Pathways to Safety

Differential Response

Differential Response is a statewide, early intervention initiative designed to keep children safe in their homes and out of the child welfare system.

In Monterey County, we call it
Pathways to Safety.

- **The initiative's core beliefs…**
  - Families can resolve issues more successfully when they voluntarily engage in services, supports and solutions.
  - Children are safer and families are stronger when communities work together.

Why We Need Pathways to Safety

In California…

More than **90%** of calls to child abuse hotlines do not qualify to become official child abuse and neglect cases.

Statistics show that about 1/3 of hotline referrals are re-referrals of the same families from the previous year.

Community support and services assist families with issues that, if left unaddressed, can harm children and families, and lead to a later removal of a child.

Why We Need Pathways to Safety

- ## In Monterey County…
  – **Potentially up to 300 families are referred to Pathways to Safety every month and offered support by a community-based Family Resource Specialist.**

Traditionally, these families received no further assessment because the legal threshold for abuse and neglect that would allow Family and Children's Services to respond is not met.

Now, these families are referred to Pathways to Safety and offered support and services to address the problems that may have triggered the call in the first place.

Pathways to Safety Model

The Monterey County Pathways to Safety Referral Process

Pathways to Safety is working with a whole constellation of community agencies to help them be as strong and effective as they can be. They are stretched thin with the families they are already serving and Pathways to Safety is potentially identifying several thousand more families who need services.

So the question is…

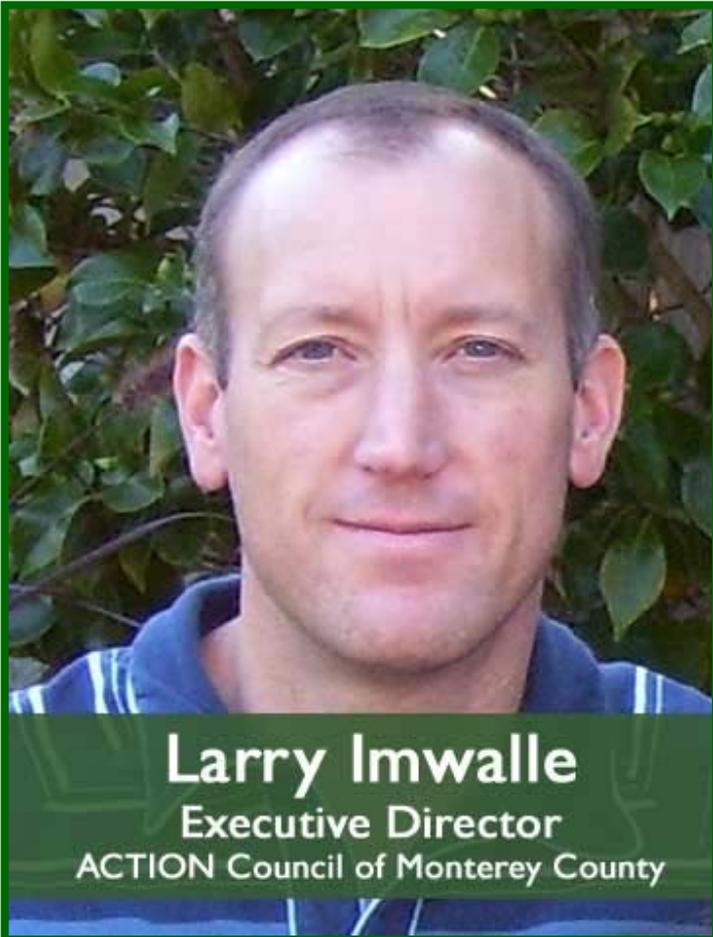# How do we stretch further to meet those needs?

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Even a small donation can make a significant difference for a child, a family and our community!

Every dollar you donate can help:

- Provide services to one more family
- Expand services to more locations throughout the county
- Keep doors open after 5pm and on weekends, which is when most families can access services
- And much more…

Larry Imwalle
Executive Director
ACTION Council of Monterey County

"I have been working with Pathways to Safety since the beginning and what I find so rewarding about Pathways to Safety is that it offers an opportunity to link families with resources and offer them assistance at the first signs of danger in order to help keep families together and children safe in their home."

Jane Parker
Associate Director
ACTION Council of Monterey County

"Many families are in crisis – they haven't been able to pay rent and are at the brink of getting evicted, they can't pay the utility bill, or their car is broken down and they can't get to work. They first need help with these basic needs before deeper problems can be addressed."

Deirdre Banks
Family Resource Specialist

"Being a Family Resource Specialist has been a very rewarding experience for me. It feels so good to be able to engage a family and assist them with the needs they have.

Sometimes small things, such as connecting a family with free after school programs or family counseling can already make a tremendous difference in a family's dynamic."

Thank You!

Dear Deirdre,

I cannot thank you enough for all your help. You are truly a living angel. Where there was no hope, no end, there is now hope and an exciting future. We are learning about empowerment and love, respect and our right to our own dignity. We are also using our bookmarks! Thank you again. We hope to see you soon.

Blessings & Peace

Thank you so much Deirdre. I am doing better. I am so thankful. Thanks again.

That was really nice of you.