



The SACHS CHRONICLE

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Vol. 1, Fall 2002

It's all about you!

Welcome to the first edition of the SACHS Chronicle. This newsletter has been created by SACHS Staff to engage SACHS members and other interested parties in the hot issues facing Southern California Counties. The intent of the newsletter is to continue communication between quarterly meetings, and to remind members of action items and upcoming events. It is imperative that each member recognize their value within SACHS and remember that Staff are eager to assist you in any way possible. At this time we invite you to sit back and enjoy reading the topics of most interest to you!.

Note: Please feel free to e-mail any ideas on how this newsletter may be enhanced to tmcdonald@projects.sdsu.edu

SACHS Retreat Dates for 2002-2003

November 21-22, 2002

Location:

Embassy Suites Hotel—Orange County Airport North
1325 East Dyer Road, Santa Ana, CA 92705
(714) 241-3800

February 20-21, 2003

Location: TBD

May 22-23, 2003

Location: TBD

August 21-22, 2003

Location: TBD



SACHS Mission

At the August 2002 Southern Area Consortium Annual planning meeting, SACHS members adopted the following mission statement:

The Southern Area Consortium of Human Services (SACHS), a county/university partnership, will engage in strategic planning, training, policy

development, advocacy, and research to improve the quality and responsiveness of human services in the Southern California region. The Consortium will be a forum for County Directors to explore and exchange ideas and information on issues facing public human services to develop strategies for addressing these issues.

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Staff's Follow up on Action Items

SACHS staff received research done by Portland State University's Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health, and found that it targets children with emotional and behavioral challenges in child care, not in group home care. However, the Research and Training Center recently (Jan/Feb 2002) published a report entitled "Family Participation in Systems of Care," which may be of interest to SACHS members as it presents findings on how family participation in care impacts child and family outcomes. For more information on the research being done by this group, visit their website at www.rtc.pdx.edu.

APHSA: SACHS Staff to present information on this organization at Nov. SACHS meeting so it can be determined if there should be a Southern California rep.

SACHS Staff is scheduled to present Integrated Services Research findings to the Southern Counties Research and Data Collection Forum in Spring of 2002.

Law enforcement training grants as potential PCWTA funding: Don checked with Bill Donnelly who said they are not receiving law enforcement dollars. They are doing a multi disciplinary training with police officers and social workers, and there is specific funding for that project.

SACHS staff collected data from Ventura and LA Counties (and updates from Santa Barbara) and has revised county/university partnership matrix to include information on the nature of relationships between each county and university (i.e., training, research, collaboration, etc.). Revised matrix sent out to SACHS members.

SACHS Members Action Items

- Directors to survey their children's directors re: any model programs that are known to be doing an exceptional job working with these populations.- level 12 and above adolescents.
- Directors to email each other regarding Safe Adoptions Placement Act requirement for fingerprints on all relative placements (if they're doing them or not, what they've found).
- Directors to share proposed Succession Planning work plan with staff heading up internal efforts on succession planning to determine how this fits in with current efforts.
- Directors to complete "Aging Issues for Southern California Counties" questionnaire within next day or two, or within the next two weeks (if need to consult with AAA directors) and to return to Rodger.
- Directors to alert their staff that when they see RFP's / announcements to pass relevant potential topics on to SACHS to further explore.

We thought the following articles on foundation funding might be of interest to you as philanthropic contributions may be used to augment agency funding given the recent reductions in public funds.

Health Philanthropy in California: The Changing Landscape

According to a recent publication of The Center of Philanthropy & Public Policy,¹ California foundations devote 20.1% of their grant dollars to health, compared to 16.5% nationally. The transformation of health philanthropy in California may be attributed to the creation of health conversion foundations.² Both health conversion foundations and community foundations have played an integral role in supporting California's health-related activities. Health funding priorities include:

- Health promotion, disease prevention, and health education.
- Approximately 75% of the foundations identified healthy families/healthy communities, and access to care.
- Sixty-six percent reported a focus on mater and child health.
- Fifty percent of the foundations cited service delivery , disease and

disabilities and improving systems of care.

The fundamental changes that have occurred in health philanthropy in California, fueled by the boom in health conversion foundations, have had a tremendous impact on the support available for health-related activities in California.

¹ Ferris J. M. & Sharp (January 2002). *California Foundations: Trends and Patterns*. The Center on Philanthropy & Public Policy, University of Southern California.

² The foundations formed from the conversions of healthcare organizations from non-profit to for-profit ownership vary substantially in size and geographic focus.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of any of the complete articles summarized in this newsletter, please contact Tameka McDonald, MSW Intern at tmcdonald@projects.sdsu.edu.

California Foundations: Trends & Patterns

A recent publication of “The Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy,” reports results of an analysis of California foundations.¹ Key findings include:

- The assets and giving of California Foundations more than tripled during the 1990’s.
- The growth in California foundations has outpaced nationwide growth, contributing to a westward tilt in the nation’s foundation sector.
- The growth in California foundations during the 1990’s was spurred, in

part, by the formation of new foundations.

- Foundation capacity is highly concentrated in coastal southern California and the San Francisco Bay area.
- Top funding priorities are health, education, human services, the environment, and the arts and culture.

California foundations focus the majority of their grant-making on the state.

The reach of foundation philanthropy within the state varies dramatically

among the state’s counties.

This baseline analysis of California foundations provides a useful starting point for foundations and their non-profit and policy partners as they chart the future of philanthropy and public policy within the state.

¹Ferris, J.M. & Sharp, M. (January 2002). *California Foundations: Trends And Patterns*. The Center on Philanthropy & Public Policy, University of Southern California.

Management Mentoring in a Social Service Organization

According to a recent publication on management mentoring,¹ interviews exploring the experiences of administrators in a state social service organization found informal mentoring² relationships to be common and individually beneficial. The research identifies specific values of mentoring, which include a protégés’ exposure to informal training in interpersonal and technical skills, reports of higher career satisfaction, and the potential to attain higher career positions than non-mentored peers. This study was undertaken as part of the baseline development phase of a management training program. Results are as follows:

Forty managers, 39 middle and upper level managers participated in a one-half hour, qualitative interview. Results of the study conclude 92% of the managers reported having had a mentor and 77% reported they had served as a mentor. All reported receiving career and personal benefits. About two-thirds of the reported relationships involved a direct supervisor

who served as a mentor. If managers of this study are representative of other public organizations, career advancement, management succession, and agency turnover may all be impacted by positive mentoring experiences.

Research Update

SACHS Research Staff have completed the data collection and preliminary analysis for the Year One research study: “Seeking Better Performance Through Interagency Collaboration: Prospects and Challenges.” The goal of this study was to assess the experiences of counties that have moved to structurally integrate two or more public agencies into one super agency and compare them with counties that have maintained a freestanding human service agency system. The intent is to determine if the performance improvements that are anticipated or achieved in counties with integrated agency structures can also be achieved in counties using other modes of interagency collaboration.

Phase I preliminary findings were presented at the August 2002 SACHS meeting. Results of Phases II and III will be presented at the November 2002 SACHS meeting.

¹Kelly, M.J. (2001). Management mentoring in a social service organization. *Administration in Social Work*, 25 (1), 17-31.

²An individual influential in the work environment who has advanced experience and knowledge and who is committed to providing upward mobility and support to careers.

Website: <http://www.HaworthPress.com>

Funding Opportunities

Categorizing Group Home Placements in Child Welfare

The Academy of Professional Excellence has submitted a two year grant application to CalSWEC for \$100,000 (including a \$25,000 match) to conduct research on group home placements in the SACHS counties. The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Describe youth movement among levels of group home care;
2. Identify factors in group care that lead to favorable outcomes (movement to lower levels of care, reunification with families, lower return discharge rates from facilities, satisfactory progress in school, etc.);
3. Develop graduate curricula for child welfare workers and administrative staff regarding group home care.

Thank you for your letters of support for this project. Grantees will be notified in January.



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