



# AUGUST 2016 WEBINAR

IMPROVING COMMUNITIES, ENGAGING  
COUNCILS TO

*PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT*

Compiled By: Nichole Lee, BSW  
Facilitated By: Devina Jani, MSW, ACSW

# Overview of Presentation

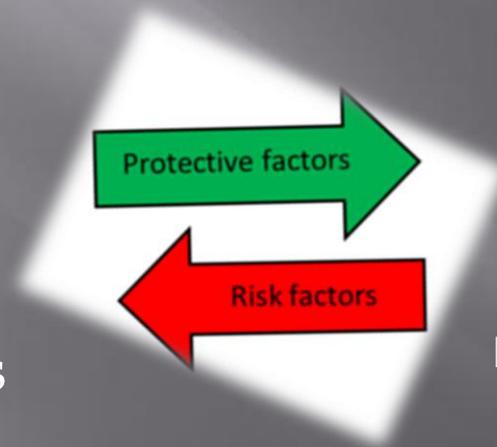
- ▣ To identify strategies to improve our work with families and communities;
- ▣ Assess community risk and protective factors;
- ▣ Tips for working with community members;
- ▣ Pros and cons for working with the community;
- ▣ Suggestions to strengthen and improve communities; and
- ▣ Integrating council efforts into the community.



# Assess the Community for Risk and Protective Factors

## RISK FACTORS

- ▣ Substance Abuse
- ▣ Domestic Violence
- ▣ Mental Health
- ▣ Media Communications
- ▣ Access to Resources
- ▣ Community and Family Supports



## PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- ▣ Characteristics that decrease or remove risk and promote healthy development and well-being
- ▣ Look at the individual, family, community and society
- ▣ Parental Resilience
- ▣ Attachment and Nurturing

**Can you think of  
additional risks or  
protective factors  
within your  
community?**

# Tips for working with community members



- ▣ Embrace Diversity
- ▣ Recognize the strengths and skills of community members
- ▣ Engage community members regularly and frequently to hold their interest
- ▣ Respect differences
- ▣ Create space for community members to network
- ▣ Be open to change



# Assess the Community for Partners

## Step 1:

Identify what agencies, businesses, or non-profits are functioning in your county?

## Step 2:

Does anyone on your council have connections with someone in those agencies?

## Step 3:

How can you build or develop relationships with agencies within your community?

## Step 4:

Know your community!

- Know the **WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE** and **WHY**

# Groups to Consider Utilizing



islam    buddhism    science    judiasm    paganism    wiccan    christian



# Utilizing Community Supports

- ▣ Community support consists of members of a community working together to ensure families feel supported and are better able to nurture and care for the children within that community
- ▣ Embracing diversity within the community
- ▣ Engaging and supporting families within your community
- ▣ Promoting safe, stable and nurturing relationships



# Cons of Community Supports

- ▣ Building rapport with community partners does take time
- ▣ This will be an ongoing process and will not happen overnight
- ▣ Connecting with community groups may require funding for events, dinners, lunches, etc. to build that rapport
- ▣ The process of connecting with community parents can be repetitious and draining



# Pros of Community Supports

- ❑ Promotes unity within the community
- ❑ Provides support and healthy connections amongst community members
- ❑ Creates better communication between community members
- ❑ Encourages members to get more involved in their communities



# Strengthening and Improving Communities

## Little steps

- ▣ Reach out to neighbors and faith based entities
- ▣ Participate in local activities such as at the library, schools, parks, etc.
- ▣ Develop playgroups at local parks or community centers
- ▣ Volunteer at the schools, daycares, etc.
- ▣ Facilitate a babysitting co-op within the community
- ▣ Be a part of your Home Owners Assoc.



# Big steps



- ▣ Host a community block party
- ▣ Participate in local government meetings and engage with local politicians
- ▣ Attend local provider fairs and present information to service providers
- ▣ Develop groups for parents and children to play or do community services together such as scouting, service clubs, sports teams, etc.

# Engaging Communities and Integrating Councils



- ▣ Develop a strategy
  - Recommendations: Create a shared calendar for events
    - ▣ Include the WHO will attend, WHERE the events are, WHAT the goals is for the event and HOW this will
  - After each event, write a summary of how things went and send to council members
    - ▣ Include any new contacts or interested parties

# Engaging Communities and Integrating Councils

- ▣ Embrace Diversity
  - Recommendations: GET UNCOMFORTABLE!
    - ▣ Be open to new people, places and things!
    - ▣ Subscribe to local newsletters for different cultural groups
- ▣ Know the strengths and challenges of your community: What can you add to your community?



# Through Council Efforts...

- Gain greater community involvement
- Develop new community partners
- Increase the support for our children and families
- Provide education and resources to community members
- Improve outcomes for children within our community's
- Promote safe and healthy living environments for our children and our futures

- ❖ We can!
- ❖ We Must!
- ❖ We will!



..... Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect!

How can PCAIN  
help your council  
engage your  
community?



# References

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2016). Building community building hope. *2016 prevention resource guide*.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2016, April 5). Center for disease control and prevention. *Child abuse and neglect: risk and protective factors*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/childmaltreatment/riskprotectivefactors.html>