

**Children's Collaborative Action Team
(San Mateo County's designated Child Abuse
Prevention Council)**



**Annual Report
(FY: 2010-2011)**

San Mateo County Board Of Supervisors

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Table of Contents

Child Abuse and Its Consequences.....	3
Children’s Collaborative Action Team.....	5
Goals & Objectives.....	7
Accomplishments 2010-2011.....	8
2011-2012	
Goals.....	10
Acknowledgements.....	11
CCAT Funding Charts.....	12

Child Abuse and Its Consequences

Every day in the U.S., more than five children die as a result of child abuse.¹ Child fatalities that are attributed to abuse and neglect have increased during each of the past 3 years.

In California, a child is abused every 5 minutes.²

San Mateo County Child Welfare Services manages our CPS Hotline that annually receives thousands of reports and calls of concern related to child abuse and neglect. It is estimated that for every call received, at least three incidents go unreported³.

In Fiscal Year 2010-11, there were 3,422 calls involving 4,510 children to the Hotline of which 2,067 (60%) were determined to be serious enough to require an in-person investigation by Child Welfare Services (CWS) Social Workers⁴. Additionally, 769 (22%) children who were assessed to be at moderate to low risk received initial assessment by CWS staff and follow-up case management services from a Differential Response provider. Also, 209 (6%) children who were at low risk received assessment and follow-up services by a Differential Response provider⁵. During this period, referrals on 432 children were substantiated for allegations of abuse. Sadly, during those investigations, 122 children were removed from unsafe and abusive homes.⁶

As of January 1, 2012, there are 287 children in Out-of-Home care:

- 29.27% are 0-5 years old,
- 28.22% are 6-12 years old,
- 41.46% are 13-18 years old.
- 1% are 19+ years old.⁷

There are an additional 153 children receiving Family Home Maintenance (in the home) services. Child abuse allegations fall into five general categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and substantial risk. The incidence of allegations decreased slightly from 3,780 in 2009 to 3,679 in 2010.⁸ The most common reasons for removal of a child from his/her home in our county are:

- Care Taker Absence/Incapacity 39.2%
- General Neglect 37.28%,

¹ United States Government Accountability Office, 2011. Child maltreatment: strengthening national data on child fatalities could aid in prevention (GAO-11-599). Retrieved from <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11599.pdf>

² Reflects only substantiated allegations of abuse for 2009. California data available at the Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley. Can be accessed online at <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb%5Fchildwelfare/>

³ Ibid

⁴ Human Services Agency, San Mateo County

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb%5Fchildwelfare/>

- Physical Abuse 8.36%,
- Severe Neglect 5.92%
- Sexual Abuse 2%.⁹

Poverty, substance abuse, and mental illness are frequent contributors to, as well as consequences of, child abuse. Furthermore, since child abuse is often inter-generational, these consequences can be passed from generation to generation unless the cycle of abuse is broken.

Positively, from 2003 to 2010, the incidence of substantiated child abuse cases (number per 1,000 children) in our county decreased substantially from 5.3 to 2.5. The state as a whole saw a smaller decrease in incidence in the same seven year period, from 11.3 to 9.6 per 1,000 children. Likewise, the incidence of entries into SM County Child Welfare Services decreased from 1.7 in 2003 to 0.8 in 2010. Again, this is a larger decrease than in the state as a whole where incidence changed from 3.6 to 3.3 during the same period¹⁰.

It is possible to prevent child abuse before it starts. The most popular child abuse prevention strategy is to educate parents about child development.¹¹ Child maltreatment is a devastating betrayal of the nurturing and protective role that belongs to parents and adult caregivers. The consequences of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and endangering environments, are serious and pervasive and may include physical and brain injuries, cognitive and developmental delays, behavioral problems and mental disorders. Early maltreatment places children at special risk because it affects their internal models of human relationships and their ability to love and trust others.¹² Studies on long-term consequences of abused children identified and treated during childhood show much better outcomes than those of untreated children or those treated only as adults.¹³

Research on resiliency in children at risk has shown that even a single supportive adult can provide an important buffer against negative consequences. Furthermore, studies on long-term consequences of abused children identified and treated during childhood show much better outcomes than those untreated or treated only as adults. Family support has also emerged as an important factor in predicting a good outcome. Children need safety and caretakers need to learn sensitive, focused parenting skills. Caregivers need education about the effects of maltreatment on children's behavior and development and how to support children through the healing process. Families need to be connected to resources in the community. Often children and caregivers need specialized therapy to help reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress such as nightmares, intrusive thoughts, fears, depression and withdrawal, hyper-vigilance, angry outbursts, and difficulty concentrating. Families also need support and guidance through the often stressful and confusing family and criminal court processes.

⁹ Human Service Agency, San Mateo County

¹⁰ <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb%5Fchildwelfare/>

¹¹ "Public Awareness Study," sponsored by PCA America, 2000.

¹² The Effects of Childhood Stress on Health Across the Life Span US Dept of Human Services CDC

¹³ Working Strategies to Support Families and Community "Triple P: Because Kids Don't Come with Directions" published by the California Dept. of Social Services

In our county, allegations have declined during the past two years and are at their lowest since 1999. In 2010, San Mateo County had the lowest rate of substantiated child abuse and the lowest rate of entries into Child Welfare among the California counties with populations over 10,000. Differential Response may have been a positive contributor to this change because it refers families who are reported for problems that fall short of child abuse or neglect and offers them the support to prevent the occurrence of these problems. Other programs like Partners for Safe and Healthy Children, which coordinates the resources of the Health System with Child Welfare may also be showing an impact. We can also point to the many public and private programs and agencies in San Mateo County that have been operating well over the past decade to support families unrelated to reports to the child abuse hotline.

We know the importance that advocacy, community awareness and coordination of preventative education/outreach services has on our continued fight against child abuse. Reduced governmental and private support for crucial family and children services means that our county and non profit agencies are called upon to serve at-risk families with fewer available resources. Additionally the poor economy presents challenges to advancing prevention programs like Differential Response. Spurred by these challenges we continue to work collaboratively in our community to secure healthy, safe, and nurturing childhoods for all our youth.

Children's Collaborative Action Team (CCAT)

Our Mission & Vision

The mission of the Children's Collaborative Action Team (CCAT) is to provide leadership to prevent child abuse by advocating and coordinating resources and raising community awareness through education and training.

Our vision is to facilitate an accessible and integrated community-based, family-centered system of care for children, youth and families in San Mateo County.

Our Collaborative

The Children's Collaborative Action Team (CCAT) is an independent body authorized by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors under the authority of the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18980, Chapter 12.5, Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council Act, whose primary purpose is to coordinate the community effort to prevent and respond to child abuse. The San Mateo County Human Services Agency acts as the Fiscal Agent for all CCAT funds.

Our History

CCAT was formed in 1988 as an adjunct to the Children's Executive Council (CEC) which itself was created under the leadership of Supervisor Mary Griffin and Judge Frank Piombo. The CEC was composed of policy makers whose job was defined in terms of

setting policy direction for the county's child serving agencies. The CEC was eventually blended with the more broadly focused Peninsula Partnership and its subgroup, CCAT. CCAT continued its approach of coordinating services and distributing State mandated funds for child abuse prevention activities among County and community-based agencies. *In July 2010 the Adolescent Collaborative Action Team (ACAT) was brought under the coordination of CCAT in an effort to reduce duplication of coordination efforts and monthly meetings which were often attended by many of the same individuals.*

Our Funding

The majority of CCAT funding comes from state mandated sources, which fall under the umbrella of the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) including: the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP), the Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and treatment Program (CAPIT), the Promoting Safe and Stable Family Program (PSSF). Additionally, CCAT receives funding through the County Children's Trust Fund in the form of Birth Certificate and Kids Plate revenue, an annual training stipend from the Greater Bay Area Coalition of Child Abuse Councils and occasional individual donations and grants.

Oversight Committee Members

Barb Joos, Management Analyst III, Chair, (SMC Human Services Agency)
Cindy Famerio (Parent Representative)
Debbie Armstrong, Executive Director (First Five SMC)
Kerry Lobel, M.S., Executive Director (Puente de la Costa Sur)
Ben Loewy, Ph.D. (SMC Office of Education)
Lori Durand, Program Specialist (BHRS)
Sandra Portasio, Director of School-Community Partnerships (Redwood City School District)
Bernadette "Bernie" Plotnikoff (Retired Director of Programs, Child Abuse Prevention Center of San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties)
Randy Torrijos, Legislative Aide, (representing Office of Supervisor Dave Pine)
Renee Zimmerman, M.S., Executive Director (Family Connections) Coordinator (CCAT)

Our Membership

Child Advocates of SMC	Edgewood Center for Children & Families
Child Care Coordinating Council	Family Connections
Community Information Program of the Peninsula Library System	Family Service Agency
Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA)	Fatherhood Collaborative
Cabrillo Unified School District	First Five San Mateo County
Daly City Partnership	Friends for Youth
Daly City Community Center	Institute for Human & Social Development/Head Start
Daly City Parks & Recreation Department	Jeremiah's Promise
	Juvenile Delinquency Mediation Program

Mind Body Awareness Project
Our Second Home
Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center
Puente de la Costa Sur (Puente Resource Center)
Redwood City School District
San Mateo Community College District
San Mateo County Health System
San Mateo County Human Services Agency
San Mateo County Juvenile Probation Department
San Mateo County Office of Education
San Mateo County Office of Supervisor Dave Pine
San Mateo County Prenatal to Three

Star Vista
The Art of Yoga
SMC Youth Commission

Parent and Community Members

Donna Berger
Nancy Goodban Consulting
Cindy Famero
Marianna Klebanov
Bernadette Plotnikoff
Jane Smithson

In addition, our general membership roster is supported by the development and participation of various individuals to our other committees and task forces:

- April Blue Ribbon Campaign Task Force
- RFP Funding Task Force

Goals & Objectives

1. **Prevention Services:** Serve as a clearing house for prevention resources for the entire community focused on providing information and support for a wide variety of child abuse prevention services.
2. **Coordination:** Coordinate the community’s efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect. Provide a forum for inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, and treatment of child abuse cases. In addition, convene regular meetings of the membership and the community to provide networking, education and professional training for those involved in child abuse prevention and intervention services.
3. **Community Education and Outreach:** Increase public awareness about issues relating to child abuse and neglect. Build a community which protects healthy families. Raise community awareness and education to parents, professionals and community members through promoting social marketing campaigns around the prevention of child abuse and neglect as well as championing the local “Blue Ribbon” child abuse prevention campaign each April.
4. **Advocacy:** Serve as a unified voice to influence public policy decisions at the state, community and county level for prevention funding, policies and innovative programs focused on reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

Accomplishments 2010-2011

General Membership Meetings Convened

CCAT held monthly general membership meetings with focused presentations on the following topics:

- Mandated Reporter Training
- Citizen's Review Panel
- Human Trafficking in the Bay Area
- Golden Gate Regional Services
- Whooping Cough Epidemic
- Keller Center for Family Violence
- Violence Exposure & A Child's Developing Brain
- 2-1-1 Referral Line Implementation
- Effects of Immigration Laws on Youth in SM County
- Trauma Aware Foster Care
- Our Second Home Grantee Presentation
- Cabrillo Unified Grantee Presentation
- Teen Suicide Prevention and Initiatives in San Mateo County
- Faith-based Organizations serving at-risk youth and young adults in San Mateo County

Coordination and Representation

CCAT liaisons participated in the Greater Bay Area Regional Child Abuse Prevention Council meetings as well as serving as representative on the county's Child Death Review Team (CDRT), the Adolescent Collaborative Action Team (ACAT) (until it merged with CCAT) and the Shaken Baby Awareness Task Force.

Child Death Review Team Participation

Since 2006 the CCAT Coordinator has participated as a member of the San Mateo County Child Death Review Team (CDRT). The CDRT reviews both intentional and unintentional injury deaths of children that are less than 18 years old (or still enrolled in high school.) The goal of the team is to: reduce child abuse and preventable childhood deaths through awareness and education and to improve the competence and thoroughness of multi-agency response. CDRT reviews an average of 19 cases per year. Recent community awareness efforts undertaken by CCAT as a result of participation on the CDRT include the distribution of a multi-language pamphlet targeting the prevention of child injuries and deaths from car back-over accidents as well as the increased emphasis on Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention.

Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention Funding

CCAT provided nearly \$700,000 in funding support to 13 programs (representing 11 agencies), all focusing on child abuse prevention and early intervention. Through a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) process, the selected agencies were awarded contracts for fiscal years 10/11 through 12/13 and through those contracts provided services to thousands of families throughout San Mateo County.

Agencies funded were:

- San Mateo County Human Services Agency (Adoption & Reunification)
- Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (Pacific Islander Outreach)
- Cabrillo Unified School District
- Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA)
- Family Connections
- Friends for Youth
- Our Second Home
- Puente de la Costa Sur (Puente Resource Center)
- Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center
- Redwood City School District
- Star Vista (partial funding to complete Warmline Contract)

CCAT funding support reached approximately 15,000 (duplicated) individuals in 2010.

Community Outreach

CCAT participated in many events throughout the year that supported dissemination of child abuse prevention materials, including brochures, ribbons, stickers, buttons, bookmarks. CCAT hosted evening presentations on topics of interest that were provided free to the community.

Parent Stress Warmline

In addition to agencies funded through the grant process, CCAT provided additional funding to maintain the Parent Stress Warmline through the implementation of the 2-1-1 Referral Line in San Mateo County (Fall 2010). The 24 hour phone line is answered by volunteers who are managed through Star Vista. The Warmline's toll free number is imprinted on all CCAT outreach materials, its website, license plate frames and other publicity materials. Upon termination of the Warmline contract Star Vista agreed to maintain the line through its own funding source.

Over 400 calls were answered in 2010 with many receiving direct case management and referrals as a result of the call.

Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Outreach

Through a one year grant in 2009, CCAT contracted with an individual to disseminate Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention materials, increase awareness among the medical community on these prevention strategies and foster collaborative relationships with the medical providers with the goal of educating new parents about these strategies and encouraging them to utilize them as well as other additional resources such as the Parent Stress Warmline. CCAT was able to extend this project through 2010 and continues to disseminate materials as part of its ongoing education and outreach efforts.

Events and Activities

CCAT received proclamations from the County's Board of Supervisors, and CCAT members participated in various family fairs throughout the county during April 2010 and April 2011 as part of the Child Abuse Prevention Month providing support and information related to child abuse prevention/education. In April 2011 CCAT hosted a free afternoon presentation on the topic of Child Human Trafficking with guest speaker Human Trafficking Task Force member and expert, Lieutenant John Vanek, which was attended by 75 individuals. In both years CCAT mailed over 3,000 Mandated Reporter Training letters to every school (public & private), religious organization, youth serving agency and child care center (including home day cares) informing those who work with children of the mandated Reporter laws and the availability of free training in our county.

Training

Increasing the number of individuals who are trained as Mandated Reporters is one of the most effective ways to prevent child abuse. The Human Services Agency contracts with an individual trainer to conduct free Mandated Reporter Training (MRT) within the county. While funding for MRT is separate from CCAT, CCAT works closely with the trainer to promote, encourage and increase the number of individuals trained each year. Over 1,000 professionals from 35 county community-based organizations, schools and the county's Human Services Agency were trained in both FY09/10 and FY10/11.

2011-2012 Goals (NOTE: Add Youth Commission to 11/12 Report)

- Continue to provide public education and professional training opportunities for local practitioners and mandated reporters county-wide with a special emphasis on implementing a Spanish language Mandated Reporter Training.
- Increase awareness regarding Mandated Reporter laws amongst practitioners, youth serving agencies, schools and clergy and work with the Human Services Agency to increase the number of Mandated Reporters receiving Mandated Reporter Training (MRT) annually.
- Formalize working agreement and protocols between CCAT & the Human Services Agency through a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU.)
- Continue to build advocacy and best practice sharing efforts at the state, regional, and local levels through participation on the Greater Bay Area Coalition of Child Abuse Councils (GBAC).

- Plan and implement the 2012 Blue Ribbon Campaign including media, proclamations, and identifying and promoting campaign leaders and champions.
- Serve as advisory body to County on policy decisions related to Child Abuse Prevention including funding strategies.

Acknowledgements

The Children's Collaborative Action team would like to thank the office of Supervisor Dave Pine and the Human Services Agency for their ongoing support in preventing child abuse and neglect in San Mateo County.

In addition, CCAT relies tremendously on the dedication of time and work of its members and would like to thank them for their continued participation and support.



"Happy Childhoods Last a Life Time"

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CCAT Funding Charts

