When committed organizations work together to help people in need, amazing things can happen.
When committed organizations work together to help people in need, amazing things can happen. Whole communities begin to heal. Opportunities surface. Businesses prosper. Neighborhoods are safer. Residents are more engaged. And perhaps most important, parents are empowered with the knowledge and resources to nurture their children, who grow up healthy, excel in school, and have the skills to realize their dreams.

This is a core belief of the community-service professionals who comprise Partners for Children South Los Angeles—17 local child and family organizations that provide holistic care and services. Every day, we demonstrate what can be achieved when community organizations with shared interests come together to address and solve societal problems large and small. We are making a difference for those who live, work and learn in South Los Angeles, especially the youngest and most vulnerable—children from birth through age 5—and their families.

We invite you to learn more about the work we do and how it is making a deep impact in one of Los Angeles County’s historically underserved communities.

JACKIE B. MAJORS
Chief Executive Officer
Crystal Stairs, Inc.

DELORES BROWN
President & CEO
Institute for Maximum Human Potential

LIZA BRAY
Director

GRISEL MORALES
Manager of Care Coordination

JENNIFER LARA
Faith-Based Project Manager/ Family Advocate

A Vulnerable Community

South Los Angeles is one of the most economically disadvantaged regions of Los Angeles County. Populated largely by Latino and African-American residents, it is also at the extreme end of many County measures of socioeconomic health: the greatest number of people living in poverty, the number of births to teen mothers, the absence of prenatal care, and difficulty in finding caregivers, coupled with the lowest amount of parent education and least-safe neighborhoods.

All of this adds up to a complex and severely challenging environment in which homelessness, domestic abuse, neglect and involvement with the child welfare and justice systems are common, and many children and families struggle to make ends meet.

| South LA makes up | 10% of Los Angeles County’s population. |
| Los Angeles County Population: 10,192,376 | South LA Population: 1,048,734 |

| South LA has more... | |
| Households with children | 51% |
| Children aged 0-5 | 10% |
| Births to teen mothers (per thousand) | 44 |
| Caregiver scarcity for parents (0-5) | 43% |
| Adults with less than a high school education | 42% |
| Families living in poverty | 34% |

| South LA has fewer... | |
| Mothers receiving prenatal care | 77% |
| Children 0-5 read to daily | 42% |
| Families who feel that they live in a safe neighborhood | 40% |

* Service Planning Area 6, or SPA 6, serves the communities of Athens, Compton, Crenshaw, Florence, Hyde Park, Lynwood, Paramount, and Watts. South LA holds the highest percentages of any SPA area in the areas listed above..
PCSLA: A UNITED RESPONSE

Partners for Children South Los Angeles was founded out of a shared conviction by a group of social-service-agency leaders who are active in this region. We believed that by combining forces, we could make a measurably greater impact in improving the lives of children and families in our area. It was an innovative idea whose time had come. In 2009, a landmark collaborative agreement was created among eight local agencies, with clearly stated objectives:

- Provide services to vulnerable, low-income families in South L.A.
- Increase child safety; reduce child welfare system involvement and/or child abuse and neglect
- Develop a system-of-care model to provide a safety net for families and meet their most urgent needs

The PCSLA collaborative has steadily evolved and is now in its tenth year of operation, with a full-time staff of four professionals. The roster of partner agencies has grown to 17, and the array of services provided to families is constantly expanding, with offerings now ranging from medical, dental, mental and behavioral health services to child care, housing, legal and employment services, and more.

Operating in a culture of transparent and collaborative leadership, we continuously build the capacity of each partner while strengthening and refining the ways we work together. Our programs and services also benefit from ongoing feedback and insights from an independent team of evaluators, who collect and assess both qualitative and quantitative data.

PCSLA’s System of Care provides life-changing support to children, their caregivers and families.

OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT MODEL

THE PCSLA SYSTEM OF CARE

We believe that the key to achieving our goals is to develop and deliver what we call our System of Care. This is a model we have been researching, designing and modifying over the past several years. The System of Care acts as a personalized, integrated hub for families living in SPA 6 that delivers a full spectrum of educational, health, logistical and other support services to address each family’s identified needs.

The System of Care also embeds two distinguishing features that our evaluators credit with its high rate of acceptance and success in the local community:

1. **A “warm handoff”**
   - Caring, personalized service is integrated into every care coordination activity. To achieve this, staff are trained in relational strategies for establishing trust and rapport, engaging in effective communication, and developing supportive and collaborative relationships with families that will last throughout their connection and beyond.

2. **Cultural competence**
   - At all levels, there is acknowledgment and appreciation for the values of the African-American and Latino cultures, and services and communication styles are adapted to take cultural sensitivity into account.

St. John’s Well Child & Family Center is one of our partner sites where our Caregivers and Teenage Pregnancy support groups meet. It is also the location of PCSLA’s home office.
Every day, we see evidence of our growing impact.
By word and example, PCSLA has earned the trust of community leaders, and our System of Care is increasingly becoming the option of choice for local residents.

In 2018, PCSLA served a total of 1,123 individuals, including children and family members. On average, families were connected to and successfully received three different services through the System of Care.

PCSLA was able to match 93% of referred needs with services that are available through its partners.

Top services delivered include:

- 238 individuals received behavioral therapy and mental health services (child and adult)
- 183 individuals received health services (insurance, immunizations, medical, dental and other health care)
- 149 individuals received housing services (immediate shelter assistance, housing placement, financial resources and supports to prevent homelessness)
- 124 individuals received well-being classes and support groups (parenting, domestic violence, anger management, peer support)
- 176 individuals received child care services
- 91 individuals received legal services (assisting with Medi-Cal, obtaining foster youth benefits, probate guardianship, family law support)
- 74 individuals received child development services (early intervention, mental health, special needs, speech/language therapy)
- 59 individuals received employment assistance

Beyond the effectiveness of our System of Care, pre-and post-test assessments revealed several important family outcomes as a result of engaging with PCSLA:

**Life Satisfaction**
Families report feeling more positive about their emotions, communities, spirituality/religion, and physical environment.

**Hopefulness and Parenting Growth**
Families report feeling more hopeful and better about their parenting skills and knowledge.

**Social Support**
Families report feeling more loved, cared for, and understood.

**PCSLA is also Culturally Responsive**
Families report feeling that our partners demonstrate respect, care, compassion, and an understanding of families' background/values.

“**We’re experiencing a growing interest and demand for replicating our model to reach high-risk families in other communities.**”

LIZA BRAY, Director Partners for Children South L.A.

Five major multi-year projects are underway:
- California Department of Developmental Services: Early intervention project (2 years)
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health: Innovations 2 project (4 years)
- The Rose Hills Foundation & UniHealth Foundation: Six-clinic expansion project (3 years)
- Specialty Family Foundation: Early childhood faith-based project (3+ years)
- SAMHSA/ST. John’s Well Child & Family Center: Offender re-entry program (5 years)
“I’m here to tell you—you are not alone.”

Throughout most of her life, including raising four daughters, Julia suffered from depression and endured years of domestic violence. But it wasn’t until Julia’s youngest daughter—a drug addict who was serving jail time—gave birth to little Ethan, that Julia was motivated to seek outside help for the very first time.

As soon as Ethan was born, the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services placed him in foster care, while his painful neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) withdrawal process was carefully monitored. His system’s drug exposure while in the womb meant that as he grew, this sweet child could instantly experience aggressive, hyperactive tantrums. Wasting no time, Julia sought and received legal custody of her grandson. Through her efforts to protect the baby, she found the courage to leave her abusive partner. These achievements, however, came with a whole host of other challenges, including homelessness.

Julia was referred to PCSLA by her medical provider. Within weeks, Julia and Ethan moved into their own, safer room in the shelter where they had been living. All the while, we were able to provide donations of blankets, clothes, shoes and food gift cards. Not long afterward, one of our referral partners helped with a security deposit to relocate them to their own apartment.

In a few short months, the positive change in Julia and Ethan’s lives has been extraordinary. Thanks to behavioral therapy services and supervised medication, Ethan’s entire demeanor has changed, and he is a bright, engaging little preschooler. PCSLA helped Julia to find a therapist, whom she sees regularly, and whom she says is helping her to overcome her greatest fears. With her burdens lifting and future prospects encouraging, Julia feels more relaxed as she devotes herself to Ethan’s care. She is also an active participant in two PCSLA-affiliated peer support groups.

Looking back, Julia offers this bit of insight for others who might find themselves in seemingly insurmountable situations: “Always remember, there is help,” she says. “And there are people out there who want to help you. When things go bad, it’s natural to feel frightened and alone. But I’m here to tell you—you are not alone.”
Breanna has always been an achiever. Growing up as a hardworking student with excellent grades, her prospects looked bright. Originally from the Caribbean island of Tobago, Breanna’s mother was an achiever too. In her younger years back home, she had been an artist and professional singer. After she moved to South Los Angeles she worked for 30 years as a beloved and respected labor and delivery nurse, and was the best role model a daughter could have.

Then Breanna’s mother fell ill with the first of many health problems that would eventually include multiple surgeries involving cancer, diabetes, thyroid disorders, two years of blindness and the eventual amputation of both legs. From age 13 onward, Breanna became her mother’s primary caregiver. Nine years later, Breanna was attending school part-time, working a part-time job, caring for her mother full-time—and struggling to make ends meet. And then Breanna learned she was pregnant, and the father was nowhere to be found.

Breanna came to PCSLA through one of our relative caregivers in July 2016. We were able to connect her with housing and employment assistance so she could avoid homelessness and find a better job. She joined a support group, took parenting classes, got food from local food pantries, and received donations of baby essentials.

Today, Breanna’s son, Adriel, is thriving at home and in school. Her mother lives secure in her family’s love, and their home is filled with laughter, music and the delicious aromas of Tobagonian cooking. Breanna is a certified nursing assistant and a full-time nursing student specializing in pediatrics and cardiology.

In the process of rebuilding her life, Breanna’s formidable talents came to the fore. She showed so much growth and leadership skills in her support group, we hired her. Since 2018, Breanna has been a PCSLA support-group facilitator at both St. John’s Well Child & Family Center and at Thomas Riley High School. Breanna’s is one of our happiest success stories, and she is a valuable asset to our team.

In addition to having an extraordinary capacity for empathy, Breanna radiates joy wherever she goes. With all she has gone through and all the stress she experiences every day, how is that possible? “It’s how I’m made,” she observes. “A problem comes up, I summon my faith, and I find the people to help me solve it. I believe 150 million percent that we’re all connected and here to help each other.”
“We all want the same things for our kids.”

Zoila has the steady love and support of her partner, Juan, the father of her children. However, four years ago, this young couple’s situation became dire when Zoila, age 20, became pregnant with their second child. Both had jobs, but their wages were not enough to make ends meet, and the fledgling family faced homelessness.

Zoila’s pediatrician at one of our partner clinics referred her to PCSLA. Our intake assessment determined a five-part care plan for Zoila and her family that included permanent housing, child care, peer support group enrollment, baby supplies and securing more lucrative employment.

Three months later, through various PCSLA partner agencies, Zoila and her family moved into their new apartment. Their eldest child, Aaron, started receiving child care services, the family was getting monthly donations of diapers and baby wipes, and Zoila had become an active participant in a weekly Pregnant/Parenting Teen Peer Support Group. She had her first job interview, too. Though she did not get the job, she remained committed to finding employment.

Zoila is devoted to the weekly meetings of her support group. In fact, she has taken on a leadership role there, attending a funders meeting in which she delivered a powerful testimonial. Now in their mid-20s, Zoila and the other members of the group look forward to staying together for the long haul. In addition to building significant life and parenting skills, the group’s members have formed deep and lasting friendships. Together, they have watched their children grow up, and they have seen each other grow up as well.

“We all want the same things for our kids,” Zoila says. “Whether our own or those belonging to others, we all want them to do better than we did. We want them to go to college and maybe even higher. We want them to have lives filled with choices and possibility. And we want them to be able to live without fear.”

Zoila and her family exemplify the caring connections that are formed through PCSLA.
WE ARE MISSION FOCUSED  PCSLA brings together committed and capable partner agencies who are focused and aligned to fulfill our mission, which is to:

“Improve access to high-quality healthcare, early education and family supports for the youngest and most vulnerable children in South Los Angeles.”

Thank you to our funders who help make our work possible.

Since 2010, PCSLA has attracted the attention and support of major funders. Our support base has evolved from three funders to 23 and is continuing to grow.

- The Atlas Family Foundation*
- Ballmer Group*
- The California Endowment
- The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation*
- Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
- Department of Developmental Services (via St. John’s Well Child & Family Center)*
- Dwight Stuart Youth Fund*
- The Eisner Foundation*
- Jewish Community Foundation
- The JIB Fund
- Kaiser Permanente
- WM Keck Foundation
- Lincy Foundation
- LA County Board of Supervisors—Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas
- LA County Department of Mental Health—Innovations 2 (via Children’s Institute, Inc.)*
- The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
- Reissa Foundation*
- The Rose Hills Foundation*
- Social Venture Partners
- Specialty Family Foundation*
- UniteHealth Foundation*
- The Weingart Foundation*

* 2018 Donors and Government Funders

PCSLA Partner Agencies

Tier 1 Partners:
- Alliance for Children’s Rights
- Children’s Institute, Inc.
- Crystal Stairs, Inc.
- Institute for Maximum Human Potential
- Para Los Niños
- People Assisting The Homeless
- St. John’s Well Child & Family Center

Tier 2 Partners:
- Community Coalition
- First Place For Youth
- Girls Club of Los Angeles
- HOPICS
- Imagine LA
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
- LAUSD—Early Childhood Special Education
- South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
- Upward Bound House
- Work Source

What makes PCSLA most successful comes from every individual’s desire to ensure that each and every case is not just a number or statistic, but their actual needs are being met.”

TIER I PARTNER AGENCY

STRONG TODAY, STRONGER TOMORROW!

PCSLA recently engaged in a strategic planning process that yielded our roadmap for 2019-2021. Key priorities for the next three years are to:

- Increase our impact. By strategically and thoughtfully growing over the next three years, we anticipate that we will help nearly 6,000 individuals.
- Expand our partner agency structure. We will more than double the number of partners who participate — from 17 to 35 — to deepen our reach and services throughout SPA 6.
- Provide greater access through local clinics and faith-based organizations. We are expanding into six additional St. John’s clinics, for a total of 14, and are increasing our faith-based sites to make it easier to families to get the help they need.
- Advance innovation in the field. We will continue to develop and implement new programs in collaboration with our nonprofit partners and government agencies to address critical needs such as early intervention and increasing mental health support.
- Strengthen our System of Care. We are working to expand our Cross Agency Training Series, which is offered to the staff of our partner agencies and is essential to maximizing the effectiveness of our system of care.

- Evaluate our effectiveness. We are spearheading a new 3-year evaluation project through a continued partnership with the Imoyase Community Support Services and Loyola Marymount University.
- Build our internal capacity to support growth and ensure sustainability. In the coming years we will continue to develop a diverse funding model that includes both private and government sources. Our efforts will also be focused on attracting and retaining high quality staff, increasing our visibility, and ensuring that we have the technology resources needed to optimize our effectiveness.
Partners for Children South L.A.
Working together for young children and families

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