

Thriving Families Safer Children

Community Co-Creation Plan



Thriving Families, Safer Children
Community Co-Creation Workgroup

June 2021



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

Overview of Thriving Families, Safer Children

07

Key Stakeholders for Visioning Sessions

11

Timeline and Key Milestones

05

Visioning Sessions: Co-Creating a New Way Forward

10

Investing in Community





Why are we here?

We know the child welfare system and other systems have done harm and negatively impacted lives and communities, particularly communities of color, throughout LA County for decades.

We strive to center the voice of the community and local experts with lived expertise in systems so we can co-create a new way forward with partners across Los Angeles.

Our vision is to harness the power of community to transform our systems into ones that truly improve child and family wellbeing - systems that are responsive to the individuals they serve and ensure the right resources are available within our local neighborhoods so that all Los Angeles families may thrive.





Who are we and what do we offer?

We are a collective of local community and governmental leaders who have experienced our systems at all angles and are **passionate about seeing a change - one that is responsive to children, families, and communities.**

As a local collective, **we are partnering with state government, foundations and organizations at the national level, as well as the federal government.** These partnerships, bridged with the wisdom of individuals with lived expertise, are **creating new pathways for advocacy and collaboration to birth more just and equitable systems that benefit all children, families, and communities.**



OUR TEAM

Members with System Lived Expertise

Tiffany Boyd, Commission on Children and Families

Jae Canas, Department of Mental Health/UCLA Public Partnership for Wellbeing

Brisia Gutierrez, Opportunity Youth Collaborative

Ann Diana Mata, MSW, Lived Expertise Partner

Jackie Robles, Office of Child Protection

Ambyr Rose, Parents in Partnership

Sonya Soni, Department of Mental Health/Foster America

System Partners

Rochelle Alley, Big Orange Splot, LLC/Office of Child Protection

Joaquin Calderon, First 5 LA

Alain Datcher, Youth Commission

Jacquelyn McCroskey, Children's Data Network

Reid Meadows, First 5 LA

Carrie Miller, Office of Child Protection

Audrey Shelby, Department of Children and Family Services

Rob Woolridge, Department of Children and Family Services

National Partners

Elizabeth Black, Public Knowledge

Sixto Cancel, Think of Us

Doreen Chapman, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Pauline Hill, Think of Us

Justin Lee, Casey Family Programs

Melandie Smith-Austin, Casey Family Programs

Russell Woods, Casey Family Programs



Visioning Sessions

Co-Creating a New Way Forward

What are visioning sessions?

Visioning sessions will occur across LA County in each supervisorial district and allow us to deeply engage with community residents, individuals with lived expertise in various systems, and grass roots, community-based organizations to achieve the following:

- Understand how communities define child and family wellbeing and what they need to ensure all children grow up safe in thriving families and strong communities;
- Identify priority recommendations for change and the barriers communities have encountered;
- Identify strengths and opportunities, and;
- Align, attach to, invest in, and amplify community-led efforts focused on child and family wellbeing.

How will visioning sessions work?

Thriving Families, Safer Children team members will work with community leads to co-create an agenda for their time together and follow the community leads' guidance about how to engage. The intent is not to impose a model for groups to use; instead, the team will rely on each group to lead the process using their own methods. Thriving Families, Safer Children team members be available to facilitate or co-facilitate discussions as needed, record ideas, and take notes to guide action. Visioning sessions can take place at regularly scheduled meetings or can be scheduled separately based on the community leads' preference.

What will happen with information gathered from the visioning sessions?

After the visioning sessions, Thriving Families, Safer Children team members will review ideas, mapping and analyzing the information gathered to inform community decision-making and shape next steps. For example, information collected in the initial visioning sessions may suggest other groups that should be included, partnerships needed, or institutional connections that should be made.

Visioning sessions held in a later phase may double back on key themes and deepen awareness of community differences or may identify new approaches and unexpected partners. The idea is to build on work that is already underway throughout the county, connecting community residents and groups to each other, aligning resources and co-creating with system partners in order to shape a shared understanding of the pathways to improved child and family wellbeing needed in communities across the county.

Reports and documentation will include an overview of findings, maps, data analysis, and detailed information from each of the visioning sessions. Information will be shared back with visioning session participants for feedback to ensure their ideas were accurately documented. Once reviewed and approved, findings will be shared broadly with LA County stakeholders.



What does the overall process look like?

- 1 Conduct Visioning Sessions
- 2 Create and Share Session Summary with Key Themes
- 3 Establish Teams Bridging Community Leaders with System Partners
- 4 Partner to Invest in, Implement, and Amplify Community Ideas and Strategies

What happens after?

Based on the summary of feedback and strategic opportunities, Thriving Families, Safer Children team members will work with community networks and agencies interested in creating a child and family wellbeing system to support them in implementing or amplifying their ideas and work. This includes connecting community efforts to local, state, and national partners from government, philanthropy, business, and non-profit sectors to advocate for changes to policy, increase funding and capacity, or other structural changes to how the system is currently configured.

This work will be guided by the grass-roots organizations and communities and the models and approaches they know work; Thriving Families, Safer Children will not impose a model or particular way the work should be done.



Key Stakeholders for Visioning Sessions

The Thriving Families, Safer Children team has identified the following list of key stakeholders and networks as a starting point to guide the engagement of groups that have related work already underway throughout LA County. This list is not intended to be inclusive of all child and family wellbeing efforts taking place in LA County; instead, it is designed as a starting point to be built upon as the visioning sessions move forward. Visioning sessions will be conducted in phases based on spread across LA County, diversity of perspectives, and capacity to engage.



Community Networks

Allies for Every Child
Best Start Communities
Black Lives Matter Los Angeles
Child Abuse Prevention Councils
Cielo - Comunidades Indigenas En Liderazgo
Community Ambassador Network
Community Coalition
Disability Advocacy Groups
Dolores Huerta Foundation
Empowerment Congress
Faith-based Networks - 3FN, Faith in Motion
Family Preservation Organizations
Friends of the Family
Healthy African American Families
Homeboy Industries
Homeless Family Solution System
LA LGBT Center
LGBTQ+ Coalition, Learning Network Office of Equity
LGBTQ+ DMH Workgroup
Long Beach LGBT Center

MCI Social Innovation Network
Neighborhood Action Councils (NAC)
Partnerships for Children South LA
Prevention and Aftercare Network CBOs
Public Health Violence Prevention Councils
Pukuu Cultural Community Services
Raise A Child
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy
UCLA Watts Institute for Leadership
USC - LGBTQ+ Student Center



Key Stakeholders for Visioning Sessions



Individuals Impacted by the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems

DCFS Teen Clubs Alliance, DCFS Director's Advisory Council, Journey House, TAY housing programs
Foster Youth and Alumni - Opportunity Youth Collaborative
Guardian Scholar Programs - community colleges, underground scholars, McKinney-Vento scholars, CALWorks
LA Dependency Lawyers Parent Partners
Parent Partners - Parents in Partnership, Father Strong, CoCo kinship group, DMH Parent Partners, FuturoNow Fatherhood Project
Probation Drop-in Center



Education

Advancement Project
Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools
Early Childhood Education - Childcare Alliance of Los Angeles, LA
Partnership for Early Childhood Investment
Koreatown Youth Community Center
LA County Office of Education
LA Unified School District
Para Los Ninos
UCLA Pritzker Center for Strengthening Children and Families



Key Stakeholders for Visioning Sessions



Justice

Children's Law Center
Youth Justice Coalition LA



Other Initiatives and Services

African-American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative
Child Care Resource Center
DCFS American Indian Unit
In-home services for Pregnant and Parenting Youth - to be identified
Mentoring Programs - 100 Black Men, Boys and Girls Challengers, Friends of the Children LA Fostering Resilience
My Brother's Keeper Initiative
Partnerships for Families
Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation - SHIELDS for Families, Exodus Recovery, Asian American Drug Abuse Prevention, Prototypes
Trauma Prevention Initiative



Investing in Community

Thriving Families, Safer Children values the importance of strengthening community capacity and ownership. To that end, community partners in this work will be afforded opportunities to receive financial investments. The investments are designed to support strategies communities are already implementing as well as providing capital to test new strategies and ideas that show promise for improving child, family, and community wellbeing.

Partners in the community will engage in a participatory budgeting process that allows them to choose how to allocate the funding based on their priorities, needs, and opportunities. Initial investments in 2021 will set the stage for further investments in future years from local and national philanthropic organizations with the hope of leveraging these investments to attract additional funding from other sectors such as government and business. Helping to create additional pathways to long-term sustainability is a critical part of Thriving Families, Safer Children.





Timeline and Key Milestones



Phase 1 | Exploration | January-June 2021

This phase focused on building the Thriving Families, Safer Children team, centering the voice and leadership of individuals with lived expertise, conducting a landscape analysis of various community networks across LA County including their major work efforts and recommendations to date, and creating the draft Community Co-Creation plan.



Phase 2 | Visioning Sessions | July-December 2021

This phase involves soliciting feedback on the draft Community Co-Creation plan from a variety of stakeholders, engaging community leaders from various networks and grass-roots organizations to conduct visioning sessions, analyzing and synthesizing information from the visioning sessions, and creating a summary highlighting key themes across community networks as well as partnership opportunities.



Phase 3 | Implementation | January 2022

This phase is the culmination of the previous phases and is focused on establishing teams that bridge community leaders with system partners to amplify their ideas, implement strategies, align resources, and create pathways for improved child and family wellbeing at the local, state, and national levels. It will be guided by communities and evolve based on needs and opportunities.



Thriving Families Safer Children



"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

James Baldwin