnerable families in our community. Our Council called a special meeting to discuss how we could best utilize our funds from the LAC-CAPCs since our event wouldn't be possible. We



decided we could best support families by increasing their ability to support their children's education, provide additional support (both concrete and informational), and ensure that parents had updated resource linkages and parenting information. Care bags were distributed with food and essential items and were also sent with a box of educational supplies - pens, pencils & sharpeners, glue, scissors, ruler, paper, notebooks, sketchbook, colored pencils and crayons, construction paper, age appropriate activity books, flash cards, calculators and other helpful items. In addition, we secured donations of toothpaste and toothbrushes, thermometers, jump ropes, and lap desks. All these things were placed in plastic bins with the Council logo sticker on them. In addition, the Guide for Positive Parenting, Daily Acts of Kindness, bumper stickers about preventing child abuse, instructions on how to register for the Census, updated links to resources including housing rights, immigration rights, food banks, etc. were placed in each box.

The care bags and educational supplies idea was so successful that we were able to secure an additional \$35,000 to continue them beyond the initial 200 bags we committed to! As of the end of June, 1,150 care bags and accompanying educational/art boxes were distributed to families in SPA 2. Through the survey that was distributed in the bags, we learned the most pressing issues/challenges families are facing right now was due to "loss of income that lead to not being able to buy diapers, food or other essentials for my family."

SPA 7 Child Abuse Prevention Council

The COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an unprecedented challenge for all of us and required an immediate response to continue working with the families in our community. We are fortunate that our staff was previously equipped with all the basic tools to continue working. However, due to the pandemic we had to change our original plan that consisted of a parenting conference as many families were reaching out to us to see if we could help them with food. Thus, the SPA 7 Council organized a distribution of 30lb food baskets that included: vegetables, meat, eggs, fruit, tortillas, oil, grains, milk, etc. We helped 100 families. In addition, we were gifted 20 more food baskets that were distributed the same day. In addition to the food basket distribution, we had a great number of families participate in virtual weekly workshops that focused on the protective factors and the prevention of child abuse. Children who participated virtually in tutoring also received school supplies.

Westside Anti-Violence Authority (WAVA)

Originally, WAVA had applied for funding towards capacity building and council member retention for the year. However, once COVID-19 began to take effect, our efforts were redirected towards addressing direct needs in the community. With authorities asking everyone to stay inside, we saw an increase in domestic violence and child abuse. This brought about the idea of supporting Sojourn, a domestic violence shelter that WAVA works closely with. With help from the Council, the shelter was able to not only purchase a pair of shoes for every family currently in Sojourn's shelter, but we were able to purchase a small stock of shoes in every size for incoming families. New Adidas and Converse were purchased in addition to a bulk supply of diapers.

There was a particular family staying at Sojourn's shelter during the start of the pandemic that had faced multiple traumas within a short amount of time. The mother had a high-risk pregnancy and already multiple children under the age of five. They had come from a low-income household where they struggled to obtain basics. With the help and advocacy of Sojourn, staff were able to get the mother into shelter and keep all the children together. All children came in with shoes that were torn up or had holes growing on the soles. Sojourn is often at the mercy of its donors when it comes to clothing available for clients, and it is rare for them to be able to offer brand new clothing and shoes. With WAVA's assistance, the mother and all kids were gifted new pairs of shoes.

While it may seem like a small thing, being able to offer new and comfortable clothing to victims in crisis is a step towards healing and normalcy for them. Mother and children expressed that they were extremely grateful for the shoes, and Sojourn emphasized that it made the transition into life in a shelter easier.

TOTAL PEOPLE, CHILDREN & FAMILIES INVOLVED OR IMPACTED

The Child Abuse Councils were asked to provide their best estimates with regards to the number of children, families, and total adults that were involved or impacted by the activities performed in the 2018-19 contract year throughout Los Angeles County. The following chart illustrates their combined responses:



	Children	Families	Total Adults
Number of people involved or impacted by the projects:	18,205	23,044	34,974
Number of people with identified special needs involved or impacted by the projects (3 groups collect this data)	550	468	1,181

TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS

A primary function of the Los Angeles County Child Abuse Prevention Councils is to provide their communities relevant and timely trainings/workshops. In the 2019-20 contract year, 5 of the 12 Councils were able to provide at least one training or workshop on a wide range of topics and in total, 2,916 community members, parents, home visitors, mental health clinicians, social workers, care givers, resource parents, early childhood educators, students and other professionals working in the child welfare field received free or low-cost trainings. This year was also different due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Councils that had planned for months to hold their trainings in April suddenly had to cancel venues, inform those registered regarding the cancellations, and try and figure out how they could serve their communities within a global health crisis.

DISTRIBUTED PRINTED PREVENTION MATERIALS

The Councils create and distribute a variety of community friendly child abuse prevention materials in numerous languages. Materials available include:

- “Daily Acts of Kindness Towards Children” Calendars (Languages: English, Spanish, Khmer, Tagalog, Korean, Vietnamese, traditional Chinese)
- “Guide to Positive Parenting” (Languages: English & Spanish)
- “California Mandated Reporting, Easy Steps...” pamphlet (Languages: English & Spanish)
- “It only takes a minute to brighten a child’s life” Bookmarks (Language: English)
- “Together We stand Up Against Bullying!” pamphlet (Languages: English, Spanish, traditional Chinese)
- “Resources for Families and Friends After a Suicide, Suicide Attempt or Threat” wallet cards (Languages: English & Spanish)
- “5 things to know” LGBT resource card (Languages: English & Spanish)
- “Safe Zone” stickers, created by the LGBT Council (Language: English)
- “Take One Moment” Poster Campaign for SPA 2 (Languages: English & Spanish)

In the 2019-20 contract year, the LAC-CAPCs distributed an estimated 95,819 printed prevention materials to community partners, parents, community residents and service providers to name a few within all SPA’s (1-8) within Los Angeles County.