A Note From FaCT’s New Program Manager Scott Burdick

I have been very fortunate to have an opportunity to work with Orange County Children and Family Services for over 20 years. During this time, I have worked across various programs that have help to repair families that have been negatively impacted by child abuse and neglect. I am so excited to now be a part of the FaCT Program, which has had such an impact over the years, strengthening families and preventing child abuse.

As we close out the 2015-2016 contract year, I am very excited to lead the FaCT Program into a new chapter. This year we were able to add three new Family Resource Centers to our network, begin tackling the hurdle of immigration that so many of our families face through our DACA outreach and new partnerships, add new services at all of our FRCs, and host our annual conference for over 200 participants.

Moving forward into 2016-2017, I am looking forward to being a part of the powerful collaboration that is the FaCT network, and taking part in the regional discussion surrounding the efforts of supporting and strengthening our families, our communities, and our children. FaCT’s success lies in our relationships and partnerships. It is an exciting time as we embark on this next year together, as the opportunities to have a positive impact in the lives of the children and families that we serve are limitless!

The 2016 FaCT Annual Conference Drives Our Network Forward Into a New Year

Over 200 participants arrived at Delhi Center in Santa Ana on May 20th to join us for the 2016 FaCT Annual Conference, “Deepening Our Impact”. After drawing motivation from Every Monday Matters founder and CEO Matthew Emerzian’s keynote, we engaged in conversations around the issues of hunger, homelessness, mental health and substance abuse, and violence among families and communities. We also learned new ways to utilize data and to truly integrate collective impact and diversity into our work. As stressors on our families continue to grow, we are committed to better understanding these challenges and their impacts on children and families, as well as equipping the caring professionals on the front line with more resources to help.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and to the numerous presenters who donated their time to ensuring our conference was a success!
This year FaCT was the recipient of two grants to conduct outreach to the 141,000 residents in Orange County believed to be DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) or citizenship eligible. These grants gave us the opportunity to provide trainings for the staff at our family resource centers (FRCs), conduct legal clinics, and form new relationships to support families facing the challenges of immigration. Two of our family resource centers stood out in conducting this effort. The La Habra FRC provided application assistance and legal referrals to 75 residents potentially eligible for citizenship, and Oak View FRC provided assistance and referrals to 151 residents potentially eligible for DACA. For their achievements each center was awarded $2,000 towards their work at their respective FRCs.

The FaCT network of Family Resource Centers provided 459 Orange County residents with assistance and legal referrals for DACA application and 163 with assistance and legal referrals for citizenship application!

Supporting Our Immigrants

The caring and trained professionals that work at FaCT FRCs see the challenges facing families in Orange County communities every day. Here are just a few examples of the critical work being done by our FRC staff.

Community Health Enrichment Collaborative (CHEC) FRC

Diana came to the CHEC Family Resource Center expressing that she had been feeling depressed, and that communication with her son had become difficult and strenuous. We were able to provide Diana with counseling, parenting education, family support services, case management, and Out of School Time Youth Services for her son. These services as well as support from our wonderful staff allowed Diana the opportunity and the time to focus on her physical and mental health. Her son became enrolled in a children's art therapy group, and we were able to supplement our support by connecting them to other health care and community resources. Diana spoke highly of the CHEC FRC in saying "The family resource center has a lot of resources... I feel like I am at home and I am comfortable." It makes us proud to lend a helping hand to our community when we see a success story like Diana's.

La Habra FRC

Jessica came to the La Habra Family Resource Center after being notified that she was being evicted from her apartment. She had only 60 days to find a new home and she was overwhelmed and in tears as she first met with our family support specialist. After we walked her through the housing and support services available to her and her family she became calm and began expressing some hope and determination. We were able to provide her with a gas card for travel to and from work, a gift card that helped keep her family healthy and fed, and a three-day motel voucher to ensure she had a place to stay. Our family support specialist aided Jessica in calling several shelters and apartments she was interested in. After receiving support Jessica began researching and contacting shelters and housing services on her own as she stayed in consistent contact with our staff. Mercy House was able to provide her and her family with an apartment and they are now safe and stable. She expressed her gratitude in saying "I am in a better place and I would not have been able to do it on my own without the support I received from the family resource center during these difficult times. My children and I can finally rest because we have our own place to come home to." We were so glad to help this family find a safe place to call home!

Minnie Street FRC

Margret had been experiencing emotional and psychological abuse from her husband for the last 15 years. The latest incident turned so ugly that he was arrested for felony domestic violence and child endangerment. Following the arrest, Margret found herself in complete despair. She felt that she could not move forward without her husband and quickly fell into a severe depression. In response to the family conflict, her children began acting out and she began losing confidence in her role as a mother. We linked Margret and her family to long-term counseling and Margret began our Personal Empowerment program. She found it extremely difficult to share her experiences with the group, but slowly she began to open up and inspire the other women. She began taking significant steps in regaining her self-confidence and self-worth and overcoming her depression. Today, Margret and her family regularly attend our Family Fun Nights and she just recently completed our Women's Seminar, a follow up program for our Personal Empowerment Program.
29 Young Women Become Belles of the Ball

FaCT sent 29 young women to Orangewood Foundation’s and Girls Inc.’s Belle of Ball event! The Belle of the Ball, hosted by Orange Coast College, provided them with fun and free workshops on empowerment and self-esteem as well as a free dress, shoes, and accessories for their upcoming prom or graduation. They also received one-on-one make-up tips. Oak View Family Resource Center sent four members of their youth action council, each of which were chosen in recognition of their volunteer time at the family resource center and to the Oak View community. One Youth Action Council Member, Maritza Tlacnchi, expressed “I really enjoyed going to the Belle of the Ball and I am so grateful to the family resource center for choosing me to take part in this great event. I was able to get a beautiful dress, get my hair and make-up done and I got some really nice jewelry.”

Thanks to Orangewood Foundation and Girls Inc. for enabling us to provide this opportunity to our FRCs and our communities.

South Orange County FRC Tour

The FaCT team got a sneak peak at the early stages of the Costa Mesa Family Resource Center, some of the plans for a new location for the South Orange County FRC, and a glance of just some of the amazing work being done by the CHEC FRC! We are excited to see the expansion in South Orange County!

A New Approach to a Healthier Community

Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian recently unveiled the Melinda Hoag Smith Center for Healthy Living, a unique collaborative endeavor comprising of many of Orange County’s leading providers of health, mental health, and spiritual services. The new center incorporates Hoag’s Mental Health Center and Pastoral Care programs, SOS Children and Family Health Center, and the Costa Mesa Family Resource Center with a united goal of becoming a centralized, one-stop location for a wide array of community health services and programs. The new collaborative endeavor is designed to serve Costa Mesa, which has the third highest rate of poverty in Orange County. “We have these large pockets of poverty around us, which has created tremendous inequality in wellness,” said Michaell Rose, director of community health at Hoag, “The current system is fragmented. If we send people up to Santa Ana, they may never get up there.” FaCT is proud to support one of our newest family resource centers, the Costa Mesa Family Resource Center, as they become an integral part of this new approach to building healthier communities.
Families and Communities Together (FaCT) is a network of 15 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) located throughout Orange County’s highest-risk communities providing essential family support services, education, and resources. Each FRC is a family-friendly, community-based site that provides access to comprehensive prevention and treatment-oriented social, educational, and health services for all families, including birth, blended, kinship, adoptive, and foster families. FRCs serve as vehicles for engaging local residents and community organizations in the identification and resolution of community concerns related to raising healthy children. Every FRC is unique to its community; services are offered by multicultural and multilingual staff that reflect the surrounding neighborhoods and the families they serve.

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, we are proud to be supporting the following FRCs:

ANAHEIM
Anaheim Harbor Family Resource Center
Family Oasis Family Resource Center

COSTA MESA
Costa Mesa Family Resource Center

GARDEN GROVE
Magnolia Park Family Resource Center

HUNTINGTON BEACH
Oak View Family Resource Center

LA HABRA
La Habra Family Resource Center

ORANGE
Friendly Center – Orange Family Resource Center
El Modena Family Resource Center

PLACENTIA
Friendly Center – Placentia Family Resource Center

SANTA ANA
Corbin Family Resource Center
Minnie Street Family Resource Center

SOUTH COUNTY
South Orange County Family Resource Center
Community Health Enrichment Collaborative (CHEC) Family Resource Center

STANTON
Stanton Family Resource Center

WESTMINSTER
Westminster Family Resource Center

Core FRC Services
Offered at all FRCs

• Counseling
• Parenting Education
• Family Support Services
• Domestic Violence Personal Empowerment Program
• Information and Referral Services
• Comprehensive Case Management Team Services
• Out of School Time Youth Programs
• Time-Limited Family Reunification Family Fun Activities
• Adoption & Promotion Services

Additional FRC Services
Offered at participating FRCs

• Family Health & Wellness
• Family Economics & Self-Sufficiency
• Child Development Activities
• Emergency Assistance
• Family Literacy & Education
• Child Development Activities
• Emergency Assistance
• Family Literacy & Education

Our Vision
Is that all our children grow up in stable, nurturing families and safe, supportive communities which promote healthy development and provide opportunities for children, youth, and adults to achieve their full potential as caring, responsible, and productive members of society.

Our Mission
Is to identify and promote promising and best practices, train, fund, and advocate for Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to be Orange County’s community-based platform for prevention activities and family support services.

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