

South King County Community Network

Focus: Reduce Child Abuse and Neglect, Domestic Violence and Youth Violence

Community Theory of Change: Children exposed to adverse childhood experiences, such as domestic violence, are at much higher risk of becoming the next generation of abusers and/or victims. Yet, many of these children go on to lead healthy lives. Research¹ tells us that by taking a strength-based approach, both adult and child victims can be helped to build resilience and, thereby, create protective factors that break the cycle of abuse. Children's futures are greatly enhanced by facilitating their relationships with other significant people in their lives. Uncovering children's specific needs will help improve the community responses.

What the Network expects to see that will let them know about results

- Changes in child/parent skills, knowledge, sense of connection, access to services

- Changes in service providers to increase focus on resilience

- #'s of agencies involved in collaborative efforts, knowledge of service system, level of trust among agencies

- Alignment of vision & goals to design and implement improvements to responses to children

- #'s of citizens who report being prepared to intervene for children

Next steps, Network learning, Recommendations/ Policy Actions:

Collaborative Strategies:

- Work collaboratively to design & implement a culturally relevant, strength-based system of care for children exposed to DV by increasing protective factors.
- Work with targeted audiences to increase awareness of negative impact of family violence and how communities can make a difference, including youth audiences to build awareness of healthy relationships.
- Engage professionals across disciplines and sectors to expand "best practice" services, including parenting programs & resilience approaches
- Conduct a "safety and accountability audit" to improve the ways batterer intervention providers educate batterers on the impact of their violence on children.
- Partner with cities to Review Community Efforts in responding to children exposed to DV & other ACEs.
- Develop SKCCN Board so they can make informed decisions about focus areas and allocation of resources.
- Purchase high quality staffing and technical assistance supports for community involvement, public awareness communications, assessment, analysis, facilitation, contracts management, and other critical organizational needs.

Short Term Child and Family

- Increase child safety
- Increase parenting skills for offending and non-offending parents
- Strengthen families by increasing their resilience
- Reduce perpetration of DV

Measurable change expected to occur within one or two years and that with sufficient scale or duration may be logically related to a long term result (can be affected by a program or project)

Community Results

- Improve community and system response to children exposed to DV and other adverse childhood experiences
- Increase community agreement on system of care for children
- Increase implementation of recommended actions to respond to children exposed to DV.
- Increase collaboration among systems and service providers to improve the responsiveness of services for children and families at risk of ACEs.
- Increase local capacity to modify public policy and to facilitate greater coordination and flexibility in the use of funds by state and local services.

Community Data Network is observing

- DCFS Child abuse and neglect reports
- City domestic violence reports
- Communities Count
- Bilingual/ESL education reports (languages spoken at home)

