Moving Forward Together

After what seemed like one of the wettest winter seasons on record for Orange County, we are now well into spring with the wild flowers blooming and butterflies migrating. The substantial rainfall caused plants to thrive, giving insects plenty of food to grow and transform. The striking thing about this amazing ecology is not only the magnitude, but that the migration is moving rapidly and directionally.

The spring seems to be our “busy season” for FaCT. Like the butterfly migration, several projects and initiatives are moving simultaneously with speed and intention. Our Data and Evaluation Team is participating in two research projects, which will ultimately inform our work and help with future programmatic decisions. The FaCT Family Resource Centers are participating in child abuse prevention activities for “Blue Ribbon Month”. And, our Conference Planning Committee is putting together our Annual FaCT Conference set for May 16, 2019 with this year’s theme entitled, “REFRAME”, where professionals will come together and think about how to view our work from different perspectives.

With so many moving parts, our challenge is to ensure that we are intentional and directional by continuing to stay focused on our mission of strengthening our community through supporting families and creating opportunities for children and youth to achieve their full potential. It is our hope that the efforts we are making today, will have a transforming impact on our communities tomorrow.

The 2019 FaCT Annual Conference Keynote Speaker

Casey Gwinn, Esq.
President of Alliance for HOPE International

Whether as the City Attorney of San Diego or as the President of Alliance for HOPE International, Casey built a career as an advocate for changing the way our communities deal with trauma and a supporter of how the power of HOPE can transform lives and communities.

Join Casey at the 2019 FaCT Annual Conference to learn how the hope that you bring to your community is making a difference.

Read his full bio at FaCTOC.org/FaCTConference
Clementine, Orange County’s brand new food trolley made possible by a partnership between Community Action Partner of Orange County (CAPOC), Pimco Cares, and OC Food Bank, made its community debut at El Modena Family Resource Center on February 1, 2019.

With its bright colors and friendly and welcoming charm, Clementine is doing more than distributing food. The mission for this mobile food trolley is to help reduce the stigma tied to asking for help to feed your family.

In its first month distributing food, Clementine made the Westminster Family Resource Center one of its stops to serve local families. Clementine will be at the Westminster Family Resource Center the fourth Friday of each month, allowing 50-60 families to “shop” for free groceries. Community partners will also be on site each month to provide resources and support.

Be on the look out for Clementine as the trolley spreads food and encouragement throughout Orange County!

The next door neighbor called the police when she heard Christina screaming. Officers arrived to find Christina and her boyfriend in a physical altercation in front of their then one-year-old daughter. After he was arrested and Christina was granted an emergency restraining order, she was referred to the La Habra Family Resource Center from the County of Orange Social Services Agency’s Differential Response (DR) program.

Christina had been reliant on her former boyfriend’s income. With no work experience, a daughter to provide for, and still recovering physically, emotionally, and mentally from her abusive relationship, Christina was struggling to balance a job and fulfill the role of single mother. She reached out to her supervisor at work who connected her to a local church. She became very close to the church community and began attending regularly. The community surrounded and supported Christina, and even gave her a car to help her get around.

She eagerly participated in any service she could to keep herself distracted and avoid going back to her perpetrator. Through our Personal Empowerment Program, Christina was able to identify as a survivor and began to recognize that her former relationship was not healthy. Our DR Family Support Specialist and counselors worked closely with Christina and her daughter to address the trauma and presence of violence in their lives and home. In addition, we were able to provide her with bus passes, gift cards for food, and an emergency hygiene kit. She will still often calls the FRC to ask questions or for resources.

Christina’s story shows how important partnerships between faith communities, public agencies and community organizations are in helping people find stability and make positive strides towards self-sufficiency.
Exciting New Additions to the FaCT Training Program

On January 30th, FaCT hosted a training on Hostile Situation Awareness for over 60 of our FaCT FRC staff and partner organizations. Working with vulnerable communities, staff at community organizations or at our FRCs should be aware of potential safety issues and plan accordingly. Being prepared and taking preventative steps to avoiding a situation that may become hostile is an essential skill and lesson for our network.

Connie Schonert, a Supervising Probation Officer with the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, gave a comprehensive training with valuable lessons and takeaways. She shared that having organizational policies for handling aggressive behaviors, ensuring that they are reviewed and updated, and making them known to staff is vital to a safe and secure workplace. Whether out in the field or in the office, having a plan and being mentally prepared allows your brain to make quick decisions when adrenaline is pumping.

The full training was filmed and edited as an e-learn and is now available to the entire FaCT network. The addition of e-learns is part of a new initiative to bolster the FaCT Training Program. While live trainings are often limited by participant’s schedules and room capacities, the addition of e-learns to FaCT’s training program makes crucial information available to more staff members on their own time.
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 2018-2019 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

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**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
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- Emergency Assistance
- Family Literacy & Education

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**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.