



California Family Resource Association

Strong Families. Strong Communities.

1.13.2021

New Year 2021

Hello CFRA Members,

Happy New Year! We hope that you are having a good week and staying safe. Please see below for updates and information that we hope will be of use to you. We encourage you to share relevant items with your networks.

If your organization has any upcoming events in February please email Madison York at myork@thecapcenter.org and we will feature them in our February newsletter .

Member Spotlight

Meet Teresa Johnes, veteran in the field of Family Strengthening and Co-Chair of the CFRA Networks Committee. Teresa, has worked in the field for over 24 years, and retired in early 2019. She has worked for nonprofits and most recently for First 5 Santa Barbara County, where for 12 years, she was the Program Officer of the countywide Family Support Focus area. Teresa enjoyed her work at First 5, a school readiness organization focused on families with children birth to five. In this role, Teresa was able to influence systems that support children and families through projects with local and state partners on topics including: Supporting Fathers, Family Development Matrix, Developmental Screenings, Child Welfare's Differential Response, Protective Factors, Vehicles for Change, Packard Foundation's FRC Landscape, Adverse Childhood Experiences and the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening a baseline for min/high quality in family support programs, which have now gone nationally to over 30 states.



Teresa was also the catalyst for creating the Network of Family Resource Centers of Santa Barbara County, a local network recognized for quality practices, training & technical assistance and capacity building of Family Resource Centers.

"As a field we need to unify across the state to continue to be the champions for children and families, and this is done by working together across the state so that we can have a greater impact and influence."

Teresa is also proud of the contributions she has made to the field of Family Strengthening that are helping to shape the field around the state, more specifically, her role as one of the original

cofounders of the California Family Support Network (previously the Network of Family Strengthening Networks), a subcommittee which now sits under the California Family Resource Association (brokered by her and Debbie Comstock who both serve as current Co-Chairs). The CFRA Networks Committee is comprised of experts in the field from across the state, and currently meets monthly and is working behind the scenes with a focus on three C's:

1. Convene the field in best practices
2. Communicate and share updates, that support moving the field of family support forward
3. Connect leaders from networks for moral support, program guidance

The Pandemic, has placed a hold on many activities, but the committee is working on how to engage members in different ways, more to come on this!

While Teresa is retired, and is a self-described music junkie, loves traveling and camping, she continues to have a passion for the field and believes that Family Strengthening is so critical, now more than ever during these unprecedented times.

Teresa values being a CFRA member in the following ways:

- Leaders connect with other leader from across the state
- Have your voice heard on topics that matter to help inform policy
- Being in the know of current research and best practices in family strengthening
- Webinars on current family strengthening topics
- Strength in numbers from an advocacy and policy level and we will have common language across the field

A favorite quote of Teresa's is:

"If kids come to us strong, it makes our job easier, if they do not come to us from strong healthy, functioning families it makes our jobs more important".

To connect with Teresa TeresaJohnesConsulting@gmail.com

CFRA January Member Update Call

Friday, January 22, 9am-10am

California Family Resource Association (CFRA) invites you to join us for our January Member Update call on **Friday, January 22nd at 9:00 am**. Please [click here](#) to join on the day of the call.

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Opening remarks from Policy Committee Co-Chairs (Katie Albright and Ron Brown)
 2. Legislative Update (Dawn Koepke)
 3. Federal Update (Sheila Boxley)
 4. CFRA Update (Merritt Beckett)
 5. Strategies Update (Michael Williams)
 6. Discussion and Sharing
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Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support

We are excited to announce that three people from California, Carrie Collins, Merritt Beckett and Carol Lopinski, have successfully completed the NFSN standards of quality Training of Trainer in

December with the Arizona and California Networks.

The Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support are designed to be used by all Family Strengthening and Support stakeholders - public departments, foundations, networks, community based organizations, and families - as a tool for planning, providing, and assessing quality services. The vision is that their implementation will help ensure that families are supported and strengthened through quality practice.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon on CFRA-sponsored training opportunities on the Standards of Quality.



Top: Carrie Collins, Tammy Matthews Walker, Carol Lopinski
Bottom: Patricia Merk, Meron the Srtaritt Beckett, Ginamarie Nieves

News

FRC's Included in the State Budget

FRC Funding with the Department of Developmental Services

Community Navigators - The budget includes \$5.3 M (\$3.2 M General Fund) for the Department of Developmental Services to contract with FRCs to implement a navigator model statewide. The model would utilize parents of individuals in the regional center system to provide education on resources, advocacy, and mentorship to other parents of individuals being served by the regional center system. The purpose of navigators is to increase service authorization and utilization in diverse communities, furthering health equity within the developmental services system. Funding includes resources for a one-time independent evaluation focused on improving the effectiveness of existing disparity projects.

COVID Support for Child Welfare Services

Covid 19 Related Supports for Child Welfare Services - the budget includes \$61.1 M General Fund in 2021-2022 to support services related to quarantine needs for foster youth and caregivers, temporary extension of assistance payments to emergency caregivers, support to FRCs, state administered contracts for youth and family helplines, provision of laptops and cellular phones to foster youth, assistance to families with youth who are at risk of entering foster care, and temporary provisions of assistance payments to youth who turn 21 years of age while in extended foster care after April 17, 2020, through December 31, 2021 and for any nonminor dependent who met eligibility requirements for the Extended Foster Care program and lost their employment or has experience disruption in their education program resulting from COVID-19 and cannot otherwise meet any of the participation requirements.

Webinar Opportunities

Webinar: *Creating Compelling Messaging with ACEs Data* | 01.20.21 | 10:30am PST

The California Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch (CDPH/IVPB) and the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (CDSS/OCAP)'s, Essentials for Childhood (EfC) Initiative invites your participation in a webinar entitled, "Creating Compelling Messaging with ACEs Data"

This webinar will feature presentations from Shaddai Martinez Cuestas, MPH, Strategic Communications Specialist at Berkeley Media Studies Group; ACEs Connection; and Lori Turk-Bicakci, Ph.D., Director of Kidsdata.org who will be sharing considerations for practical application of the "Adverse Childhood Experiences Data Report: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2011-2017: An Overview of Adverse Childhood Experiences in California" (see attachment titled "ACEs BRFSS Data Report"). This webinar will focus on how to create effective and compelling messages that support stakeholders in understanding ACEs in California; identifying risk and protective factors; and enhancing efforts to adopt and implement data-informed interventions that reduce and prevent adverse childhood experiences.

[Register here](#)

Webinar: *Using Adolescent Developmental Science to Transform the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems* | 01.21.21 | 11:00 am CST

In 2019, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine issued a ground-breaking report, *The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth*. TRANSFORM Research Center welcomes Susan Vivian Mangold, an author on this report, who will present her findings and describe how adolescent developmental science can be applied to child-serving systems, including the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Through the findings of the report, Ms. Mangold will discuss many of the leading issues for youth, families and advocates working to transform the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

[Click here to learn more and register](#). If you are unable to attend, [click here to receive a recording of the webinar](#).

Webinar: *Child Abuse Prevention in the Time of Covid 19* | 01.26.21 | 2pm PST

Danielle Wondra, Senior Associate from Children Now, will share the challenges Covid 19 brings to tracking and reporting child abuse, while Merritt Beckett, Senior Program Manager of the California Family Resource Center Association, will discuss how Family Resource centers have stepped up to support families during the pandemic. Participants will engage in activities related to the presentations.

[Register here](#)

Webinar: *Child Care Transfer Quarterly Stakeholder Call* | 01.28.21 | 9:00am PST.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will be hosting the next Quarterly Child Care Transition Stakeholder Meeting. We want to thank the more than 1,000 counties, agencies, parents, providers, and stakeholders who participated in our first two Child Care Transition Stakeholder meetings and those who completed our survey or submitted comments and questions. Your input is invaluable as we work to meet our common goals of establishing a whole-family, human-centered approach to caring for our children.

[Register here](#)

Become a CFRA Member!

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the new CFRA Membership. We hope that you will choose to join us to help improve the lives of children, families, and communities throughout California.

CFRA's primary focus remains: impacting policy change to advance the programs and resources that strengthen California families. Thanks to the support of The California Endowment, SH Cowell Foundation, and the Immigration Services Unit at the California Department of Social Services, CFRA continues to engage in a variety of policy areas that benefit families and communities throughout California.

CFRA has merged with the California Network of Family Strengthening Networks in an effort to align the field, move forward as a unified, statewide body and achieve greater impact. CFRA has also worked with partners to formally define FRC in statute through Senate Bill 436, secured state funding for FRCs to respond to COVID-19 and expanded its reach at the State Capitol, visiting the Legislature over thirty times in the span of four months, to actively advocate for home visitation and encourage policy makers to tie home visiting services to local FRCs.

CFRA has updated the core membership benefits to include CFRA Policy and Networks Committees and e-newsletters with the latest news, Legislative Update calls, policy and budget analysis, grant opportunities, and discounted rates to CFRA trainings. Click the link below to see the full benefits of becoming a CFRA member and apply to become a member.

<https://californiafamilyresource.org/membership/>

Connect with us



[Email](#) | 916.244.1900 | [Website](#)