
Wednesday, May 26 | 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Transforming the Mindset of “Family as a Resource” to “Family as Key Agents of Change” and Identifying Solutions to Educational Equity and Student Success

The Family Engagement Institute’s mission is to provide opportunities and inspire aspirations that promote college going identity and access for first generation students and families through multigenerational pathways as a foundation for equity and student success. To ensure a just and inclusive society, we need leadership in our systems to co-design innovative programs/policies in partnership with families, educators, and communities.

Presenters:

Betsy Nikolchev, Executive Director, Family Engagement Institute (FEI), Foothill College

Carmen Ponce, Director, Family and Community Engagement, FEI, Foothill College

Carlos Pacheco Miranda, Program Coordinator, Family Engagement Institute, Foothill College

Pauline Brown, Supervisor, Family Engagement Institute, Foothill College

TO REGISTER FOR THIS MAY 26th WORKSHOP GO TO:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Family-KeyAgentsofChange>

Tuesday, June 1 | 2:00-3:00 p.m.

First 5 Santa Clara County’s COVID Response: Activating and Expanding our System of Care to Protect Children, Families and Early Childhood Educators

With the stay-at-home orders and consequent economic and education shutdowns, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely exacerbated the disparities in social determinants of health; about 44% of children served by FIRST 5 Santa Clara County live below the poverty line (\$26,000) in a county where the median income is \$124,055. Many families served by FIRST 5 work in service sector jobs, which ground to a halt with the stay-at-home orders. In this presentation, attendees will learn more about how FIRST 5 Santa Clara County leveraged public and private partnerships to assess and address the devastating impacts of the pandemic on the county’s most vulnerable children and families.

Presenters:

Susan Ellenberg, Santa Clara County Supervisor

Jolene Smith, CEO, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County

Susan Brutschy, President, Applied Survey Research

Lisa Colvig-Niclai, VP of Evaluation, Applied Survey Research

TO REGISTER FOR THIS JUNE 1st WORKSHOP GO TO:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F5COVIDRESP>

WORKSHOP SPONSORS 2021



Santa Clara Family
Health Plan™



Friday, June 4 | 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Child & Family Health During and Post COVID: A Systems Approach

Access to quality healthcare is vital for both children and parents for promoting and maintaining good health. Unfortunately, the pandemic has severely impacted the health of our children and families, especially amongst our Black and African Ancestry, Latino, and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in Santa Clara County, as they are experiencing significant health disparities and are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The Santa Clara Family Health Plan, the largest Medi-Cal managed care plan in Santa Clara County, has seen a similar trend impacting our most vulnerable children and families. Creative solutions are needed now to promote the timely delivery of recommended care. During this session, attendees will gain insights into local preventive health data and hear local health experts and system partners explore creative family-centered health care strategies to support child and family health during the pandemic and beyond.

Presenters:

Arcel Blume, PhD, Director, Santa Clara County Office of Cultural Competency

Zulema Inai, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County

Stephanie Kleinheinz, RN, MSN, FNP, CEO of School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County

Laurie Nakahira, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Santa Clara Family Health Plan (SCFHP)

Jennifer Pham, LCSW, Division Director, Family & Children Services, Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services Department, Children, Youth & Family Division

TO REGISTER FOR THIS JUNE 4th WORKSHOP GO TO:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChildFamHealth>

Friday June 11 | 2:00-3:00 p.m.

SOMOS EMPUJE: Caring for Our Families by Organizing for the Schools We Deserve

Two mothers of students in the Alum Rock Unified School District share their leadership development path as participants, Promotores and organizers with SOMOS Mayfair, the nationally known neighborhood grassroots community organizing group in East San José. They will discuss the personal struggles and connection to other parents that led to the creation of EMPUJE, a committee spearheading the movement for equity and justice in our school system.

Presenters:

Andrea Portillo, Community Organizing and Policy Manager, SOMOS Mayfair

Dilza Gonzalez, Mayfair Coordinator, SOMOS Mayfair

Olivia Ortiz, Promotora, Worker-Owner, META, LLC

TO REGISTER FOR THIS JUNE 11th WORKSHOP GO TO:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SOMOSEMPUJE>

Wednesday, June 16 | 2:00-3:00 p.m.

A Community Developed Research-Informed Family Math Initiative

This panel conversation brings together researchers from Boston College, New York University, Stanford University and Grail Family Services staff to highlight a successful partnership. This collaboration will develop a Family Math Program that strengthens home-school connections by providing parents and preschool teachers with knowledge and tools to promote children's early math.

Presenters:

Eric Dearing, PhD, Professor, Applied Developmental & Educational Psychology, Boston College

Gigliana Melzi, PhD, Associate Professor of Applied Psychology, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Applied Psychology at NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, & Human Development

Graciela Borsato, PhD, Managing Director and Senior Researcher at DREME, Stanford University,

Veronica Goei, Executive Director, Grail Family Services

Nereyda Hurtado, PhD, Associate Director, Grail Family Services.

TO REGISTER FOR THIS JUNE 16th WORKSHOP GO TO:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EarlyMathCom>

Thursday, June 24 | 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Immigration Matters and its Impact on Families and Community

Immigration policy is ever shifting. This workshop will provide an important update on changes in immigration policy that impact children and their families. This workshop will focus on changes in DACA, and Public Charge. Local, state, and national data will be shared as well as Santa Clara County efforts to protect immigrant families and what may be on the horizon for immigrant communities.

Presenters:

Teresa Castellanos, Office of Immigrant Relations

Erika Rivera, Immigration Lawyer, Office of Immigrant Relations

TO REGISTER FOR THIS JUNE 24th WORKSHOP GO TO:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ImmigrationMat>

Coming in Fall- Save the Date- More info to come!

September 23 | 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Children's Savings Accounts: Is now the time for a universal CSA program in Santa Clara County?

Presenter: Excite Credit Union

Workshop Presenters

Kids in Common is grateful to the presenters below who are volunteering their time to share this important information with you in these spring workshops. Each of these individuals is doing essential work to improve the lives of children and families.

Arcel Blume, PhD

Arcel Blume heads the Office of Cultural Competency (OCC)—Division of Equity and Social Justice, County of Santa Clara Executive Office. Through cross-system partnerships, OCC works to address racial disparities; dismantle systemic barriers; and develop culturally-intelligent, trauma-informed, and healing-centered frameworks—anchored in strengthening equity for the most marginalized in our communities.

Graciela Borsato, PhD

Graciela Borsato joined DREME (Development & Research in Early Math Education) as Managing Director and Senior Researcher in 2015. Previously, she was a senior research associate at Stanford's John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities. Dr. Borsato's work focuses broadly on the examination of contextual factors that influence child development. She has extensive experience conducting mixed methods implementation studies of educational programs serving immigrant children and families.

Pauline Brown

Pauline Brown is grateful for her work with the Family Engagement Institute. In her role as FEI Supervisor, she partners with students and their families to overcome diverse challenges. Pauline is committed to family engagement, bringing change and positive solutions, and providing exceptional services.

Susan Brutschy

Susan Brutschy is the President of Applied Survey Research (ASR) and has been leading hundreds of evaluations, assessments, and strategic planning processes in the areas of community quality of life, early childhood development, domestic violence, child abuse and maltreatment, early literacy, K-12 education, and homelessness. Over the last three decades, Susan has pioneered an outcomes framework for ASR's work in community assessments, evaluations and strategic planning processes. She has also participated in the pursuit of well-being for all, expanding ASR's work to national and international prominence.

Teresa Castellanos

Teresa Castellanos has worked with the diversity of communities for over 30 years. Twenty of those years have been in Santa Clara County's Citizenship Initiative and Immigrant Relations and Integration Services in the Office of Human Relations. She currently works in the Office of Immigrant Relations. She is also a trustee for the San José Unified School District, mother of four, grandmother of two, and godmother of two.

Lisa Colvig-Niclai, MA

Lisa Colvig-Niclai is vice president of evaluation at Applied Survey Research (ASR). Lisa has 24 years of experience leading child-focused strategic planning and evaluation efforts in Asia and the US, including strategic results planning for the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission, as well as First 5 commissions in Santa Clara, San Benito, Solano, Sacramento, Sutter, Yuba, Tehama and Siskiyou Counties.

Eric Dearing, PhD

Eric Dearing applies his background in psychology to explore the links between students' lives outside of school and their performance in the classroom. Recognized as an esteemed leader in his field, Dearing's work has been cited in testimony to Congress and appeared in the New York Times, U.S. News & World Report and USA Today and on NBC. Dearing's research emphasizes the power of families, early education and care, and neighborhood supports to bolster achievement for children growing up in poverty. Much of his current work centers on promoting high-quality parent and early educator engagement to improve math learning for children in low-income families.

Thanh Do, PhD

Thanh Do is Deputy Chief of the Community Health and Wellness Department at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. In his current role, Thanh provides oversight of the following key initiatives to support the healthy development of children prenatal through age five and their families through a systemic, whole child and whole family approach: Universal Developmental Screening with Connection to Early Intervention Services, Health and Wellness, and Superior Court and Child Welfare.

Supervisor Susan Ellenberg

Susan was elected as 4th District Supervisor for the County of Santa Clara in November 2018. Susan strives to be the change she wants to see in the world. As a School Board Trustee, she has seen that there is more that needs to be done to make our community safe and healthy for everyone. Now, as Supervisor, she will lead efforts to support vulnerable families and individuals, including seniors; advocate for reform in our criminal justice system; work to expand access to early childhood education; promote gender equity; fight to protect the availability of quality health care including mental health services; lead efforts to increase the availability of low-income and affordable housing; and ensure every dollar spent maximizes impact in all of these areas.

Veronica Goei

Veronica has been Executive Director of GFS since 2000. She is a leader in the nonprofit sector with more than 20 years of experience. Under her leadership, GFS has built a reputation for expertise in early childhood education, family engagement, and working with Latino families. She is a published author and has developed curricula in the areas of parenting, early childhood literacy, and adult education. Her curricula are implemented at the local, state and national level. Veronica serves on the Board of SVCN (Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits). She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Chile, and is a graduate of the Harvard University Strategic Perspective in Nonprofit Management Program.

Dilza Gonzalez

Dilza Gonzalez was born in Michoacán, Mexico. At the age of eight she immigrated to the United States where she was educated in the Alum Rock School District. Now her children attend Alum Rock schools. She joined the SOMOS Mayfair neighborhood grass-roots community organization in East San José, first as a participant and then as a Promotora. Dilza is one of the original MPUJE committee organizers. She is a strong advocate for parent decision-making, and of instilling respect for language and culture.

Nereyda Hurtado, PhD

Nereyda Hurtado is a child development expert, who spent over a decade as a researcher at Stanford University, where she conducted studies on language development and parenting practices with monolingual and bilingual families living in the Bay Area. Nereyda is responsible for the implementation of the Building Blocks of Parenting Family Engagement Professional Development Program which seeks to support schools in transforming their interactions with families into meaningful collaborations between parents, teachers and other school staff. Nereyda graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a doctorate in educational psychology.

Rita Birrueta Ibarra

Rita is a Promotora with Valley Palms Unidos, a neighborhood leadership collective of Valley Palms Apartments in East San Jose. Originally from Michoacan, Mexico, Rita and her husband raised their four sons in the Valley Palms community where they have lived for the last 22 years. Rita began volunteering in “la Escuelita,” the onsite Family Resource Center six years ago and agreed to become a Promotora after working with her neighbors to organize a year-long campaign advocating for the construction of an enhanced crosswalk on Lanai and Waverly. Rita enjoys working with and for her community to connect Valley Palms to partners and resources. She believes that tenants know best the needs and assets of their community and therefore must be included in the TEFRA process.

Zulema Inai

Zulema Inai has worked with local and national initiatives to improve outcomes for children and families living in underserved communities. With over 20 years working in the field of education in diverse capacities, her wide range of experience includes, teaching elementary education, organizing family engagement efforts, and designing and administering programs. Zulema is a ZERO TO THREE fellow and is currently Director of Family Strengthening & Support at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County.

Stephanie Kleinheinz, RN, MSN, FNP

Stephanie Kleinheinz is CEO of School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County. She has 10+ years of experience in providing primary care in the community setting. Stephanie is committed to increasing equitable, high-quality healthcare access for all families in Santa Clara County. She has a degree in biomedical science from Texas A&M University, and a master’s degree as a family nurse practitioner from Samuel Merritt College in Oakland.

Jennifer Larocque

Jennifer Larocque has spent the majority of her career in Jefferson Elementary School District in Daly City. The first 10 years as an elementary school principal and the most recent 6 year working as a district administrator on multiple projects including Big Lift Inspiring Summers, New Teacher Induction and managing district grants. With all things new in 2020, Jennifer was asked to lead the district Virtual School option for 500+ students in middle school. With a focus on student equity and quality relationship-building at the core of her work she has enjoyed learning and growing in a supportive environment. She resides on the peninsula with her husband and 3 children and enjoys watching her kids play sports on the weekends and catching up with friends and family.

Ted Lempert

Ted Lempert is president of Children Now and a lecturer at UC Berkeley's Political Science Department. Previously, he was the founding CEO of EdVoice, an educational nonprofit that advocates for policies to increase measurable achievement for all students in California. Ted also served in the California Assembly representing San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. He was also a San Mateo County Supervisor and an attorney. He graduated from Princeton and Stanford Law School.

Chad Martens

Chad Martens is a program manager at Office of Reentry Services (ORS) for the County of Santa Clara. ORS is responsible for the operations of the Reentry Resource Centers in San José and Gilroy and countywide coordination of adult reentry services, as well as oversight of the County's the Adult Reentry Strategic Plan. In 2013, Chad graduated from San Jose State University with a Master's degree in Justice Studies and has been working with ORS ever since. Chad currently oversees ORS reporting, data evaluation, and contracted programs.

Aundraya Martinez

Aundraya Martinez is an Associate Management Analyst with the Office of Immigrant Relations within the Division of Equity and Social Justice of the Office of the County Executive. She is a fourth-generation East San Jose native of indigenous Filipino and Mexican roots. In 2014, Aundraya began working with/in the Valley Palms neighborhood to mobilize existing community assets, hold space for community voice rooted in shared history and values, and contribute to the larger violence prevention strategy coordinated by the Neighborhood Safety/Services Unit. Aundraya is blessed to have been in partnership with many leaders, especially Valley Palms Unidos, and she carries the valuable lessons learned from this circle of teachers as she pursues a J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Gigliana Melzi, PhD

Gigliana Melzi is Associate Professor of Applied Psychology, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Applied Psychology at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, & Human Development and Affiliated Faculty at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University. Dr. Melzi's work focuses on the intersection of cultural and linguistic practices and their relation to children's early development and learning.

Keith Morales

Keith Morales is the deputy chief of Family Strengthening and Support at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and oversees 27 Family Resource Centers throughout the county. Graduating from San José State University with degrees in psychology and criminology, Keith has 22 years of experience providing direct services to children, families, and communities.

Charmayne Moran

Charmayne Moran is the Program Manager of the Neighborhood Safety/Services Unit (NSU) of the County of Santa Clara Probation Department. She received a bachelor's in Sociology and Spanish Education from Humboldt State University and is former Peace Corps Volunteer where she served in Frias, Peru. Charmayne is passionate about building collaborative, cross systems partnerships that are responsive to communities' needs. Her work is currently focused in the Valley Palms and San Ysidro communities of Santa Clara County.

Laurie Nakahira, MD

As Chief Medical Officer at Santa Clara Family Health Plan (SCFHP), Dr. Nakahira is responsible for ensuring the availability, quality, and delivery of healthcare services to SCFHP members, and the development and implementation of medical policies in support of organizational objectives, compliance, and operational excellence. Dr. Nakahira brings over 20 years of experience in clinical practice and management as a board certified internal medicine and pediatrics physician.

Betsy Nikolchev

Betsy Nikolchev has over 30 years of experience in the field of education, family-school partnerships, and innovative program design. She is the founder of the Family Engagement Institute (FEI) at Foothill College. FEI is a leader in its work with families, schools and communities to collectively ensure equitable educational access and student success.

Olivia Ortiz

Olivia Ortiz was born in Guerrero, Mexico. She is a proud mother of two children enrolled in the Alum Rock School District. Olivia joined the East San José grass-roots organization SOMOS Mayfair in 2013 as a participant the Bridge to Kinder program, which prepares parents and children for students' transition into Kindergarten. She is a co-owner of META, LLC, an employee-owned co-operative that was incubated by SOMOS Mayfair.

Carlos Pacheco Miranda

Carlos Pacheco Miranda is a first-generation college student. After a year at a four-year college and assessing his needs, Carlos returned home to continue his education at a community college. Through his studies and Family Engagement Institute work, Carlos explored innovative pathways to college and career. Currently, he partners with underserved communities to catalyze equity-driven change.

Jennifer Pham, LCSW

Jennifer Pham, LCSW, is Division Director for the County of Santa Clara Behavioral Health Services Children, Youth & Family Division - Family & Children's Contracted Specialty Services that serve children and youth from birth through age 25. She is a certified Trauma Informed Systems (TIS) 101 Trainer and endorsed as an Infant Family Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist by the California Center for Infant Family and Early Childhood Mental Health.

Carmen Ponce

Carmen Ponce has over 30 years of experience in the field of early childhood education. Her work has focused on developing culturally responsive programs for educators, providers, and low-income families. As a Peruvian immigrant, she proudly uplifts her community through her work with the Family Engagement Institute at Foothill College.

Andrea Portillo

Andrea was born and raised on the east side of San Jose. As the daughter of two Mexican immigrant parents, she grew up with a clear understanding of the support and resources her family and predominantly migrant community needed but often lacked. She received her bachelor's degree in International Relations from Mount Holyoke College, and her master's degree in Migration Studies from the University of San Francisco. Her previous non-profit experience working directly with immigrant families and youth fueled her passion for exploring equity-based policies, programs and services that bridge the gaps between legislation, academia, and the realities of migrant communities like her own. Si se puede!

Gina Quiney

Gina Quiney is a Senior Legislative Aide to Supervisor Carole Groom and has worked on early childhood education and policy related to children and families for over twelve years. She has been involved in the planning and implementation of The Big Lift since its inception and continues to serve on the Core Leadership Team as well as oversee its operation at the County of San Mateo. Prior to her role in Supervisor Carole Groom's office, she worked on civic engagement and program coordination in the nonprofit sector.

Erika Rivera

Erika Rivera has been practicing family-based affirmative immigration law in both the private and public sectors for over twelve years. She is a product of the East Side Union High School District (Go YB Warriors!) and attended UCLA for her undergraduate degree and Santa Clara University for her law degree. In October 2020, she joined the Santa Clara County Office of Immigration's staff and is assisting with community education, policy analysis, and contract management. Erika is a native of El Salvador and a fluent Spanish speaker.

Carine Risley

Carine Risley holds advanced degrees in Fine Arts and Library and Information Sciences and has served as Deputy Director of San Mateo County Libraries since 2016. San Mateo County's Big Lift initiative is woven into the library's daily innovative work and aligns with broader community efforts to support all children and help all families to be successful.

Stephanie Sabas

Stephanie Saba is a Community Program Supervisor at San Mateo County Libraries and the co-author of "Book Club Reboot: 71 Creative Twists" (ALA Editions, 2019). She received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from San Francisco State University and a Masters in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University.

Jolene Smith

Jolene Smith has spent her career changing the way Santa Clara County systems serve children and families. Through her efforts, she has created strategic, evidence-driven partnerships to tackle issues such as children's health insurance, screening and assessment for developmental delays, high quality early education, early literacy, and parent education.

Christine Thorsteinson

As Silicon Valley Community Foundation's Director of Early Childhood Development, Christine Thorsteinson works to ensure that all young children in Silicon Valley have access to the care, education and resources they need to grow and flourish. Recognizing the critical importance of the first years of a child's life, and the subsequent impact on future success, Christine strives to support local, state and federal efforts to dismantle the systemic barriers that stack the deck against our youngest and most vulnerable. Christine joined SVCF in 2016 and her earlier work included efforts to bridge the gaps between preschool and TK – 12 education systems and develop early learning leadership competencies.