



California Essentials for Childhood Initiative Framework

Vision:

All California children, youth, and their families thrive in safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments

Mission/Purpose:

To develop a common agenda across multiple agencies and stakeholders and align activities, programs, policies and funding so that all California children, youth and their families have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

Governance Structure:

The Steering Committee will re-visit the Governance Structure in six months (January 2015) to ensure it is serving the Essentials Initiative well.

1. Steering Committee:

A. Selection/Creation:

- Co-chaired by Co-backbone agencies
- 12 - 15 members
 - Years 1 – 2: Members appointed by Co-Backbone organization (Informed by the Steering Committee, CDC requirements, public health approach and existing child welfare structure)
 - Years 3 – 5: Members elected/appointed by Leadership Action Team
- Alternates: Steering Committee members may assign an alternate to serve when they are absent. Alternates must have decision making authority for their agency on the Steering Committee in order to maintain the Initiative's momentum.

B. Membership:

- Steve Wirtz, Co-chair, Safe and Active Communities Branch, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Sarah Rock, Co-chair, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
- Sheila Boxley – Prevent Child Abuse
- Kris Calvin - American Academy of Pediatrics-California
- Rachel Davis – Prevention Institute
- Mary Lou Fulton – CA Endowment
- Patsy Hampton – WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention
- Tom Herman – California Department of Education
- Diane Kellegrew - Strengthening Families representative
- Gail Kennedy – UCSF Cochrane Collaboration
- Moira Kenny – First 5 County Commission Association
- Camille Maben - First 5 California
- Jahmal Miller - Office of Health Equity, CDPH
- Lisa Pion-Berlin – Parents Anonymous
- Ben Rubin – Children Now
- Jme McClain -- Policy Link
- Hector Sanchez-Flores – National Compadres Network

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C. Role/responsibility: Executive planning and policy body

- Develop vision, common agenda and strategic direction
- Actively participate in Leadership Action Team and Work Groups
- Oversee and guide implementation efforts
- Monitor progress and outcomes
- Promote mutually reinforcing activities among participating and related agencies, organizations, communities and individuals
- Mobilize community and activities
- Build public will
- Advance policy

D. Decision-making process:

- Consensus where possible; Majority vote if necessary
- Awareness of Co-backbone agency's governmental roles and responsibilities (e.g., no legislative lobbying)

E. Meeting Schedule: Every 1-2 months (in-person or by phone) through 2014; action oriented meetings as needed thereafter

2. Leadership Action Team:

A. Selection/creation:

- 30-40 members (including Steering Committee members)
 - Year 1: Members appointed by Co-Backbone organization (informed by CDC requirements, public health approach and existing child welfare structure)
 - New members nominated by Steering Committee
- Membership to be dynamic based on the needs of the Initiative strategic priorities and reflective of California's diverse population and groups

B. Membership: Updated membership based on November 14, 2014 meeting

C. Role/responsibility:

- Review, refine and ratify vision, common agenda and strategic plan
- Set strategic priority area outcomes, form Work Groups, and develop work plans (sub-committee structure)
- Lead and actively participate in Work Groups
- Promote mutually reinforcing activities among participating and related agencies, organizations, communities and individuals
- Build public will
- Advance policy

D. Decision-making process:

- Consensus where possible; Majority vote if necessary
- Awareness of Co-backbone agency's governmental roles and responsibilities (e.g., no legislative lobbying)

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E. Meeting Schedule: In person - Quarterly

3. Co- Backbone Support Organizations: CDPH and CDSS

A. Roles/Responsibilities:

- CDPH has primary staffing role for the Essentials Initiative (i.e., Backbone, Committees, Work groups) and responsibility for grant deliverables and reports
- CDSS has co-leadership role in planning, implementing and evaluating the Essentials Initiative
- Convene and coordinate activities
- Ensure alignment with broader state Agency policies and procedures
- Guide vision and strategy
- Provide a forum for open communication, dialogue and productive joint thinking and work; build trust
- Support aligned activities
- Establish shared measurement practices
- Build public will
- Advance policy
- Mobilize funding

Guiding Principles (Proposed)

1. Ensuring all children and families have Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments will strengthen families, prevent and reduce child maltreatment, promote healthy child growth and well-being, and allow children to reach their full potential as happy, self-sufficient, socially engaged and productive citizens.
2. Solving large scale, complex social problems requires a highly effective level of sustained collaboration across multiple sectors aligned to a broad common agenda and conducting strategic and mutually reinforcing activities (e.g., “collective impact” approach).
3. Accomplishing Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments requires changes in multiple systems with a focus on broad social and economic determinants, social norms, and governmental and institutional policies, as well as individual and family level change.
4. Service systems and programs should be based on the best available evidence (i.e., research, experiential and contextual).
5. Service systems and programs should be culturally and linguistically appropriate for their audiences.
6. Efforts to make improvements in overall child health and well-being should include specific actions to address and reduce inequalities/disparities which are avoidable, unjust and preventable.