

Our Children, Our Families Council

Summary of SF Vision for Families Coordinating Council

April 30, 2015

Goals of the Effort

The San Francisco Vision for Families Coordinating Council envisions a San Francisco made vibrant by healthy, strong, and diverse families. The group wants to see San Francisco provide high quality, culturally relevant resources and services to help all families and their children succeed and thrive.

The Council's goals are specific to five strategic impact areas:

- **Affordable Family Housing**
 - o *Goal: Families have access to Family Housing*
- **Family Health**
 - o *Goal: Families are healthy*
- **Family Education**
 - o *Goal: Families are able to access and obtain quality education their children*
- **Family Economic Success**
 - o *Goal: Families have the resources to meet their needs and achieve their goals for themselves and their children within one to two generations*
- **Family Support**
 - o *Goal: Families have the resources to be strong and supported*

Focal Population of the Effort

The council's coordinating efforts are for the benefit of families across San Francisco.

Impact

The existence of the council has facilitated departments connecting and blossoming collaborations that would not have otherwise happened. The council has identified what organizations are already doing good work in each of the strategic impact areas. The greatest strength of the council is the people it brings to the table.

Challenges

One challenge for Vision for Families is deciding where it belongs relative to the Our Children, Our Families Council. Unclear if the OCOF will replace the Vision for Families effort or work with the existing group.

Origins of the Effort

The SF Vision for Families Coordinating Council was founded in 2012. Stakeholders identified the need for coordination to establish budget priorities so cuts could be made strategically. This council was created to establish priorities for families.

Leading the Effort

Maria Su, head of SF Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families, co-chairs the council with Andrew Russo, executive director of the Family Support Network. DCYF has funded the effort in the past, and the Family Support Network provides support for meetings.

Members of the Effort

The group is comprised of 11 city agencies:

- First 5 SF
- Mayor's Office

- Mayor's Office of Housing
- SF Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families
- SF Department of Public Health
- SF Human Services Agency
- SF Public Library
- SF Recreations and Parks

And the following groups: SF Family Support Network, SF Unified School District, Board of Supervisors.

Structure of the Effort

Family Support Network is the backbone of this organization. Originally, heads of each of the agencies attended meetings. After priorities were established, staff began attending rather than department heads. They meet every other month to discuss how different organizations are moving the vision forward. Normally, 80-90% of members attend meetings.