

HIGHLIGHTS
from the
South Valley Network Convening for Young Children and Families
March 22, 2018

On March 22, 2018, 85 colleagues from 60 organizations met at the first South Valley Network Convening at the First Choice Community Health Center – South Valley. Our purpose was to raise awareness, build relationships and support each other’s work to ensure best outcomes for the South Valley’s young children and families. In our lively and dynamic discussions, we learned about each other, found common ground and explored what we can do together. We’ve provided highlights from our discussion below.

Keep the momentum going! Join us for our next meeting on Thursday, April 26th, from noon to 2:00 PM at the South Valley Multipurpose Senior Center, 2008 Larrazolo Rd SW. Bring your lunch and join us as we chart a path forward.

Highlights from the Convening

What more is needed to support South Valley’s Young Children and Families?

We need system wide changes that increase access to resources and opportunities through:

- Better knowledge and awareness of the available services and ways to access these resources;
- More shared information and better communication among service providers and families; and,
- More and better connections, such as centralized referral systems and more wrap-around services.

Presently the system lacks the capacity to meet the community’s needs in:

- Health and dental care, nutrition, and behavioral health;
- Programs that support families such as childcare, parenting classes, homework help, out-of-school time programs and multi-generational programs;
- Providing adequate housing and transportation;
- Providing paths out of poverty with basic income and economic stability.

Capacity building is needed across the system at both the individual and organizational levels with:

- Professional development for service providers;
- More Spanish-speaking professionals to meet client needs;
- Increased organizational capacity to seek and diversify funding sources;
- More effective use of data to improve services, prove outcomes, and gain resources; and,
- Skills and opportunities to advocate together for policy changes.

Our next steps? What can we do moving forward?

Build networks of care by increasing access to information:

- Sharing shared resource information, lists and directories;
- Communicating, networking, building and expanding relationships with community partners and agencies; and,
- Expanding our network by sharing information – challenges, but also successes – via platforms such as SHARE New Mexico, social media, email lists, newsletters, and by reaching out to the public.

Engage in more advocacy by:

- Collecting data about the South Valley needs and assets;
- Sharing this information with the policy makers;
- Approaching City, School District, County and State government officials with a more unified and stronger voice with and for South Valley’s families.

