

Area:	Family Engagement
Subject:	FE10 – Family Connections to Peers and Community
Reference:	1304.41 (a)(1-4)
Policy:	SCOE Head Start programs will take an active role in community planning to encourage strong communication, cooperation, and the sharing of information among agencies and community partners to improve the delivery of community services to children and families in accordance with confidentiality policies. Ongoing collaborative relationships with community partners will also be established to promote the access of children and families to community services that are responsive to their needs.

Procedure:

1. Designated staff will coordinate and document community collaboration efforts that occur throughout the program year.
2. Affirmative steps towards outreach must be taken by assigned staff to establish ongoing collaborative relationships with community organizations, encourage community volunteers, promote the access of children and families to community services that are responsive to their needs, and ensure that the program responds to community needs, including:
 - a. Health care providers, such as clinics, doctors, dentists, and other health professionals,
 - b. Mental health providers,
 - c. Nutritional service providers,
 - d. Agencies that provide services to children with disabilities and their families,
 - e. Family preservation and support services,
 - f. Child protective services and any other agency to which child abuse must be reported under State or Tribal law,
 - g. Local elementary schools and other educational and cultural institutions, such as libraries and museums, for both children and families,
 - h. Providers of child care and development services
3. To enable the effective participation of children with disabilities and their families, the program makes specific efforts to develop interagency agreements with local education agencies (LEAs) and other agencies within the program's service area. Current partners include: Health Service Agency, Public Health, Dental Society, Stanislaus County Department of Mental Health, Women Infant and Children Program (WIC), Stanislaus Child Development Local Planning Council.

Supervised by:	Executive Director, Director II
Performed by:	All staff as assigned
Forms needed:	Community Agency Contact Record, Interagency Agreements, Memorandums of Understanding (MOU),
Frequency:	Ongoing throughout the program year