

# Children's Services Network of Tulare County

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2011

The Children's Services Network of Tulare County (CSN) is a multi-disciplinary network made up of representatives and experts from juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health, health, education and community based organizations focused on improving the well-being of children and families throughout Tulare County. The CSN actively promotes information exchange and service integration between health and human service providers from both governmental and community-based systems.

### **VISION**

All children and families in Tulare County will have access to high quality, culturally appropriate services and affordable resources that maximize their opportunities to be safe, healthy and thriving.

### **MISSION**

To strengthen services and support systems for children and families in Tulare County through advocacy, increased service collaboration, and coordinated funding processes.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

CSN believes that all members and partners should operate with integrity and value their professional relationships with each other. Members will be trustworthy, respectful, committed to CSN goals, willing to share honestly and will be open to learning and improving both as individuals and organizations.

CSN values interactions and decisions that are data-driven, made transparently and prioritize evidence based promising practices while still being open to innovation and non-traditional service methodology. Systems, services and individuals are accountable for their actions as well as in-action.

CSN prioritizes services and programs that focus on the needs of the children and families not the needs of the system. Service systems and programs should be flexible, culturally appropriate and encourage emotional as well as physical well-being.

## Goal One

To advocate for children and families as a priority in Tulare County and for the allocation of adequate energy and resources to ensure their continued health, education and welfare.

### STRATEGY 1.1

**Advocacy** - Educate and influence local, state and national policy makers with regard to adequately funding services and programs in Tulare County.

#### *Objective 1.1.1*

Establish an Advocacy Committee to evaluate opportunities for the CSN to make specific recommendations or take official positions to influence legislation, policy or regulations that affect local services for children and families.

#### *Objective 1.1.2*

Develop an ongoing mechanism for communicating with elected officials about the CSN, its activities and priorities.

### STRATEGY 1.2

**Systems Change** – Evaluate selected issues and systems for the purpose of improving efficiency and effectiveness and make recommendations as appropriate.

#### *Objective 1.2.1*

Develop and promulgate a resolution establishing that major decisions made by government agencies include a “Children and Family Impact Statement” as a part of the standard declarations accompanying a staff report.

#### *Objective 1.2.2*

Based on data from the CSN Children’s Report Card, periodically select one or more issue for CSN quality improvement focus. Review available data about the issue, service statistics, service system configuration, and current outcomes for the purpose of making recommendations that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local efforts to address the selected issue.

### STRATEGY 1.3

**Report Card** - Research, develop, and publish a Children’s Report Card for Tulare County on a regular basis that highlights health, safety, and well-being indicators, trends, and recommendations for action.

#### *Objective 1.3.1*

Every three years publish “Tulare County Children’s Report Card” focused on those issues deemed a priority by CSN as well as general data and indicators affecting all children and families in Tulare County.

#### *Objective 1.3.2*

Periodically publish materials that update, support or expand upon the “Report Card” report.

## Goal Two

To enhance services to children and families in Tulare County by facilitating improved communication, collaboration, and coordination among service providers.

### STRATEGY 2.1

**Communication** – Maintain an open flow of information between and among the various service delivery systems.

#### *Objective 2.1.1*

Identify and maintain adequate administrative support staff resources to coordinate communication strategies.

#### *Objective 2.1.2*

Convene a monthly CSN meeting that will provide for meaningful dialogue about children and family issues, best practices, status of current efforts, and a forum for addressing problems.

#### *Objective 2.1.3*

Develop the CSN as an “information hub” for local efforts with coordinated access to meeting minutes, Master Calendar of meetings and events, and technical information.

### STRATEGY 2.2

**Coordination** – Develop cross-sector efforts and service integration.

#### *Objective 2.2.1*

Minimize the unnecessary duplication of health and human service advisory bodies by designating the CSN as a multi-purpose Advisory Board able to provide the required oversight, monitoring, and review to multiple efforts, grants, and initiatives.

#### *Objective 2.2.2*

Provide funding allocation recommendations for selected local initiatives and funding processes. At minimum, maintain the Joint Allocations Committee with CAPC.

#### *Objective 2.2.3*

Establish criteria and process for issuance of “Letters of Support” to encourage collaboration and high quality services in alignment with CSN priorities and guiding principles.

## Goal Three

To promote the development of services and programs that address emerging needs and fill gaps in the service delivery system for children and families in Tulare County.

### STRATEGY 3.1

**Mapping** – maintain an inventory of service maps and needs assessments of current efforts to address the needs of children and families, and determine augmentation needs.

#### *Objective 3.1.1*

Provide research support, as feasible, to community needs assessments or mapping efforts.

#### *Objective 3.1.2*

Maintain a working matrix of collaborative efforts targeting services to children and families that also identifies further opportunities for synergy.

### STRATEGY 3.2

**Meaningful Dialogue** – Promote discussion about service gaps and emerging needs amongst service providers and funding organizations.

#### *Objective 3.2.1*

Include, as a standing agenda item, a discussion of selected service gaps and emerging needs at the regularly scheduled CSN meetings,.

#### *Objective 3.2.2*

Determine the need for and populate an ad hoc Emerging Needs committee that will establish an activity plan, to include measurements of success.

## Goal Four

To enhance the capacity of service providers to provide high quality, culturally appropriate support to the children and families of Tulare County.

### STRATEGY 4.1

**Training and Education** – Provide regular training and education for Tulare County service provider staff

#### *Objective 4.1.1*

Maintain a “Training and Education Committee” that on an ongoing basis researches and develops training and education opportunities for local children and family service providers.

#### *Objective 4.1.2*

Provide opportunities for staff and volunteers to improve skills through the financial sponsorship of appropriate conferences, webinars and seminars.

#### *Objective 4.1.3*

Explore the efficacy of hosting an Annual CSN Conference.

#### *Objective 4.1.4*

Co-host training and education events with other organizations and networks promoting priorities in alignment with CSN objectives.

## Goal Five

To increase the awareness, understanding, and support of critical children and family issues by Tulare County residents.

### STRATEGY 5.1

**Marketing Plan** – Develop and implement a marketing and public awareness plan that increases the visibility of children and family issues to the general public and highlights the CSN as a champion of those issues.

#### *Objective 5.1.1*

Research and develop a CSN “Brand” including standard visual, verbal and written messaging as well as a new CSN logo.

#### *Objective 5.1.2*

Explore the efficacy of producing Town Hall Meetings, a CSN Blog, a regular newspaper column, and/or talk shows on cable access.

#### *Objective 5.1.3*

Develop and maintain easily accessible information of interest regarding children and family issues via the CSN Web-site at [www.tccsn.org](http://www.tccsn.org).