



Meeting Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026

Meeting Time: 1:30 pm

Location: Hybrid: Teams/HSA COB3

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, June 4, 2026

Present: Meron Asfaw (CFS.), Donovan Fones (CFS), Elisa Kuhl (RTS), Eric Valladares (Family Connections), Geeta Devjani (BHRS), Rick Vasquez (CORA)

Agenda Items	Discussion
Welcome & Public Comment	No public comment
CFS Updates	Donovan Fones provided an update on the new Peer Parent program. The program is designed to connect parents navigating the system with peer mentors who have lived experience, providing them with direct support, guidance, and community resources to help strengthen families.
CAPC Members Announcements	Family Connections (Eric Valladares) Cafecitos Events In collaboration with the North Fair Oaks Community, Family Connections has begun a series called Cafecitos which are coffee chats where information is shared about local resources or topics of interest relevant to the community, (i.e. mental health, social media engagement. These chats began during the pandemic for the purpose of information sharing. These virtual meetings were paused after the pandemic but due to the issues of present times, (i.e. I.C.E.), these meetings have been relaunched. Their first Cafecitos was held on 5/6/26, which received over 200 views. It serves as a reminder to continue to explore social media platforms, Facebook Lives, and other avenues to share information to





	create more visibility for the CAPC Committee. The strength of Cafecitos is that it is a casual setting, as if having a conversation over coffee, which creates a comfortable space for the community. Eric will send flyers to the CAPC Committee for upcoming Cafecitos events. The recent event got a very positive reception from participants. Eric will also include a link to the recent Cafecitos event. Geeta Devjani Shared information about an Asian American Pacific Islander Maternal Mental Health community event being held on Fri., May 8, 2026, also honoring Mother's Day. Geeta put information about the event in the chat for interested CAPC Members. The event will also recognize Mental Health Awareness Month which is May of every year. Meron will send out the flyer via email to the larger CAPC Committee.
Guest Speaker	N/A
Reporting & Discussion Agenda	I. Child Abuse Prevention Month and Car Seat Safety Campaign Update There were several activities scheduled this month to commemorate Child Abuse Prevention. 1. <u>Car Seat Safety Campaign</u> Gratitude was expressed to CAPC Members for their contributions to the creation of the flyer and campaign. 100+ Posters and 4k wallet size were printed to distributed to CAPC Member organizations and other CBOs to display in their communities. The campaign received positive feedback from libraries, city managers, and various CBOs who contacted Meron for posters to distribute. Social media outreach was used on all County platforms to get the messaging out. The goal is to have a dedicated social media for San Mateo County CAPC Committee. Gratitude was expressed to Eric and Melissa for making the connection with the sponsors of the Redwood City Community event which opened a door for the San Mateo County CAPC Committee to participate in the tabling event. 2. <u>Redwood City Community Event</u> The tabling event was successful. CAPC Member (Elizabeth Cauley and her team from Stanford) donated car seat gift cards valuing \$75 for 7 families who participated in a contest for the best decorated pool noodle. The



connection to the event was that the pool noodles had to include a car seat safety message. The pool noodles were judged based on different categories including the funniest.

The location of the table was ideal, next to the CHP Car Seat Workshop. San Mateo County Human Services Agency was also present and distributed information on CalWORKs and other benefits.

Meron confirmed that Target has a car seat voucher program during Child Abuse Prevention Month for new car seats. In exchange for an old car seat, the voucher provided a \$20 discount off the purchase of a new one. Eight families received gift cards and vouchers.

Family Connections also had a dedicated table at the event where they raffled off a new car seat. They were responsible for coordinating with CHP to offer a car seat workshop at the event.

3. CHP Car Seat Workshop

CHP brought several different types of car seats to demonstrate proper installation. The workshop was not highly attended as hoped, possibly because many families already had car seats by the time of the event.

The workshop covered the following topics:

- Proper installation
- Picking the right car seat, including common mistakes
- How to register car seats for safety recalls

Future Participation

For planning purposes, it was beneficial to partner with Redwood City Community, who already had the event planned. This event is held on a yearly basis during April. If the CAPC Committee is interested in partnering for future events Eric can be a part of the planning processes sooner and the committee can explore other ways to be involved.

4. April 24 Flag Raising

This is a yearly event occurring at the end of April. The purpose of this flag raising is to commemorate those children who lost their lives to abuse and to reaffirm the County's commitment to prevention. This year's event was sponsored by Supervisor Jackie Spiere. The event was attended by 20+ people including representatives from the Human Services Agency, Board of Supervisors, CBOs, and community members.



The event drew a lot of attention from passers by due to its location at the County Center. This could be a potential opportunity for a tabling event next year after the flag raising ceremony where families can obtain resources from HSA and other community base organizations.

5. Blue Ribbon Materials

Blue ribbon materials were distributed to county departments and community partners to promote Child Abuse Prevention Month.

II. **2027 Child Abuse Prevention Month Suggestions**

Substance Use Prevention

One area of concern observed in many of the child welfare referrals is substance abuse. Many of the early childhood trauma and domestic violence cases have been impacted by substance use in the family. It is an issue that continues to persist and is worthy of being addressed by this committee as it impedes a parent's ability to parent successfully. To begin a conversation, an invitation to providers of these services can be extended to discuss the needs and the impact to child welfare cases. Mental Health receives a lot of attention, but this issue is also prevalent. Families working through addictions will need to address the addiction before they can address the trauma and underlying issues. The family's well-being and health are at risk. We are living in a different time where some drugs have become normalized such as marijuana. Spaces are needed for discussions on the impact of substance abuse on families, and how these families can get the support they need.

There are currently treatment providers such as Hope House and Sitike, that provide substance use treatment services to families. A conversation can be had with these providers to gain knowledge and understanding of the services they offer to help clients achieve sobriety. From these conversations the CAPC Committee can understand where and how it can offer support in their local communities.

CSEC

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children is another area to explore. Elisa Kuhl with RTS shared that April is also Sexual Assault Awareness month. The CAPC committee can look at a collaboration between the two since they fall within the same month.

Community Engagement and Involvement



Giving the community a voice and hearing their perspective, from people who have received services and are currently being served. Informational sessions provide a culturally appropriate platform to engage communities. There is a wealth of knowledge and resilience in the community. Instead of a top-down approach where providers are guiding the types of services, working in an opposite way where services are community guided. It is a good approach to building community.

In a previous meeting John shared that 65% of the calls received at the Hotline were evaluated out and referred to community service providers. The majority populations were Hispanic or African. Each category can be looked at through a cultural lens versus a one size fits all approach.

III. CAPC Outreach Workgroup Update

The group met in April. They are working on how to make the CAPC Committee more visible too, and have a stronger presence in, the community. The group proposed revising the mission and vision and requested feedback from the CAPC Committee. The revised San Mateo County CAPC Mission and Vision was shared and feedback was elicited.

One way to protect the child is to focus on the well-being of the parents. It was proposed to add a phrase to the CAPC Committee Mission about connecting parents to resources that will assist them with improving their well-being so that they have the capacity to effectively protect their child(ren). It is a part of the prevention effort and a critical strategy to include. Adding a statement speaking to increasing a parent's capacity, is a protective factor as well. Meron will bring back the revised Mission to the Outreach group for further discussion.

VISION:

The vision statement will be revamped to sound less like a mission statement; feedback was requested from the group. It was suggested to omit the reference to child abuse and include, "if a family is thriving," as this is the prevention that will not result in abuse. The vision states that the goal is for every child to be safe; omission of "preventing child abuse," is believed to not alter that vision. With the omission, the focus takes on a positive tone.

Another suggestion is to keep the statement, "prevention of child abuse," and place the statement regarding "families thriving" first. The belief is that the audience reading the CAPC Mission and Vision Statement will be CAPC Members and not the community.



When activities or other prevention efforts are taking place in the community, the message can be altered to focus on strengthening families and building their capacity. In time when child abuse declines, the statement can be omitted but at present, should be retained to maintain the focus and purpose of the group.

Meron will share the feedback with the outreach group and plans to bring the Mission and Vision statements back to the Outreach Committee in approximately a month for further review and feedback.

LOGO

The current logo is outdated and is to be revamped to reflect the current times

There are no markups to share currently. One suggestion is to change the graphic to show the individuals joined together to emphasize the message that child abuse prevention is a group effort. The logo has been submitted sent to the graphic designers. The suggestion for the graphic will be shared with the Outreach Committee.

NEXT STEPS

After the updates to the Mission and Vision, and Logo are finalized, CAPC Membership and bylaws will be reviewed. Finalization of all these items will be done in-person as a committee. County Counsel will need to review the final products and approve them.

CAPC Strategic Plan – Timeline

Meron shared the 2024-2026 strategic plan. The plan consists of 3 primary goals as well as strategies. Some of the work indicated in the plan is being done by the CAPC Committee at present, some is pending. Meron will send the plan to CAPC Members to review prior to the next in-person meeting in August 2026, where members will decide what to keep, omit, or change. This will allow members ample to review and begin to compile their suggestions. A reminder to members to review the plan will be sent out prior to August's meeting.

CBO & Community Partner Spotlight Request

The suggestion was made at last month's meeting to highlight a CAPC Member at each meeting for the purpose of learning about each organization and the services they provide to the community. A volunteer was requested from the CAPC Committee organizations to spotlight in June. Meron will collaborate with the CBO on an agenda and focus topic and/or presentation.

A CBO Spotlight was not confirmed at this meeting. Merion will send a follow-up email requesting a volunteer.



	CAPC Members who would like additional car seat safety posters can send a request to Meron. The wallet size supply has been exhausted and will not be replenished.
Adjournment	Next Meeting: Thursday, June 4, 2026 Time: 1:30 - 2:30pm Location: Hybrid