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the Newsletter

Preventing Child Abuse In Mendocino County

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Child Death
Review



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“If you would like to chat, drink a cup of hot tea or cocoa, or would like to have your old canvas shoes painted, please get in touch with me. I would be happy to get to know you too.”

Kary Fernandez



Recently, there was an article published in the Ukiah Daily Journal where Sean Telles, a fellow VISTA member beautifully introduced me and other VISTAs to the community. I wanted take this opportunity to thank everyone for welcoming us with such warmth and hospitality, and introduce myself again in the event someone missed the article.

My name is Kary Fernandez I was born in a small town called Bani near the capital of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. Being raised by a matriarchal family of strong women, who earned a living as tailors and cooks helped me build a foundation of community values. At the age of thirteen I immigrat-

ed to the United States, where I resided with relatives in the melting pot of New York. Later I moved to Hazleton, Pennsylvania where I completed high school and attended Penn State University, earning a degree in integrative arts.

Since childhood I have been passionate about finding creative ways to improve the lives of others, whether it is through photography, graphic design, or painting.

This summer, I was working as an art instructor for an elementary school and high school program where I discovered a new passion for painting canvas shoes. In my spare time, I like

to meet people, and to talk over a hot cup of tea or cocoa. I am eager to learn from others who share my interest in community building. If you would like to chat, drink a cup of hot tea or cocoa, or would like to have your old canvas shoes painted, please get in touch with me. I would be happy to get to know you too.

Child Death Review

Since beginning my service in Ukiah almost two months ago, I have been attending meetings to better understand the needs of this community. One of the meetings I attended was the Policy Council on Children and Youth (PCCY), which addressed many



Child Death Review

Child/Youth Death Rate: 2009-2011

Region	Rate per 100,000
California	32.2
Region	Rate per 100,000
Mendocino County	44.6

Infant Mortality Rate: 2009-2011

Region	Rate per 1,000
California	4.8
Region	Rate per 1,000
Mendocino County	6.8

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Statistical Master Files; Murphy, et al. (2013), Deaths: Final Data for 2010. National Vital Statistics Reports, 61(4), www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_04.pdf (Aug. 2013); Martin, et al. (2013), Births: Final Data for 2011. National Vital Statistics Reports, 62(1), www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_01.pdf (Aug. 2013); Hoyert, et al. (2012), Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2011. National Vital Statistics Reports, 61(6), http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_06.pdf (Aug. 2013).

pressing topics but the meeting which struck most was the Child Death Review (CDR) in Mendocino County.

The purpose of the Child Death Review is to assess a comprehensive study of child deaths. This assessment improves our understanding of how and why child deaths occur, and informs our community of the actions we can take to prevent future deaths.

Child death rates in Mendocino County are shockingly higher than the state average. California's average for child and youth deaths is 32.2 per 100,000 whereas Mendocino County's is 44.6 per 100,000.

In light of this data, there must be greater prevention of child abuse in this county. How can we expand and refine preventative methods? Child Death Review is committed to the safety of children. The Review identified the following measures as crucial to increased prevention:

- **Determining if the death was preventable**
- **Identifying modifiable risk factors**
- **Determining the best strategies of prevention**
- **Identifying specific prevention activities**
- **Effective prevention strategies by cause of death**
- **Writing recommendations, and taking action**

- **Sharing findings to ensure that action will be taken**

As members of this community, regardless of our professional backgrounds, we have the power to increase prevention by implementing the aforementioned set of steps. Additionally, we may contribute to the safety and wellbeing of children in our communities by reporting any suspicion of child abuse and neglect in our locality to Child Protective Services Agency of Mendocino County. A social worker is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide appropriate response to all reports of child abuse or neglect. Call toll free at (866) 739-4079.



CAC is reaching out to the community

These images showcase CAC's involvement during Paul Bunyan Day in Fort Bragg and One World Music Festival in Mendocino



One World Music Festival



Members of CAC

• **Camille Schraeder**—Executive Director, Redwood Children’s Services, Inc.

• **Anne Molgaard**—Executive Director, FIRST 5 Mendocino

• **Sheryn Hildebrand**—Executive Director, CASA of Mendocino and Lake Counties

• **Krissy Weiss**—Billing Coordinator, Redwood Children’s Services Inc.

• **Willow Anderson**—Public Relation Coordinator, Redwood Children’s Services Inc.

• **Susan McConnell**—Director of Child Development, Mendocino County Office of Education

• **Patti Williams**—Public Health Nurse, HHS, Public Health

• **Ben Anderson**—Executive Director, Tapestry Family Services

• **Linda Edgington**—Program Representative, Mendocino County 4-H

• **Barbara Reber**—Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

• **Bryan Lowery**—Deputy Director, HHS-Social Services Branch-CFS

• **Ana Madrigal-Duran**—HHS, Child Welfare

• **Kary Fernandez**—Children Action Committee’s Coordinator, VISTA 2013-2014

• **Lia Holbrook**—Project Sanctuary

• **Melanie Wagner**—Project Sanctuary

• **Kate Gaston**—Executive Director, Mendocino County Youth Project

• **Laura Warren**—MCAH Director of HHS

• **Corrina Avila**—Community Member

Partners and Collaborators

Ukiah

Arbor on Main
Ages 15-24
303 N. Main St.
468-5536

Ukiah

FIRST 5 Mendocino
166 Gobbi St.
462-4453

Ukiah

Nuestra Casa
487 N. State St.
463-8181

Potter Valley

PV Youth & Community Center
10270 Main St.
743-1789

Laytonville

Laytonville Healthy Start
44400 Willis Ave.
984-8089

Willits

Nuestra Alianza De Willits
291 School St. #1
456-9418

Covelo

Round Valley
Family Resource Center
76450 Airport Rd
983-6262

Gualala

Action Network
39144 Ocean Dr. #3
884-5413

CAC’s is next monthly meeting will take place:
Thursday, November 7th at
10:30am - 12:30pm
Public Health on Dora, Room 102

