



CREATING SPACES FOR COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Moving from community input to
community action



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Today's Presenters

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Agenda

- Program Overview
- Lived Expertise
- Community Engagement Approach
- Compensation
- Panel and Q&A
- Closing/Questions



Partners in Prevention

Project Vision

To cultivate a connected community that nurtures caring, strong, safe and healthy families



Theory of Change

- Consistently assess family strengths and needs
- Link families to supports when, where and how they want them
- Improve coordination between programs
- Build adult and agency capacity to increase family wellbeing

**Increase
protective
factors &
family
wellbeing**



**Decrease the
likelihood of
child
maltreatment**

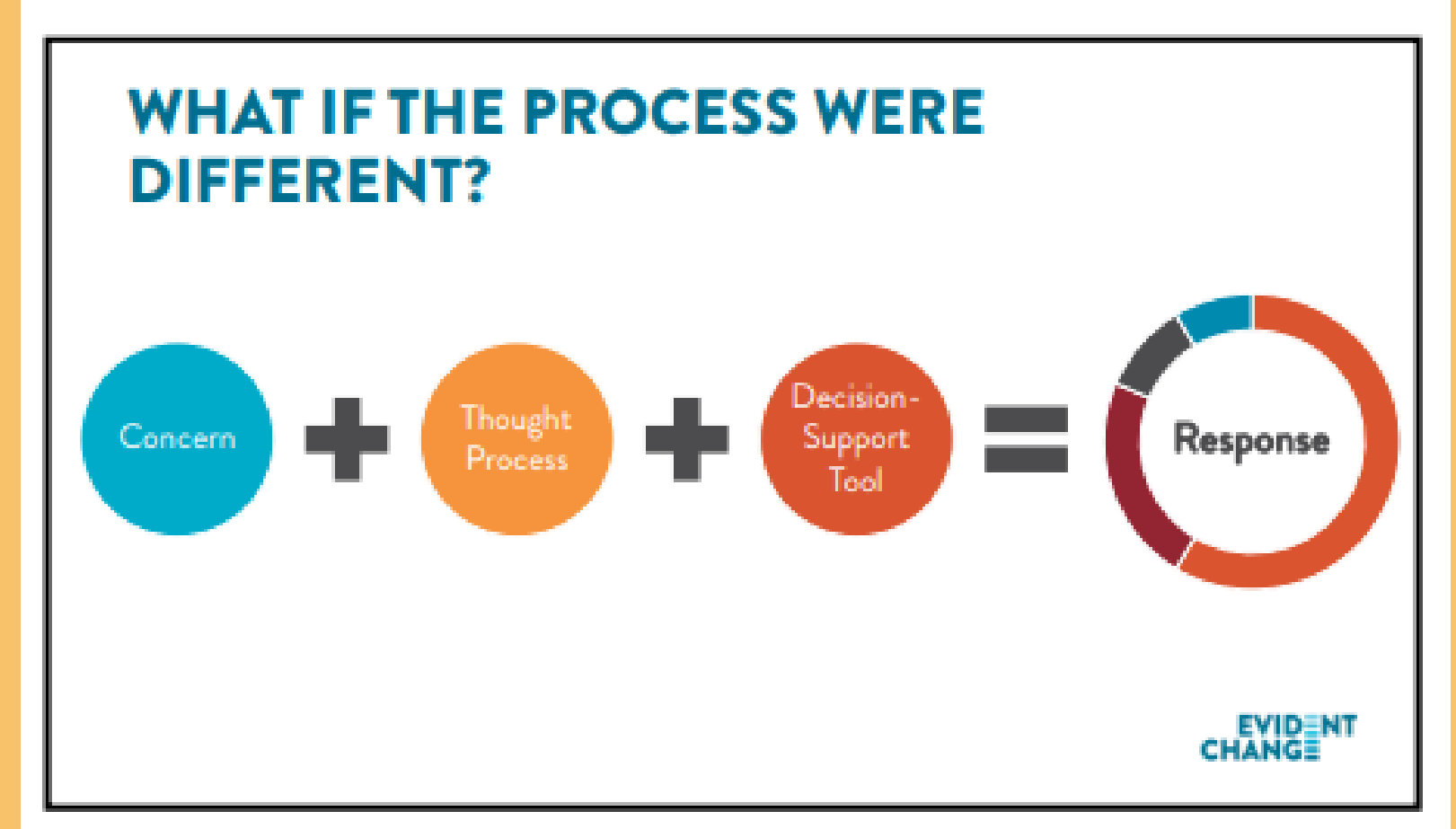
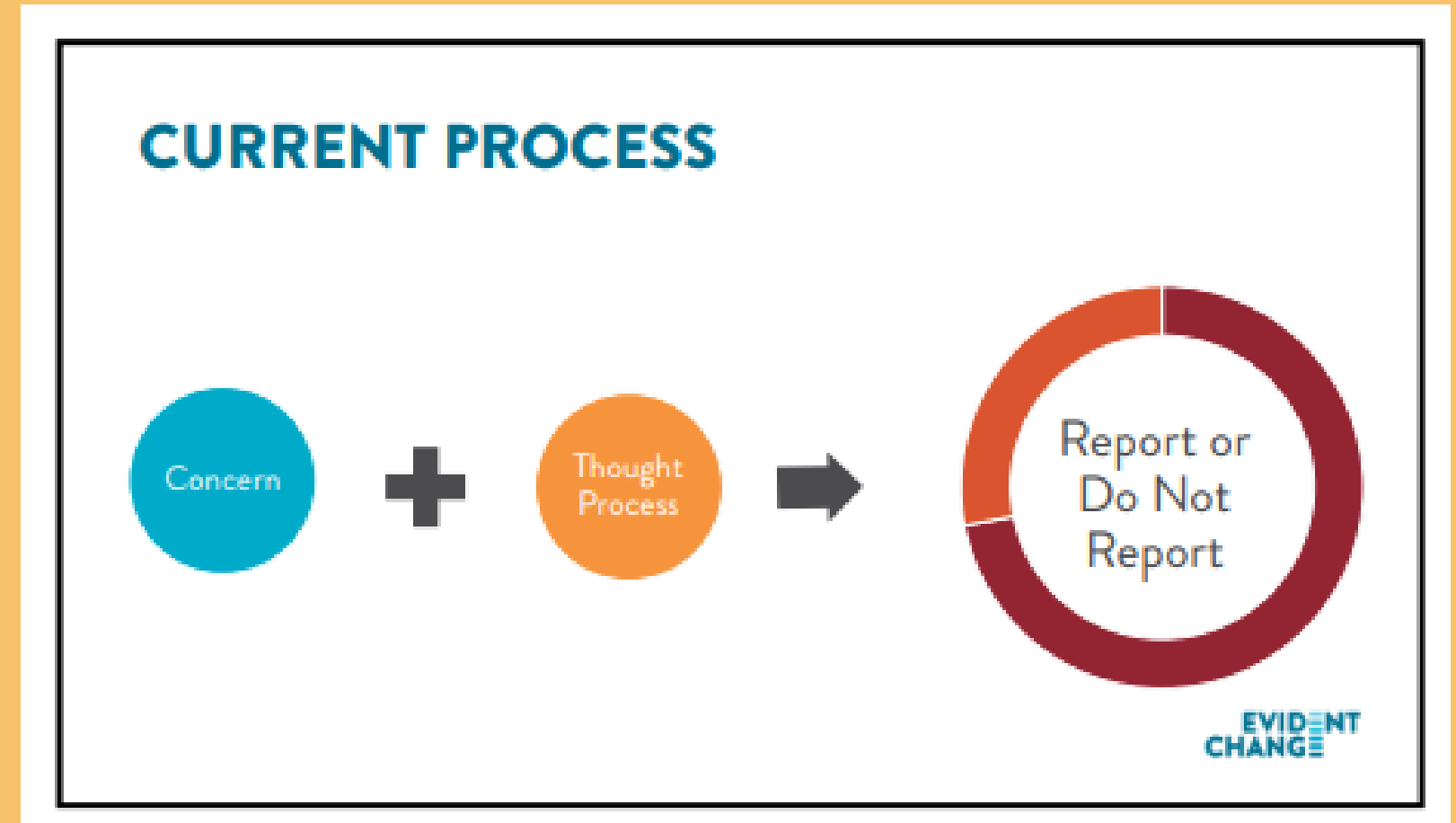
Community Response Guide

- In partnership with Child and Family Well-being Department, Evident Change, and multisector partners and community members
- Grant provided by San Diego Foundation to support the participation of members of the community with lived experience interacting with child welfare



Community Response Guide

- Is a web-based decision-support tool
- Provides guidance to professional reporters and concerned citizens about reporting and alternative supports
- Is designed through a data-driven workgroup process
- Becomes a community intervention through the design process itself.



What do we mean by lived expertise?

People with lived expertise have applied their lived experience to their work and built upon it by increasing their knowledge of child- or family-serving systems and systematic barriers that prevent youth and families from accessing services.

What this means can vary from project to project



What do we mean by lived expertise?



Community Council - Members of the community that want to impact health outcomes for children and families around nutrition

Community Response Guide - Members of the community that have had an interaction with child welfare


Important to be grounded in expectations

Getting clear on why we want lived experts in our spaces



Lived experts can tell us what it is like to experience the policies and procedures that we can become disconnected from

With the push to include community voice, we sometimes end up checking the box, but miss the opportunity to fully engage and support folks with lived expertise to participate in a meaningful way



What do we mean by lived expertise?

Thinking through how we engage with folks in a way that honors their experience but does not require them to justify or prove their experiences in order to be heard or participate

How do we hold that boundary consistently?

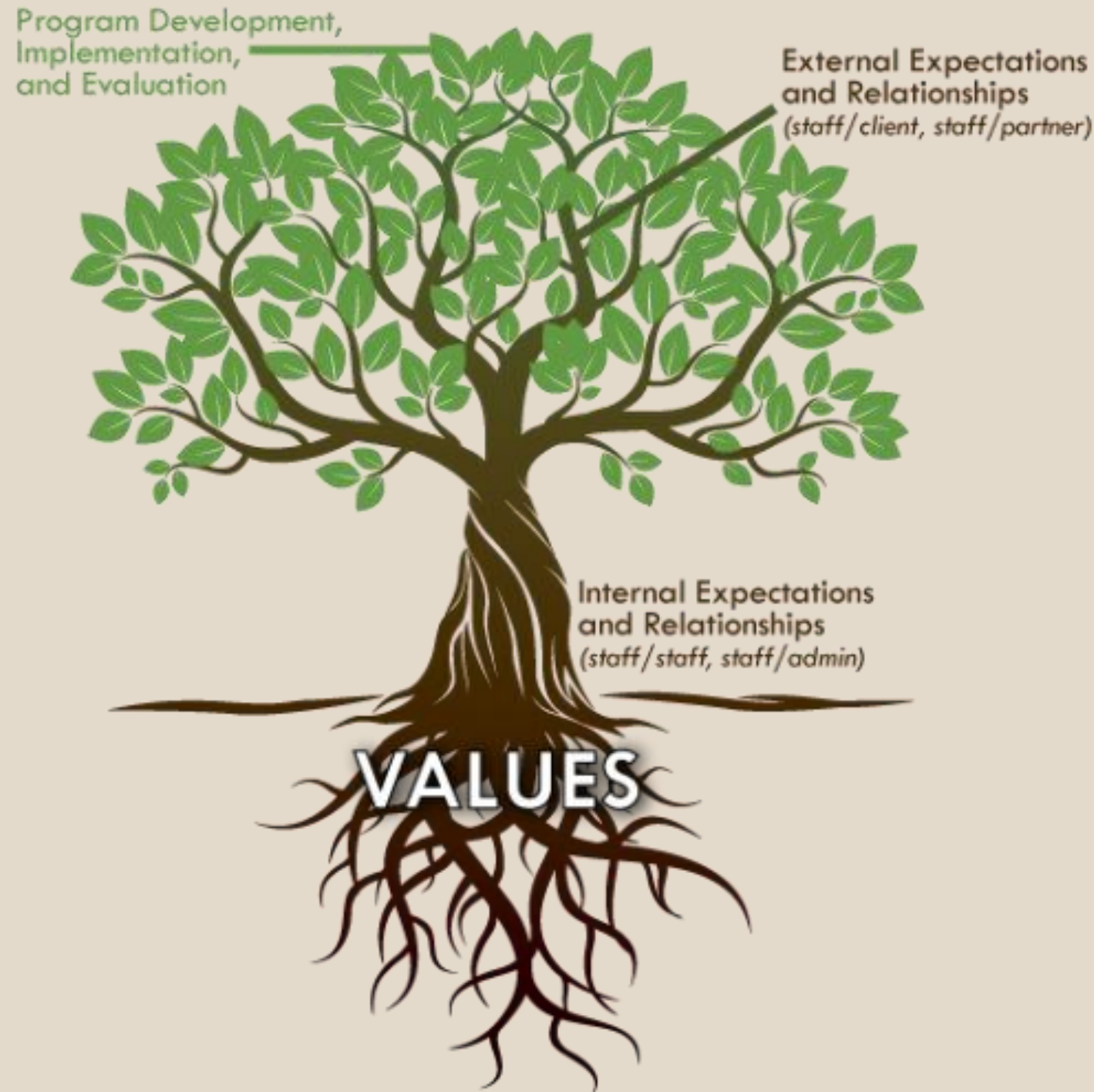


Foundations of Community Engagement



- **Relationship building**
- **Transparency and Authenticity**
- **Feedback loops**
- **Compensation**

restorative practice



Restorative Practices are ways of pro-actively developing relationships and community, as well as repairing community when harm is done.

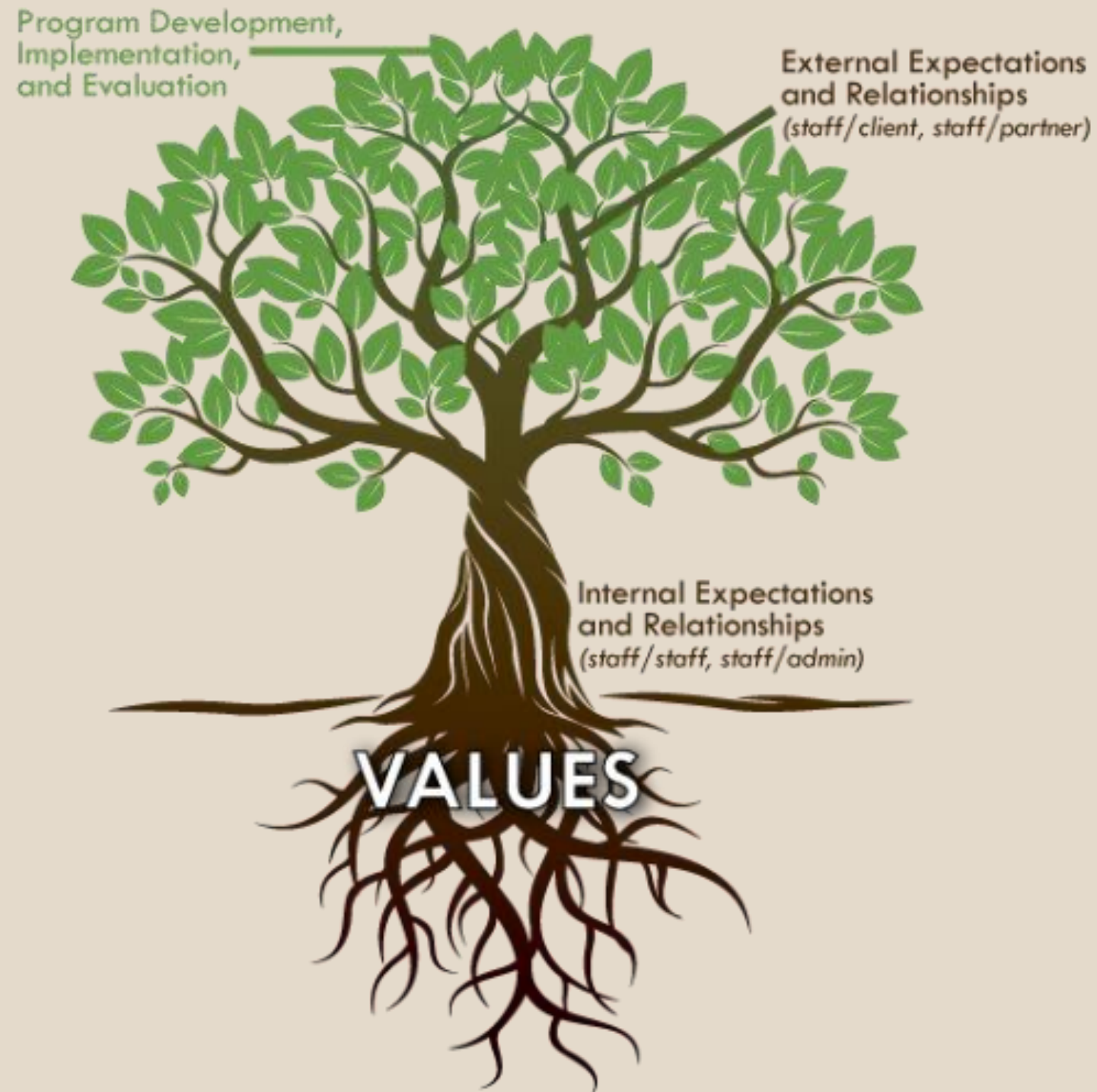
After conflict or harm, Restorative Practices can provide:

- A way of thinking about, talking about, and responding to issues and problems by involving the whole community
- Space for folks to discuss their feelings and opinions, identify what happened, and describe how it affected everyone
- Tools and a space to find solutions to make things better.

restorative practice

7 Core Assumptions

- The True Self in everyone is good, wise, and powerful.
- The world is profoundly interconnected.
- All human beings have a deep desire to be in a good relationship.
- All humans have gifts, everyone is needed for what they bring.
- Everything we need to make positive change is already here.
- Human beings are holistic.
- We need practices to build habits of living from the core self.





collective impact

Collective Impact Principles

- Ground the work in data and context, and target solutions
- Focus on systems change, in addition to programs and services
- Shift power within the collaborative
- Listen to and act with community
- Build equity leadership and accountability

relationship building

This work moves at the speed of trust, and trust takes authenticity, transparency, and time.



- Does the staff leading the work have the capacity, resources, and experience to show up authentically?
- Are we able to respond to the needs of our lived experts in a way that is meaningful and responsive?

consistent & relational response to harm

Harm is inevitable in any relationship, and creating a clear and consistent feedback loop can be an opportunity to respond to harm when it occurs and support reconciliation and reintegration.



consistent & relational response to harm

A clear, co-developed process of (or agreements for) response to harm

These agreements should include:

- Input from all members of the group
- Respect for the wishes of the harmed person
- Anonymity if requested or support with reconciliation





transparency & authenticity

Constant reflection on what equity looks like, how we are meeting expectations, and ongoing communication about thought process with continuous feedback.

Checking in, bringing ideas to the group, sharing lessons and ideas both ways.



feedback loops

For our project, this looked like:

A **clear and known** space and process for reporting when a harm occurred

Consistent meetings to debrief and prepare for core group meetings

Intentional response with partner organizations each time harm occurred which allowed for harm repair without shame



compensation

In 2021, Partners in Prevention, together with the San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative (SDCOI), housed at the UC San Diego Center for Community Health and in partnership with School of Public Health, embarked on developing a compensation model with the SDCOI Community Council.

We started by thoroughly researching existing models and understanding the needs of community members to ensure they feel valued for their time and expertise. This collaboration led to the co-creation of our first compensation model.



compensation

Since then, we have integrated compensation components into new projects and secured funding from Federal, State, and Private Foundation grants.

Through ongoing engagement and collaboration with our community, we have established promising practices and an organizational philosophy that guides when and why we provide compensation.

Our journey has also provided crucial insights into sharing power and co-designing solutions with the community.



compensation

We value equitable compensation, transparency, clear communication, and consistent and efficient practices.

Compensation and reimbursement should include considerations for compensation for time spent, and removing barriers such as *travel costs, parking, translation services, food costs, and child/elderly dependent care costs.*

Compensation should reflect livable wages that demonstrate dignity and respect, and keep the whole system in mind, including staff who are processing payments for community members.



Meeting Folks Where They Are

1. Creating a work environment where staff has the *space, support, time, and capacity* to engage authentically and meaningfully with lived experts and the community
2. Creating spaces that allow for lived experts and community members to gain confidence and participate in ways that *feel good and meaningful to them*



Meeting Folks Where They Are

4. Supporting lived experts and community members with asks from the larger group project, including surveys, focus groups, understanding what is being asked of them

5. Compensating lived experts and community members for their contributions and expertise.



Q&A

“Nothing about us, without us.”*

**THANK
YOU.**

