

# Family & Youth Sector Report

## *Children's Mental Health Children System of Care*

This monthly report demonstrates the advancement of Family Youth Professional Partnership from the Family-Youth Sectors' perspective. FYRT encourages agencies to share this report with families and youth receiving services at your agency and your agency staff.

November 2011



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Above: San Diego County Mental Health Director Alfredo Aguirre, Joins the Family Sector to "Celebrate the Art of Youth Voice". See (A Time to Celebrate) Page 2

### **Contact us**

*If you would like more information or have questions/comments please contact us:*

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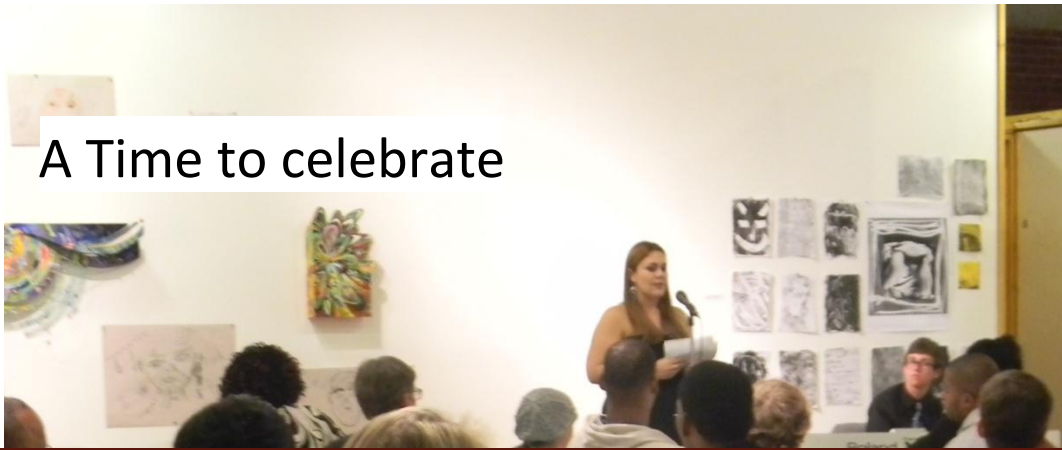
## A Time to celebrate

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Over 30 guests packed into the intimate, main showroom of **Space 4 Art**, a much praised live work art compound on the rim of East Village San Diego in support of the “**Celebrating the Art of Youth Voice**” fine arts showing. The walls of the showroom were splashed with art which was done by youth from all over San Diego’s Children’s System of Care, whom throughout the last 8 weeks partnered with notarized San Diego fine artists to undergo a multi- medium art training which included mono print, water colors paint, colored pencil, and chalk. “Before I came into this program I didn’t even like art, this program showed me how to express myself” said a youth participant as he addressed the audience. Self expression and exploration skills are increasingly important for adolescents of any kind- however especially needed for the demographic of students which were selected for these trainings. The participants whom took part in the Voice In Arts Training Series (VIA) share a common story; they come from residential shelters, or have had interactions with one or more child serving public systems. Statistically, these children and youth have experienced high levels of trauma.

“I had the students draw their portrait, and write something good about them self, then they gave their paper to a partner and trusted them to write something good” said Isias Crow, a notarized artist who volunteered his time to teach students fine art skills.

The Program Voice In Arts, is a project of **Family & Youth Roundtable** the County of San Diego’s Family and Youth Liaison. Unlike programs who are formed by large research budgets and executive committees, **Voice In Arts** was an idea conceptualized by local youth, employed at Family & Youth Roundtable, Brook Nicoles.

The Arts showing was supported by over 40 diverse works of art, and was concluded by a moving speech by Alfredo Aguirre, Director of Mental Health for San Diego County, and the Founder and Executive Director of Family & Youth Roundtable Donna Ewing Marto.



## Family Youth Successes and Voice

- **HOPE the park 2011** was a success! Youth within Family & Youth Roundtables Central Region Advisory Councils Engaged over 200 individuals to take the “I will not be a bystander pledge.” To not be a bystander to violence.
- **Family & Youth Roundtable partnered with Optum Health** to bring to the family sector the gate keeper “Question, Persuade, Refer” suicide prevention trainings. Over 40 individuals were trained at the Family & Youth Roundtable offices on recognizing the warning signs of someone whom is suicidal and how to refer them to proper care

## In Our Own Voice!

***When Families and youth were asked to voice opinion on Adverse Childhood experiences this is what we had to say:***

“I think we should have more access to arts, and music to help get over hard times”

-Youth, Central Region

“I have been through pretty much been through every adverse childhood experience, sometime I wonder why did people around me do those things”

-Youth, Central Region

*“It would help if we had access to spirituality, and counseling”*

-Youth, Central Region

## Question of the Month

Q: What do you think about supported parenting?

[Click here to check out our blog and read a short article about supported parenting.](#)

# How Partnering Agencies, and Professional Partners Can Get Involved!

## 1 Join our blog

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Post your agency's family/youth happenings, success, events, VOICE to the Family Youth Sector Blog. The information you share amplifies the sectors' voice and is used to develop the monthly Children's System of Care Family Youth Sector Report We have made it easy for you to post. Simply go to the message board at: <http://sdfamilyyouthliaison.wordpress.com/> and tell us what's happening with the families and youth with which you work.

Don't like posting? Send us an email here: <mailto:sowi448vahi@post.wordpress.com>. Your email will be automaticity posted. It's that easy.

Remember the monthly deadline for posting is the 3rd Monday.  
Recent posts on the San Diego Family Youth Sector Blog:

## 2 Take the Online Training "Principles of Family Youth Professional Partnership"

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This is a short online training that introduces your staff to Children's System of Care and the Principles of Family Youth Professional Partnership. This training also offers a CEU for a California MFT and LCSW. To receive a link and individual ID number call: 619-546-5852 to register.

Other online offering of interest

If your agency hires family/youth partners or if you or your staff is interested in the history and advancement of family/youth partners you may want to view the "History of Family Youth Partners. Call 619-546-5852 to get a link and online ID number.

## 3 Refer family and youth to be involved in Family & Youth Roundtable

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Do you have a Family or Youth within your organization whom you feel has valuable input on children's public systems? Family & Youth Roundtable offers a broad range of opportunities for families or youth to let their voice be heard on both the local, and county level.