

BLACK CHILD LEGACY CAMPAIGN
FIVE-YEAR REPORT
MARCH 2020

The Foundation of a **REVOLUTION**

Five Years of Legacy



Co-Chair Letter

In the course of creating an infrastructure to serve Black children, youth and families to reduce African American child deaths in Sacramento County, the Black Child Legacy Campaign has begun to transform our community through an innovative approach of providing services and a strong desire to empower and create opportunities in seven targeted neighborhoods. Our vision is to create a legacy for black families and children in Sacramento County to have full and equitable access to emotional, physical and financial well-being so they can thrive for generations to come. This vision has led to a dramatic reduction in African American child deaths in Sacramento, as well as a decrease in the disparity—an unprecedented happening not only in our community, but nationally.

The Steering Committee on the Reduction of African American Child Deaths has arrived at an understanding that much of the knowledge and experience needed to create change resides in the neighborhoods we serve. Throughout the Black Child Legacy Campaign, Community Incubator Leads, Cultural Brokers, Community Intervention Workers and people within the community are at the heart of this work and drive its success.

The Black Child Legacy Campaign unites communities around black families, so that they have the unbiased support and resources necessary to leave a great legacy for future generations. Through this collaborative campaign, we have been able to change the policies and laws that have been roadblocks in black families' path to success.

The strategies we have created and implemented—led in partnership with many organizations, departments and agencies—have transformed Sacramento County. This five-year report outlines these strategies and the quality dimensions that have guided this campaign.

Our hope is that this is only the beginning for Sacramento County. Although we have seen success, we know there is still much work to be done. The infrastructure within the community and the people, organizations and agencies are in place. We hope you will read this report with an open mind toward the possibilities of the future with community at the front and center.

Sincerely,

Chet P. Hewitt

Dr. Natalie Woods Andrews

Co-Chairs

Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths

Acknowledgements

Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths

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Aliane Murphy-Hasan
Kim Pearson
Tina Roberts
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Dr. Natalie Woods Andrews, Co-Chair
Marlon Yarber

Community Incubator Leads

Arden Arcade: Mutual Assistance Network
Del Paso Heights-North Sacramento:
Roberts Family Development Center
Foothill Farms-North Highlands:
Liberty Towers
Fruitridge-Stockton Blvd.: Sacramento BHC
Meadowview: Rose Family Creative
Empowerment Center
Oak Park: Greater Sacramento Urban League
Valley Hi: South Sacramento Christian Center

Community Leadership Roundtable
County of Sacramento Multi-Disciplinary
Leadership Team
Child Protective Services
Department of Human Assistance
Probation Department

We especially wish to thank Supervisor Phil Serna and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors for your commitment and leadership.

Funding Partners

Board of State and Community Corrections
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County of Sacramento
First 5 Sacramento
Health Net
Kaiser Permanente
Obama Foundation
The Center at Sierra Health Foundation

Partners

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City of Sacramento Gang Prevention
and Intervention Task Force
Innovation Bridge
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Black Child Legacy Campaign – Key Terms and Definitions 7 Community Incubator Lead (CIL) Neighborhoods

- AA** Arden Arcade
- DPH** Del Paso Heights-North Sacramento
- FF** Foothill Farms-North Highlands
- FS** Fruitridge-Stockton Blvd.
- MV** Meadowview
- OP** Oak Park
- VH** Valley Hi

KEY

- RAACD:** Reduction of African American Child Deaths
- ICPC:** Interagency Children’s Policy Council
- CLR:** Community Leadership Roundtable
- MDT:** Multi-Disciplinary Team
- HTH:** Healing the Hood
- CIW:** Community Intervention Worker
- CIL:** Community Incubator Leads

Introduction

What does it take for life to become more promising for a child or young person? An adult who cares for her? A system of support for his family? A community in which she feels safe and connected? A city where his life and livelihood are a priority?

For African American children in Sacramento, life is becoming more promising for all of these reasons and more. The Black Child Legacy Campaign puts the lives of Black children front and center in a broad but targeted approach to ensure that more of them live to become adults. “What we have begun here is the foundation of a revolution,” says Tina Roberts of the Roberts Family Development Center in Del Paso Heights. “Our end goal is to bring about change.”

The Black Child Legacy Campaign was created in response to the sobering realization that African American children in Sacramento were



Youth attend the Peace and Unity Gun Violence Prevention Rally at Cesar Chavez Park in June 2019.

dying at more than twice the rate of any other ethnicity—and that disparity had existed for more than 20 years. After this startling statistic was reported by the Child Death Review Team in 2009, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors created a Blue Ribbon Commission to study the disparity, and in 2013 adopted their recommendations. In 2015, a Board of Supervisors resolution created the Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths (RAACD), a community-driven body of dedicated individuals with the shared goal of reducing the child death disparity by 10 to 20 percent by 2020.

The RAACD Steering Committee, led by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, is responsible for providing oversight, planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting to the Board of Supervisors on the work to reduce African American child deaths in four issue areas: perinatal conditions, infant sleep-related deaths, homicide due to child abuse and neglect, and third-party homicide. To achieve its goals, the RAACD Steering Committee created the Black Child Legacy Campaign.



Dr. Natalie Woods Andrews, co-chair of the RAACD Steering Committee and Executive Director of Early Learning, Sacramento County, at the annual GLORY conference.

The Black Child Legacy Campaign made huge strides, surpassing the 10 percent reduction mark in 2016 after only a year of implementation. Now nearing its fifth year, and marking three full years of active implementation, the Black Child Legacy Campaign is celebrating the milestone of reducing the rate of deaths by 25 percent between 2014 and 2017. What's more, the campaign is also celebrating a 23 percent reduction in the African American infant death rate during that same period, and a more than 50 percent reduction in disparity for infant sleep-related deaths. In addition, there were zero juvenile homicides in the City of Sacramento in 2018 and 2019.

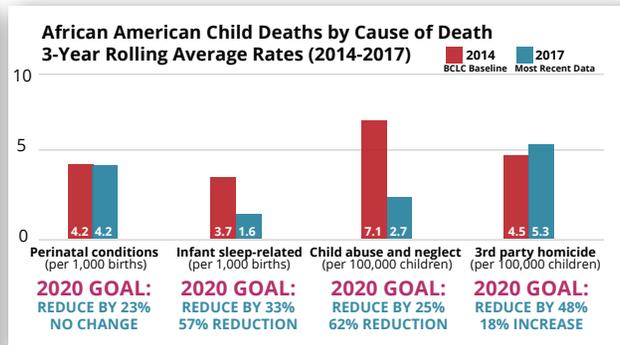
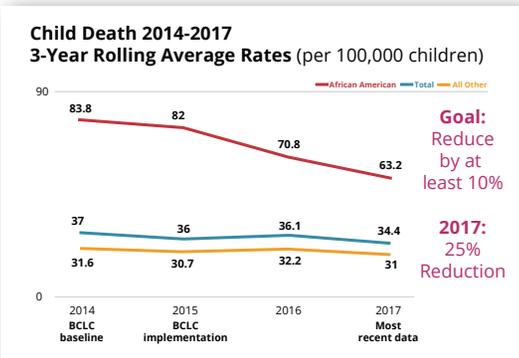
The progress has been inspiring on many fronts. Most importantly, the work of the Black Child Legacy Campaign shows that powerful change can happen when many different organizations align their talents and focus on a common goal. There is still a great deal of work to be done before all Black children are safe and supported in Sacramento. But with continued investment and commitment, there is much evidence to show that the work of the Black Child Legacy Campaign will reach that goal. Through this targeted but universal effort, all kids will do better in Sacramento.

“Over this last year, I think the biggest accomplishment is the data that provides evidence that what we’ve been doing over these past four or five years is making a great impact in our community,” says Dr. Natalie Woods Andrews, co-chair of the RAACD Steering Committee and Director of Early Learning, Sacramento County Office of Education. “That is a huge accomplishment. The data speaks for itself as evidence that the Black Child Legacy Campaign, as a whole, has been highly successful. We set out to reduce the death rates by 10 to 20 percent. My goal would be 100 percent. Until we truly eliminate the disparities in the death rates of Black children, I don’t think we can be satisfied.”

Black Child Legacy Campaign 2020 Impact Dashboard

Reduction of African American Child Deaths

The overall goal of the campaign is a reduction in African American child deaths from the 2014 baseline rate of 83.8 deaths/100,000 African American children to a rate of at least 75.4 deaths (a 10% reduction).



BLACK CHILD LEGACY CAMPAIGN 2019 • BY THE NUMBERS AND BEYOND

296 African American individuals and families received intensive case management to reduce the stressors and risk factors that lead to unsafe sleep practices for babies, lack of prenatal care for women, child abuse and neglect, and youth violence. Intensive case management allows caseworkers to provide services and supports to address homelessness, food insecurity, substance abuse, lack of Medicaid and other challenges.

187 African American pregnant women received BCLC services. 137 of these women were connected to prenatal care as part of their BCLC services.

248 African American individuals and families received education and referrals for safe sleep practices. Parents, grandparents and other caregivers received community education and participated in forums to learn how to ensure infants are safe when they sleep. 105 families received cribs.

4592 African American youth participated in BCLC activities.

168 African American youth participated in transformative learning opportunities, including data collection through participatory action research (PAR) within their neighborhoods and schools, employment readiness, event planning, public speaking, civic engagement and multimedia technical skills.

109 African American community members were involved in leadership activities such as acting as an adult ally for youth participatory action research teams, public speaking, and serving on the Community Leadership Roundtable.

369 BCLC clients (including non-African American clients) needed housing-related services.

68 African American youth were referred from Probation.

130 African American families with open CPS cases received BCLC services.

7 Community Intervention Workers provided intensive case management and crisis response through Healing the Hood. Community Intervention Workers received more than 40 hours of training and professional development in 2019.

Local Movement Building

Neighborhood infrastructure is strengthened through partnerships of Community Incubator Leads and local leaders, and the engagement of youth in the reduction of African American child deaths.



- ### Systems Change Wins – 2016-2019
- ✓ Hospital adoption of safe sleep protocols for all births
 - ✓ County out-stationed staff in neighborhood Multi-Disciplinary Teams
 - ✓ County Child Protective Services implementation of cultural broker program
 - ✓ Healing the Hood coordinated strategy for youth violence prevention, intervention and interruption, with referrals from Probation and school districts
 - ✓ Adoption of county-wide hospital crisis response protocol.

Resource and Capacity-Building Investments

With resources from external sources, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation provides capacity-building and other backbone functions needed for the success of the Black Child Legacy Campaign.

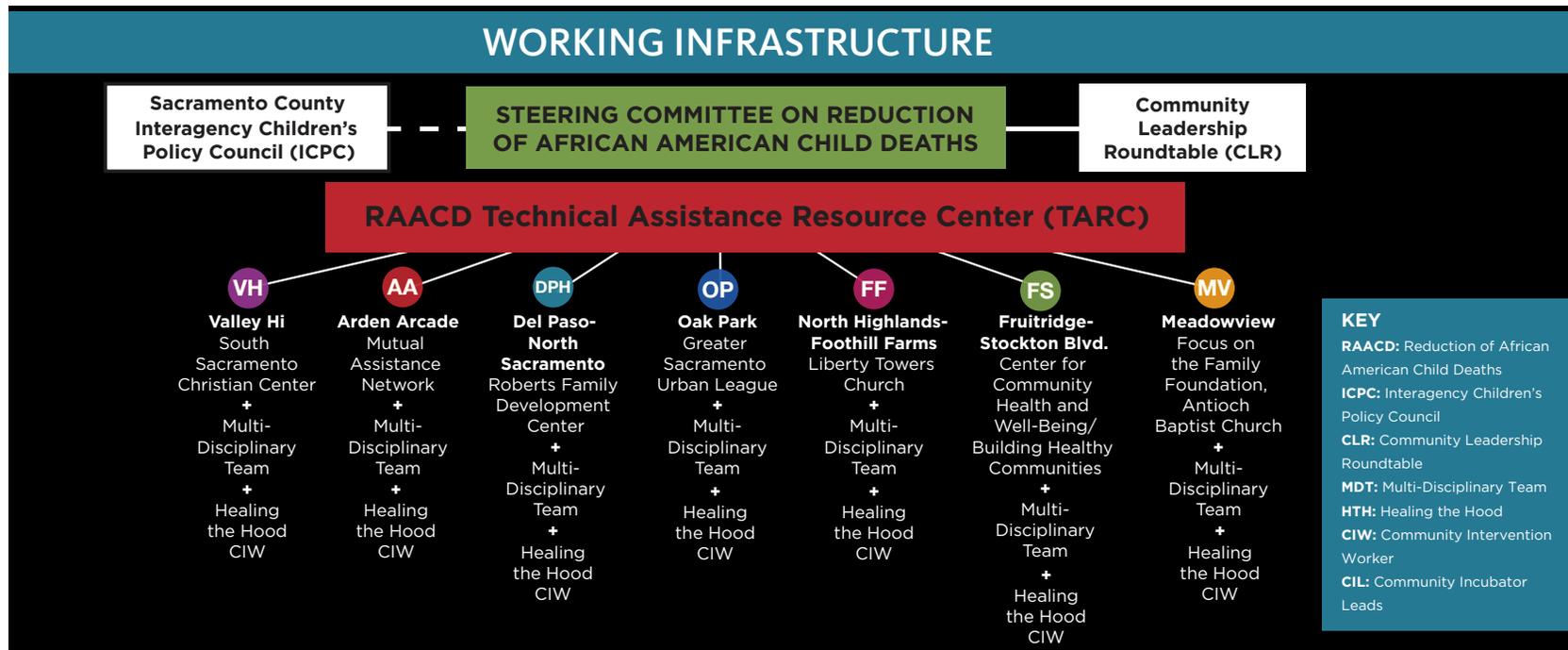
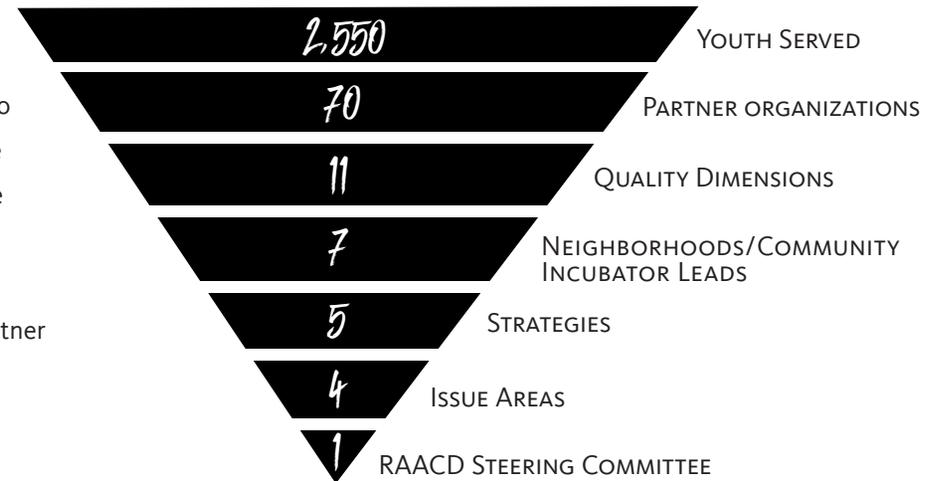


Strategic Approach

Collective Impact: The Black Child Legacy Campaign Structure

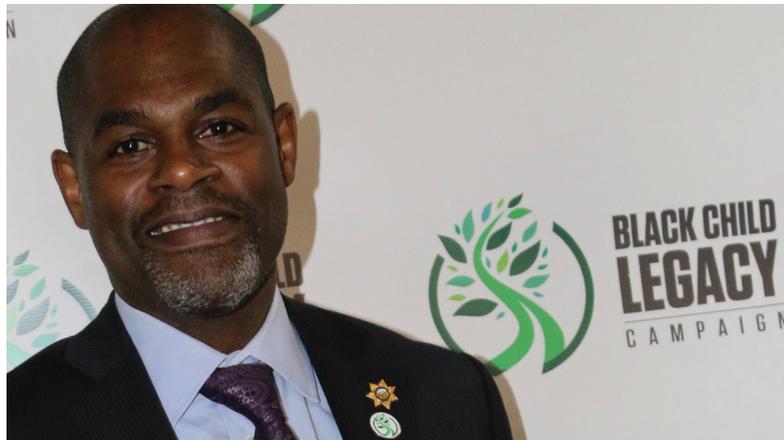
The Black Child Legacy Campaign infrastructure uses a collective impact approach, led by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation. Through this approach, individuals and organizations from multiple sectors work together to pursue five key strategies (outlined below) in seven neighborhoods, to achieve the common vision of reducing African American child deaths. The work of the Black Child Legacy Campaign is overseen by the RAACD Steering Committee, and it is carried out on a daily basis by seven Community Incubator Lead (CIL) organizations—one in each target neighborhood. Each CIL engages myriad partner organizations. The CILs and partners form Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs), consisting of nonprofit and government agencies, that connect neighborhood residents with prevention and intervention services in Sacramento County.

Services and Resources



In this way, the Black Child Legacy Campaign has created a growing, sustained network of organizations—an infrastructure that can mobilize quickly in response to any resident’s need and work together to address that need seamlessly and effectively. What’s more, participants in the Black Child Legacy Campaign, including community leaders, families and youth, have lifted their common voice in support of new policies that better support and protect African American children and their families.

“Big picture, the thing that’s been most impactful is the multi-disciplinary approach, embedding staff in the community and becoming part of the community,” says Marlon Yarber, Assistant Chief Probation Officer. “It dispels myths on both sides. Residents see that we’re there to help people be successful. We all deal with the same clients. Why not set up offices in those communities and work with community-based providers and meet people where they are? Why not make it easier for people who are already challenged? Now we have connections with providers, families and kids who may not be under our supervision, but are part of the community. Natural relationships can develop; we get to know the community better and they tell us more. At first it pushed a lot of us out of our comfort zones, but it’s what the community wants.”



Marlon Yarber, Assistant Chief Probation Officer

Targeted Universalism

Much of the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s success is due to its efforts to embody the principles of targeted universalism, a design method conceived by John A. Powell of the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at UC Berkeley. A structural approach to equity and inclusion, targeted universalism considers the multiplicity of factors that contribute to a disparity. Through this lens, the needs of children most vulnerable to health disparities are “targeted”—centered in interventions to address them. At the same time, the interventions can and should apply to any child who needs them – the “universal” aspect. Without explicit efforts that are both targeted and universal, interventions may only treat symptoms, root causes are frequently overlooked, and policies and procedures can leave Black children and families (and others) behind.

The Black Child Legacy Campaign’s unique targeted and universal approach has changed the trajectory of Black children’s lives while steadily building a countywide infrastructure that benefits all children of Sacramento County.

“Big picture, the thing that’s been most impactful is the multi-disciplinary approach, embedding staff in the community and becoming part of the community. It dispels myths on both sides. Residents see that we’re there to help people be successful. We all deal with the same clients. Why not set up offices in those communities and work with community-based providers and meet people where they are? Why not make it easier for people who are already challenged? Now we have connections with providers, families and kids who may not be under our supervision, but are part of the community. Natural relationships can develop; we get to know the community better and they tell us more. At first it pushed a lot of us out of our comfort zones, but it’s what the community wants.”

- Marlon Yarber, Assistant Chief Probation Officer

Strategies to Save Black Children

In 2015, the Steering Committee on RAACD adopted five interdependent strategies to guide an uncharted path to build a community movement with the explicit goal to reduce the four leading causes of Black children’s deaths in the seven Sacramento neighborhoods with the highest rates. These strategies have led to the development of a powerful infrastructure that has driven the success of the campaign and has drawn statewide and national attention.

The Black Child Legacy Campaign’s five strategies are:

- 1. PROMOTING ADVOCACY AND POLICY TRANSFORMATION
- 2. EQUITABLE INVESTMENT AND SYSTEMIC IMPACT
- 3. COORDINATED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT
- 4. DATA-DRIVEN ACCOUNTABILITY AND COLLECTIVE IMPACT
- 5. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Strategy 1: Promoting Advocacy and Policy Transformation

Policy advocacy to advance equity efforts in affected communities is long-term work that requires a cultural shift at every level, within communities and within the institutions and organizations that seek to support them. The Black Child Legacy Campaign has offered a platform for strengthened relationships and authentic collaboration across agencies and neighborhoods working toward a common cause.

The Community Leadership Roundtable (CLR) is one example of the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s endeavors to convene leaders for advocacy across communities. Through bi-monthly meetings, CLR members are able to build upon the shared language of the campaign and develop skills that strengthen its impact. CLR members also receive training to conduct quality assessments of CILs and hold a key role in neighborhood outreach and advocacy efforts that expand the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s reach. The relationships they form in the CLR’s also strengthens each CIL’s ability to respond to community crises.



Crisis Response Food Geniuses

The Black Child Legacy Campaign has shifted attitudes and beliefs about what is possible for Sacramento while building a collective vision of a county where Black children can thrive. Neighborhood residents, inspired by the campaign, have become civically engaged in activities such as voter registration and campaigns to educate communities about propositions that will impact their lives.

“Our hope is to change policy in Sacramento,” says Derrell Roberts of the Roberts Family Development Center, the Del Paso Heights CIL. “We have

policies that make people dependent as opposed to independent. Part of what the Black Child Legacy Campaign does through its collaborative efforts is give inroads and windows of opportunities to our state and local policies.”

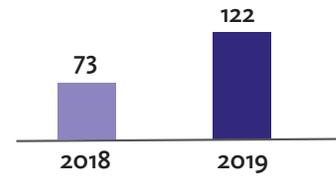
Opportunities for civic engagement have been a platform for adult and youth residents to recognize the power of their voices to influence the decisions that affect their everyday lives. Following the tragic death of Stephon Clark, the Black Child Legacy Campaign CILs began to advocate for more inclusive economic development strategies with the City and partners from the Build.Black. Coalition. These advocacy efforts became a cornerstone strategy in 2019.

Strategy 2: Equitable Investment and Systemic Impact

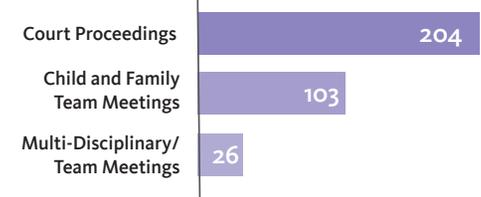
Investments in people deliver the highest impact on the systems that serve them. The Black Child Legacy Campaign adopted the Cultural Broker Program after learning of its existence from a peer leader, Fresno County. The Sacramento County Cultural Broker Program, of which the Meadowview CIL serves as the site for two neighborhoods, holds a key role in strengthening community infrastructure by engaging families with a client-centered and culturally responsive approach. Made possible through funding by the County and intentional collaboration among Sacramento County agencies, the Cultural Broker Program has invested in a group of community members who are rooted in the community and whose lived experience mirrors that of the families they advise. Cultural Brokers are trained as intermediaries and equipped with the skills to walk alongside families as they navigate agencies and institutions to access the resources and services they need. Cultural Brokers work to keep children and families out of the system and to establish trusting relationships with families who may be difficult for the Department of Human Assistance, Child Protective Services and

other agencies to reach. The courts are now not only referring families to the program, but they are calling for the presence of Cultural Brokers in the courtroom with families. By the end of 2018, 91 families were working with Cultural Brokers across Sacramento County through the County Cultural Broker Program.

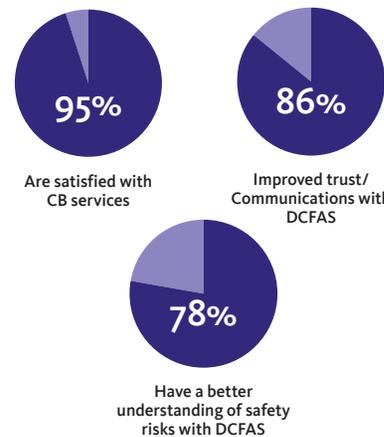
NUMBER OF REFERRALS TO THE CULTURAL BROKER PROGRAM



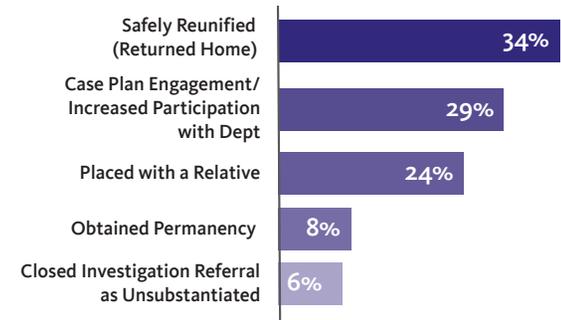
CULTURAL BROKER ADVOCACY PRESENCE BY ACTIVITY



SATISFACTION SURVEYS



OUTCOMES OF CASES THAT HAVE CLOSED TO DATE (N=80)



Collaboration to support Cultural Brokers is just one example of how multiple agencies are working together. Out-stationed staff from different agencies at each CIL provide a valuable infrastructure backbone that connect neighborhood families directly and seamlessly to the services that support their success. Their presence within each neighborhood ensures the creation of stronger relationships, which in turn deliver more equitable outcomes and impact.

Strategy 3: Coordinated Systems of Support

The CILs live at the heart of each neighborhood and are what Chet P. Hewitt, co-chair of the RAACD Steering Committee and President and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation, describes as the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s “incredible infrastructure.” Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) are housed within each CIL, which enables close collaboration and wraparound support for families including prevention and intervention services. Additionally, trusting relationships within the community position CILs to mobilize residents to address neighborhood crises and to participate in civic engagement, community events and youth-centered activities.



BCLC Violence Prevention and Intervention Training participants

Multidisciplinary Teams, (MDTs) are housed in each neighborhood CIL. The Department of Human Assistance, Child Protective Services, probation officers, cultural brokers and other providers work in collaboration to ensure wraparound support for families. Depending on community needs, MDTs can also include other agencies, such as Sacramento Employment Training Agency or Her Health First, for example.

Strategy 4: Data-Driven Accountability and Collective Impact

The Quality Assessment process, which includes 11 quality dimensions, guides CILs in tracking their progress toward the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s goals to reduce the four leading causes of Black children’s deaths. The clear quantitative targets to reduce child deaths have enabled stakeholders to keep their “eyes on the prize” and to maintain focus on the mission to support Black children and their families.

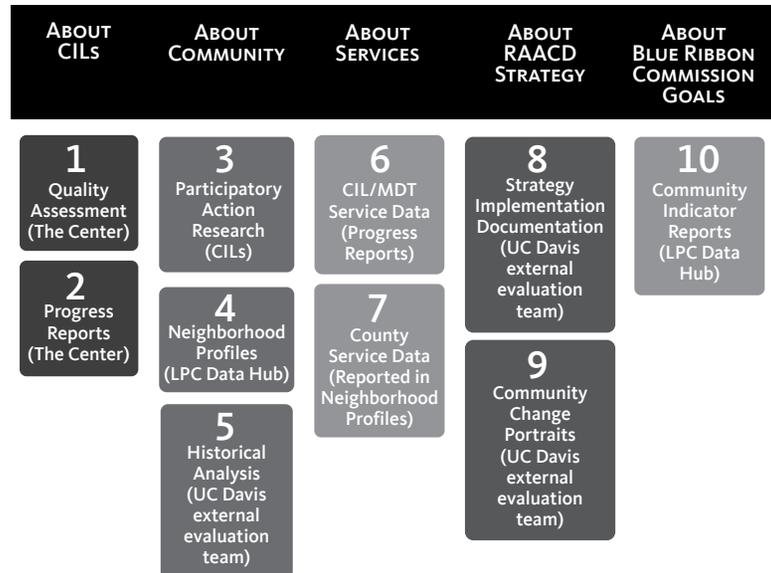
The Black Child Legacy Campaign regularly tracks data on the successes and challenges in achieving its goals with the Civicore database, a case management and data collection system. Because it can clearly capture and report this data, the campaign has gained support from other funding sources and is on a sure-footed pathway toward long-term sustainability.

Through the documentation and reporting process, CILs engage in an ongoing cycle of improvement, which includes planning, training, assessment

and reflection on what has been learned. In this way, Quality Assessment offers clarity on the ways in which efforts and activities need to adapt while providing evidence of the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s successes.

Quality Assessment can also lead to new discoveries that point to future areas of investment or attention. New data can help CILs and partners identify systemic areas of stress (such as increases in requests for housing assistance) and work with the County or other agencies to find solutions before new challenges become crises.

**BLACK CHILD LEGACY CAMPAIGN EVALUATION STRATEGIES:
10 PATHWAYS FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT DOCUMENTATION**



Strategy 5: Communications and Information Systems (Community Messaging)

The targeted and universal approach of the Black Child Legacy Campaign has resulted in a communications approach that asserts African American children as much more than statistics. The name itself calls for a restored sense of hope, a sense of “nobility” and belief in a promising future for Black children and their families.

Earlier this year, Sac County News reported Supervisor Phil Serna’s observation that the Black Child Legacy Campaign is “resonating at a national level.” Media outlets, such as The Sacramento Bee, ABC, FOX and Southern California Public Radio, have spread the campaign’s message to audiences across Sacramento County, the state and the nation. As the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s story ripples across the country, the work to deepen community messaging among residents within the targeted neighborhoods is essential to strengthening the community movement and is a vital part of its infrastructure.

Community collaborations, such as the Profound Purpose Institute, offer an opportunity for peer-to-peer learning and for developing a common language across communities. Innovative community events, such as the Kings and Queens Rise Youth Basketball League, the Peace Walks in Oak Park, podcasts and Poetic Service Announcements (a youth spoken word initiative that calls for an end to community violence), engage neighborhood residents of all ages in the campaign’s mission to save Black children’s lives.

In the upcoming year, the Steering Committee on RAACD will continue to explore strategies to interrupt the narratives that reinforce beliefs about negative outcomes for Black children and youth. The Black Child Legacy Campaign will make concerted efforts to highlight the victories of its community-built movement and the voices of impacted communities’ bold efforts to make change.

Media Attention

The Black Child Legacy Campaign continues to receive significant local, state and national media coverage. Coverage from July 2018 through July 2019 included an unprecedented 36 stories from 15 different media outlets. Stories in Newsweek and the nationally syndicated radio program, The Takeaway, highlighted the 45 percent decrease in African American child deaths and the first year with zero juvenile homicides in the City of Sacramento in 35 years. This national coverage gives the Black Child Legacy Campaign a national platform and recognizes this work as a model for the rest of the country. The story of the ribbon cutting for Stephon Clark's family home renovation, featuring the support of the Black Child Legacy Campaign and led by the Meadowview CIL, also generated significant coverage in the state.

Sample media highlights include:

- Newsweek, Jan. 21, 2019: "No Children were murdered in Sacramento last year for the first time in 35 years"
- ABC10, Jan. 30, 2020: "There were zero youth homicides reported in Sacramento for 2 years. What changed?"
- WNYC The Takeaway, Dec. 6, 2018: "Sacramento Reduces Black Infant Deaths Through Education"
- CBS13, Jan. 21, 2019: "For the first time in 35 years, no children were murdered in the City of Sacramento last year"
- LA-ist, July 29, 2019, "Sacramento's Plan To Keep Black Children Alive Is Working — And LA Is Watching"
- ABC10, Jan. 29, 2019: "Black Child Legacy Campaign reports drop in death rates for African American youth in Sacramento"

Growing Relationships Strengthen Infrastructure

The strength and effectiveness of the Black Child Legacy Campaign has grown directly from the relationships cultivated within the seven neighborhoods it serves. According to researchers at the University of California, Davis (Black Child Legacy Campaign: An Evaluation of Five Implementation Strategies for Success, annual report submitted by L. T. Winn, V. Watson, & M. T. Winn, UC Davis, July 2019) "the reduction of Black child death requires trusted, capable neighborhood organizations taking the lead, partnership with other county and local agencies, and an entity that serves as a connector and backbone for the work."

With seven neighborhood CILS in the lead, the campaign has inspired the creation and growth of relationships. In turn, those seven neighborhood CILS are beginning to create and build relationships with neighborhood residents, thereby tightening the bonds and underpinnings of the entire Black Child Legacy Campaign infrastructure – one that is flexible and responsive to individual and community needs and did not exist before. For example:

- The Black Child Legacy Campaign is partnering with the City of Sacramento to host a 2020 Violence Prevention Summit.
- In partnership with First 5 Sacramento, the campaign will present its methodology to First 5 partners statewide.
- The Black Child Legacy Campaign has been working with the Child Abuse Prevention Center, Sacramento County agencies, First 5 Sacramento and other community partners as part of Sacramento County's Prevention Cabinet, with a focus on child abuse prevention.

Interest in Replication

Because of the success of the Black Child Legacy Campaign, other counties in California have expressed an interest in learning more, and potentially replicating the approach in other communities. Los Angeles County, which formed its action plan to reduce African American child deaths in 2018, is

actively learning from the Black Child Legacy Campaign. This deepening interest was reflected in media coverage from LA-ist, and KPCC public radio in Los Angeles, highlighting five lessons the city can learn from Sacramento’s approach. Interest is also building in Fresno, where First 5 Fresno County released a study and recommendations in 2016 for reducing African American child deaths. Teams from Fresno are meeting with those from the Black Child Legacy Campaign to learn more.

A Focus on Effectiveness

Quality Dimensions and Indicators with a Purpose

Black Child Legacy Campaign partners bring a wide variety of programs and approaches to the mix, and all CILs adhere to a common focus on quality. This ensures that the work of all seven CILs is aligned with the campaign’s five strategies, and that they are moving toward meeting or exceeding goals in 11 dimensions of quality.

11 DIMENSIONS OF QUALITY

1 MISSION-FOCUSED EFFORTS	7 TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS
2 ENGAGED LEADERSHIP	8 COMMUNICATIONS
3 PARTNERSHIP	9 DATA COLLECTION, SHARING AND USE
4 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	10 FINANCE SUSTAINABILITY
5 COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING	11 VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION
6 YOUTH-CENTERED FOCUS	

As the Black Child Legacy Campaign has grown and evolved, so has its understanding of what makes for quality outcomes. Hence, the 11 dimensions of quality have likewise developed and matured. Through 2018-19, examples of quality performance and outcomes abound.

Mission Focus

Activities associated with implementing the strategic plan are consistently focused on the mission of reducing African American child deaths.

Whether it’s a pop-up event for youth in Oak Park or a parenting class in Meadowview, every activity that is part of the Black Child Legacy Campaign is laser focused on reducing African American child deaths. This focus isn’t dictated from above — it’s natural and organic, reinforced by the interwoven relationships between the RAACD Steering Committee and the seven neighborhood CILs. Many CIL members are from the neighborhoods and have built authentic connections and trusting relationships rooted in the campaign’s shared mission and vision.

“The Black Child Legacy Campaign is made of folks with authentic connections to community, who have the trust and respect of those we’re seeking to help,” says Hewitt. “That’s created a social intervention.”

Engaged Leadership

Leaders and decision-makers from the various stakeholder organizations demonstrate commitment to RAACD by being actively involved in implementing the CIL’s actions and strategies within the implementation plan.

Reducing African American child deaths is nonstop, demanding work—and the CLR members, community leaders, CIL staff and decision-makers live that work on a daily basis. Their work is more than checking off boxes in a written implementation plan. It’s constantly staying engaged with and responsive to communities that are dealing with sometimes huge challenges. The close

connections and overlapping relationships among CILs, CLR members, MDTs and the RAACD Steering Committee have enabled expedited services during critical moments for those in most need of support.

“This is hard work,” says Hewitt. “You have to learn patience and remain authentically in relationship with one another for the long term. Thanks to the leadership at our CILs and among their partners, we’ve seen the Black Child Legacy Campaign deliver great progress, and develop real capacity and an incredible infrastructure that can be leveraged for many things.”

Partnerships

Diverse constituencies are effectively represented so that diverse perspectives are included in the implementation of the CILs’ implementation plans to reduce African American child deaths.

CIL progress reports revealed significant growth in 2016-2019 toward meaningful community partnerships to address disparities in the life span of Black children and youth. This was started with MDT partners, but has advanced to include additional public and private organizations.

“Building partnerships is difficult. It means you have to let go of something, but you also have to invite others in. Ultimately it leads to change and change is hard,” says one Steering Committee member.

Despite the challenges that come with close collaboration, neighborhoods across the Black Child Legacy Campaign work in partnership with other agencies toward reducing child abuse and neglect, infant sleep-related deaths, deaths related to perinatal issues and third-party homicides.

Fruitridge-Stockton Blvd.

When 18-year-old Sasha* saw that her father and his girlfriend were not feeding her 4-month-old brother regularly, leaving him in soggy diapers, and even leaving him unattended in his car seat for hours at a time, she was understandably alarmed. Sasha feared for his health, but also was afraid he would end up in the Child Protective Services system. She decided to pursue guardianship, but knew she’d need both guidance on the process and financial assistance in order to care for her brother. The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) at the Fruitridge-Stockton Blvd. CIL connected Sasha with guardianship services and assisted her with filing the paperwork, securing a successful adoption. The MDT also helped Sasha obtain financial assistance through the Department of Human Assistance to attain food stamps and cash aid for the child. MDT also connected Sasha with other support service agencies for help with baby items. The family has stayed connected with the MDT and participated in several Fruitridge-Stockton Blvd. family and community events such as a Thanksgiving turkey dinner giveaway, Joy of Christmas Event, and a Black Panther movie night. Sasha continues to engage in supportive services with MDT, enrolling herself in employment and job readiness services and placing her brother in Early Head Start. Today, the MDT reports that both Sasha and her brother are thriving and very happy.

** Names have been changed to protect privacy.*

The Power of Partnerships: Responding to Growing Housing Needs

The past year in particular saw an increase in need for housing and housing assistance in many communities. Because of their partnerships, the CILs were able to respond in ways tailored to each neighborhood.

In Meadowview, for example, almost 90 percent of families visiting the CIL (Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center) needed assistance with housing. Jackie Rose and her team maximized resources by partnering with Traveler's Aid to secure extended hotel vouchers for homeless families, and worked with the Department of Human Assistance Homeless Service Program to provide respite services for homeless mothers with young children and for adults with disabilities. For pregnant women, the CIL partnered with Bishop Gallegos House to provide shelter and connected moms to prenatal services.

The CILs in Valley Hi and Meadowview are building relationships with area apartment complexes to combat homelessness. By working directly with landlords, the CIL can open more doors for clients who are enrolled in the Homeless Assistance Program.

Working with Legacy Partners

In addition to working with government agency partners, each CIL also supports the work of nonprofit organization partners by providing mini-grants, funded by Sacramento County. The recipients, often small nonprofits referred to as Legacy Partners, are more deeply connected to and highly effective in neighborhoods than larger organizations might be.

Community Engagement

Activities intended to engage the community in the implementation of the CILs' efforts toward reducing African American child deaths are authentic and effective.

One reason the Black Child Legacy Campaign has been able to reduce not just the number of child deaths, but the racial disparity in child deaths, is because its work is indeed driven by community. "These are not intractable problems, these are problems in need of community solutions," says Hewitt.

Across Sacramento, CILs are authentically engaging partners and neighbors to address what matters most in their neighborhoods. Community outreach and engagement work may look different from one neighborhood to the next, depending on what resonates most and best.

For example, in the past few months Arden Arcade leaders chose to take their meetings out into the community, gathering at apartment complexes, businesses and community centers. "This strategy enables us to build better and stronger relationships while building capacity and empowering our residents to grow in their knowledge, input, and ultimately their voice of what type of Arden Arcade they want to see and what we need collectively to get there," says Danielle Lawrence, Executive Director at Mutual Assistance Network, the CIL for Arden Arcade.

Meanwhile Del Paso Heights created family movie nights to inform and invite community input and engagement. The CIL showed movies like *Black Panther* and TV shows like *Black-ish* and *Family Matters* as backdrops for guided discussions about Black excellence, powerful and positive images of women, family dynamics, community/police relations, and overall best practices for parenting and interacting with youth. During movie nights, participants also talk about community solutions they would like to see to address issues of third-party homicide and child abuse and neglect.

"We had input on solutions that we can do as a community such as have more youth employment opportunities, support family members by having a community watch, and bridge police and community relations," says Ray Green, former Program Director of the Roberts Family Development Center, the Del Paso Heights CIL. "These people left with a sense of empowerment, and more of a community connection."

Community Capacity Building

Existing community capacity-building efforts are recognized and built on effective practices to develop community capacity required in implementing the CILs' efforts toward reducing African American child deaths.

Community engagement goes hand in hand with community capacity building so that residents have the ability to lead and implement the changes they want to see. This means developing local staff rather than importing outsiders, and supporting the growth and development of internally generated ideas rather than dictating solutions from the outside. The communities are continually building capacity for program design, structure and evaluation, all driven from within.

"We didn't just give communities dollars to do a chore," says Hewitt. "We made them recipients of new knowledge, and helped them become thinkers rather than doers."

Capacity building also means looking beyond the "usual suspects" for leadership and relationships. For example, many of the CILs' Cultural Brokers are former clients of the social services or justice systems. As such, they can offer a level of guidance and a sense of safety and trust for those who may have felt unsure or unheard before.

What's more, the capacity building efforts are now trickling down to younger generations within the Black Child Legacy Campaign's neighborhoods. The Del Paso Heights CIL recently hired one of its Thousand Strong youth leaders, a paid internship program, as a permanent staff member.

In Meadowview, CIL staff received training in Hip-Hop Heals (H3), a culturally responsive program focused on healing and restorative justice that engages youth in using their own voices through rap and hip-hop music. The CIL incorporated this new capacity into a series of events commemorating the one-year anniversary of the death of Stephon Clark,

Arden Arcade

Denise* needed to relocate – and fast. Her adult son's mental health issues were becoming a danger to her and to her younger daughter. He would refuse to let them leave the house, or would break items or damage Denise's car so she couldn't get to work. Because her daughter missed so much school, Denise received a referral to the Arden Arcade CIL. It was there that she found the connections to receive counseling services and financial support for an expedited relocation. The CIL was there for Denise and her daughter throughout several potentially devastating events, including an injury that kept Denise out of work. She was also able to get her adult son into a board and care home to address his mental health needs. Today, Denise and her daughter are doing well. Her daughter loves school, their housing is secure, and Denise is now employed in a position that allows her to provide guidance to others in need, giving back to the community that supported her.

** Names have been changed to protect privacy.*

which brought people together from across Sacramento and the nation, and received national media coverage.

Youth-Centered

Youth are recognized as assets in the process of implementing the CILs' strategic efforts toward reducing African American child deaths.

Youth are a key focus of the Black Child Legacy Campaign, and they play many key roles in designing, implementing and even evaluating the success of interventions in their neighborhoods and across Sacramento as a whole. Every CIL has multiple programs and partners focused not only on creating safer environments for youth, but also on elevating youth voices and fostering youth development. Through Participatory Action Research (PAR) youth groups took part in a broad evaluation of the CILs' work in 2018-19, and many of those youth have remained engaged in their communities and have even taken on new leadership roles.

In addition to leading and supporting programs in their own CILs, youth leaders and activists are stepping up all across Sacramento:

- Del Paso Heights youth spoke out in various ways — from peaceful protests to art and spoken word — during the Stephon Clark case hearing, and even began discussions with law enforcement.
- Meadowview youth work as Community Health Worker interns, Summer Ambassadors at the City of Sacramento, and as public spokespersons for the Black Child Legacy Campaign at community events. Youth also created and ran the Harambee Festival, a community day focused on celebrating the diverse cultures of Meadowview. Approximately 700 people attended this festival, which also served as a rebirth for Meadowview Park Day, a historic neighborhood tradition.

- Members of the Valley Hi Youth Council met with elected officials and participated in community organizing training.
- Oak Park youth not only lead and plan youth pop-up events, but created and manage a social media strategy to increase event attendance.
- This year, Arden Arcade supported youth in leadership development and using their voices for change. The CIL built deep relationships with parents through a shared desire to see their youth succeed. In partnership with caring families, Arden Arcade youth participated in healing circles, learned about restorative justice, advocacy and the inner workings of local government.
- Members of the Gentlemen's Honor Council in the Fruitridge-Stockton Blvd. neighborhood developed their own community leadership skills and mentored younger residents. In addition, the members of the CIL's PAR youth group are launching a new infant mortality awareness project in the community.



Members of the Meadowview CIL team.

KINGS & QUEENS RISE SUMMER OF IMPACT



The Kings and Queens Rise Co-ed Youth Basketball League seeks to interrupt violence by providing an opportunity for young people to engage in an intercommunity sports activity that provides a caring, productive environment through community building, sportsmanship and resources for health and safety.

The Kings and Queens Rise Co-ed Youth Basketball League provides youth with a sense of community that goes beyond “place” with a county-wide league. But, above all else, it gives youth a fun, meaningful summer full of great learning experiences and lots of basketball memories.



A MAJORITY OF PLAYERS AGREED THAT **KINGS AND QUEENS RISE MAKES THEM FEEL SAFE AND VALUED**
KINGS AND QUEENS RISE CO-ED COACHES ARE MENTORS AND ADULT ALLIES
AND THAT THEY KNOW WHERE THEY CAN GO FOR HELP

Players said the top things they get out of Kings and Queens Rise are:

PLAYING BASKETBALL

FRIENDSHIPS AND MEETING NEW PEOPLE

LEARNING NEW SKILLS

RESPECT

Transparency and Fairness

Decisions, actions and plans involved in implementing the CILs’ strategic efforts toward reducing African American child deaths are documented, shared and considered to be fair by stakeholders.

CILs are essential in the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s data collection, evaluation and implementation of their strategies. Instead of a top-down approach, those closest to the ground work alongside the Steering Committee on RAACD in the spirit of collaboration and collective learning. Because the campaign is rooted in the principles of transparency and fairness, CILs are resourced and supported and their perspectives are honored as experts of the neighborhoods in which they live and work.

Much of the CILs’ work toward transparency and fairness centers around each CIL’s processes for distributing Legacy Grants to community partners. Each has developed its own transparent process, tailored to the community it serves.

In Meadowview, prospective grantees must attend an orientation workshop before applying to ensure everyone understands the RFP process. Proposals are reviewed by an expert panel, which includes a member of the MDT, a staff member, a youth leadership team member, a member of the community and a CLR. The grants are then scored, prioritized by focus areas that need the most attention and submitted to the CIL for final determination. Each grantee is required to submit a mid-term progress report and final report documenting the impact, effectiveness and level of youth participation.

“This process gives other community groups working within the targeted area the opportunity to receive funds for programs or activities that align with the goals and objectives of the BCLC,” explains Kim Williams, Hub Manager at Sacramento Building Healthy Communities, the Fruitridge-Stockton Blvd. CIL. “Once all the applications have been submitted, a small group of CIL leaders

and an outside consultant read through the grants and make the decision as to who gets funded and at what amount. This process ensures that funds are distributed equitably among the community for various programs and activities that support BCLC.”



The Fruitridge-Stockton Blvd. CIL Team outside the Fruitridge Collaborative

Communications

Communications associated with implementing the CILs’ strategic efforts toward reducing African American child deaths (e.g. messages about four causes of African American child deaths, CIL events/ activities, meetings, etc.) are clear to intended audiences.

Every CIL operates a communications function that both collects contact information from neighborhood residents and partners, and shares vital information about programs, health education, youth safety, events and more. CILs communicate through various channels, based on the needs and preferences of their target audiences. For example, social media is a powerful tool for reaching and engaging youth. Texting and e-mail help reach families in a CIL’s database, and posting flyers or tabling at community events get the word out about the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s work and the programs offered through specific CILs.

CIL communication efforts also underscore the importance and value of partnerships. “Conducting monthly meetings with all the partners is another way information is communicated,” says Williams. “The CIL Program Coordinator spends time each week visiting current partners and outreaching to other organizations and agencies that provide services and programs which support the overall goals and objectives of the BCLC and our partners. As a result, three new partner organizations have joined the Fruitridge-Stockton CIL Collaborative [so far in 2019].”

Data Collection, Sharing and Use

High quality data about the implementation of the CILs’ strategic efforts toward reducing African American child deaths are collected, interpretation of findings is participatory, and findings are shared and used for multiple purposes (accountability, course correction, contribution to knowledge).

Data were the impetus for the creation of the Black Child Legacy Campaign, and data is what continues to inform and drive its progress. Every CIL collects and tracks data from its intake, program and its case management functions, as well as from event registrations, surveys, focus groups and more.

In Oak Park, the CIL leverages its role as a member of the African-American Achievement Task Force for the Sacramento City Unified School District to incorporate data around suspensions, graduation rates, family income, and reading and math scores to glean a sharper focus on family stability and overall student health and wellness in target schools. The CIL uses this data to design programming and decide which schools to target for outreach and services, which partners to engage, and which Black Child Legacy Campaign focus areas require the most support.

“Overall, data allow partners to reassess the impact of activities to determine which programs and outreach strategies are working effectively, and which aspects can be improved to better meet the needs of community members,” adds Williams.

Finance and Sustainability

Sustainability and finance activities of the CILs' Black Child Legacy Campaign efforts include long-term partnerships and short-term collaborative grants that bring together a variety of services, supports and other resources.

Just as many different factors contribute to the health and safety of a Black child, many different expenditures and revenue streams are required to sustain the campaign efforts. Each CIL carefully tracks costs associated with each aspect of the Black Child Legacy Campaign work, the funding streams for each, and the linkages between funding and outcomes—using the Quality Assessment Tool. They intentionally braid public and private revenue together to ensure that they do not become overly dependent on one source, and to leverage the impact of all funds received. As a collective, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation and the CILs have applied for state and national funding, and each CIL also searches for and applies for funding on its own. As a result, every CIL has a clear understanding of the full range of the cost of services provided and who bears those costs. They also maintain a clear understanding of data-driven outcomes that influence existing partners and motivate them to maintain (or increase) their financial investment in the work of the Black Child Legacy Campaign.

While fundraising and maintaining financial records is important, it's just one part of stability. Every entity involved in the Black Child Legacy Campaign understands the importance of investment in the lives of Black children – and therefore every one serves as an advocate for continued investment in this very critical work of saving and improving lives.

Del Paso Heights

Charmaine* had three children in foster care when she became pregnant with a fourth. With no income or employment and no place to live, she became very depressed and unsure about her ability to care for the new baby. Her interactions with Child Protective Services had not been productive in the past, but at the Del Paso Heights CIL, she met a Cultural Broker – a woman who lived in the neighborhood, had personal experiences that were similar to Charmaine's, and could relate to her one-on-one. With her Cultural Broker's help, Charmaine enrolled in and finished anger management classes, received a housing voucher for the year, and delivered a healthy baby boy who remains in her custody. She also has supervised visits with her other children and is working to gain custody of them all. With a new job (and some volunteering for the Kings and Queens basketball league), she is focused on getting her life back on track, and now the sky's the limit!

** Names have been changed to protect privacy.*

Violence Interruption, Intervention and Prevention

Activities associated with community violence interruption, intervention and prevention services are implemented through the established roles and responsibilities aligned with BCLC Healing the Hood, ensuring that the resources necessary to perform those roles are provided through a coordinated system of support.

In June 2018, the Black Child Legacy Campaign received a California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections. With this funding, more CILs were able to hire Community Intervention Workers (CIWs) who provide intensive case management to young people impacted by community violence. The campaign's flagship violence, intervention and prevention program, Healing the Hood, connects these CIWs—people who are trusted neighborhood messengers—to provide case management and crisis response to youth and their families. Through referrals from school districts, law enforcement and other youth-serving organizations, high-risk young people are offered mentorship, services and support designed to meet them where they are. On a broader level, CIWs respond to gun violence and other community crises, reducing retaliation and supporting families during trauma and healing.

Over the past year, the Black Child Legacy Campaign has increased its efforts in Healing the Hood to bring in greater investment, more community resources and more conscious alignment of services. In 2018, the Obama Foundation selected Sacramento as one of 10 My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge National Impact Communities. The Obama Foundation awarded funding in Sacramento to scale up Healing the Hood, as well as My Brother's Keeper Sacramento and the Positive Youth Justice Initiative. This funding has helped scale up efforts in all seven neighborhoods, providing more continuity and coordination for violence interruption, intervention and prevention.

"We are most proud to have a CIW who is an active community resident and is 100 percent committed to disrupting the violence in our community by creating opportunities for youth to engage in alternative, positive programs," says Williams. "Our CIW manages a caseload of youth, she conducts face-to-face visits, and she responds to violent incidents in our targeted neighborhood and those in surrounding areas. She is often the first one at the hospital to check on the needs of family members who are dealing with a crisis and provide comfort and support. Our CIW also works closely with all of our partners to provide the best resources and programs for the youth and families she serves. In addition to individual case management, she also refers her youth to many of our partner organizations to ensure her youth have access to wrap-around services that will meet their needs and keep them out of trouble."

Two of the most popular youth alternatives to violence have been the Sac Youth Pop-Up events and the Kings and Queens Rise co-ed basketball league. Kings and Queens Rise offers a nine-week summer league uniting the youth from all seven neighborhoods who may not be able to play on other teams because of grades, behavior or other issues at school. In addition to sports and sportsmanship, youth also build confidence and character.

In Meadowview, a partnership with the Sacramento City Unified School District's Student Hearing and Placement Department provides students with alternative educational placements and supports, such as on-site tutoring, that best suit the needs of the individual family and eliminate the need for school expulsions.

The Oak Park CIL took a creative twist on violence prevention, creating a Friday night youth-curated talent show in the historic Guild Theater in the heart of Oak Park. Some 125 youth took part as performers, emcees, ushers or greeters, or as featured artists in a gallery that explored themes of mental wellness. The event also included an interactive game in which audience members used their phones to learn facts about mental health.

“It was an extremely successful event that served well to uplift youth talent, voice and leadership in so many ways,” says Tasha Johnson, Director of Youth Services at the Sacramento Urban League, the Oak Park CIL.



A BCLC family

Looking Forward

As the Black Child Legacy Campaign marks its fifth year of work and its third year of implementation, there is much to celebrate. Our work has reduced African American child deaths. In fact, we exceeded our minimum goal for reduction within the first year of implementation. We've also closed the disparity in deaths between African American children and children of other races—a feat never before achieved. And we've created a home-grown infrastructure that can continue to serve communities, save lives and build more promising futures.

There is still much to do. Disparities still exist, and new challenges—both economic and cultural—are putting pressure on our seven neighborhoods and the people who live in them. We still have mothers to educate and encourage, infants to protect and nurture, and youth to guide and support. In other words, we still have Black children who deserve a chance to live and thrive. To secure their future, we will need to continue to invest money and time, care and commitment.

“Even after three full years of implementation, things are still relatively fragile,” says Hewitt. “If any of our partners were to pull out too soon, that could undermine the community connections and authenticity that are so vital. We don't want this to be a demonstration project. We want a systemic transformation.”

Transformation requires commitment, even when times are tight, says County Supervisor Phil Serna. “Our county is likely to face some extraordinarily difficult budget challenges in the next few years,” he says. “My greatest concern is that we don't lose sight of the fact that this effort is important not just because of the attention and support it provides, but also because it's producing the outcomes. I hope those who feel the same way I do about the importance of this campaign will also be prepared to help defend it.”

For its part, the RAACD Steering Committee is committed to continuing the current work of the Black Child Legacy Campaign, and expanding it to concentrate even more deeply on policy and systems changes.

Policy and Systems Change

In terms of policy, the Black Child Legacy Campaign worked with advocates like Black Women for Wellness voice support for two bills that became law in the 2019-2020 legislative session:

- The Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act (SB 464), which became law on October 7, 2019, requires hospitals, clinics and alternative birth centers that provide perinatal services to implement ongoing, evidence-based implicit bias programs for all perinatal health care providers.
- Assembly Bill 392, known as Stephon Clark’s Law, became law on August 19, 2019. It changes wording to require law enforcement officers to only use deadly force when “necessary” rather than “reasonable,” and gives prosecutors more leeway in considering both officers’ and victims’ actions leading up to a lethal event.

The Black Child Legacy Campaign is also working with the California Children’s Trust to help Sacramento County determine a better way to access MediCal Funding under a reformed payment structure proposed by the state’s CalAIM initiative (MediCal reform). The CalAIM proposal also includes more funding for behavioral health as part of MediCal.

“When I hear people talk about changing structure and policy— for us, we want to see our families and communities do better, but we understand that there are systems that are keeping our families trapped,” says Tina Roberts of the Roberts Family Development Center, the Del Paso Heights CIL. “But we have the courage to look at those systems and not blame people and say it’s time to do something

different. This is a lot, with a lot of moving parts, but we’re all moving in the same direction and we’re here because we get to do this.”

We know that simply providing services won’t be enough to create lasting change. As Hewitt says, “We cannot service our way out of poverty.” Therefore, attaining systemic transformation will require a growing focus on inclusive economic development in the seven neighborhoods served by the Black Child Legacy Campaign.

Forward Together

As the Black Child Legacy Campaign moves forward, it will require even more champions to engage in the work.

“You absolutely need the leadership to move that forward. It’s not just going to happen by itself,” says Woods Andrews. “You know, people can write grants, they can develop programs, but if they don’t engage the very stakeholders, the people who are greatly impacted, chances are it’s not going to get off the ground, or it may not be deeply rooted. And so I think one of the unique approaches that has made a difference is that it is truly a community-driven movement, where there are many levels of engagement from parents, from the community, from our youth. That piece is absolutely critical. We have some lessons learned. We know what can make a difference in our community. Everyone has to come to the table and offer something to contribute to this movement, because it’s not going to happen with just one particular group doing this work. I say all the time that not one entity can do this work alone, but we are stronger together, we need to work together to tackle this together.”

Maternal and Infant Health Digital Storytelling

Over the next year, the Black Child Legacy Campaign will work in partnership with Black Women for Wellness, Sac Cultural Hub and Los Angeles County to develop a digital voice and video documentary project to collect and share innovative, community-based solutions that are improving African American maternal and infant health throughout California.

Efforts include:

- Black Mothers Digital Media Storytelling Project that features real stories, interviews and portraits of Black mothers across California who share their birthing and motherhood experiences
- A powerful Birthing While Black documentary that highlights the history, causes and solutions to Black maternal and infant morbidity and mortality in California, with a specific look at the communities most affected by this issue
- Community Listening Sessions & Forums throughout the state, in which we will both gather and share real data from Black mothers and fathers on issues and topics that impact their health

Our ultimate goal is to use these tools to help influence health system and policy changes to better support African American Families. This work is supported in part by Kaiser Permanente.



We're Still Not Done

Although much has been accomplished—especially the reduction of Black child deaths—we have more work to do. It is essential that the Black Child Legacy Campaign receive the support it needs to continue to grow and evolve. In addition to reaching more broadly and deeply into community, campaign leaders know that in order to truly sustain positive change, this work must also address changes in the public policies that continue to promote disparity. We deeply acknowledge that the impact of the Black Child Legacy Campaign must go beyond services and resources. In 2019, we continued to bring together our collective knowledge, data, shared vision and goals to develop strategies for inclusive economic development, lifting up not just how we serve families, but how we transform our neighborhoods and communities.

While the Black Child Legacy Campaign is early in its work to track data on the success of its interventions, this community-built movement holds great promise for a future Sacramento County where all children can thrive. Early analysis suggests that the 20-year trend of disparities in child deaths is changing, but it will require sustained efforts to recognize consistent trends and to continue developing adaptive strategies for the long haul.



“The most significant activity we’ve accomplished is to prove that it could be done. We took on an issue that no one else had been able to make progress against, and we’ve demonstrated significant progress over the past five years. This shows that if you unleash the power, commitment and capacity of communities with real support, you can do extraordinary things.”

- Chet P. Hewitt, President and CEO,
Sierra Health Foundation





BLACK CHILD LEGACY
- PRINCIPLE -
2
BUILD A BELOVED COMMUNITY EVERYWHERE YOU GO
- STEP 2 -
EDUCATION
BLACKCHILDLLEGACY.ORG

BLACK CHILD LEGACY
- PRINCIPLE -
3
ATTACK FORCES OF EVIL, NOT PERSONS DOING EVIL.
- STEP 3 -
PERSONAL COMMITMENT
BLACKCHILDLLEGACY.ORG

BLACK CHILD LEGACY
- PRINCIPLE -
4
ACCEPT SUFFERING WITHOUT RETALIATION FOR THE SAKE OF THE CAUSE TO ACHIEVE A GOAL.
- STEP 4 -
DISCUSSION
BLACKCHILDLLEGACY.ORG

BLACK CHILD LEGACY
- PRINCIPLE -
5
AVOID INTERNAL VIOLENCE OF THE SPIRIT AS WELL AS EXTERNAL PHYSICAL VIOLENCE.
- STEP 5 -
DIRECT ACTION
BLACKCHILDLLEGACY.ORG





Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths



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