



Within Our Reach

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL OF SACRAMENTO RELEASES CHILD SAFETY FORWARD EVALUATION REPORT HIGHLIGHTING FINDINGS IN MULTI-YEAR EFFORT TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO REDUCE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ACROSS SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CALIF. – The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento (CAPC) today released their final evaluation report for the [Child Safety Forward](#) initiative funded by the Department of Justice (DOJ) with technical assistance led by Social Current. Child Safety Forward is a multi-year demonstration initiative, launched in October 2019 by the DOJ's Office for Victims of Crime, that engaged five sites across the United States in research, planning and implementation around strategies aimed at reducing child injury and fatality from abuse and neglect.

“We conducted a data review in 2015 based on recommendations from the [Within Our Reach](#) report by the federal Commission to Eliminate Child and Neglect Fatalities,” noted Sheila Boxley, president and CEO of CAPC. “Findings around limited data, leadership structure, and policies and practices supporting prevention efforts, led to the 2019 convening of multisystem leaders as part of a new Sacramento County Prevention Cabinet, charged with supporting our overarching vision of eliminating child abuse and neglect deaths and critical injuries by 2030.”

“The Prevention Cabinet leveraged the [collective impact model](#) to help shape the collaboration,” noted Michelle Callejas, director of the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS). “While Sacramento County has an existing foundation for successful multisystem partnerships, utilizing the collective impact approach allowed for greater capacity building, resources and a focus on increased data sharing to support the initiative. This model helped us show that child welfare alone cannot prevent child fatalities and injuries from maltreatment, but it is instead a collective responsibility across multiple systems.”

Child Safety Forward Sacramento's Prevention Cabinet now consists of more than 30 cross-systems leaders that come from public systems, private nonprofits, and the community who are developing and implementing a strategic plan focused on systems change. Key elements of the strategic plan include:

- **Creation of an operational structure to prioritize and facilitate planning and implementation.** The Prevention Cabinet established subcommittees to prioritize and assign activities to ensure collective responsibility and sustainability.

- **Centering community voice to create shared power.** The Prevention Cabinet intentionally slowed down the planning process in order to center community voice by developing and implementing a process for recruiting and onboarding Community Representatives. The intent was to establish shared power and ensured that the plan was responsive to community needs.
- **Leveraging and integrating countywide collaborative efforts to reduce duplication of efforts.** The Prevention Cabinet expanded its reach into other systems and existing collaboratives to broaden the capacity for systems change. This also increased the capacity to pool resources across systems, agencies, and organizations to coordinate efforts effectively.
- **Involving an external evaluator as a neutral technical assistance partner.** The Prevention Cabinet partnered with an external evaluator to gain technical assistance for decision-making and strategic planning from a neutral party. The external evaluator helped to uphold the best interests of the initiative over any specific agency or organization.

In July 2023, the Sacramento Child Safety Forward team secured a grant from California Accountable Communities for Health Initiative (CACHI) to continue to support their work and share their findings with the field through December 2025.

“The Sacramento Child Safety Forward team has focused their 10-year plan on lessons learned around implementing comprehensive and interconnected strategies to create sustainability systems change, engage community and cross-systems partners, and respond to emergent needs through data-driven decision-making,” noted Amy Templeman, senior director of the Within Our Reach team and child and family well-being at Social Current. “These efforts show what is possible when a jurisdiction commits to a public health approach to reducing child neglect and maltreatment fatalities.”

“Sacramento County’s Child Safety Forward team developed and implemented a true cross-system, multi-disciplinary approach to the work of reducing child fatalities,” noted Stacy Phillips, Victim Justice Program Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within the U.S. Department of Justice. “DOJ was proud to support this work and with the ongoing support of CACHI, looks forward to seeing the impact of lessons learned across the region and the state.”

In addition to CAPC, the other Child Safety Forward demonstration sites include: The Indiana Department of Health; St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut; Cook County Health in Illinois; and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Final reports from St. Francis Hospital and Cook County Health are available [here](#). The remaining final reports will be issued in the summer/fall of 2023. The technical assistance team is led by Within Our Reach, an office at Social Current.

About the Within Our Reach Office

[Within Our Reach](#) is an office established within Social Current (formerly the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities) to further the recommendations of the federal [Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities](#). The goal of Within Our Reach is to equip policymakers, practitioners, and advocates with the tools they need to fundamentally reform child welfare. Based on the commission’s national strategy, desired reform includes a proactive public health approach—a shared family and community responsibility to keep children safe. Within Our Reach is made possible through collaboration with Casey Family Programs, whose mission is to provide, improve, and prevent the need for foster care.

About Social Current

Social Current activates the power of the social sector by bringing together a dynamic network of human/social service organizations and partners. Leveraging the collective experience of the field and research, we energize and activate the sector and drive continuous evolution and improvement. Social Current amplifies the work of the social sector through collaboration, innovation, policy, and practice excellence. We offer access to intellectual capital of thousands of professionals within our network through peer groups, learning opportunities, collective advocacy, individualized consultation, tools, and resources that address the sector's most critical challenges.

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