PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT – R
Presented by Donna Sneeringer
Why Resource & Referral in California?

• Initial purpose was to **form agencies to help families** find childcare and be counseled on how to find care best suited to their needs.

• Started in the mid 70’s, supported by the state since 1978 at the same time **vouchers were provided to parents to increase enrollment**/reduce cost of care for families.

• Now there are 59 R&R agencies in CA, 58 also administer the voucher programs (Alternative Payment Program or APP).

• Child Care Resource Center, Inc. is the largest R&R/APP servicing Northern LA County and most of San Bernardino County. Service area includes urban, suburban, exurban and rural areas.
R & Rs are the glue in the communities because they:

- Coach childcare providers and help to improve their quality
- Engage with parents conducting parent cafes and other ways to engage families.
- Educate and engage with the community.
- Provide data on the childcare system.
- Recruit new providers.
- Administer child care vouchers.
- Coordinate and advocate for improvements in the childcare system.
- Collaborate with others

During COVID pandemic R & Rs distributed food, personal protective equipment, diapers, cleaning supplies, stipends, as well as coordinate vaccine distribution for providers, with financial support from the state.
• Support the development of Regional R&R Hubs to convene PDG Parent Cafés
• Design Early Childhood (EC) Cafes model to increase home visitors (HV), family, friend and neighbor (FFN) and family child care providers (FCC) implementation
• Expand Parent Café model to include additional content including Zero to Three- Growing Brain and ACT – Raising Safe Kids and Milestone Tracker App
• Coordinate with Quality Counts California
• Coordinate with Tribal and California County Superintendents of Educational Services Association (CCSESA)
• Design and implement parent feedback sessions (Parent Consortia)
What is a Parent Café?

Parent cafes are an opportunity for parents and caregivers to come together to engage in meaningful, reflective conversations that promote collaboration, peer to peer engagement and empowerment.
A healthy family is a strong family.

6 Vitality Themes:
- Physical
- Mental & Emotional
- Spiritual
- Financial
- Environmental
- Social
Virtual Parent Cafés by the numbers

- **32** R&R agencies across California hosted Virtual Parent Cafés
- **80** Virtual Parent Cafés from October 2020-January 2021
- **704** participants attended PDG-R Virtual Cafés
98% rated their Virtual Parent Café experience as good

Parents learned from each other and felt safe sharing their experiences:

- Learned something from a peer: 94%
- Planned to use resources provided: 92%
- Felt safe sharing: 91%
- Learned a new way to handle stress: 89%
# Meaningful moments from virtual cafés...

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<th>Really felt a sense of community. It was nice to not feel alone and to get ideas on so many things. It was a wonderful experience. Very heart and eye opening. – San Bernardino parent</th>
<th>I recognize that what I felt as mom guilt during pandemic was something that other moms were experiencing as well. It made me ease off on myself and be kinder to myself. This has made it easier to navigate through quarantine with a toddler and being a full-time employee. – Los Angeles parent</th>
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<td>We’re all doing okay. We’re all doing our best. We are valuable and worthy of being taken care of and thought of as highly as we treat and think about others. We need to prioritize self-care. - Contra Costa parent</td>
<td>Today I remembered that I am not alone in regards to parenting during these difficult and stressful times. It was a huge sigh of relief remembering we are in this together. -Humboldt parent</td>
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Parent Cafes are in the process of integrating information from the Growing Brain Curriculum.

4 Café Themes:
- Social Emotional Development
- Understanding Behavior
- Everyday Play
- Communication & Language Development
Parent Feedback Sessions (Consortia)

- Bi-directional pathways to engage parents from existing local parent councils and from Parent Cafés from across geographic regions.
- Engaging linguistically diverse groups of parents, parents experiencing trauma including homelessness and disasters.
- Gather feedback on the B-5 system, inform system reform efforts to meet family needs, and provide input to ECPC PAC.
- Serve as peer-to-peer network to develop parent leadership and advocacy skills and connect parent leaders and advocates across the state.
Parent Feedback Video
Findings from Equity Feedback Session:

- **Cultural/racial match**: Parents felt they had to leave their community to find quality OR leave the school (pre-k and k-12) to find culturally competent adults because of student harassment.

- **Parent advocacy is key**: Few programs encouraged parent participation; helping staff see children as people; and little to no change based on their advocacy/input, resulting in some parents choosing to leave.

- **Social justice conversations**: Schools acknowledged but did not put into practice; Parents preferred to have these in the home.

- Parents want: 1) more high quality subsidized programs in communities of greatest need and 2) continual ant-bias training to build cultural competence in adults in child care and k-12.
Goals of Regional R&R Coordination

1. Tribal Connections
2. Building relationships
3. Messaging across the state

Regional Hub Partners
- Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County
- Valley Oaks Children's Services
- Placer County Office of Education
- BANANAS
- Go Kids, Inc.
- Family Resource & Referral Center
- A.C.C.E.S.
- Child Development Resources of Ventura County
- YMCA Childcare Resources Service
Questions?

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