



Meeting Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026

Meeting Time: 1:30 pm

Location: HSA COB3

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026

Present: John Fong (CFS Director), Claire Cunningham (HSA Director), Michelle Blakely (First 5 San Mateo), Ilhaam Hussain (Sup. Jackie Spiere), Meron Asfaw (CFS.), Elisa Kuhl (RTS), Emily Abrams (RTS), Jennifer Clark (First 5 San Mateo), Sahil Niwas (Community Member), Lizzella Lino de Luna (Health Services), Dr. Elizabeth Grady (San Mateo Health, retired), Melissa Guariglia (Family Connections), Geeta Devjani (BHRS)

Agenda Items	Discussion
Welcome & Public Comment	No public comment
CFS Updates	HSA Director Claire Cunningham, a supporter of child abuse prevention, was in attendance to observe and learn about the work being done by the San Mateo CAPC Committee in prevention efforts. Press conference for VLF: CAPC Committee members were reminded of the press conference scheduled on Tues. April 7, 2026. A flyer will be sent out after the meeting.
CAPC Members Announcements	First 5 San Mateo Deputy Director Michelle Blakely announced that they will be hosting an Advocacy Day on April 14, 2026, in collaboration with assembly members who will provide education and local updates. A plug about child abuse prevention month will be incorporated into their presentation. Research and Evaluation Specialist Jennifer Clarke shared that they would be hosting an inaugural meeting to encourage cross agency support for fostering connections and problem solving around issues encountered with families. The next meeting will be in-person at the County Office of Education on April 24 or April 26. The date will be confirmed and communicated to staff who will notify CAPC committee members.





Reporting & Discussion
Agenda

I. San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Efforts

CFS Year End Summary

San Mateo County Children & Family Services Director John Fong presented data spanning from 2023 – 2025.

Data presented included:

- A breakdown of the total number of calls to the CFS Hotline showing a reduction in the number of calls made to the Hotline over the 3-year span.
- A breakdown of referrals to be investigated, also showing a downward trend. 65% of the referrals received by the Hotline were evaluated out versus 35 % which were responded to. (Certain criteria must be met before workers can respond.)
- A breakdown of 10-day responses and 24 hr. responses (which are generally responded to within 2 hours).

2025 data reported 67% of the referrals were not responded to. These were calls received from someone with a sincere concern about a child but did not meet criteria for staff to respond to.

Most mandated reporters believe San Mateo County Children & Family Services is the only point of contact.

The goal is to branch out and refer families to other providers when the concern does not fall within the purview of CFS. With the transition from differential response to the community pathway model, there will be additional access points beyond the 11 schools.

2025 data reported a 7% substantiated (allegation) rate for all referrals investigated for abuse or neglect.

The child welfare agency is in a unique position to offer services and support to families, who do not have a substantiated report, but who need help overcoming the issues that brought them to the attention of the agency.

New Cases Open

2024 data was presented showing a drop in caseload since the 2020 pandemic. Beginning in Aug. 2024, the number of cases has steadily increased. Currently CFS is experiencing less exits from care. An equilibrium point is being reached but it is anticipated that there will be a steady rise over the years. All open cases have stabilized and are expected to continue to do so in the coming years.



Safety

This is data for maltreatment of children/youth brought into Foster Care. Any substantiation while a child is in care will increase the rate, (i.e. kids who go AWOL, assaulted while AWOL, bit by a dog). What qualifies as maltreatment is broad.

Reoccurrence Of Maltreatment

This is defined as a child who is already in care, who experiences a substantiated report in a 12-month period. The data showed a steady decrease in reoccurrences of maltreatment from 2021 – 2025. The shutdown during the pandemic contributed to a 70% drop but in 2023 the numbers began to rise. Children are now in view which is attributable to the rise.

More attention has been invested at the CFS Hotline, and simultaneously the implementation of the SOP standard. The response rate has dropped down to 67% which is indicative of assessments conducted with more depth, and agency involvement with families only when needed.

Differential Response will be restored, and Community Pathways will be introduced. The population that can be served is narrow in scope which will cause the agency to look differently at how work was done previously.

CWS CARES

CWS-CARES will replace the legacy CWS/CMS system. The Go-Live date is scheduled to occur October 2026. The new system supports evidence-based practices and home visiting models that meet criteria. Implementing this automation is essential to secure federal funding, including Title IV-E and Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) dollars, by enhancing data quality, reporting, and caseworker efficiency.

Next Steps:

- Build-up capacity in the CBO community and ramp up services
- Review, train, and execute the motivational interviewing model with CBOs and PHNs
- Examine the home-based visiting model

CAPC members who would like a copy of the data can submit a request to CFS Director John Fong.



II. CAPC Month activities Car Seat Safety Campaign

- Tabling event
- Children's Memorial Flag Raising
- Blue Ribbon Campaign

The Car seat Safety Posters and other event promotional materials were brought for distribution to CAPC Committee Members. Gratitude was expressed to the group for their collaboration on the design and information. CAPC Committee Members were also provided with Blue Ribbon Campaign materials promoting Child Abuse Prevention Month.

North Fair Oaks Extravaganza Update

Ms. Melissa Guariglia with Family Connections provided an update on the event scheduled for Sunday April 26, 2026. Approximately 200 families are expected to attend the event. For the tabling event, members still need to decide what resources to have available to the community.

CHP will not be able to provide a full car seat training but will do a demo for the duration of the event in English and in Spanish. CHP will have a car seat event the following weekend where installation of car seats in participants cars will be available. CHP will also present on bike safety. Incentives for participants include gift cards and diapers; car seats are questionable. Family Health and Stanford have a program that offers car seats to low-income families

Every year the CAPC Committee has chosen one focal point for Child Abuse Prevention Month. At the time when the topic/focal point was being considered, a lot of car seat related injuries were occurring. This is how car seat safety became the focal point for this year's Child Abuse Prevention Month.

All current resources, (i.e. car seat and blue ribbon), can be available on the San Mateo CAPC table. Melissa G. confirmed that there is room for others to join at the table. SMC HSA Director Claire Cunningham suggested the ESS outreach program be present to answer questions and provide resources on benefits due to the many changes in programs. A request will be made to have the CAPC table near the car seat demo.

III. Children's Memorial Flag Raising, April 24, 2026 @ 9 AM

Update by Ilhaam, assistant to Supervisor Jackie Spiere



Supervisor Jackie Spiere, Meron, and HSA Manager Jaspar Lamadora met a week ago to plan the event. A Board of Supervisors presentation is scheduled for Tues., April 21, 2026, which will include a proclamation. A formal presentation is not planned but CAPC Committee Members can provide public comment.

Fri., April 24, 2026 will entail the flag raising ceremony, (with resource table, podium, chairs), blue ribbon and car seat giveaways. The team will be creating a flyer which will be finalized at their next meeting on Mon., April 6, 2026. Ilhaam will send the flyer to Meron for distribution to committee members.

Jasper Lamadora confirmed the availability of the flag. Still to be determined is who will raise the flag? The appointed staff will require time to practice to avoid issues that were encountered at the previous flag raising ceremony.

Car Seat Safety Campaign

CAPC Committee Members brainstormed different high traffic areas where car seat posters could be posted.

Areas included:

- RTS Child advocacy center
- HSA's VIB Board
- Hospital Clinics

There is a process to get posters up at Stanford. Ilhaam has connections with Sutter Hospital.

- Give at Home Visits
- Pre-schools
- Safe Routes through San Mateo County office of Ed
- Libraries

Members also suggested contacting City offices

Members requested an electronic version, PDF version of the flyer. The car seat safety poster and flyers come in various languages including English, Spanish, Tagalog, and Chinese to name a few. If additional languages are needed, members are to contact Meron to request specific languages.



IV. Updates from Outreach work group

Members of the Outreach Workgroup Michelle, Myra, and Sahil provided an update on what they accomplished at their Feb. 21, 2026, workgroup meeting. Committee members were given an opportunity to provide feedback

The Goal/Purpose of this workgroup is still in process.

The target audience is comprised of 8 groups:

- Infant age
- Families
- Schools
- San Mateo County residents
- Childcare centers
- Office of Education
- Office of Community Affairs
- Libraries

Currently CAPC does not have many resources for distribution. The resources available are outdated, from 2022, and need to be updated.

Public awareness events are another area the outreach group is discussing. The outreach workgroup asked committee members to share methods used by their CBOs and organizations to reach their communities, including the type of messaging used.

A suggestion was made to create a web site that would include San Mateo County CAPC's mission and values, bylaws, onboarding of members for outreach, and new member criteria.

The next meeting of the Outreach Workgroup is Tues., April 28, 2026. Action items include upcoming events, digital outreach, and resource meeting.

Ilhaam suggested beginning with the social media since infrastructure since it is already in place and easy to use. The priority is the mission and values statement; the second is designing a logo.



Adjournment	Next Meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2026 Time: 1:30 - 2:30pm Location: Hybrid, Redwood City COB3