



Yolo County Child Abuse Prevention Council

Working to eliminate child abuse and the adversity it causes by strengthening families and communities

Special Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) Meeting Minutes Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Monday, September 28, 2020, 10am-12pm

NOTE: This meeting is being agendized to allow CAPC Members, staff, and the public to participate in the meeting via teleconference, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), available at the following link: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf>

Teleconference options to join Zoom meeting:

To join meeting by web: <https://zoom.us/j/91541569466>; Meeting ID: 915 4156 9466

To join meeting by phone: 1-669-900-9128; Meeting ID: 915 4156 9466

1. **Call to Order. Welcome, roll call, introductions** (Karleen Jakowski, 5 minutes)
 - Meeting called to order at 10:05am.
 - CAPC members/alternates on the call: Celina Alveraz, Gina Daleiden, Mariah Ernst-Collins, Tracy Fauver, Rachelle Gayton, Cameron Handley, Karleen Jakowski, Cecilia Lopez (alternate for Cameron Handley), Allison Rodriguez (alternate for Sara Gavin), Brian Vaughn
 - Others on the call: Natalie Audage (YCCA), Jill Cook (CAO), Robin Frank (YCCA), Eric Will (CAO)

2. **Action Item: Consider approval of the agenda** (Karleen Jakowski)
 - **VOTE:** Brian Vaughn motioned to approve, Celina Alveraz seconded. All approved via roll call.

3. **Public comment**
 - No public comment.

4. **Action Item: Receive presentations related to racial and ethnic disparities** (45 minutes)
 - a. **Context (Karleen Jakowski)**
 - Karleen shared recent efforts by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to examine and address racism. In addition to passing a proclamation declaring racism as a public health crisis, the BOS is also examining data on racial and ethnic disparities in multiple agencies and is working to integrate efforts to address racial and ethnic disparities into their strategic plan.
 - Karleen also talked about racial and ethnic disparities in three areas of child abuse and neglect prevention:
 - Substantiation and foster care placement
 - Reporting (related to implicit bias)
 - Risk factors for child abuse and neglect: Many risk factors for child abuse and neglect are influenced by social inequities, institutional inequities, and living conditions (e.g., disparities in health, poverty, employment, access to housing, education).



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- Karleen also defined primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention in child abuse and neglect:
 - Primary prevention is directed at the general population and attempts to stop maltreatment before it occurs. In looking at racial and ethnic disparities, we can think about all children and families affected by racism.
 - Secondary prevention is offered to populations with one or more risk factors associated with child maltreatment and attempts to stop maltreatment before it occurs. In looking at racial and ethnic disparities, we can think about children and families affected by racism who have one or more risk factors associated with child maltreatment.
 - Tertiary prevention focuses on families where maltreatment has already occurred and seeks to reduce negative consequences of maltreatment and prevent its reoccurrence. In looking at racial and ethnic disparities, we can think about how to best reduce negative consequences of maltreatment and prevent its reoccurrence for children and families affected by racism.

- b. Public health data presentation (Brian Vaughn)**
 - Health disparities exist throughout Yolo County, but are worst in West Sacramento, Woodland, and the rural areas of Yolo County.
 - Health inequities start before birth and are rooted in social and economic inequities.
 - The public health framework for reducing health inequities considers the relationship among more upstream drivers of health (i.e., social inequities, social inequities, and living conditions) and downstream drivers of health (i.e., risk behaviors, disease/injury, and mortality).
 - The physical and social environment is the biggest factor in determining health, but the US spends 97.5% of health spending on medical care.
 - Yolo data show geographic and racial disparities in life expectancy and education (e.g., high school degree, college degree, and 3rd grade reading levels).
 - There are also disparities in access to quality child care and education, which is cost prohibitive for people in low income brackets.

- c. Yolo Child Welfare Services data presentation (Karleen Jakowski)**
 - Yolo does not have accurate data on race and ethnicity in referrals because reporters may choose not to share and/or may not know the race/ethnicity of the child. CWS is working to rectify this in future data collection.
 - Yolo's rates of substantiations, entries to foster care, and children in care increased substantially in 2017. Yolo's substantiation rates have been higher than California's since 2017.
 - Yolo has significant racial disproportionalities, particularly related to Black children, in substantiations of child abuse and neglect, entries to foster care, children in care, placement with relatives, and placement locations (i.e., in/out of Yolo).

- d. Yolo Probation data (Rachelle Gayton)**



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- Black and Latino children are disproportionately referred to probation and are disproportionately represented in both active cases and juvenile detention bookings.
- All youth in probation are referred by police departments.
- The number of children in probation has decreased significantly in the last 10 years (300 children vs. 82 as of two weeks ago).
- There has also been a decline in juvenile detention bookings (e.g., there are currently 3 youth in detention in the 90-bed facility).
- Yolo Probation has adopted many diversion programs to keep children from becoming “602 youth” (i.e., a form of wardship by the County).
- Yolo Probation is exploring limiting the number of years that children are on probation.
- Karleen pointed out that many youth in the Juvenile Justice system were once in Child Welfare Services, so preventing child abuse and neglect can prevent entry into both systems.

5. Action Item: Discuss CAPC role in preventing and addressing racial and ethnic disparities in child abuse and neglect (Karleen Jakowski, 60 minutes)

- a. What opportunities do we have as a CAPC to incorporate a commitment and focus on racial equity?
 - i. How can the CAPC support children and families affected by racism (i.e., primary prevention)?
 - ii. How can the CAPC address racial and ethnic disproportionalities in risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect (i.e., secondary prevention)?
- b. How can we work within our own agencies and organizations to address racism to begin to affect change?

Discussion:

- Tracy expressed gratitude that these conversations are happening openly.
- Tracy suggested looking at programs (e.g., case management, housing, resources) to support families that have been disproportionately affected during the past few years.
- Natalie shared that many child maltreatment risk and protective factors (<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/riskprotectivefactors.html>) involve focusing on upstream concepts that Brian discussed in his presentation.
- Gina suggested that the CAPC use an equity lens when looking at all other issues. She also pointed out that a lot of organizations represented in the CAPC are doing secondary prevention work.
- Karleen shared that there were many significant changes (e.g., multiple child deaths, leadership change, significant staff turnover, and a new CWS Action Plan) in 2015-16 that may have contributed to the data shifts that started in 2017. She also cited the end of the Differential Response program as a potential contributing factor. She mentioned that the Yolo System Improvement Plan (SIP) will be addressing several key strategy areas related to racial and ethnic disparities (e.g., pre-placement and family preservation strategies).
- Mariah emphasized the importance of voice and choice in services and supports and making sure that clients get to speak for themselves about what they need. She talked



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about the power of using peer mentors for struggling families, as well as the importance of having racial and ethnic representation in service providers for clients.

- Natalie suggested examining CWS cases by race and type of abuse and neglect because prevention strategies vary by maltreatment type. If racial disproportionalities exist predominantly in neglect, for example, evidence-based prevention strategies (e.g., child allowances) can be implemented in disproportionately affected populations.
- Brian said that rather than focusing on symptoms and rushing to solutions, we need to make sure that we analyze why this is happening, how racism manifests, and how people are experiencing racism.

6. **Meeting review** (Karleen Jakowski, 5 minutes)

- a. Discuss talking points from meeting
 - Look at upstream causes, not just downstream symptoms.
 - Examine the context of data.
 - Consider short-term and long-term strategies.
 - Work within our own agencies and ourselves.
 - Consider the voices of people who are impacted by racism.
- b. Request for future meeting topics
 - At the 10/2 CAP meeting, we will discuss next steps.

7. **Adjourned at 12:01pm**

Next CAPC meeting: 9am-11am on Friday, October 2, 2020, via Zoom.