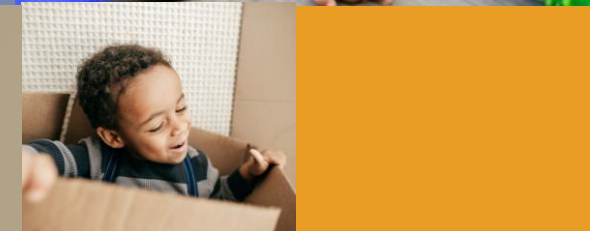


Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention Meeting

October 19, 2023



Housekeeping



Interpretación en español: haga clic en el globo blanco en la parte inferior de la pantalla con la etiqueta "Interpretation." Luego haga clic en "Spanish" y seleccione "Mute original audio."



ASL interpreters have been "Spotlighted" and live closed captioning is active.



This meeting is being recorded.



Materials are available at: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start/state-icc-on-early-intervention-overview/>.



Submit written comments via email to: earlstart@dds.ca.gov.

Housekeeping – Interpretation Services

● **ASL INTERPRETERS**

ASL interpreters will be spotlighted during the meeting.

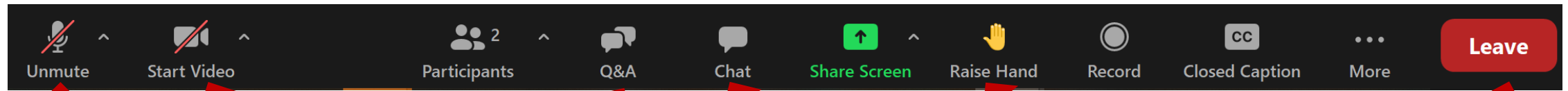
● **WHEN SPEAKING**

Please introduce yourself by stating your full name and who you represent.

● **PLEASE SPEAK SLOWLY**

To support our interpreters with accurately interpreting the information discussed during the meeting, please speak slowly.

Zoom Tips



Unmute mic only when it's your turn to speak



Turn your webcam on/off

All attendees can type questions/comments in the Q&A

Chat is available for Workgroup members only

Workgroup members can raise your hand when you want to speak

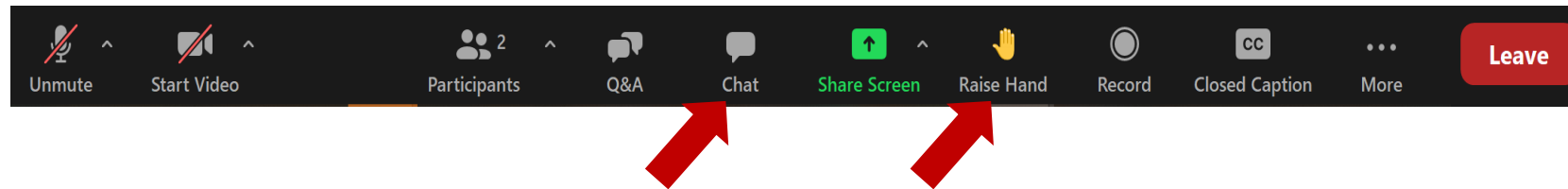
Leave the webinar at the end of the meeting



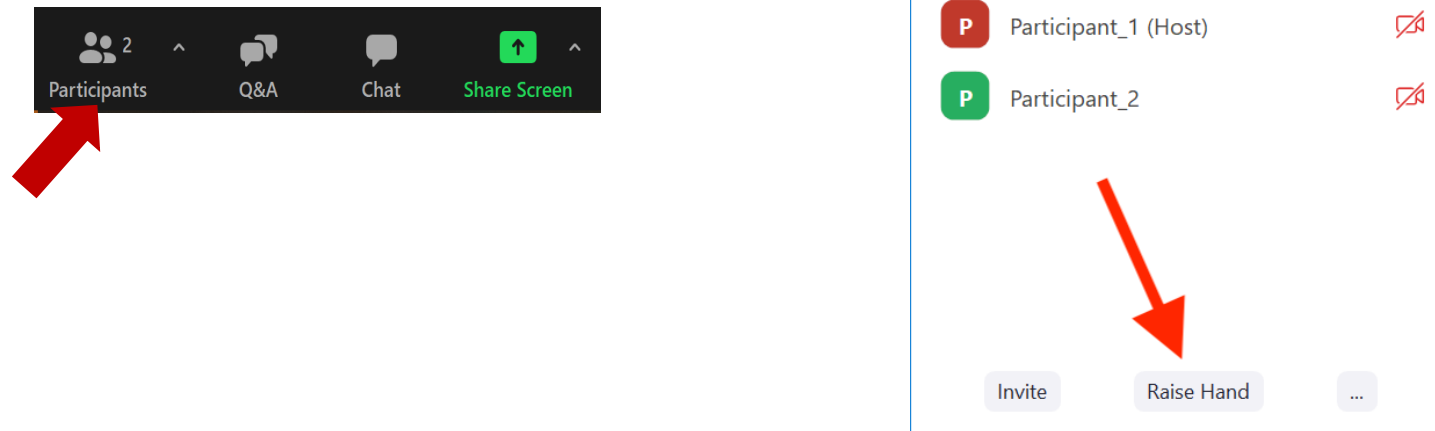
- For attendees, your video and microphone will not be available
- You will only see/hear workgroup members, DDS staff and presenters on screen
- Features will vary based on the version of Zoom and device you are using
- Some Zoom features are not available for telephone-only participants

Providing Comments – Appointed Members

Appointed Members: Please use the “Chat” or “Raise Hand” to comment



You may need to click on “Participants” and a new window will open where you can “Raise Hand”



Agenda

- I. Opening: Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Review ICC Mission and Purpose
- III. ICC Council Reports

Break

- IV. SAE Awarded Projects
- V. Committee Reports
- VI. Public Input
- VII. Recap and Closing Remarks

ICC MISSION AND PURPOSE

To promote and enhance a coordinated family service system for infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years, who have, or are at risk for having a developmental delay or disability, and their families, by utilizing and encouraging a family-centered approach, family-professional partnerships, and interagency collaboration



ICC Council Reports

BREAK

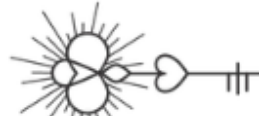
Presentation

SAE Awarded Projects

Ardena Bartlett,
Access Nonprofit Center

Season Goodpasture,
Acorns to Oak Trees

ACCESS NONPROFIT CENTER



Parenting Black Children Parent LEADership & Advocacy Parenting Black Babies

Ardena Bartlett, MPA

Parent, Founder & Executive Director

VISION

DECREASE DISPARITIES AND INCREASE ACCESS OF BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICANS TO INFORMATION AND RESOURCES SO THAT BLACK FAMILIES CAN LIVE & THRIVE IN HOME, COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL

ACCESS NONPROFIT CENTER

Parenting Black Children
Parent LEADership & Advocacy
Parenting Black Babies

PARTNERS IN EQUITY

SERVICE ACCESS AND EQUITY GRANT

Recipient

2020, 2021, 2022, 2023



Ardena Bartlett, MPA
Parent, Founder & Executive Director

She is a proud parent of a Beautiful Black Boy on the Autism Spectrum served by the Regional Center and is well aware of the needs of raising a child with Autism and developmental differences.

Parent, Advocate, Founder, & Executive Director Access Nonprofit Center where the mission is to decrease disparities and increase access for Black families at-risk or experiencing developmental delays and/or disabilities.

She soon realized, that other Black parents experience the struggle of gaining equitable access for their children to receive services from community and public education. She began attending Special Education, Autism, and Developmental Disability trainings so that she would be equipped to empower her community of parents to gain access to this hidden information.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences, emphasis in Economics from University of California at Irvine(UCI), and a Master's of Public Administration from University of Southern California (USC).



She has served the local school district's special education department, was member of Clients Served board Committee of the San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center, participates in California Department of Developmental Services workgroups, member of the Pomona Valley NAACP, contributes to African American Infant Maternal Mortality initiative, and First 5 Help Me Grow workgroups.

She resides in the San Gabriel Valley with her family and enjoys discovering new opportunities for her son to help him and other children Live & Thrive in Home Community & School.

My Early Intervention Story

**Proud Parent
Beautiful Black Boy
Autism Spectrum
Served by SGPRC**

Originally Diagnosed at Laterman RC at 2 1/2 yrs old

Before Diagnosis

Preschool would call every other day giving me a challenging report

Preschool parent/teacher conferences every week

Dismissed from 3 preschools and/or was refused acceptance

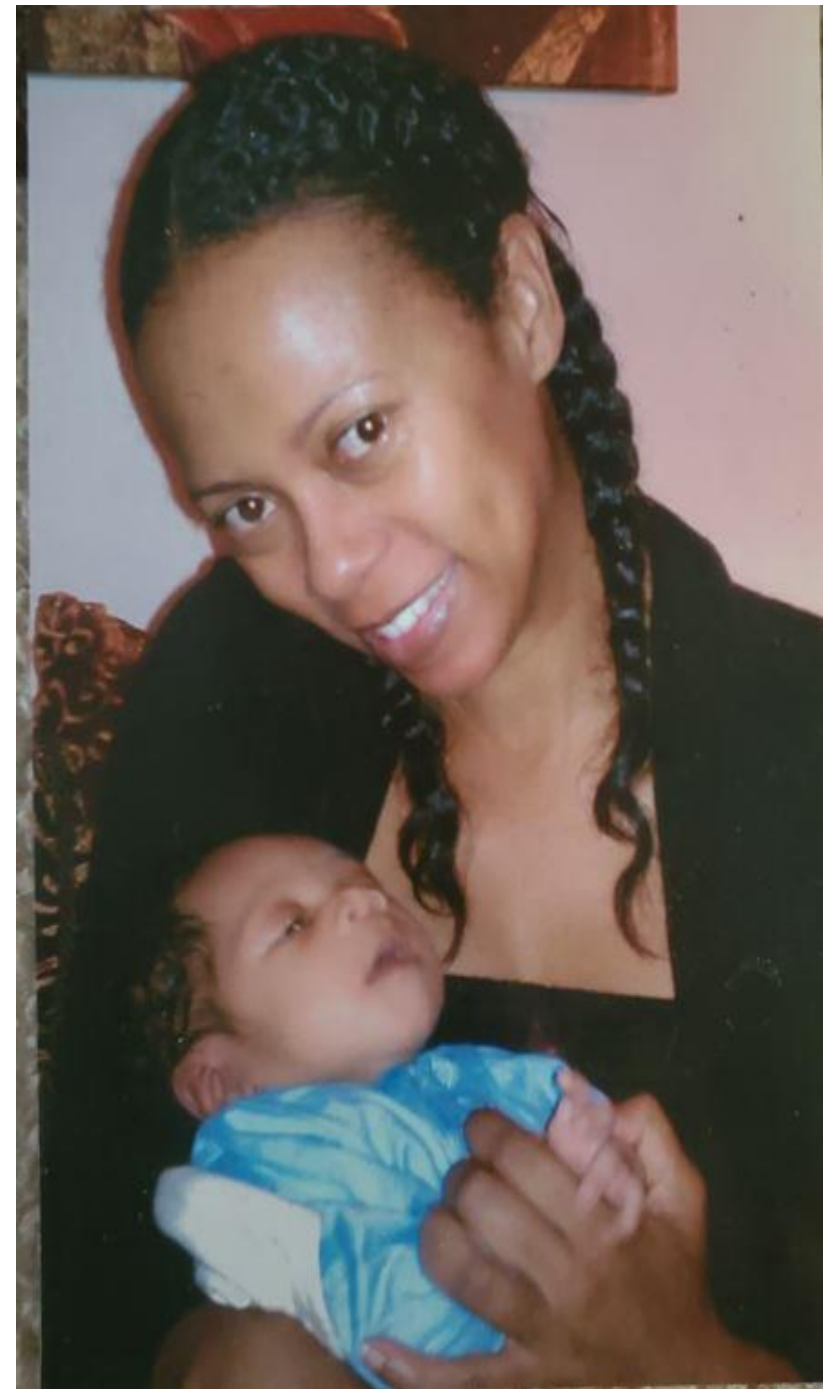
At 1 year old a pediatrician asked about behavior but did not offer information

Never received any information about R.C from any system of care

DIVINE INTERVENTION LEAD ME TO EARLY INTERVENTION



**The Regional Center
SAVED MY LIFE!!!!
HELP TO IMPROVE MY SON'S OUTCOMES**



After Diagnosis: E/I & Current Services

Early Intervention Services:

- for a few weeks before he turned 3 he received speech services in the school and immediately things changed.

Confusion at 3 year old

- Didn't understand what was next
- 6 months of silence

In Meantime:

- Enrolled SPED pre-school But only half day provided
- Concurrently enrolled in private preschool in next city. During lunch pick up and drop.

Later

- 1 on 1 Aide to join him at Preschool
- ABA services
- Social Skills & Community Integration



SGPRC - First Responders Event

Parenting Black Babies

Screening Education & Referral Improvement Initiative



Black Babies

experiencing or at-risk of
Developmental Delays and Disabilities

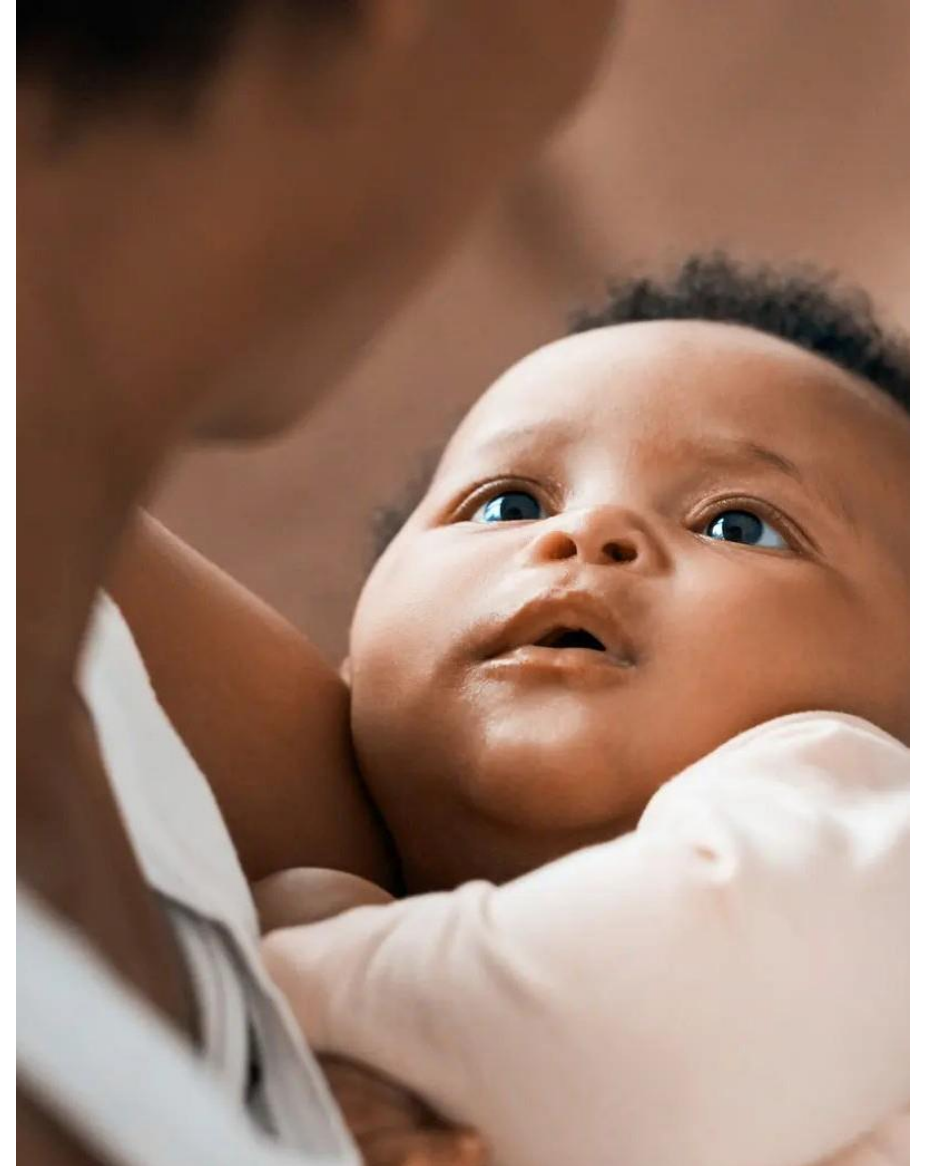
Promoting Systemic Change & Early Intervention
through promoting access to Developmental
Screenings, Parent Education & Referral Systems

Special emphasis on Black families experiencing
NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit)

**Village Fund part of the African American Infant Maternal Mortality Initiative -
funded the Discovery Research conducted in 2022**

**Parenting Black Babies partner with Carousel Development to provide preliminary
Screenings & Parent Education**

**Program Implementation April 2023/ March 2024 Funded by CA DDS SAE grant limited
to SGPRC and IRC catchment areas**



Meet Black Babies Team

Ardena Bartlett, MPA
Parent Founder & Director
B.A Social Science & Economics, UCI
MPA & Nonprofit Specialization, USC



Emani, Project Manager
B.A Business Administration,
UCR



Alexandrea, Parent Ambassador
Associate Degree, Communication Chaffey
College in San Bernardino County



Carla, MSW, CLES, RYT, Doula,
Student Midwife
Black Babies Outreach Consultant
Master Social Work, CSULA

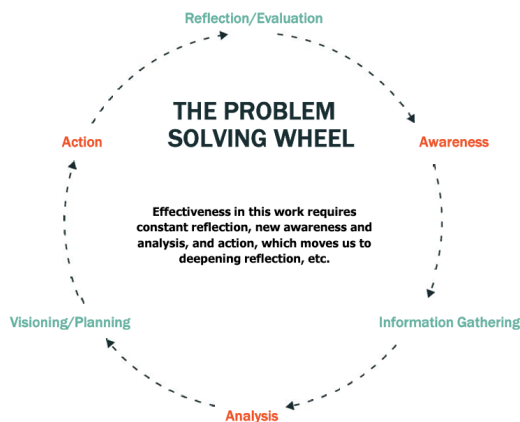


Jazmine, MPA
Carousel Developmental Services
Regional Centers E/I Vendor
B.A Communicative Disorders minor
Child Development, CSUF
MPA, & Public Health, ULV



<https://accessnonprofit.org/about-us>

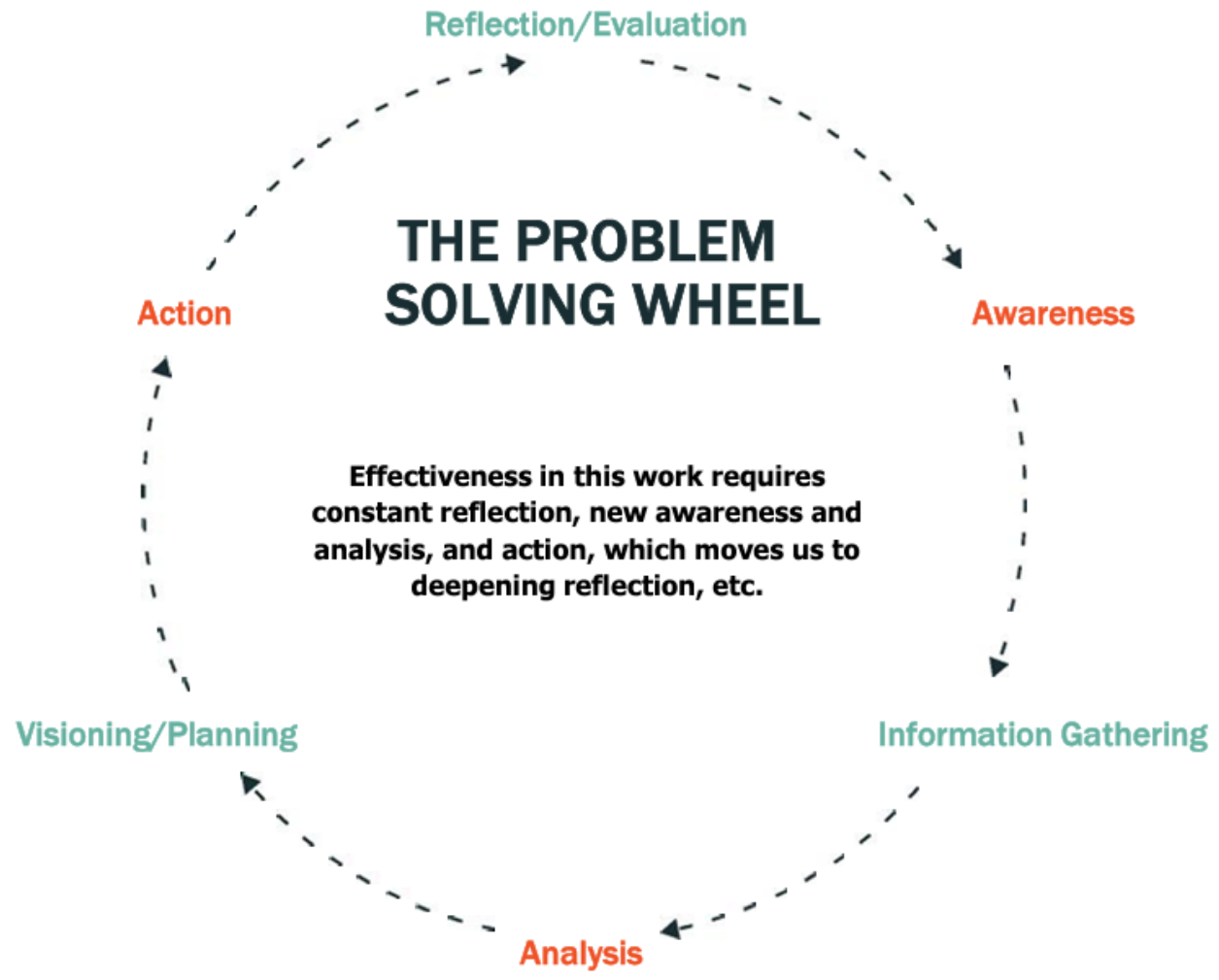
QR CODE



PROBLEM STATEMENT

There are significant **disparities in diagnosis** and access to health and **early intervention services** for ***Black babies*** who are at-risk of a developmental delay or disability. **Black families** are not getting equitable access to timely and crucial information or referrals to support in identifying potential for developmental delays and for their babies at **hospitals discharge or at pediatric visits between the ages of 0-5.**

Problem Solving Wheel



Slide borrowed from, Ashleigh Rucker who provided a training in Healthcare Equity sponsored by Help Me Grow, L.A First 5 L.A

PROGRAM: PRIMARY TARGETS

The project is divided into 3 target groups that are necessary to get to the stated objective: PROGRAM DESIGN

The program design includes 3 priority groups.

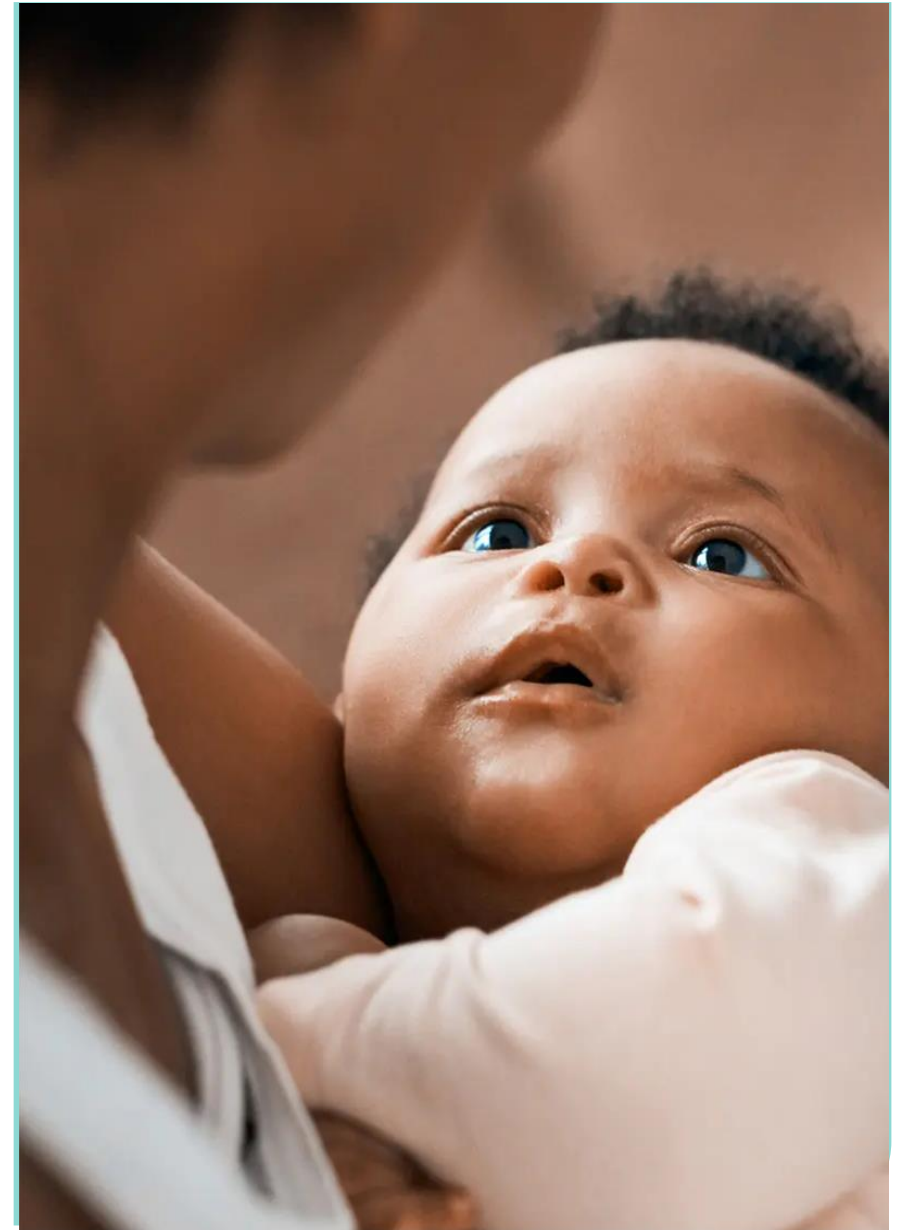
1. PARENT - Provide Welcome Baby Baskets includes Kente Cloth (African fabric) quilts and referral information to PBB & Regional Centers
2. HOSPITALS/PEDIATRICS - Coordinate planning meetings with Hospital administrators to review referral policies and actions
3. REGIONAL CENTERS - partners with RC and their medical partners to review and coordinate referral policies and actions



Parenting Black Babies

Goal: The goal of the project is to decrease the disparity while increasing the access to early intervention services to Black babies at-risk of developmental delays and disabilities. By assessing parent experiences and identifying gaps in access to services and presenting solutions for both the systems of care (ie Hospitals, Pediatrics, Nurses, Regional Centers...) and Parents/caregivers and other parent serving agencies

Objectives: Develop deliverables that will help these systems provide families with valuable information and access to disability services. Identifying families with babies at-risk and provide early and easy access to education, screening, assessments, and program services through Regional Centers, Insurance, and other systems of care.



● ● Parenting Black Babies : Screening, Education & Referrals

Parents



Who: Black African American

What: Ask questions about their experience

Why: Gain insight on the experience as a Black family

Hospitals



Who: Hospitals with Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Development Clinics:

What: How do you refer families to agencies Regional Center? Is there a formal or informal referral?

Why: Contact local hospitals to learn about how they determine if a baby is at higher risk of developing a developmental disability and what is the process/ information given to families with babies born with developmental risk factors

Regional Centers



Who: SGPRC

What: Ask questions about their current process

Why: Contact regional centers to learn about their intake process and requirements for intake.

AWARENESS: Parent - Birth Story



Alexandrea

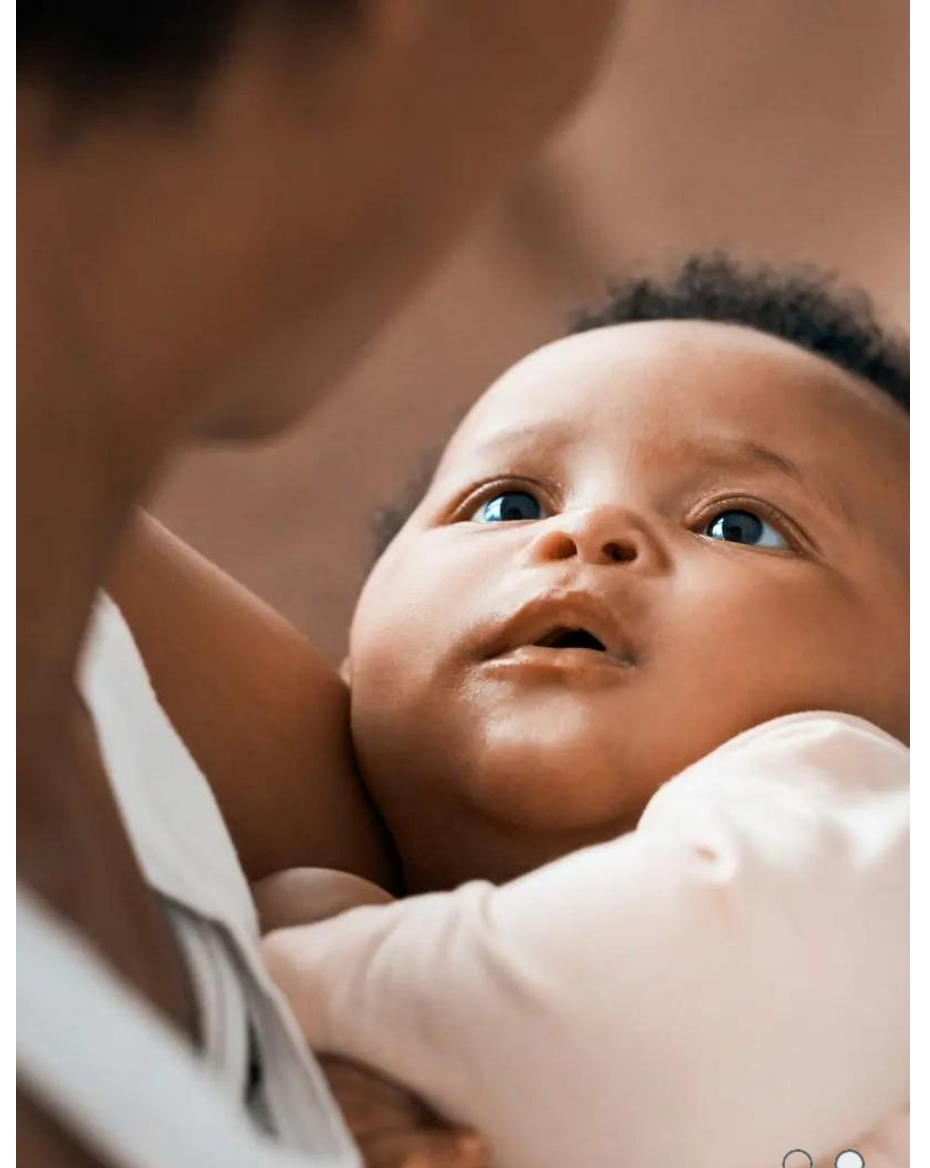
Parent Story

In the summer of 2011, a strong, black yet light-weight and “jittery” newborn was born. He was briefly placed in his 19 year old mother’s arms and then whisked away to NICU. His young mother was told that her baby needed to be screened for diabetes due to his hyper activity immediately after birth. After laboring 37 hours, and being stripped of the nurturing that should ensue at birth, the newborn’s refusal to suckle or take a bottle earned a 12 day stay at NICU. He was labeled pre-term due to his early arrival and low birth weight of 4 pounds, yet no referral was made to Regional Center or any other agency for that matter.

The developmental delays that eventually unfolded were of no conversation at the mandatory New Parents class the hospital requires prior to discharge. This did not change from 2011 to 2017 to 2018, after three births with similar experiences at the same hospital. “We had little to no awareness nor access to the services that my children were entitled to; two of them since birth. After years, we are just now getting an IEP for my son who’s apgar scores and birth weight were low. My midwife reviewed all of my birth records and she was concerned as well as my Parent Partner after they both heard my birth stories on separate occasions. My oldest was premature. My youngest daughter was premature. It wasn’t until I researched and found Parenting Black Children that my youngest was able to get provisional services at Regional Center; my oldest still hasn’t received services yet. After 11 years, it seems as though we have missed the window of opportunity when Early Intervention would’ve changed so much for our family had we been referred sooner. We still need access now!”

AWARENESS

The leading cause of Black infant death in the first year of life is low birth weight and prematurity and According to the CDC, babies born prematurely may experience long term intellectual and developmental disabilities, along with: Breathing problems, Feeding difficulties, Hearing and vision loss, and Cerebral palsy.



INFORMATION GATHERING: Conversations & Grant writing



Parenting Black Babies - sought a grant to assist in addressing health disparities for Black babies. focus on family understanding the E/I Regional Center process, community and other maternal and infant agency training and education.



Carousel Developmental Services - Partner with Jazmine Blackman, a Regional Center Early Intervention vendor. She is focusing on Infant ASQ Screenings, Parent Education & ASQ Screening Community Trainings

A Public-Private-Community Collaboration



INFORMATION GATHERING:

At Risk - Developmental Delay/Disability & Disparity of Services

- 1 in 6 children ages 3-17 have one or more developmental disabilities
- California Ranks 23rd in screening infant and toddlers for development
- Only 38.4% of California children birth to 3 receive timely developmental screening
- Children of color have lower rates of access to both screening and early intervention compared to white children
- Children with a developmental concern may not be connected early enough or at all to appropriate services and supports
- **Early intervention can help. Children can be more prepared for school and life may have less need for developmental supports as they get older**

1. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020) Facts About Developmental Disabilities

2. Data Resource center for Child & Adolescent Health. 2019-20 National Survey of Children's Health Interactive Data Query, Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Measures, NPM 6; Developmental screening, age 9-35 months

3. Lordi, N and Holtby, S (2021). Developmental Screening Among Children Ages 1-5 in California,, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

4. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2011). Why Act Early? Learn the Signs, Act Early,

INFORMATION GATHERING:

At Risk - Developmental Delay/Disability & Disparity of Services



- In 2020, 1 in 10 babies (10.1% of live births) was born preterm in the United States.**
- The rate of preterm birth in the United States is highest for black infants (14.2%), followed by American Indian/Alaska Natives (11.6%), Hispanics (9.8%), Whites (9.2%) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (8.8%).**
- The incidence of low birth weight (weight less than 2500 g) was 13.2 percent among infants of U.S.-born Black women and 7.1 percent among infants of African-born Black women, as compared with 4.3 percent among infants of U.S.-born white women (relative risks, 3.1 and 1.6, respectively).**
- Independent studies show that as early as preschool Black boys are suspended and expelled at an alarmingly higher rate than similarly situated children in other racial groups.**
- Researchers estimate that in California, Black students had the highest rate of loss of instruction due to suspension. A UCLA study found that Black students lost an average 52 per 100 days of instruction while White students lost 19.**
- Disability Rights California and OFFICE OF CLIENT RIGHTS DISPARITY OVERVIEW - Demonstrated that several if not all Regional Center showed a Disparity of Services for Black/African Americans**

ANALYSIS: Preliminary Findings



Surveyed

- **Regional Center**
- **Hospital NICU (nurses)**
- **Parents experienced NICU**
- **E/I service provider (shared that Black babies have referrals as late as 2 ½)**

Findings:

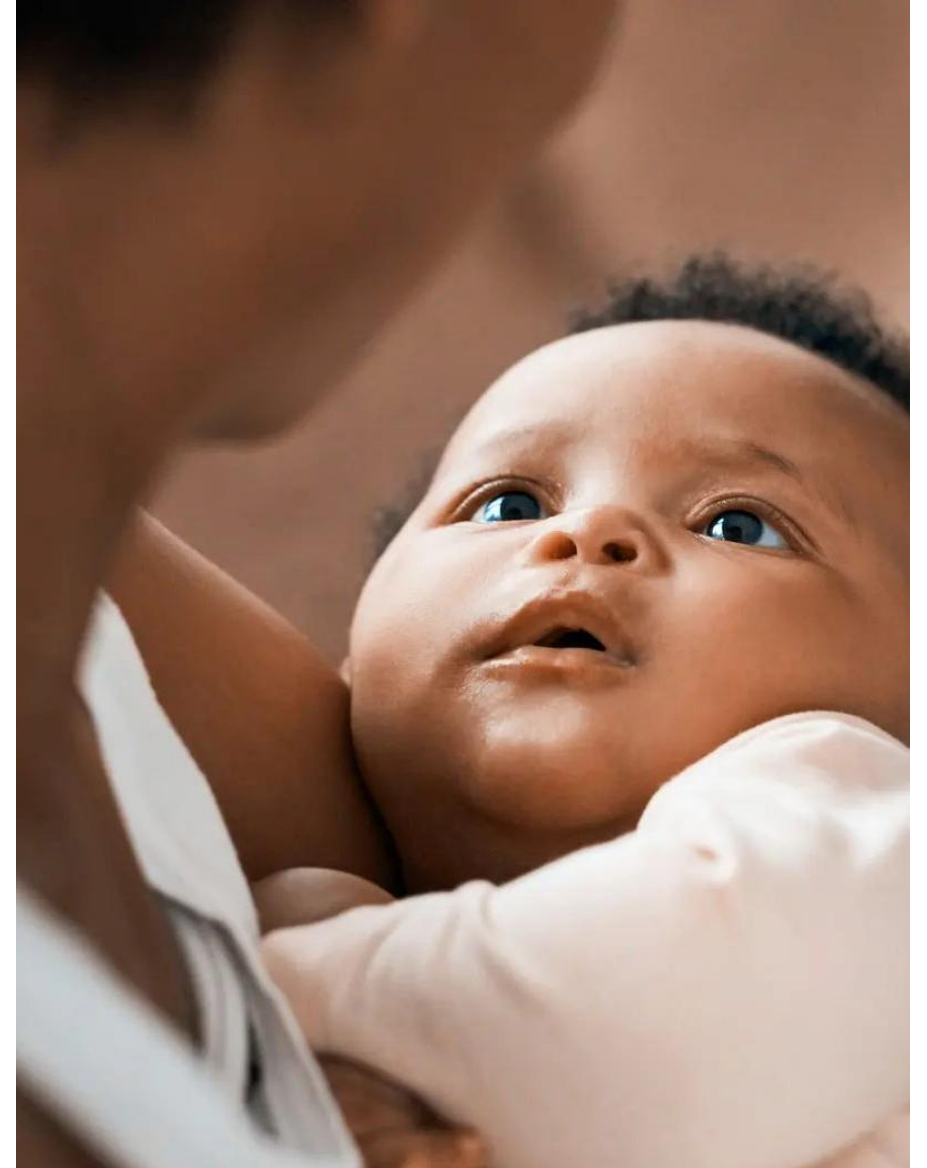
- **Regional Centers - attested that there is a working referral process in place and there is good working relationship with hospitals.**
- **Hospital Nurses - shared they are not clearly aware of the referral system in place and mentioned that sometimes the RC call but would welcome more information**
- **Black Parents - who experienced NICU consistently shared they did not receive resources or information to assist babies at discharged and/or from pediatrician and were often told to wait and see**

ANALYSIS

IF BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILIES HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY, THEN WHY DO BLACK BABIES HAVE THE LOWEST RATE OF ENTRY INTO SYSTEMS SUCH AS REGIONAL CENTER?

B/AA is a population that is difficult to reach for many reasons including but not limited to **1.** trust due to constant denials and racial trauma; **2.** geographic is scattered only a few concentrations; **3.** stagnant and decreased population due to death rates and relocation; **4.** lack of access due to technological challenges of the older generation who are increasingly caring for grandbabies **5.** Foster parents inability to obtain rights for decision because increase % of Black babies in foster care.

Families are not getting access to timely and crucial information to support in identifying potential for developmental delays and or disabilities for their babies.



VISION PLANNING

DELIVERABLES

1. Early Intervention Community Outreach/Awareness

Promote early identification of children with developmental delays and disabilities, including mental, behavioral, and developmental disorders

2. Screening Tools

Increase the number of children who receive a developmental and social-emotional screening

3. E/I Presentations/ Cultural Humility Black Babies Symposium

We have established partnerships with Family Resource Centers, Help Me Grow LA, WIC Cinna-moms, AAImm and others to help facilitate and track referrals to appropriate services

4. Quick Access Materials - Flow Charts, Infographics (Roadmap)/ Parent Resource Page

Provide system navigation, mentoring, and other peer-to-peer support for families Utilizing existing Early Start materials created by CDC, DDS, RC, First 5, Help Me Grow

5. Online Resource Development

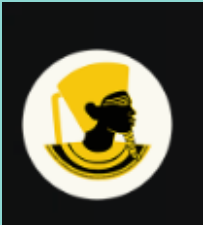
a. Resource Monthly Newsletter

b. Parenting Black Babies Resource Page

ACTION: Community Partners

Help Me Grow | L.A.

THE VILLAGE FUND



The African American Museum of Beginnings



PASADENA PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER



AFRICAN AMERICAN INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION INITIATIVE
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

AMSA AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
CSUSB PRE-MED CHAPTER

ACTION: Community Partners (Upcoming)



Supporting Black moms receiving WIC through nutritional education



Supporting families experiencing NICU



City of Pasadena Public Health, now serving all of the San Gabriel Valley



Huntington Hospital NICU



San Bernardino County

ACTION: NICU AWARENESS MONTH



NICU B1 Neonatal Intensive Care



IN HONOR OF
Neonatal Nurses Day

Nominate a NICU Nurse who made a difference!

PRESENTED BY
Product Sweet + Wipes

www.nicuawareness.org

Access Nonprofit Center

Parenting Black Babies
Early Start & Referral Improvement Initiative

THANK YOU!!!

**NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
NURSES & STAFF FOR LOVING FAMILIES
EXPERIENCING NICU**

Our goal is to
increase REFERRALS of Black Babies to
EARLY INTERVENTION services through
Inland & San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Centers

accessnonprofit.org/parenting-black-babies
welcome@accessnonprofit.org

Parenting Black Baby: Screening Education & Referral Initiative

Parents:(Screening & Education)

Families will receive a welcome Basket that will include a baby blanket made with an African fabric, 1 page resource list & infographic, and well family visit to discuss accessing resources and understanding developmental milestones. *(Collaboration with Carousel Development)*

Hospitals & Regional Centers
Review current process. Increase representation of Black staff. Develop a annual symposium that includes state of the Black community E/I and review of referral processes.



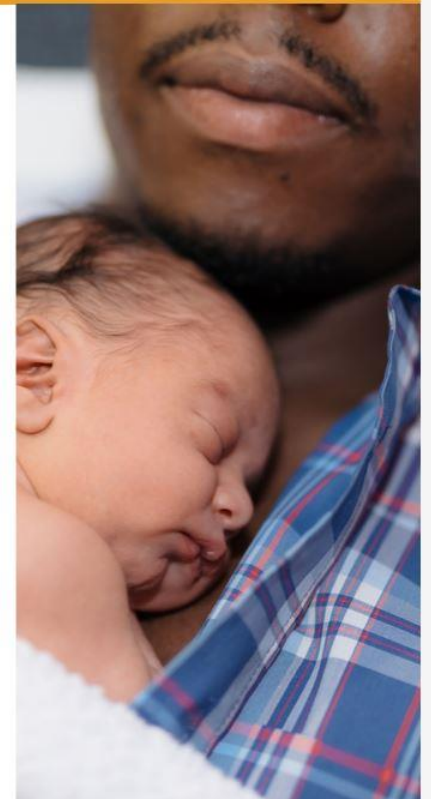
PARENTING BLACK BABIES WELCOME BASKET



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
SERVICES

EARLY START
INFORMATION
PACKET

April 2023



RESOURCES

00

Parenting Black Babies - Webpage

<https://accessnonprofit.org/parenting-black-babies>

PBS Birthing Justice

<https://www.pbs.org/video/birthing-justice-pxaxav/>

Example of what is on the website

Early Start Neighborhood



Professional development services for those seeking training, technical assistance, and resources on early intervention Part C requirements, implementation, and evidence-based practices.

FIND OUT MORE

PARENT RESOURCES

Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Early Start



California's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Early Start services are available statewide and are provided in a coordinated, family-centered system.

FIND OUT MORE

African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Initiative



A coalition of the Department of Public Health in partnership with First 5 LA and the LA County Department of Health Services united in one purpose: to address the unacceptably high rates of Black infant and maternal deaths countywide and ensure healthy and joyous births for Black families in LA County.

FIND OUT MORE

Women, Infant & Children (WIC)



The mission of the WIC Program is to provide our most vulnerable population the best possible start by providing nutrition education and healthy foods during critical stages of fetal and childhood development in order to achieve optimal nutritional status for children before they start school.

FIND OUT MORE

Milestones Center for Child Development



Through Pomona Valley Hospital, Milestones Centers for Child Development are dedicated exclusively to the developmental concerns and special needs of children from birth through adolescence. We provide full service pediatric occupational therapy, pediatric physical therapy, and pediatric speech and language therapy. We offer individualized and collaborative treatment sessions, plus family education regarding home support between treatments.

FIND OUT MORE

Help Me Grow



Help Me Grow LA works together with local community programs and agencies to help families find support and get services more quickly. Help Me Grow LA connects all families to free or low-cost programs to help your child's development. HMG LA also provides resources, tips and tools to help you support your child's developmental milestones and skills.

FIND OUT MORE

Autism Speaks



Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.

FIND OUT MORE

CALL TO ACTION



FOCUS ON ACCESS & EQUITY

INTENTIONAL / TARGETED OUTREACH

**LOOK AROUND THE DECISION MAKING TABLE IS THERE
EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION**

STRENGTHEN INTAKE

STRENGTHEN AWARENESS

STRENGTHEN EQUITABLE ACCESS

SHARE YOUR VOICE WHEN YOU SEE INJUSTICE

EVALUATION/REFLECTION

A CALL TO CONNECTION... EVEN IN OUR DIFFERENCES...

“You do not have to be me in order for us to fight alongside each other. I do not have to be you to recognize that our wars are the same. What we must do is commit ourselves to some future that can include each other and to work toward that future with the particular strengths of our individual identities.

And in order to do this, we must allow each other our differences at the same time as we recognize our sameness.”

- Audre Lorde, Learning from the 60s



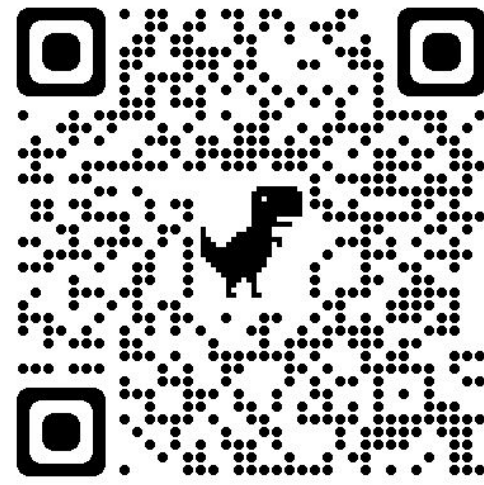
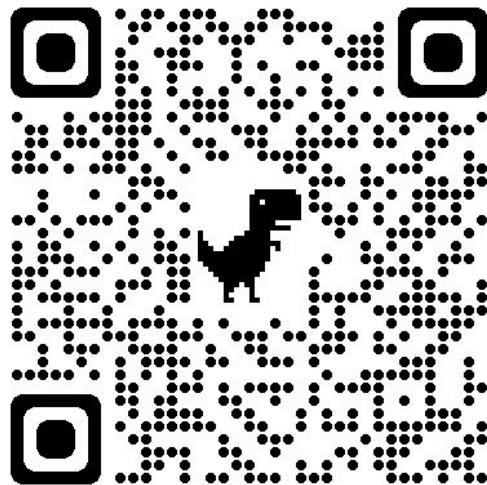


Thank You 4 Sharing your Time & Wisdom

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/accessnonprofit>

Website: <https://accessnonprofit.org/>

Direct Email: ardenab@accessnonprofit.org





Season Goodpasture, M.S., AMFT

Founder, Executive Director

season@acorns2oak.com | 760-638-9668

How we started



Acorns to Oak Trees was inspired by Season and James's oldest daughter, Harley, who has Autism Spectrum Disorder. Despite Season having a M.S. in Psychology and working as the Director of Social Services for one of the most high-profile tribes in California, Season was unaware of federal and state laws and services that were available for children with developmental delays.

After learning about the high number of Native American children who are diagnosed every year with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and knowing the difficulty she faced in identifying and navigating the system, Season reached out to the California Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Developmental Services, to share Harley's story, and advocated for better outreach efforts to tribal communities. The department then created and implemented a policy that earmarked money in the state's budget every year specifically for outreach to Native American families and tribal communities.

One of the organization's primary goals is to improve the Child Find system by increasing public awareness of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) amongst tribal communities, universities, and healthcare providers through Harley's Hope Project and assisting Native families in navigating resources for their loved ones with IDD.

AI/AN Highest Rates of IDD

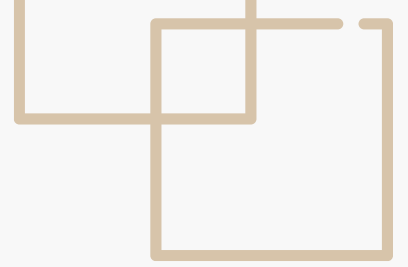
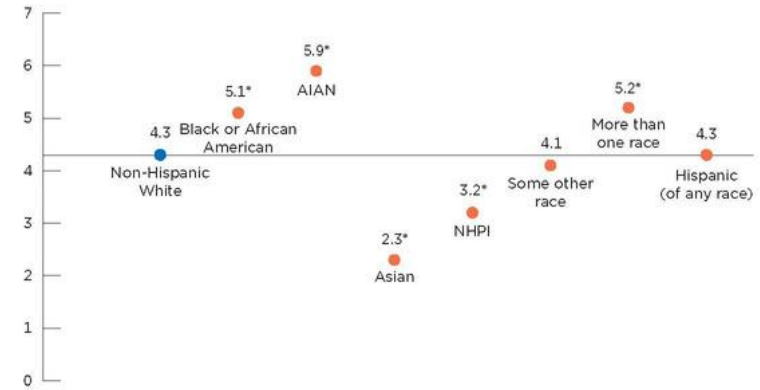


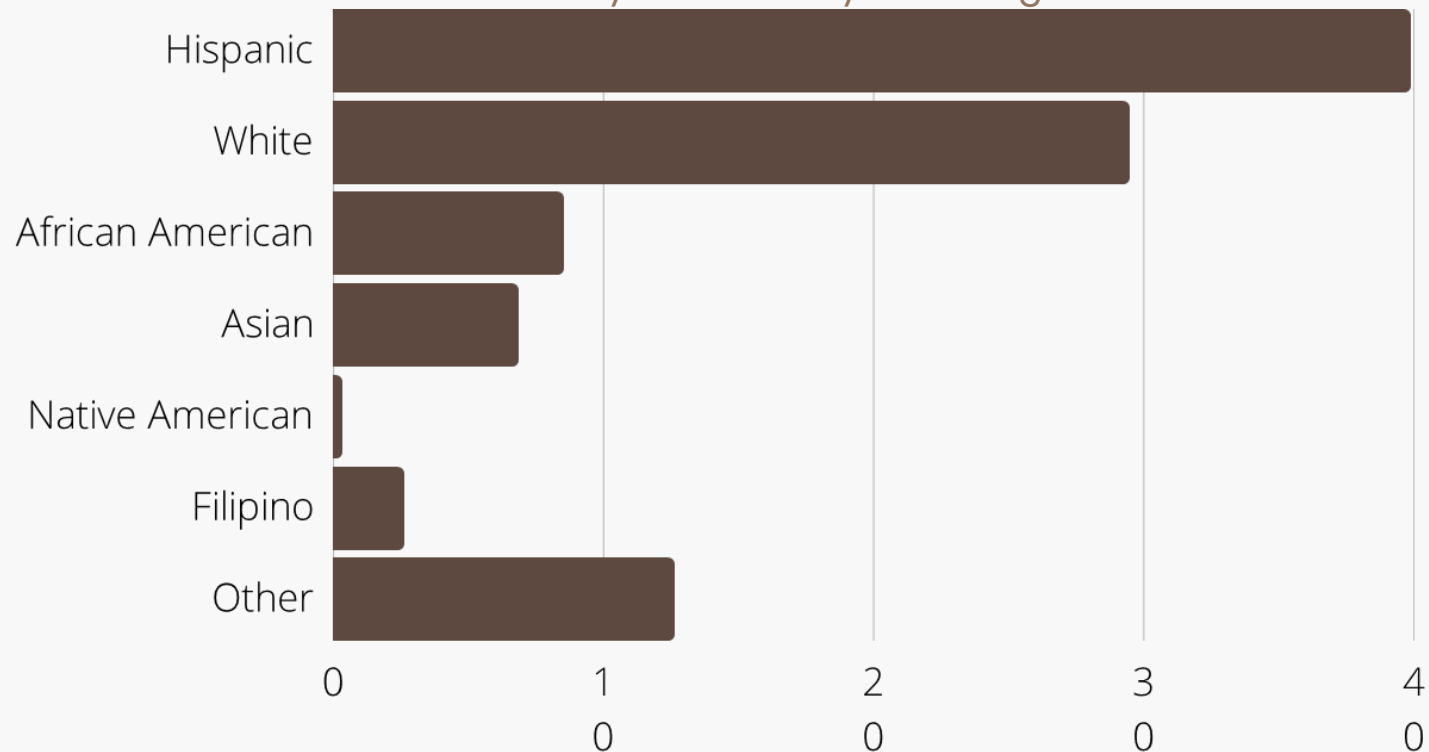
Figure 5.
Childhood Disability Prevalence by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2019
(In percent)



* Statistically different from the Non-Hispanic White estimate at the 90 percent confidence level.
Note: The acronym "AIAN" is used for the American Indian and Alaska Native group, and the acronym "NHPI" is used for the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander group. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

CA Statewide Services by Ethnicity

The chart below presents the data and percentages of children receiving services categorized by ethnicity. The Native American population is the lowest amongst the ethnicities at .34% compared to the Hispanic population at 39.85% and the White population at 29.45% that receive services in the state of California. These statistics demonstrate the gap between the number of children and families who need services and how many are actually receiving them.





Harley's Hope Project

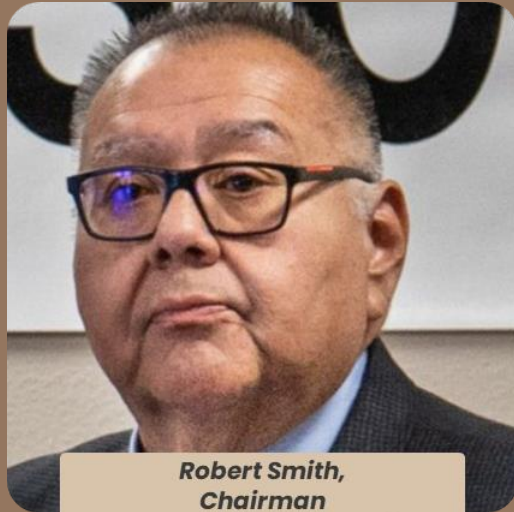
Storytelling

Sharing Native families journeys navigating their child's diagnosis and accessing resources.

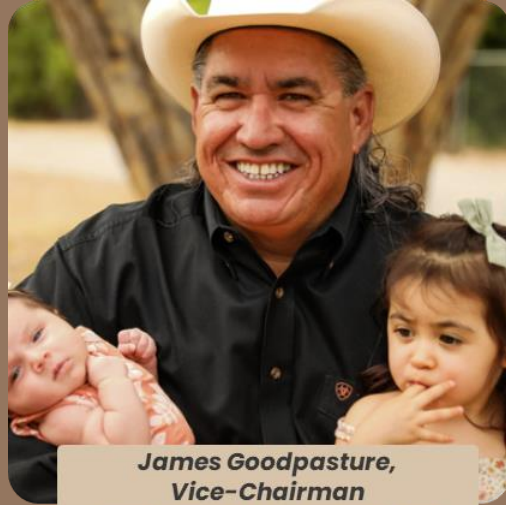
[First Native American Community Navigator Program in California](#)

- [Providing support to Native families accessing Regional Center services](#)
- [Requesting IEP's for their children](#)
- [Advocating for increase of services](#)
- [Parent and Self-Advocacy trainings](#)
- [Parent Support Groups](#)
- [Trainings with Indian Health Services to improve early detection/ early intervention](#)
- [Fostering Relationships Between Tribal Communities & RC's](#)

Our Board



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Chairman
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**James Goodpasture,
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Pala Band of Mission Indians**



**Sara Dutschke, JD Secretary
Lone Band of Miwok Indians**

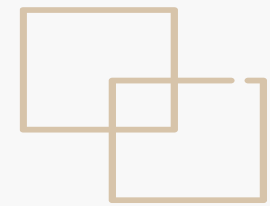


**Margaret Orrantia, MS
Treasurer
Yaqui**



**Wayne Nelson,
Council Member
Pala Band of Mission Indians**

Our Staff ⁽¹⁾



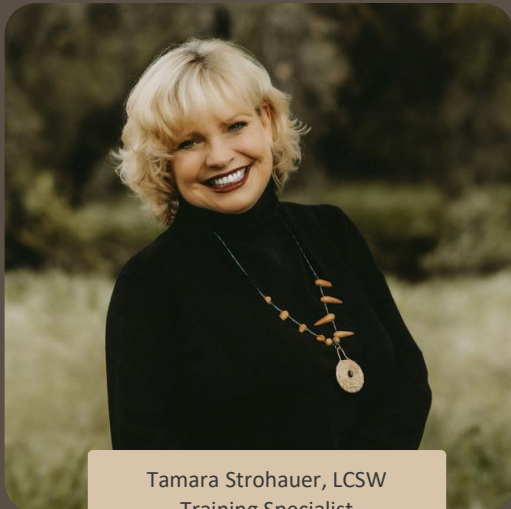
Season Goodpasture, M.S., AMFT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kamryn Stann, M.S., OTR/L
Director of Occupational Therapy



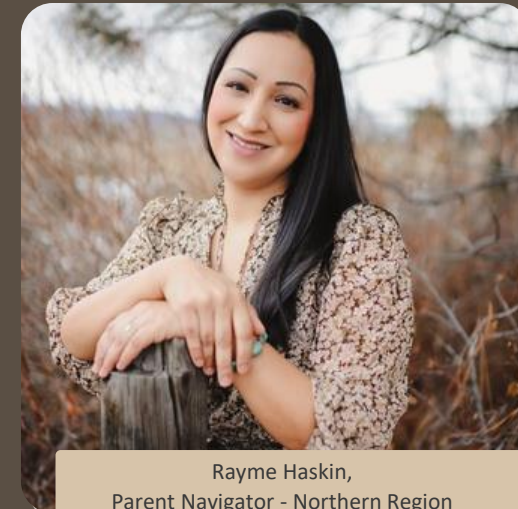
Christina Gonzalez, M.S., SLP
Director of Speech and Language



Tamara Strohauser, LCSW
Training Specialist

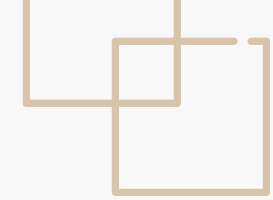


Linda Ruis
Tribal Home Visiting Specialist
lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel



Rayme Haskin,
Parent Navigator - Northern Region
Navajo

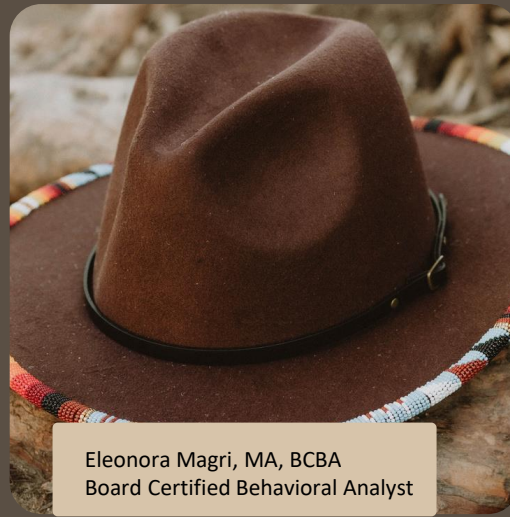
Our Staff ⁽²⁾



Mejaumi Franco, B.S.
PROGRAM MANAGER
Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla
Indians



Hilary Eberly,
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
Susanville Indian Rancheria



Eleonora Magri, MA, BCBA
Board Certified Behavioral Analyst



Uyen Vo, BSN, MBA
Program Evaluator



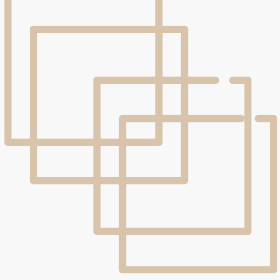
Our Mission

Our mission is to help restore the village and provide Native American children and families with a village of support through education, nutrition, and culturally tailored therapies they need to heal, grow, and thrive.



Our Vision

Our vision is to cultivate an environment where every Native family is cared for spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.



Core Values

At Acorns, we prioritize our core values of passion, relationships, and village. We believe our passion and commitment to advocate for the tribal community is the first step in change and growth. By establishing and maintaining relationships between tribal communities and state and county agencies, we yearn to better serve tribal children and families with special needs. Often times tribal communities are underserved, therefore we seek to strengthen each tribal community by expanding their village of support by providing them with our culturally tailored programming and therapeutic interventions.



Passion



Relationships



Village

EXPANDING OUR CLINICAL
SERVICE TERRITORY TO SERVE
MORE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES





OUR APPROACH TO REDUCING SERVICE ACCESS & EQUITY BARRIERS FOR NATIVE FAMILIES

Education & Outreach

- Harley's Hope Project (Community Navigator Program)
- Home Visiting Program (Healthy Families America)

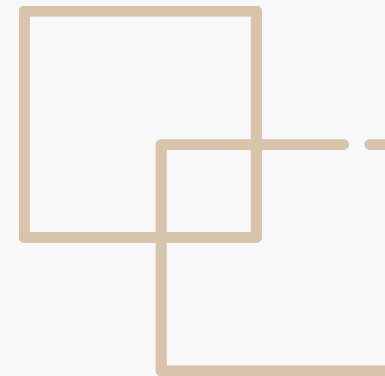
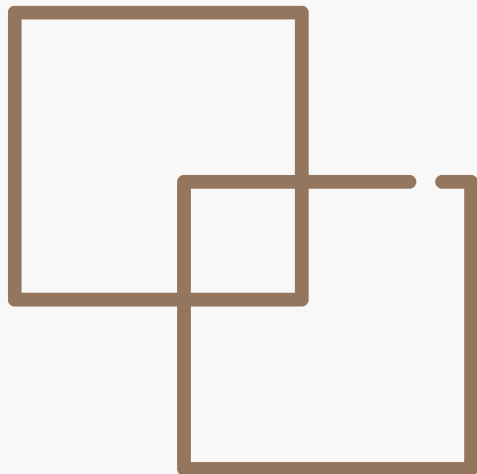
Clinical Services

- Occupational Therapy
- Speech
- Infant Program
- Equine-Therapy
- Eco-therapy

Advocacy

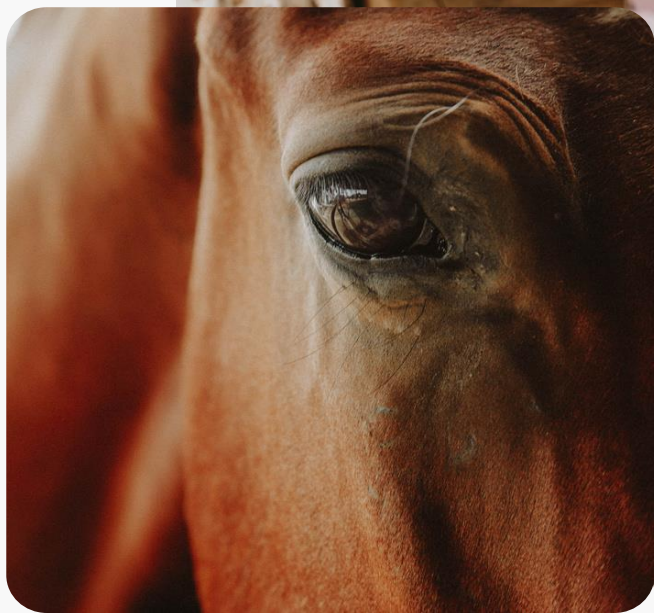
- Working with DDS, RC's, Legislators and the State on policies that impact tribal communities





Currently Vended for 116 and 805 Services

- Occupational Therapy
- Equine-assisted Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Infant Ed Program



WAYS TO IMPROVE CULTURAL COMPETENCY

INCREASE CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF STAFF

- PROVIDE STAFF REGULAR TRAININGS TO INCREASE CULTURAL SENSITIVITY & UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORICAL TRAUMA
- STAFF SHOULD KNOW THE TRIBES IN THEIR SERVICE AREAS

WORK TO BUILD TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

- ATTEND PUBLIC EVENTS THAT YOUR LOCAL TRIBES OFFER
- FOLLOW THROUGH- DO WHAT YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO DO

WAYS TO IMPROVE THE CHILD FIND SYSTEM TO REACH NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILIES

INCREASE CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF STAFF

- PROVIDE STAFF REGULAR TRAININGS TO INCREASE CULTURAL SENSITIVITY & UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORICAL TRAUMA
- STAFF SHOULD KNOW THE TRIBES IN THEIR SERVICE AREAS

IMPROVING EDUCATION & OUTREACH EFFORTS

- DEVELOP AN ANNUAL OUTREACH CAMPAIGN
- EDUCATE STAFF ON IDEA & THEIR ROLE
- PROVIDE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES & ORGANIZATIONS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT IDD & EDUCATE THEM ON THEIR RIGHTS & CONNECT THEM WITH LOCAL RESOURCES

WORK TO BUILD TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

- ATTEND PUBLIC EVENTS THAT YOUR LOCAL TRIBES OFFER
- FOLLOW THROUGH- DO WHAT YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO DO



Thank You

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Committee Reports

Improving State Systems
Communication and Outreach

PUBLIC INPUT

Public Input Guidelines

COMMENTS CAN BE IN WRITING OR SPOKEN

All comments are published as part of the public record and provided to ICC members

EACH PERSON HAS 2 MINUTES TO COMMENT

We want to make sure there's time to hear from everyone. Longer comments? Submit them in writing to ensure your full message is shared

COMMENTING ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

One person is welcome to share input from others, please just be mindful of time, summarize key points and turn in any written statements

PLEASE BE SPECIFIC

A clear statement-including specific suggestions for addressing any concerns you may have- is most helpful

WANT TO SHARE A POWERPOINT OR VIDEOS AS PART OF YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT?

Email EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov at least 14 days in advance with any audio/visual needs

THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR MEETING



ICC Webpage: [State ICC on Early Intervention Overview](#)

DDS Early Start Mailbox: earlystart@dds.ca.gov

