



# Yolo County Child Abuse Prevention Council

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

## Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 4, 2020, 9am-11am

**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/99789273664>; Meeting ID: 997 8927 3664

To join meeting by phone: 1-669-900-9128; Meeting ID: 997 8927 3664

1. **Call to Order. Welcome, roll call, introductions, team-building activity** (Karleen Jakowski, 20 minutes)
  - Meeting called to order at 9:02am.
  - CAPC members/alternates on the call: Celina Alveraz, Gina Daleiden, Mariah Ernst-Collins, Jen Boschee-Danzer (alternate for Tracy Fauver), Rachelle Gayton, Cameron Handley, Karleen Jakowski, Cecilia Lopez (alternate for Cameron Handley), Allison Rodriguez (alternate for Sara Gavin), Christina Tranfaglia (alternate for Rachelle Gayton)
  - Others on the call: Natalie Audage (YCCA), Robin Frank (YCCA), Jeneba Lahai (YCCA), Gabrielle Meyer (YCCA), Katie Villegas (YCCA)
  - Members and alternates were asked to share how they have brought (or imagine they will bring) their greatest StrengthsFinder strength to their work with the CAPC.
2. **Action Item: Consider approval of the agenda and approve September 28 and October 2, 2020, minutes** (Karleen Jakowski) (Attachments A, B, C)
  - **VOTE:** Cameron motioned to approve agenda and 9/28 and 10/2 minutes. Gina seconded. All approved via roll call.
3. **Public comment**
  - No public comment.
4. **Member announcements (10 minutes)**
  - Natalie shared that all meeting agendas and minutes are now on the [CAPC website](#). Meeting materials for upcoming and recent meetings will also be available on the website, which will be listed on the agenda.
  - Karleen asked members to please review materials in advance of the meeting.
  - Natalie shared an invitation to attend the CAPC meetings with the Yolo Family Strengthening Network (YFSN) listserv in an effort to engage more community members. She asked CAPC members to invite community members in the future as well.



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## 5. Action Items (70 minutes total)

### a. Discuss changes proposed by ad hoc Action Plan Review Committee and vote to approve Action Plan. Give direction on 2020-21 CAPC priorities (Karleen Jakowski, 25 minutes) (Attachment D)

- The committee (Karleen, Tracy, Celina, and Natalie) met on November 13 to update the CAPC Action Plan to 1) add efforts related to racial equity and 2) incorporate Yolo Strategic Plan (2020-24) Goals (in particular Children under Thriving Residents), Strategies, and Tactics.
- Karleen presented the proposed changes in the document, which included adding the following tactics:
  - Tactic 2.B: Promote community engagement in meetings.
  - Tactic 2.C: Prioritize ongoing education and learning around race, equity, and inclusion and impacts on CAPC functions. Incorporate focus on equity in CAPC work and decisions.
  - Tactic 4.A.3: Support CWS in revising mandated reporting training and informational materials to address explicit and implicit bias.
- The Committee also added language to show which tactics align with the Yolo Strategic Plan and updated a few timelines and outcomes.
- **VOTE:** Mariah motioned to approve the changes in the Action Plan. Gina seconded. All approved via roll call.

### b. Discuss and vote on recommendations from ad hoc Promoting Concrete Supports for Families Committee: Child care and early education (Gina Daleiden, 15 minutes) (Attachment E)

- The committee met on October 23 and received a presentation from Natalie that covered data, recent trends, and suggested policies from multiple reports.
- Gina reviewed the six suggestions from the Committee and asked for feedback.
- Both Gina and Jeneba emphasized the importance of supporting Family, Friends, and Neighbor providers.
- Gina suggested that the recommendation "Propose giving a child allowance to a small pilot population" be changed to "Support the pilot child allowance project" to acknowledge a new Yolo project under Nolan Sullivan of HHSA. The project involves piloting a universal basic income for the highest need families on CalWorks with at least one child under the age of two. This project is being supported by First 5 Yolo and will be seeking additional funding from HHSA and the cannabis tax.
- Natalie noted that she will add this information to the CAPC Outcomes as the CAPC was one of the many voices that raised this idea in the past year. (The CAPC recommended it in the Board of Supervisors presentation last April.)
- **VOTE:** Rachelle motioned to approve the child care and early education recommendations. Mariah seconded. All approved via roll call.

### c. Discuss CAPC membership (Karleen Jakowski, 10 minutes)

- Karleen reminded the group that last spring the CAPC voted to increase CAPC membership to 12 (i.e., 2 new seats). She suggested that the CAPC could use this



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opportunity to be strategic about increasing diversity and improving the balance of sectors within WIC Code (e.g., adding law enforcement and community members).

- **Potential member 1:** Members were interested in adding a criminal justice representative, such as someone from law enforcement, the District Attorney's office, or a public defender. Several people suggested specific names, but the group decided to reach out to Rob Strange of the West Sacramento Police Department.
- **Potential member 2:** Members suggested considering racial diversity when choosing a new community member. Members also suggested identifying someone who works on racial justice, as CWS data indicates a need for this work in child abuse prevention. It was also suggested that the CAPC examine racial and geographic population data to help make this decision. Members were asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting for discussion.

- **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Rachelle Gayton will ask Rob Strange if he is interested in joining the CAPC.**
- **CAPC members will bring suggestions for community members who can bring diversity to the CAPC and who have a focus on racial justice to the next meeting.**

- d. **Vote to create ad hoc Committee on Supporting Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships (SSNRs)** (Karleen Jakowski, 5 minutes)

- As the CAPC has now finished working on recommendations related to concrete supports for families, that committee can sunset.
- The CAPC will now move on to recommendations "Supporting Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships." This area will include the following categories:
  - Enhance Parenting Skills
  - Change Social Norms to Support Parents and Positive Parenting
  - Support parent/caregiver mental health
- **VOTE:** Rachelle motioned to create an ad hoc Committee on Supporting Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships. Jen seconded. All approved via roll call.
- **Committee volunteers:** Celina Alveraz, Christina Tranfaglia, Allison Rodriguez, and possibly Gina Daleiden (Natalie will ask).
- **ACTION ITEM:** Natalie will reach out to the committee members to ask for someone to Chair the committee. She will also set up the first meeting.

6. **Discuss 2021 Child Abuse Prevention website and outreach activities** (Natalie Audage, 15 minutes)

- Natalie announced the name of the campaign (Children—The Heart of Yolo) and thanked members for reviewing sector content. She plans to have the final version ready for the web designer in mid-January with an April launch of the website. She asked members to weigh in on the following questions:
  - **How should the document handle COVID-19?** Currently strategies/ideas are not tailored to COVID-19. The group consensus was that the landing page will have the following COVID-19 disclaimer: "We know that some of the ideas in this



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website may not be applicable during the COVID-19 pandemic when social distancing is required. We have still included these ideas as we hope this website will be used long after the risks of COVID-19 are no longer present.”

- How should the document handle the conflict between discouraging 1:1 interactions because of the risk of child sexual abuse and encouraging people to offer to help watch/interact with children? After discussion about the best way to handle this, the group decided to encourage people to offer help while adding more education about child sexual abuse and how to prevent it in the parent sector. Celina shared resources and language from Darkness to Light that can be used to help educate parents.
- How can we reach out to people who do not have access to the computers/internet? Natalie shared that it seems like the parent sector will be the most important one to make accessible. She has added phone numbers and will work with the web designer to make the page printable. Google Translate will be available on every page. She asked members to share their ideas about how increase accessibility with her.
- Natalie shared that the CAPC will review the dissemination plan, CAP Month resolution, and press release at the next meeting.
- **ACTION ITEMS:**
  - **Natalie will add the COVID-19 and child sexual abuse content. She will also work with the web designer on making the parent page printable.**
  - **CAPC members will send Natalie ideas about how to increase access to the information for people who do not have computers/internet.**

## 7. Informational Items (15 minutes)

### a. Update on child abuse and neglect reporting data (Karleen Jakowski)

- Karleen reported that foster care numbers are going down and that she would share the data with the CAPC after the meeting.
- **ACTION ITEM: Karleen will send Natalie the data to disseminate to the CAPC after the meeting.**

### b. Prevention Planning Team update (Natalie Audage)

- OCAP is encouraging all counties to create Prevention Planning Teams, a multi-agency collaboration that will work on creating data-based prevention goals focused on primary prevention.
- Strategies TA was funded by OCAP to support cross-sector networks, CAPCs, and Prevention Planning Teams in CA. They can help with asset maps, facilitating, coaching, and capacity building. They can help counties develop comprehensive Child Abuse Prevention plans (for the 3 years of the grant) or work on specific issues with CAPCs (more time-limited assistance). They will help move counties forward from where they are, and they want to help county plans be coordinated. They will also provide statewide learning exchanges, webinars, and gatherings.
- There is no funding available, but counties are encouraged to use their plans to apply for funding.



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- Troy Nichols is Yolo County's consultant.
- Next steps if the CAPC is interested:
  - Reach out to Strategies TA Consultant.
  - Request an OCAP Orientation to learn about the process.
  - If we're still interested, Strategies TA will do a needs assessment to see what we've already done.
  - There is no commitment, and the CAPC can decide whether and what type of TA we want.
- The group thought that it was worth pursuing this opportunity to get free TA.
- **ACTION ITEM: Natalie will reach out to Troy Nichols of Strategies TA to request an OCAP Orientation.**
  
- c. **Protecting Children: Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect update** (Natalie Audage)
  - Natalie, Laura Nielsen of CWS, and Tessa Smith of HHSA are reviewing the content of Protecting Children document to address bias, especially as relates to neglect, before moving forward with graphic design and translation. Natalie will share the draft with the CAPC before the document moves on to graphic design and translation.
  
- d. **Period of PURPLE Crying distribution** (Natalie Audage)
  - Natalie ordered and delivered about 1800 apps/booklets for Sutter and Woodland Dignity for the year. This roughly represents the number of babies that are born in Yolo each year.
  
- 8. **Meeting review (Karleen Jakowski, 5 minutes)**
  - a. Discuss 3 talking points from meeting
    - The CAPC is exploring expanding our membership.
    - The CAPC has a strong list of child care and early education recommendations to present to the Board of Supervisors in April.
    - The CAPC has created a new ad hoc committee focusing on Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and positive parenting.
  - b. Request for future meeting topics
    - None.
  
- 9. **Adjourned at 11:00am**

**Next CAPC meeting:** 9am-11am on Friday, February 5, 2020, via Zoom.

**Child Abuse Prevention Month Resolution  
April 2021**

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect continue to pose serious threats to our nation’s children; and

**WHEREAS**, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), such as physical, emotional, and sexual child abuse, neglect, and parental stress or illness, can have short- and long-term outcomes, including a multitude of health and social problems; and early evidence-based prevention and intervention efforts are less costly than trying to fix the adverse effects of child maltreatment, both in human and financial terms; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, according to the California Child Welfare Indicators Project, 615 children in Yolo County were found to be victims of abuse and/or neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community issue, and we all have a responsibility to nurture and protect our children and help ensure they become healthy and productive adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) of Yolo County, a Yolo County Children’s Alliance (YCCA) program, coordinates the community’s efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect and is composed of a community partner and representatives from the following agencies and organizations: CommuniCare Health Centers, Empower Yolo, First 5 Yolo, West Sacramento Police Department, Yolo County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Yolo County District Attorney’s Office, Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center, Yolo County Health and Human Services (Child Youth and Family Branch and Community Health Branch), Yolo County Office of Education, and Yolo County Probation; and

**WHEREAS**, in Yolo County over 20 agencies and community organizations are collaborating in their efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect and support families through the YCCA Yolo Family Strengthening Network; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Yolo County are encouraged to strengthen families and support child abuse prevention activities in their communities by engaging with the new YCCA/CAPC campaign **Children—The Heart of Yolo**, which is a new website that encourages everyone to see how we all play a part in caring for Yolo children and strengthening Yolo families, with hundreds of resources and practical ideas divided into 15 different roles, including business owners, family members, first responders, youth, neighbors, parents, child care providers, and youth activity leaders; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo hereby declares the month of April 2021 to be “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in Yolo County.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo, State of California, this XXX day of XXX, 2021, by the following vote:

**AYES:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXX, Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors



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Media Contact:  
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**DRAFT For Immediate Release: DRAFT**

*March 00, 2021*

## Yolo County Child Abuse Prevention Council Launches New Website to Engage the Community in Supporting Children and Families

West Sacramento - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and this April the Yolo County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), a program of the Yolo County Children's Alliance (YCCA), will be launching a new website: *Children—The Heart of Yolo* at <http://www.childrentheheartofyolo.com/>.

*Children—The Heart of Yolo* has hundreds of resources and practical ideas for all people in our community – friends, educators, business owners, parents, persons of faith – to support children and parents in Yolo County and help prevent child abuse and neglect. This website also offers resources for parents or youth who are seeking help or support.

In 2019, the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) reported that 615 children in Yolo County were victims of abuse and/or neglect. The CAPC believes it is likely that even more children have experienced abuse and/or neglect in 2020 due to increased stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yolo County has a collective responsibility to ensure that children in our community are safe and healthy, especially during challenging times.

“Preventing child abuse and neglect is a community issue, and we all have a responsibility to nurture and protect our children and help ensure they become healthy and thriving adults,” said Karleen Jakowski, the CAPC Chair. “This new resource will be invaluable in helping our community learn more about the signs of child abuse and neglect and will give children and adults more information and confidence to report concerns. Overall, this website will serve as a gateway to critical information, resources, and support for those in our community who need it most.”

By launching *Children - the Heart of Yolo* the CAPC aims to educate the community that everyone has a role to play in supporting children and families and preventing child abuse and neglect.

Yolo County CAPC's mission is to eliminate child abuse and neglect and the adversity it causes by strengthening families and communities. The CAPC is composed of a community partner and representatives from the following agencies and organizations: CommuniCare Health Centers, Empower Yolo, First 5 Yolo, Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center, West Sacramento Police Department, Yolo County Children's Alliance, Yolo County CASA, Yolo County District Attorney's Office, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency, Yolo County Office of Education, and Yolo County Probation. To learn more about the Yolo County Child Abuse Prevention Council, visit [www.yolokids.org/child-abuse-prevention-council](http://www.yolokids.org/child-abuse-prevention-council).



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## **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: What It Is and What to Do About It**

We all want children to be safe and healthy. However, the heartbreaking reality is that every year thousands of children are victims of child abuse and neglect. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that "at least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year, and this is likely an underestimate."<sup>1</sup>

We all have a role to play in making sure children have the opportunity to thrive. We can support children and families and prevent child abuse and neglect by providing safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments for children.<sup>2</sup> When children and families need extra support, we can lend a hand or connect them with resources. If we suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, we can make sure the child gets help by calling Child Welfare Services (CWS).

In this guide, you will learn more about the types of child maltreatment, what to do when you think a child or family needs more support, and how to make a report if you suspect that a child has been abused or neglected.

### **WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?**

Child maltreatment, according to the CDC, includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role (e.g., clergy, coach, teacher).<sup>3</sup> However, anyone can be a perpetrator, including a neighbor, another child, a family friend, or a distant relative. In addition to the four common types of child maltreatment (neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse)<sup>3</sup>, this guide also covers the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

In addition to the definitions and considerations provided below, we must also:

- Be aware of our own biases and how they may affect our observations and perspective. Culturally shared assumptions or beliefs may result in a misunderstanding of parenting behavior, children's behavior, and discipline practices that differ from our own. Actions thought to be expected or appropriate in one culture may be interpreted as abuse or neglect by another culture.
- When concerns arise regarding a child's safety, it is essential to view those concerns through a trauma-informed and culturally appropriate lens. For example, it's important to recognize that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children are at increased risk for neglect and abuse.
- View a child's behavioral changes in context. Compare the duration and severity of concerning behaviors with the child's past functioning.
- Help children and families access concrete supports and resources (e.g., food, housing, clothing) that they may not have as a result of poverty. Poverty and lack of resources are not equivalent to neglect.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fastfact.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/essentials.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/index.html>

Type of Abuse or Neglect	Definition	When to Consider Child Maltreatment
<b>NEGLECT</b>	<p><b>Neglect*</b> is the failure or inability of a child’s parent or guardian to supply the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment, etc. Neglect can also include not supervising a child adequately for his/her age and development.</p> <p>*Poverty and lack of resources are not equivalent to neglect.</p>	<p><b>Consider the possibility of neglect when the child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has significant medical or dental conditions that place child at risk of serious harm as a result of a parent's lack of adequate action</li> <li>• Is in situations in which inadequate supervision could result in risk of serious harm</li> <li>• Is in a home with improperly stored weapons and ammunition</li> </ul> <p><b>Consider the possibility of neglect when the parent or other adult caregiver:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses alcohol or drugs in a way that negatively impacts child’s safety or well-being</li> <li>• Has mental health concerns that negatively impact child’s safety or well-being</li> <li>• Has familial or interpersonal violence that places child’s safety or well-being at risk</li> </ul> <p>*In some cases, a child receiving treatment by spiritual means or not receiving medical treatment for religious reasons <b>is NOT considered child abuse or neglect.</b> (PC 11165.2)</p>
<b>EMOTIONAL ABUSE</b>	<p><b>Emotional abuse</b> is a pattern of behavior that impairs a child’s emotional development or sense of self. It may include constant criticism, threats, isolation, targeting or rejection, as well as withholding love, support or guidance. Emotional abuse may also include extreme or bizarre acts of punishment and domestic violence or violence occurring in the home.</p>	<p>Many behaviors associated with emotional abuse may be indicative of distress or mental health challenges in a child. CWS will assess if the behavior is related to abuse and neglect or if the child needs referrals to other sources of support.</p> <p><b>Consider the possibility of emotional abuse when the child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhibits sudden changes or deteriorations in well-being or becomes excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong</li> <li>• Shows extremes in behavior (e.g., extremely compliant or demanding; extremely passive or aggressive)</li> </ul> <p><b>Consider the possibility of emotional abuse when the parent’s or other adult caregiver’s:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions or inactions have a direct and negative impact on child's emotional functioning</li> </ul>
<b>PHYSICAL ABUSE</b>	<p><b>Physical abuse</b> is <u>non-accidental</u> physical injury—ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death—as a result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, hitting, burning, or otherwise</p>	<p><b>Consider the possibility of physical abuse when the child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has frequent injuries, unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts that are age-inappropriate</li> <li>• Has injuries that appear to have a pattern, such as a handprint or a belt mark, or bruises on the ear</li> <li>• Has injuries when the child is non-mobile</li> </ul>

	<p>harming a child. The injury may or may not be intentional, and it may result from excessive discipline.</p>	<p><b>Consider the possibility of physical abuse when the parent or other adult caregiver:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no explanation for child’s serious injury</li> </ul> <p>*Spanking that is “reasonable” and “age-appropriate” that does not leave bruises on the child is <b>NOT considered child abuse or neglect.</b> (PC 11165.5)</p>
<b>SEXUAL ABUSE</b>	<p><b>Sexual abuse</b> is any sexual act between a child and an adult. Such acts may include touching, violation of privacy, exposing one’s genitals, exploitation, and rape. In addition, you should report knowledge or reasonable suspicion of sexual intercourse between 1) a minor who is under 14 years old and a partner 14 years old or older, irrespective of consent, and 2) sexual intercourse between a minor who is under 16 years old and a partner 21 years old or older, irrespective of consent.<sup>4</sup></p>	<p><b>Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Displays (at a young age) age-inappropriate knowledge and interest in sexual acts</li> <li>• Has a sexually transmitted disease (STD) or pregnancy, especially under the age of 14</li> <li>• Demonstrates significant and sudden changes in behavior, including depression, withdrawal, or running away from home</li> </ul> <p><b>Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the parent or other adult caregiver:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has inappropriate interactions and/or boundaries with a child for their age and development</li> </ul> <p>*Recognize that boys can be sexually abused and that women can be perpetrators.</p>
<b>COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)</b>	<p><b>Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children or CSEC</b> (human trafficking) is the exchanging of sex or sexual acts for something of value or the promise of something to the child or another person.</p>	<p>Many behaviors associated with CSEC may be indicative of distress or mental health challenges in a child. CWS will assess if the behavior is related to CSEC or if the child needs referrals to other sources of support.</p> <p><b>Consider the possibility of CSEC when the child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has unexplained access to phones, transportation, makeup, clothing, travel, and goods</li> <li>• Runs away frequently and/or has unexplained gaps in known whereabouts</li> <li>• Lacks control over ID, personal possessions, and/or money</li> <li>• Defers control of movement, freedom, and choices to another individual</li> <li>• Shows signs of physical injuries and abuse (e.g., bruises)</li> <li>• Has tattoos or branding marks on the neck and/or lower back</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> <http://teenhealthlaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Ca-MinorConsentConfidCAR-20164thed.pdf>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts multiple sexually transmitted diseases</li> <li>• Exhibits signs of emotional distress, including depression, withdrawn behavior, anxiety, submissive behaviors, and paranoia</li> </ul>
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**WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A CHILD?**

**If you do not suspect abuse or neglect, but think a child or family needs extra support:**

- 1) Connect the family with a Family Resource Center (FRC). FRCs can provide support and resources, such as food, help navigating health insurance, referrals, and classes.
  - Empower Yolo: Woodland, Davis, and Knights Landing. 530-661-6336
  - RISE, Inc.: Winters and Esparto. 530-787-4110
  - Yolo County Children’s Alliance: West Sacramento and Clarksburg. 916-572-0560
- 2) Link the family with the Yolo County Food Bank: 530-668-0690
- 3) Call the Child Abuse Reporting Hotline and tell the social worker that you think the family needs support. CWS can help make referrals to appropriate resources.

**If there is an emergency situation in which a child is being threatened or harmed or the child expresses fear and the threat of harm is imminent, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.**

**If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, call the Child Abuse Reporting Hotline.** Your report can help protect the child, protect other children in the home, and provide help for the parents of the child. You can talk to intake social workers about when or if a report is necessary and what community resources may be available. CWS will cross-report to law enforcement when appropriate. CWS welcomes consultation calls.

**Yolo Child Abuse Reporting Hotline  
(888) 400-0022 (toll-free) or (530) 669-2345 (local)**

**WHO SHOULD REPORT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?**

Anyone can report a suspicion of child abuse and/or neglect. There are two groups of reporters: concerned **community members** and **mandated reporters**.

**Community members** have an important role in protecting children. In our everyday lives, we come across children and families that may be struggling. We have a unique opportunity to support families and protect children. When we suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, reporting any suspicions to Child Welfare Services can make a difference in a child’s life.

**Mandated reporters** are required by law to report suspicions of child abuse and neglect because of their professional roles. Mandated reporters include all school and district employees (i.e., teachers, administrators, staff, and athletic coaches); medical and mental health professionals; clergy; child care workers; youth program employees; firefighters; and police officers. For a full list of mandated reporters, visit <http://mandatedreporter.ca.com/who/who.htm>

Mandated reporters:

- Should not investigate the validity of the allegation.

- Should report suspected abuse as soon as possible by telephone and must fax or email a written report within 36 hours. Informing a supervisor does not substitute for reporting to Child Welfare Services and a supervisor cannot hinder reporting.
- Must give their names when making a report, but their identity is kept confidential and is only shared with those allowed by law under Penal Code 11166 and Welfare and Institutions Code 827.

Legally mandated reporters can be criminally liable for failing to report suspected abuse or neglect. For answers to frequently asked questions about mandated reporters, visit <https://mandatedreporterca.com/about/faq>

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO REPORT WHEN YOU CALL?**

When reporting abuse and/or neglect, it is your role to provide as much information as possible, including any information about the child and your suspicions.<sup>5</sup> Any information you can provide (e.g., name, demographics, contact information) is helpful. You do not have to have witnessed the abuse or have definite proof that the child may be subject to child abuse and neglect. You only need to have a “reasonable suspicion” that a child has been the subject of child abuse or neglect.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Child Abuse Identification and Reporting Guidelines from the California Department of Education  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/ap/childabusereportingguide.asp>
- Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training from the California Department of Social Services  
<http://mandatedreporterca.com/>
- Child Sex Trafficking from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)  
<https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/trafficking>
- Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect: Signs and Symptoms from Child Welfare Information Gateway  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/signs.pdf>

Produced by Yolo County Children’s Alliance (YCCA) and Yolo County Child Welfare Services (CWS) as a project of the Yolo County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC). Learn more at <https://www.yolokids.org/child-abuse-prevention-council>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/ap/childabusereportingguide.asp>