

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATE

DIRECTOR'S PEN

*Deborrah Bremond, Ph.D., MPH
Family Support Services, Director*

Family Support Services—FSS (Children at Home) has worked closely with each of your programs during the past five years. We have grown to know each other better through developing joint problem solving strategies. The FSS Contractors have transitioned from meeting monthly, to bi-monthly and now to a quarterly time frame. The intent of this newsletter is to find new ways to communicate with each other as a group with shared responsibilities for families with young children. The **relationships** that we've built must continue to grow and gain strength as each agency continues along their path of working with families.

The goal of FSS for the 2005-09 Every Child Counts Strategic Plan is to pay particular attention to two tenets: *Child Development and Reflective Supervision*. We seek to deepen the way that we understand, apply and integrate these tenets into our daily practice. Many of you have often heard me say that young children exist within the context of their families. So, even though we focus on child development it is always in the context of cultural/family relationships. The way we support our staff is by helping them to develop the capacity to reflect on their work. Remember it's a parallel process! There will be new opportunities to think together as a group about the type of community-based standards of practice we want to put forward in our agencies and neighborhoods. These tenets can help provide us with a strong foundation in all of our service delivery approaches. Thank you all for growing, grappling and sharing your struggles. As we often say within FSS, **"Go Team"!**



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FSS RESOURCES

Family Support Services in Partnership with Local Non-Profit

Good Soles, Inc., a non-profit community service organization, was established to provide children in need with shoes. Good Soles coordinates the collection of gently worn shoes and distributes them, at no cost, to agencies that provide resources for children and their families.



If your agency has a need for children's gently worn shoes, please contact Amy Knowlden at amy@goodsoles.org.

Contact Amy at least one week before you would like your shoes delivered.

They will deliver a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 150 pairs of shoes at a time. Unless you specify otherwise, shoes will be delivered in an assortment

of children's sizes with an equal number of boys and girls shoes. The only guideline is that the shoes cannot be sold but rather must be given directly to those in need.



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WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR ON MY HOME VISIT?

Sujata Bansal, MFT

Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist, Specialty Provider Team

We all know some of the basic milestones in early childhood development. We like to see babies sitting around 6 months, crawling around 9 months and taking steps around 12 months. We like to hear lots of babbling before age 1, some words by age 2 and basic sentences by age 3. But, there is so much more to healthy child development than this. In order for children to grow and develop, they *must* have a supportive relationship with their primary caregiver. How do we know when this healthy relationship is in place? Here are three things I look for:

1. Communication

Basically, does the child have a way of expressing his or her wants/needs and does the caregiver have a way of understanding the child's needs? Depending on the age of the child, we look for things like babbling, eye contact, facial expressions, pointing and,

of course, words. We want to see a child doing some (or all) of these things and we want to see that the caregiver understands the communication and is responsive to it. Good communication is like a dance between caregiver and child.

2. Play

Play is how children learn about the world. Are there items for a child to play with? (They do not have to be expensive or store bought toys.) Does the caregiver play with the child? Sometimes caregivers do not know how to play and they need support with getting down at the child's level. Some examples are: hand games, sounds/music, reading, talking or doing activities together. The Caregiver and child should get mutual enjoyment from one another.

3. Attachment



“Feeling safe and secure is the key to healthy development.”

Feeling safe and secure is the key to healthy development. Most young children like to be physically close to their primary caregiver and use this person as their “secure base” before exploring unknown places or people. They will also look to this person when they seek comfort or need soothing, for example, after being hurt or scared. If healthy attachment is in place, the caregiver is usually able to soothe and comfort their child and will really be able to relate to how the child is feeling. It is wonderful to see both the caregiver and child “light up” when they are together.

PROGRAM SERVICES UPDATE

FSS has initiated efforts to enhance child development services by placing a developmental specialist in pediatric clinics (Healthy Steps Program). The expansion of the Healthy Steps Program will provide resources and referrals to parents of young children and will connect children who have developmental concerns to appropriate services.

Every Child Counts will expand Healthy Steps in South County to Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center (currently we are located at Silva Pediatrics in Hayward.) This shift in FSS strategies will necessitate a contraction of the Postpartum Home Visiting Program at St. Rose Hospital. The Postpartum Home Visiting program will reach out to south county patients at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center and

the Alameda County Medical Center (Highland) which will allow us to serve over 30% of South county residents.

At the same time, FSS will launch breastfeeding outreach support to new mothers at St. Rose Hospital in October. Breastfeeding Outreach will provide postpartum women with resources, education and support around breastfeeding their newborn.

It is still our goal to support the South County community to assist families with young children to reach their full developmental potential.

ECChange NEWS

New ECChange Features!

The ECChange Development and Support team has a very busy fall season ahead of us. We look forward to scheduling presentations with all our partnering agencies to introduce the new ECChange features and enhancements that completed our work for the fiscal year 2004-2005. These new features include a “family view” that supports case managers who have more than one primary client in the family. There is also a 6 Month Case Review Notification feature that supports TCM leveraging.

The Development team is excited about new ECChange modules planned for this year which include: Reports Module – Phase 2 and the “E-Forms log” that will allow users and supervisors to review encounter forms without having to open the case.

Introducing ECC Online!

In October 2005, ECC will launch ECC Online, a web application that supports on-line registration for trainings and Web-based grant application and reporting. Trainees at the September Specialty Topic Seminars will get a sneak preview of the on-line application. On-line registration will begin at the October Specialty Topic Seminar. After October 6th, try registering at www.f5ecc.org. There will also be a direct link from our website, www.ackids.org.

Welcome New Team Member to ECC Evaluation and Technology!

We welcome a new member to the ECC Evaluation and Technology Team, Josue Huerta. Josue will be supporting the ECChange Helpdesk as well as providing network support for ECC staff.

Thank you to all providers who submitted a vignette for Every Child Counts Annual Report.

The stories and narratives you submit make the report come alive. We appreciate your time and effort.

NEW COMMUNITY PARTNER!

We are pleased to announce that Prescott-Joseph Center for Community Enhancement, Inc. (PJCCE) has been chosen as the new contractor for **Another Road to Safety-West Oakland**. PJCCE, a member of the West Oakland Community Collaborative, has been a part of the West Oakland community providing comprehensive, community-based, family support services for the last 10 years.

PJCCE was awarded the contract after participating in a rigorous proposal and review process. They come to



Lawrence Hall of Science
Another Road to Safety, Alameda County

this work committed to providing much-needed case management services to the children and families of West Oakland who may be at risk for entering the child welfare system. Dr. Washington Burns, Executive Director, and Ouida Cooper-Rodriguez, Program Director, have already begun working with both Alameda County Social Services Agency and ECC to begin offering ARS services this fall. They are busy recruiting staff and developing an intensive training schedule.

WHAT'S UP?

Monthly Babies Matter Spotlight Events!

Learn about The Perinatal Council programs, meet staff and board members, tour the facility and hear from clients about the wonderful work of the agency!

Thursday, October 20th from 4–5pm

The Perinatal Council, 2648 International Blvd., Oakland

For more information or to RSVP, call Dr. Barbara Bunn McCullough at (510) 903-7503.

A Farewell Dinner in Honor of Judy Levin and the Respite Program of Family Support Services of the Bay Area!

Join us to bid farewell to Judy Levin, Co-founder and Associate Agency Director, upon her retirement and honor the work of respite staff who have given Bay Area families 15 years of heartfelt service.

Friday, October 28th at 5:30 PM

Silver Dragon Restaurant, 835 Webster Street, Oakland

For tickets and information contact Rebecca Johnson by calling (510) 834-2443, Ext. 3002 or send an email to: rjohnson@fssba-oak.org

From Partnership to Parenthood!

Come to a discussion about that not-so-much-talked-about transition to parenthood:

Responsibilities and gender roles, parenting as a team, how to get support, intimacy and communication.

Thursday, November 17th from 6:30–8:00 pm

Smart Healthy Babies Home Visit Program, 550 Park Street, Suite 108, Alameda

For more information or to sign up call: (510) 864-1077

This newsletter is brought to you by Every Child Counts, Family Support Services! To include information on events in future newsletters contact Anna Stith at (510) 875-2466 or send an email to: anna.stith@acgov.org.

REMINDERS

- Please be sure to submit updated staff rosters to Anna Stith whenever there are changes in your staff.
- If protocols (e.g., child development, mental health, reflective supervision, etc.) have changed, they must be submitted for review and approval as indicated in Exhibit A of your contract.
- Submit Lifebook inventories quarterly (or more frequently, if necessary) to Anna Stith

Meetings & Trainings

OCTOBER

Contractor Meeting

October 12

9:30–11:30 am

Specialty Topic Seminar Family Violence

October 6

9:00–12:00 pm

Fresh Air for Little Noses

(Training for ARS and Teen program staff)

October 19

9:00 –11:00 am

Commission Meeting

October 27

9:00–11:00 am

NOVEMBER

Specialty Topic Seminar: Cultural Perspectives on Parenting

November 3

9:00–12:00 pm

Program Committee Meeting

November 8

7:00–9:00 pm

DECEMBER

Specialty Topic Seminar Childhood Neglect

December 1

9:00–12:00 pm

ECC, Conference Rm. A

FSS Orientation

December 7

9:00–3:00 pm