Families and Communities Together (FaCT) Orange County works to strengthen prevention and intervention services designed to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. The FaCT network of 15 Family Resource Centers serves more than 15,000 residents of Orange County each year through services that promote stronger family systems. More than 82 community partner agencies participate in this network.

Introducing Ericka Danczak, FaCT’s New Program Manager

We are pleased to introduce Ericka Danczak as FaCT’s new Program Manager. We welcome and look forward to her expertise and leadership in moving our network forward.

I thrive on the challenge of delivering high quality, cost-effective services and programs that are responsive to the needs of our communities. As a manager with the County of Orange for over ten years, I have worked in programs dedicated to serving vulnerable populations including older adults, caregivers, veterans and military families, persons with disabilities, and families in poverty. In addition to my experience with direct service programs, I also look forward to sharing my valuable experience in project management, program implementation, contract negotiation, policy writing, finance, community engagement, and team leadership.

I was fortunate to attend the annual FaCT staff retreat in June where I met an amazing team of talented individuals dedicated to strengthening families in Orange County. It was a truly inspiring day reviewing the accomplishments of the past year and focusing on our priorities moving forward. I am thrilled to be joining the FaCT team as the new Program Manager and excited to be a part of the leadership of this network that provides support and strength to families and communities throughout our county!

Several indicator reports are pointing to increasing rates of child poverty. The 22nd Annual Conditions of Children Report, issued by Orange County Children’s Partnership, indicated that nearly one in two school children were eligible for free and reduced lunch programs. The Orange County Community Indicators Report says that 17% of Orange County children live in poverty, and that a slow rate of housing development as compared to other states with high job growth is impacting housing costs in the region. When factoring in this rise in the cost of housing, the Conditions of Children Report states that the child poverty rate in Orange County increases from 17% to 21.8%. The challenge of housing, increasing rates of poverty, and the rapidly changing landscapes of immigration, health care, and mental health and substance abuse services has Orange County’s most vulnerable facing an environment of instability. From numerous studies we know that this instability can and will lead to higher rates of child abuse and neglect in our communities. For over 20 years, FaCT Family Resource Centers have continued to be a crucial part of the answer to this instability and pillars of strength and hope in their communities.

Family Resource Centers will continue adapting, advocating for Orange County’s children and families, providing high quality services, and meeting this rising tide of new challenges with compassion, strength, and support.
Nationwide nearly 1.5 million high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year. In recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness month in February, the Costa Mesa Family Resource Center, in partnership with Human Options and the Hoag Center for Healthy Living, hosted the *Love Shouldn't Hurt Teen and Parent Conference*. In addition, the Minnie Street Family Resource Center hosted its own Teen and Parent Conference in June in partnership with Human Options and Institute for Healthcare Advancement. Both of these free events focused on helping teens identify unhealthy and abusive relationship behaviors and attitudes. Parents attended workshops in which they were able to learn more about how to keep their children safe, and some of the difficulties for teens in navigating relationships and dating in a rapidly changing technological social landscape. Both conferences ended with an activity in which both parents and teens worked to strengthen their bonds and practice effective communication.

Both conferences showcased collaboration at its best to deliver fun and informative events to ensure teens and parents in their communities were able to effectively navigate love and relationships.

The new FaCT promotional video, “My Family Resource Center”, was premiered at the May 2017 FaCT Annual Conference. In the last year, Orange County had over 30,000 child abuse reports, with over 5,000 confirmed cases. We know that adverse childhood experiences, like child abuse and neglect, lead to lifelong impacts on health and opportunity. Family Resource Centers and their nine core services are essential in the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Orange County. This video captures how Family Resource Centers address the needs of our families and children.
Oak View FRC

Maddison arrived at our Family Resource Center seeking counseling services for her 12-year-old son. She let us know that her son was diagnosed with depression, anxiety, and autism. Her son, Brian, had consistently faced bullying at school and was known to run away from school to avoid facing his bullies. In addition, Maddison’s 16-year old daughter has diagnosed anxiety, and her 9-year old daughter has diagnosed depression and anxiety as well. In dealing with her own anxiety, Maddison was having difficulty being supportive of her children. She disclosed that while she tries to remain positive she often times feels overwhelmed with their situations. In response to the much needed support she was very receptive to all of the services and actively connected with all of the recommended resources that we were able to provide her. Maddison and her children are now fully participating in counseling services. She even began volunteering with Oak View FRC’s Community Engagement Action Council! Her oldest daughter connected with her high school’s Transition Workability Program, and is eager to develop new skills and begin working.

Minnie Street FRC

Renee is single mother who came to our FRC struggling with domestic violence, homelessness, financial instability, health problems, transportation, and unemployment. After her referral from CalWORKs Family Stabilization (FS) program Renee began working with our FS Family Support Specialist to establish a safety plan and enrolled in our Personal Empowerment Program designed to empower participants to break the cycle of violence. FS helped Renee into a motel where she stayed for three weeks. During that time, Renee’s car was broken into with several items stolen. She feared that her abusive partner was behind the act and entered Human Option’s shelter where she received therapy and medical treatment. FS sponsored her vehicle’s registration, window repair, and provided gas cards and the shelter provided a tune up and smog check to regain her transportation. The shelter along with OCAPICA prepared her to enter the workforce again. Currently, Renee and her children are in transitional housing for up to six months where she can save money and seek permanent employment and housing. Multiple agencies touched Renee’s life to guide her family to security. We are proud of the work our staff and our FRC were able to accomplish for Renee.

Stanton FRC

The last month of our Out of School Time (OST) Youth Program, provided by Camp Fire Inland Southern California, has been a fun and successful one! Recently our kids thoughtfully prepared handmade gifts for Moms and Dads to celebrate them on Mother’s and Father’s Days. Camp Fire has focused heavily on literacy with our OST students. The library at the Stanton FRC has grown into an inviting and beautifully decorated space where children feel comfortable and ready to learn. Every student’s reading level has seen significant improvement over the past few months. A few weeks ago, Camp Fire began an out loud reading of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. This classic piece of children’s literature is filled with descriptive text that carries us through a world of fantasy and adventure has been especially popular among our OST students. To commemorate the end of the OST school year and the finale of the book, the children were treated to the ultimate Charlie and Chocolate Factory party where we enjoyed watching the classic film and numerous treats! It is such a privilege being a part of these children’s lives and being able to support their parents.

Supporting the Front Line: Upcoming Trainings

We are ecstatic to be planning a full year of training and learning for our network of Family Resource Centers in the 2017-2018 fiscal year!

This year will begin with an exciting new collaboration between FaCT and Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) to present three regional trainings covering south, central, and north Orange County. This intimate and localized approach will educate our FRC staff on how they can help their families navigate OC Links resources and services. An OCHCA OC Links expert will guide them through different options on real cases!

Lined up for this year will also be trainings on social media and data integrity, mental health crisis intervention, cultural competency, and much more to come!
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 2016-2017 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

**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.