



Meeting Date: Thursday, August 6, 2026

Meeting Time: 1:30pm-3:00pm

Location: HSA COB3

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026

Present: Meron Asfaw, Dr. Elizabeth Grady (retired San Mateo Medical Ctr), Elizabeth Cauley (Stanford); Morgan Peterson (CFS Analyst); Elisa Kuhl (RTS); Sahil Niwas (Community Member Lived Expert); Davjani Greeta (BHRS); Jennifer Clark (First 5 San Mateo County); Rosa Diaz (CFS), Melissa Guariglia (Family Connection)

Agenda Items	Discussion
A. Welcome & Public Comment	No public comment
B. CFS Updates	Update Meron shared the new CAPC logo with committee members, using feedback received to inspire the new design which conveyed a more community centered approach to child abuse prevention, communicating the message that support comes from different avenues. Gratitude was expressed to the committee for their feedback. Meron met with the Outreach Team to revise both CAPC's Mission and Vision, using feedback received from the committee members at the June CAPC Meeting. The revised Mission and Vision incorporated wording suggested by committee members. Detailed outreach work group update will be presented at the next CAPC meeting.
C. CAPC Members Announcements	Stanford will be hosting a virtual conference, featuring guest speaker Elizabeth Smart. (The link was sent out by Meron to committee members). A discounted rate is available for CBOs who would like to send multiple staff. Interested CBOs can contact Elizabeth directly to inquire about financial assistance. The conference fees vary based on participant category. The fees are \$65.00 for non-MD participants. After October 9th the fee is \$80.00. CEUs are available to conference participants needing to earn credits. This year's focus will be multi-disciplinary: • Ms. Smart, a survivor of abuse, will speak from lived experience on how to support survivors • Two attorneys will speak about the life of a juvenile case • Dr. Elizabeth Egee will do a presentation on burns • Ms. Maryanne Wolfe will speak about interviewing children



	• A physician from Yale will focus on dog-bites in the scope of child abuse • Staff from Seneca will do a presentation on wraparound services. Committee member Elizabeth Cauley brought 45 backpacks for distribution to member organizations for families with school aged children. The backpacks are available for all grades from TK – 8th.
D. Reporting & Discussion Agenda Program Spotlight: Rape Trauma Services (RTS)	Program Spotlight: Rape Trauma Services (RTS) Ms. Elisa Kuhl is the new Deputy Director of Crisis Intervention at RTS, overseeing the crisis and advocacy program. Prior to RTS she worked for a victim services program and for 8 years, Santa Clara County’s District Attorney’s Office serving survivors of all types of violence. RTS was founded by Emily Abrams and Sara Jarvis who had worked on the County’s suicide crisis line and noticed a lot of reports were for received for sex violence incidents. RTS is the only rape crisis center for the County of San Mateo; it is a center for healing and prevention services. RTS provides immediate response support to survivors and their families. The focus is education and prevention work to end cycles of violence. Services are free to those seeking support no matter when the crime happened, recently or years ago. The programs minimize barriers, (i.e. geographic, cultural, financial, logistical, etc.) to accessing needed services. Emily’s belief is that sex violence is not only a public safety issue but also a public health issue. EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES RTS provides education and prevention in school settings from kindergarten to university. They deliver presentations to young girls on building healthy relationships, giving them the tools to distinguish between healthy and harmful. Outreach, workshops, and other community work are also a part of the RTS prevention and education efforts. The education programs are tailored to the age of the audience COUNSELING SERVICES They have a counseling department and peer counseling which is less formal. RTS currently has 9 staff members, 3 counselors, and many sex assault volunteers on whom they rely heavily on. The desire is to have a total of 5 – 6 counselors. RTS licensed clinicians provide long term therapy. In the future, they hope to have the resources to provide family therapy. RTS is currently recruiting bilingual therapists. Crisit Hotline



RTS has a 24-hour crisis line which is staffed by both staff members and volunteers. The volunteers who go through extensive (80 hr.) training.

ADVOCACY & ACCOMPANIMENT SERVICES

The advocacy program provides advocacy and accompaniment to law enforcement departments to support them in interviews and is present at hospitals for exams.

More work is needed to address technology facilitated abuse (i.e. sharing of an inappropriate photo of another student on social media). There is a lack of funding sources for education efforts to address this issue.

GAPS AND BARRIERS TO PREVENTION

1. Children do not disclose
 - Significantly underreported
 - Survivors do not report until decades laterPrevention is not just preventing abuse but also about creating communities where children can feel safe to make disclosures.
2. Adults do not know how to respond
 - See a lot of survivors who have not received helpful responses from loved ones
(*A child's first disclosure can have a significant impact on their healing.)
 - Figure out ways to help educate those around children to be able to respond in supportive ways
3. Stigma exists

COLLABORATION EFFORTS (CURRENT AND FUTURE)

RTS is excited about the potential collaboration with the CAPC Committee Members and their organizations. RTS works with law enforcement, medical providers, and at child advocacy centers. RTS and San Mateo County Children & Family Services have established a partnership over the past years, collaborating on the development of the G.E.A.R (Growth Empowerment Advocacy Resources) program. RTS attends weekly CSEC MDT Meetings to offer support with survivor issues. They assign a mentor to youth who are at risk or who are being sexually exploited.

Potential ways that CAPC and RTS can collaborate are:

- Expand prevention program to add more schools, faith communities, sports organizations, and parent groups
- Awareness campaigns about body image
- Develop a healthy relationships campaign that targets younger audiences, because it begins early



	• Education on digital safety for human safety • Informational flyer providing anticipatory guidance on spotting potential abusers; i.e., “Grooming.” A good resource book, Sex Trafficking Prevention by author Savannah Sanders • Helping families rebuild after traumatic experiences of abuse, (i.e. trust, communication) • A system aimed toward helping break a cycle of abuse seen in families from one generation to the next by a family member who has had a history of being abused. Typically, kids who have been sexually assaulted act out on other children. There is no mental health support or programming currently available for this population. How to support the family system and obtain appropriate care for the child. San Mateo County Children & Family Services Director John Fong approved the budget, expanding education and prevention services to four additional schools. He can speak more with RTS on how they can partner with San Mateo County Children & Family Services.
CAPC Strategic Plan Activity	CAPC Strategic Plan Activity At the June CAPC Meeting, members briefly reviewed the strategic plan that was developed in 2023. The purpose of today’s meeting was to review each goal and the associated strategies to discuss areas needing revision. CAPC members were divided into 3 groups, (one for each goal), and provided with questions to guide their conversations. The committee regrouped to discuss the areas to leave unchanged, revise, or requiring new priorities. The following are the outcomes and recommendations from each group during the breakout session that will inform the next strategic plan for the CAPC: Group 1/Goal 1: Catalyst for Prevention Strategy 1.2 • Build CAPC membership From diverse backgrounds and capacities • Change the status to yellow, representing “In Progress.” Committee members would like to see a more diverse representation Strategy 1.3 • Establish a Strategic Plan that addresses community needs and aligns with the CFS and other agencies... (CPP Plan, Community Health Improvement Plan, Systems Improvement Plan, etc.)



- Committee members would like the CPP (Comprehensive Prevention Plan) to be accessible to the group to determine if, and where, it aligns with the Strategic Plan.
- The plan will need to align with the needs of the community. CBOs are already working directly with communities and can provide insight into the type of work they are already doing. If CAPC is to be the catalyst for prevention, how informed is the community about prevention?
- Governance & Monitoring the Strategic Plan: how does the committee keep the strategic plan an active living document? Quarterly reviews can be conducted of the plan to ensure the committee is making progress towards fulfilling the goals.

Goal 2/Group 2: Convener of Cross Sector Partnerships

Strategy 2.1: Establish regularly scheduled and accessible CAPC meeting and prioritize prevention activities

- Sponsor more public awareness campaigns
- Extending an invitation to community members, especially those with lived experiences
- Continue to invite relevant guest speakers

Strategy 2.2: Invite participation with a broad range of stakeholders

- Develop a standard onboarding packet
- Update the CAPC website routinely, keeping current with CAPC events and activities
- Highlight CAPC accomplishments on the website or other avenues

Strategy 2.3: Engage parents and community to inform strategies and practices

- Learn about existing community assessments being done by other organizations
- Reach out to organizations with parent advisory boards to get CACP on their agenda and have a focus group to discuss community needs. (Faith-based organizations have invited local CBOs to present to their congregations.)
- Recruit members from the community with lived experience

Another suggestion is to highlight specific things that the committee is working on, things that can be checked off, more attainable goals that can be seen when discussed at meetings.

Group 3/Goal 3: Coordinator of Countywide Prevention Activities



	Strategy 3.1: Promote public awareness and build a shared understanding of how to prevent child abuse and neglect An example of promoting public awareness was the recent car seat safety campaign. • Connect with a PTA meeting forum, where one can find the most committed group of parents. It is a good space to offer educational presentations. • Other forums: youth spaces like a drop-in center where RTS could present on “grooming.” • Other relevant clubs and groups to increase public awareness Strategy 3.3: Provide professional development training to key stakeholders on preventing maltreatment • Provide professional development such as, “train the trainer.” • Other counties have webinars, partnering with these counties to learn from in preparation for when SMC CAPC is equipped to host a symposium/conference The goal for the next meeting will be to develop an updated strategic plan
Public Awareness Focus Topic	Discussion postponed to the September CAPC Meeting
Program Spotlight Sign-Up	The purpose is to learn from current committee members 1st Presentation: Family Connections 2nd Presentation (8/6/26): RTS Meron created and circulated a sign-up sheet for committee members to sign-up to present at a future meeting.
Adjournment	Next Meeting: Thursday, September 3, 2026 Time: 1:30 - 2:30pm Location: MS Teams