

Stanislaus County

Children & Families Commission

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY • OCT 2013

Promoting the development and well being of children 0 through 5 in Stanislaus County

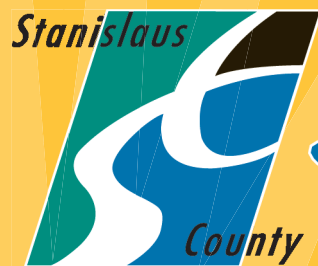


"All great things have small beginnings"

- Peter Senge

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a small step."

- Lao Tzu



Striving to be the best

Children & Families Commission



Version en Español a la vuelta -
Turn report over for Spanish version



Message to the Community

On behalf of the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission, we are pleased to share with you our Annual Report to the Community.

In the past ten years, more than \$105 million dollars have been budgeted for early childhood programs in our county. In 2012-2013 alone, the Commission allocated \$7.4 million toward services in Stanislaus County.

The Children and Families Commission has faced many challenges in previous years, including State efforts to divert children's funds for other uses and an anticipated decline in revenues. But through it all, the Commission has continued to sponsor programs that have impacted thousands of children and their families through committed and effective community, school, and public partners. Together with our partners, we have made children our top priority and we are proud of what we have done to ensure their first steps are positive.

This report will highlight some of the accomplishments in fiscal year 2012-2013 and it will serve as a reminder that we are still here, as committed as we were ten years ago, to deliver quality and impactful services to the children of Stanislaus County.

To learn more about our work, please contact us at 209-558-6218 or visit us on the web at www.stanprop10.org.

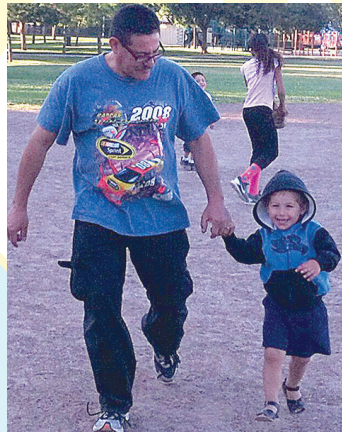
Sincerely,

Vicki Bauman

Vicki Bauman, Commission Chair

John Sims

John Sims, Executive Director



Why Children are Our Priority

Research shows that a child's brain develops more in the first five years than any other time in their life. The environment in which a child lives, plays, and learns has an enormous impact on the rest of his or her life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998. The ballot measure added a 50-cent tax to each pack of cigarettes and a comparable tax on other tobacco products sold in California. It established the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission and made the Commission responsible for the operation and administration of the program in Stanislaus County.

Revenues generated by the tobacco tax are used to create and supplement education, health, family strengthening, and other programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 through 5.

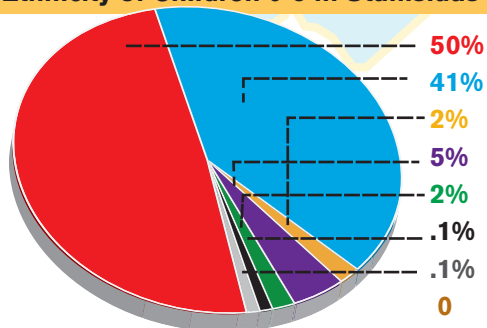
Our Vision

All of Stanislaus County's children will thrive in supportive, safe, nurturing, and loving environments; are healthy, eager, and ready learners; and become productive well-adjusted members of society.

About Stanislaus County

- Stanislaus County had 47,508 children ages 0 through 5 years in 2012.*
- The projected births in Stanislaus County totaled 7,824 in 2012. Approximately 22 births per day.**

Ethnicity of Children 0-5 in Stanislaus County***



(2011 - 2012)

% of Children Served in Prop 10 Programs ****

Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic	57%
White	25%
Asian	5%
Multirace	3%
Black	5%
Pacific Islander	.1%
American Indian	.1%
Unknown	4%

(2012 - 2013)



2012-2013 Commissioners

Christine Applegate*
Community Services Agency

Vicki Bauman
Chair, School Representative

Vito Chiesa
Supervisor, 2nd District

David Cooper
Community Representative

Denise Hunt, RN, MFT
Vice-Chair, Community Representative

Mary Ann Lee
Health Services Agency

Nelly Paredes-Walsborn, Ph.D.
Community Representative

Madelyn Schlaepfer, Ph.D., CEAP
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

George Skol
Community Representative

John Walker, MD
Public Health Officer

*Former Member

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

William O'Brien, 1st District

Vito Chiesa, 2nd District

Terry Withrow, 3rd District

Dick Monteith, 4th District

Jim DeMartini, 5th District

Commission Staff

Erica Inacio, Program Monitor

Tina Jamison, Accountant

Stephanie Loomis, Executive Assistant

John Sims, Executive Director



*U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Population Estimates, Population Division. Release Date: June 2013

**California Department of Finance, Historical and Projected State and County Births, 1970-2021: 2012 Series (October 2012)

***2011-2012 California Health Interview Survey

**** Contractor Reports

Taking Small Steps Towards Big Leaps

Families are Going the Distance

- **Families are receiving support.**

The parents of 8,999 children received family support services through countywide Family Resource Centers and other programs. 542 received more intensive services focused on improving child abuse risk factors.

- **Parents are gaining knowledge and skills.**

The parents of 1,218 children have increased parenting skills and knowledge after taking parenting classes.

- **Caregivers are being screened for depression and are being referred.**

1,822 caregivers of children 0-5 were screened for depression and 196 were referred for mental health services as a result.

- **Children are living in more stable environments.**

458 children experienced improvements in their family environment after being enrolled in respite childcare.



Taking Healthy Steps

- **More pregnant women and children are receiving health care.**

609 children 0-5 and pregnant women who did not have access to health care received medical services through an interim health care program.

- **A greater number of children now have health insurance.**

514 pregnant women and children 0-5 who did not have health insurance are now enrolled in a health coverage plan.

- **Infants are being born healthy.**

141 infants were born healthy (term and not low birth weight) after their mothers participated in a healthy birth program. 80% of the mothers initiated breastfeeding.



Leaving a Footprint Via Supportive Systems

- **Support systems empower families with knowledge.**

Families of 5,649 children have increased knowledge and utilization of community resources.

- **Prop 10 programs are collaborating for the benefit of children and families.**

On average, Prop 10 funded programs collaborate with four or more other Prop 10 funded programs to decrease duplication and increase effectiveness of services.

- **Programs are leveraging Prop 10 funds to benefit children and families.**

Prop 10 funded programs brought in more than \$4.7 million from other funding sources during fiscal year '12-'13, increasing the level of services for children 0-5 and their families.



*Data reported by contractors

In-Step With Education

- **Families are reading more with their children.**

687 families increased the time spent reading with their children at home after receiving literacy services.

- **Children are being screened and identified for developmental delays.**

1,607 children 0-5 were screened for educational developmental issues, and 390 were referred for further assessment or services.

- **Children are being prepared for Kindergarten.**

129 children participated in the Kindergarten Transition program at school sites across the county that helped prepare them for Kindergarten.



2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget

Total Budget: \$7,420,001

Improved Family Functioning

(Family Support, Education, and Services) \$4,441,385

Improved Health (Health Education and Services)..... \$1,692,160

Improved Child Development (Child Development Services).....\$70,000

Improved Systems of Care.....\$82,378

Administration.....\$324,509

Evaluation.....\$76,257

Other Programs (Includes Contingency Fund)..... \$733,312



2012 - 2013 Partners

ASPIRAnet

Center for Human Services

Children's Crisis Center

El Concilio

Keyes Union School District

Parent Resource Center

Patterson Unified School District

Riverbank Unified School District

Sierra Vista Child and Family Services

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Stanislaus County Community Services Agency

Stanislaus County Health Services Agency

Stanislaus County Office of Education

Stanislaus Family Justice Center

United Way of Stanislaus County



Children & Families Commission

Bridging Cultural Gaps

For parents who don't know the language, trying to enroll their children into school can be an overwhelming process. The paperwork is daunting and required vaccinations and visits to the doctor can be intimidating. It is a school system that is completely unfamiliar to parents who grew up in another culture.

"Because of The BRIDGE my children were able to go to the doctor," says Kanya Nane through an interpreter. Her four year old daughter, Rina, started pre-school this year and has a better chance of keeping up with her peers because of the basic skills she learned at The BRIDGE Community Center.

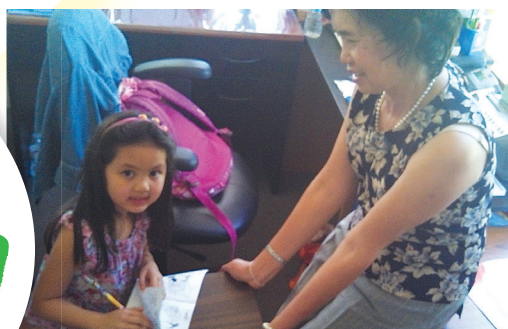
"I cannot read or write English, but I know they will be able to get help with their homework at The BRIDGE" says Nane. It is a source of relief for the mother of two. She recalls the depression and isolation she felt when her husband was out of the state for his work. Out of a sense of desperation, she began looking for help when her father-in-law referred her to The BRIDGE.

Since participating in the program, she has referred others who had trouble filling out forms, translating documents or simply understanding the American culture.

"I love doing what I'm doing," says Jean Kea a Youth Outreach Supervisor for The BRIDGE, "it's nice working with the little kids and helping their families". Kea makes house calls, helps clients interpret forms, find jobs or simply explain cultural misunderstandings. Kea says the most rewarding part about his job "is showing clients how they can overcome certain barriers".

The BRIDGE Community Center, located at 605 Chicago Avenue in Modesto, is a charming, welcoming environment that radiates positive energy. A thriving vegetable and flower garden blooms alongside species indigenous to Southeast Asia. Focusing on Southeast Asian children 0 - 5 and their families, The BRIDGE provides several services which include case management, parenting education and support, and cultural liaison services. Families, like Nane's, come and get the services they need while children can learn basics to prepare for school or receive tutoring from youth advisors. Some of the youth advisors are former BRIDGE kids who have returned to give back to the community; others have gone off to San Jose State, UC Davis, and UC Berkley.

The BRIDGE is putting kids on the right track to succeed in life.



Dara works in her workbook with the help of Boupanh Boudsay

Courage Through Counseling

After a violent home robbery, Cecilia Aguila was trapped in a cycle of fear. She was once an active mother who enjoyed helping at her daughter's school, but after the attack she developed a fear of leaving her home. Engulfed with negative thoughts and worried she would teach the behavior to her children, she sought counseling to regain control of her life so she could be a better parent to her daughters. That's when the Parent Resource Center referred her to La Familia Counseling Program; a mental health program providing support groups and one-on-

one counseling at no cost to pregnant women or families with children five or younger. The program is operated by El Concilio, located at 1314 "H" Street in Modesto.

Cecilia explains the difference between a friend and a professional. "A friend will say nice things just to make me happy, but a professional helps me look at things differently, so when I was fearful I remembered her positive words and would try. They are respectful and they listen without judgment".

Cecilia's battle with her fear and anxiety stemmed from a home invasion that took place one afternoon while her parents were visiting from Mexico. The assailant entered the home, held a gun to her elderly father's head and demanded money. One daughter was safe at school but her newborn baby was sleeping in the home. Fearful for her family's lives, she and her mother gathered what little money they had and gave it to the man. The thief left with the cash, her car, and her piece of mind. Weeks later her car was found without the keys, it was returned to her possession only to be stolen again. The man was never caught.

"They wouldn't get the help they need if these services weren't available to them," says Maxine Souza a mental health clinician for El Concilio. "For low income families, if they have to decide between putting food on the table or seeking professional help, the immediate needs of the family will always come first."

It takes courage and commitment to make a change. Cecilia has completed one year of treatment and is continuing her growth. She demonstrates her dedication by attending every appointment, rain or shine, with baby in tow. "Sometimes it was hard. I didn't want to go because they were hard on me... but she helped me see the reality of the situation, to accept it, and overcome it," says Cecilia.

Today, she is in a better mental and emotional place than where she found herself just a few months ago. She has regained her confidence and has been empowered with skills to control her anxieties. Most importantly, she is a better role model for her children because she is ending the cycle of fear.



Cecilia Aguila with daughter Karol