

**Our Children, Our Families Council**  
**Summary of SF Family Support Network**

*April 30, 2015*

**Goals of the Effort**

The mission of the San Francisco Family Support Network (FSN) is to work collectively to achieve quality programs, coordination of resources, and policies that support all San Francisco families. The group envisions a San Francisco made vibrant by healthy, strong, and diverse families who are supported by accessible, well-coordinated, high quality resources and services and by policies that value and promote their well-being. The FSN has identified promoting family economic success as its main goal.

The SFFSN focuses primarily on these areas of work:

1. **Coordination & Networking** – Promoting an effective, coordinated system of care for San Francisco’s families by serving as the coordinating body for Family Support practice. Increasing connectedness, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration amongst members.
2. **Policy & Planning** – Promoting the development of policies that support San Francisco’s families and providing input into initiatives supporting/affecting families.
3. **Promotion of Best Practice** – Raising awareness of what quality Family Support is and promoting a common language, standards, and evaluation of it.
4. **Technical Assistance and Training** – Certifying providers on the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support and providing support to them to work most effectively with families.

**Focal Population of the Effort**

The FSN’s coordination efforts are for the benefit of all families throughout San Francisco.

**Impact**

The FSN has had an impact on family economic success in each of its four areas of work:

Coordinating & Networking – The group has grown from 20 to 55 members, allowing for more extensive promotion of best practices.

Policy & Planning – FSN developed a policy platform in 2007 and revised it in 2012. Each year, the network hosts a policy forum to ensure the accountability and durability of the plan.

Promotion of Best Practice – FSN created standards of quality for work in the family support field. Before, various funders required a disparity of evaluations from service providers. FSN created a common language around what quality looks like. They provided training on how to use the standards effectively. As a result, family support programs were able to use a common language to demonstrate quality work. The standards were picked up throughout the state and then nation-wide.

Technical Assistance & Training – FSN created unique technical training that is not available anywhere else. For example, providers try to develop and sustain parent advisory committees, but there is no training for how to do that. The FSN created one. The network offers over 30 trainings to providers.

The group’s greatest strength is the breadth of its membership. Because the group includes so many players, including CBO’s and public and private funders, a lot can get done.

## **Challenges**

The greatest challenge for the FSN is the battle against the cost of living in SF, a gap that is becoming unmanageable.

## **Origins of the Effort**

The SF FSN was Founded in 2004 as a unique partnership of the stakeholders in the Family Support field: families, community-based organizations, public departments, and private foundations. The founders recognized the family flight that has been occurring in San Francisco since the 1960's and the need for coordination of services to address the challenges families face in the city.

## **Leading the Effort**

Andrew Russo leads the network, working alongside four staff members. The network is funded by a blend of members, public departments and private foundations. The network also functions off earned income from training and membership dues.

## **Members of the Effort**

The SF FSN is a large group, encompassing a significant portion of organizations serving families in San Francisco. Membership is listed below.

### Family Support Provider Members

- APA Family Support/Asian Pacific Islander Family Resource Network
- Asian Family Support Center– Asian Women's Resource Center, Gum Moon Residence
- Asian Women's Shelter
- Bayview TLC Family Resource Center
- Catholic Charities CYO
- Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
- Child Care Planning and Advisory Council (CPAC)
- Children's Council of San Francisco
- Compass Family Services
- Edgewood Center for Children and Families
- Epiphany Center – Mount Saint Joseph – St. Elizabeth
- Family Service Agency of San Francisco
- Glide Foundation
- Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
- Hamilton Family Center
- Holy Family Day Home
- Huckleberry Youth Programs – Huckleberry House
- Instituto Familiar de la Raza
- Kai Ming Head Start
- Korean Center
- Lutheran Social Service – Northern California
- Mercy Housing
- Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)
- Mission Neighborhood Center, Inc. – Mission Head Start Program
- Our Family Coalition
- Parents for Public Schools
- Portola and Excelsior Family Connections
- Raphael House
- Raising a Reader

- Richmond District Neighborhood Center
- Samoan Community Development Center
- San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center
- South of Market Childcare Center
- Sunset Family Resource Collaborative
- Sunset Youth Services
- Support for Families of Children with Disabilities
- Urban Services YMCA—OMI Family Resource Center, Western Addition Family Resource Center and Potrero Hill Family Support Center
- Urban Strategies
- Vietnamese Youth Development Center
- West Bay Pilipino Multi-Service Center
- The Women’s Building
- Wu Yee Children’s Services

#### Funder Members

- Bella Vista Foundation
- First 5 San Francisco
- Mayor’s Office of Housing
- San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families
- San Francisco Foundation
- San Francisco Human Services Agency

#### Affiliate Members

- American Canyon Family Resource Center
- Bhutanese Community in California
- Burma Refugee Family Network
- Fighting Back Partnership
- United Way of the Bay Area

#### Friend Member

- Charlene Clemens

#### Structure of the Effort

FSN committees meet monthly, and all members, as well as the steering committee, come together every other month. The committees usually have 25% attendance, and the all member meetings usually have 50%. A weekly newsletter is dispersed to over 900 people.

FSN is the backbone to three other entities under a collective impact framework. FSN has also co-founded a California-wide network in 2009.

#### Related Documents

- More information about the FSN can be found at [www.sffsn.org](http://www.sffsn.org).
- FSN overview memo

