

Executive Director's Report ■ July 2005

CPC Holds Strategic Planning Retreat, Continues Process

The two-day CPC retreat held in May brought together close to 100 CPC stakeholders, including members of the Council, Foundation Board, SPA/AIC Councils, staff, and members of the public. Highlights of the retreat included bringing all participants up to speed on the history of the Council and its current focus on its three arenas of action and its commitment to data; developing relationships across stakeholder groups; and the start of a robust conversation about our commitment to community building, policy, and community action research. While these areas represented the key themes of the direction for CPC, consensus was not reached by the end of the second day. To continue the process, a smaller working group with balanced representation of the key stakeholder groups has been convened and will work over the summer to develop recommendations on the future of CPC. For periodic updates on the working group's progress, please visit the CPC website.

SPA/AIC Councils Hold over 60 Community Forums

Over 60 Community Forums were held between May 1st and June 30th throughout the County of Los Angeles – a partnership effort with the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) to engage local communities on how the County can better align its strategies within Goal 5 of the County's Strategic Plan (Children and Family Well-Being). The Forums, to date, have reached over 3000 parents, residents, and youth from every corner of the County. The process of developing a report with the results of the forums has begun and will be completed before the end of July. A preliminary report will be made at the July CPC meeting; the final report will be shared in September. CPC gives thanks and praise to the extraordinary efforts of each of the SPA/AIC Council staff for their outstanding work in making the forums a success. Special thanks to Lari Sheehan, head of the Service Integration Branch, for leadership and commitment to this effort, and to Laura Valles, CPC Manager for Community Planning and Engagement for her extraordinary talent and ability to coordinate, manage, and give life to this process.

CPC & CAO Host John McKnight in Meeting with LA County Leaders

This spring, CPC and the CAO hosted John McKnight, professor at Northwestern University and the author of the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) model, in a meeting with the heads and senior level managers of the County's health and human services agencies. The discussion centered on the County's role in promoting community building efforts and, in particular, introduced the idea of "gappers" or county representatives that play a critical role in supporting and enhancing efforts to promote civic and community engagement. Over 45 managers and leaders attended. The following day, a small group of IOG members met with McKnight to deepen the discussion. A follow-up conversation with the CAO will be held in August to develop next steps in adopting elements of the ABCD model for the County.

CPC to be Recognized by L.A. County Human Relations Commission

The County's Human Relations Commission has nominated the Children's Planning Council as its "Fifth District Award" recipient at the annual Human Relations Award Luncheon on October 6, 2005. CPC was nominated for this award for its work in reconstituting the SPA 6 Council and its commitment to community building, racial equity, and promoting positive human relations across diverse groups.

Cookie Monster a Hit at School Readiness Summit for School Superintendents & School Leaders

Over 100 school superintendents and school leaders attended the *Raising Student Achievement by Investing in School Readiness* summit – most of whom did not miss out on taking a picture with our special guest, Cookie Monster from Sesame Street. While Cookie was indeed one of the highlights, school leaders especially gravitated toward the “informative and valuable workshops” on topics ranging from parent engagement, partnering with communities, successful transitions from preschool to Kindergarten, and many others. In addition, each school district received data profiles of the children across the five outcomes of child/family well-being, by school district. Keynote speaker, Superintendent Jack O’Connell, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, praised CPC and its partners for creating the opportunity to bring together school leaders at a regional level to discuss school readiness and school success.

SPA 3 and SPA 7 Parents Graduate from the MALDEF Parent Leadership Program

Over 170 parents – many from SPA 3 and SPA 5 – received certificates and commendations for their participation in the MALDEF Parent Leadership Program graduation, a ceremony held in the city of Baldwin Park. At this event, the Children’s Planning Council received a commendation from Congresswoman Hilda Solis. In addition, the City and School Board of Baldwin Park (where many of the parents came from) each presented CPC with a commendation, which was received by former SPA 3 Coordinator Debra Lamana. This event highlights the valuable partnership formed between MALDEF and the SPA/AIC Councils.

Board of Supervisors funds CPC Community Building Institute

The Board of Supervisors approved a new allocation for CPC in the amount of \$553,750 for FY 05-06 and 06-07. These resources will build on the investment made by First 5 LA in the SPA/AIC Council infrastructure. Specifically, the resources will be utilized to focus on sustainability of the Councils by developing a Community Building Institute (CBI) to provide in-depth training and technical assistance on community building and community organizing, utilizing the John McKnight ABCD model. To measure our progress and results, the Councils will participate in the County’s Performance Counts! process. Additional details on the CBI will be shared at the July CPC meeting.

Welcome to Gregory Bell, SPA 6 Youth Community Organizer

CPC is delighted to have Greg Bell join the Children’s Planning Council as the SPA 6 Youth Community Organizer. Greg has demonstrated great leadership skills working with youth. He brings a vast knowledge of youth organizing, since he is currently working with the Y.E.A.H program educating youth on AIDS awareness. CPC is highly honored to have Gregory Bell as the SPA 6 Youth Organizer.

CPC to Fill Vacancies on the Council

CPC seeks to fill key vacancies on the Council. These include two new youth representatives, two parents (recently added to the CPC ordinance), and the seat for Private Child Serving Organizations. Applications and information on the nominations process are in your packets and are also available on the CPC website, or by calling the CPC office. We urge you to help us in sharing this information through your networks across the County.

Respectfully,



Yolie Flores Aguilar
Executive Director