

Black Child Legacy Campaign Reveals Progress

The Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths (RAACD) and the Black Child Legacy Campaign (BCLC) released the 2016-17 annual report earlier this week that highlights successes in capacity building, community engagement and service delivery.

The Black Child Legacy Campaign has seen early results in building community capacity to reduce disproportion-

percent of the sleep related deaths — a drop of about four percent from the previous report. African Americans represent about 10 percent of the county population.

The copies of the 2016-2017 annual report are available at the County Administration Building on I Street in downtown Sacramento. The report also refers to the community-driven activities, created out of the strategic and implementation plans.

Through the Black Child Legacy Campaign, seven community organizations — one in each of the targeted neighborhoods — are being funded to serve as Community Incubator Leads in their neighborhoods.

Del Paso Heights, North Highlands, Arden-Arcade, Oak Park, Fruitridge Stockton, Valley Hi, and Meadowview are the targeted neighborhoods involved in offering intervention and prevention services.

In 2011, County Supervisor Phil Serna convened the Blue Ribbon Commission on Disproportionate African American Child Deaths following the Child Death Review Team report that

highlighted great disparities in child mortality.

Alarmed that in Sacramento County African American children die at very disproportional rates compared to other children, the Commission was an effort to activate the

Sacramento community and engage resources to do something about it.

The Commission called for the creation of the Steering Committee on RAACD, which in turn created a strategic plan and implementation plan. The campaign is funded by the County of Sacramento, the City of Sacramento, First 5 Sacramento and Health Net. The effort is being administered by the Sierra Health Foundation.

Administrators reported that more than 3,000 people have been reached with services over the last year.

More than 100 youth and 100 adult volunteers leaders across the county have worked with the BCLC and more than 100 professional development training hours have been recorded. Five-hundred-plus youth have engaged through festivals, out-of-school programming, social justice strategies, and youth internship. One-million dollars in additional funding has been secured for direct

services and culture broker support.

“The BCLC is making a big difference in the community, and I’m extremely proud,” said Supervisor Serna.

After the presentation held at the County Administration building, Sierra Health Foundation hosted a media roundtable at its office on Garden Highway. Members of the Steering Committee, service providers and community members spoke of how they benefited from services.

“I admit. I was tearing up a little seeing, hearing how much (BCLC) evolved,” said Gina Roberson. “(It’s) having a real impact. Powerful.”

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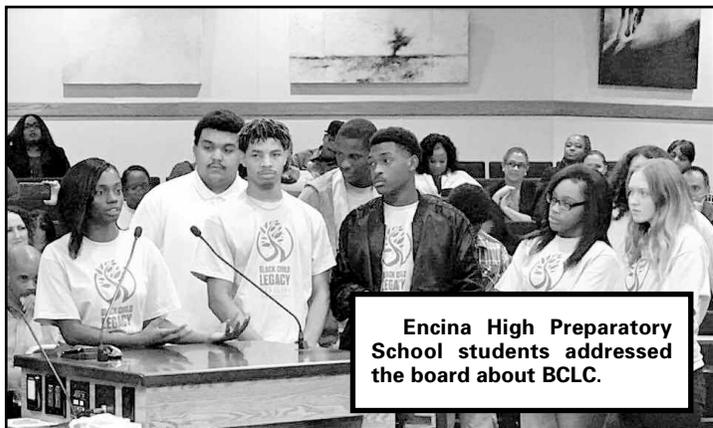
tionate African American mortality rates. The Steering Committee on RAACD is working to reduce deaths of African American children by 10 percent to 20 percent by 2020 in Sacramento County.

The Steering Committee is focused on the four leading causes of child deaths — infant sleep deaths, perinatal conditions, child abuse, and third-party homicides.

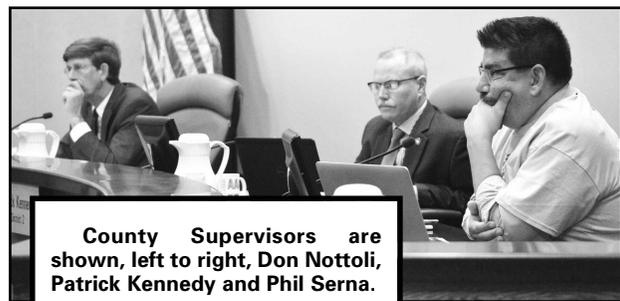
Data revealed this week showed that in 2015, African American infants represented 21



Rachel Francois is one of the youth leaders for BCLC.



Encina High Preparatory School students addressed the board about BCLC.



County Supervisors are shown, left to right, Don Nottoli, Patrick Kennedy and Phil Serna.



Chet Hewitt, CEO and president of Sierra Health Foundation, left, and program officer Kindra Montgomery-Block, listen to speakers at the Black Legacy Child Campaign report to the County.

OBSERVER Photos by ANTONIO R. HARVEY

Capital Ranks Fourth In Top Digital City Survey

The Center for Digital Government (CDG) has announced the winners of

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the 2017 Digital Cities Survey. Now in its 17th year, the annual survey recognizes cities using technology to improve citizen services, enhance transparency and encourage citizen engagement.

This year, the California capital has ranked No. 4 nationally in the 250,000 — 499,999 population category. Cities submit entries explaining their information technology achievements, with the ultimate goal being the acceptance and sharing of best practices.

“I am so proud of our City and the commitment we have made to using technology in meaningful ways,” said Maria MacGunigal, City of Sacramento Chief Information Officer. “We are

focused on improving the lives of those living in, visiting, and doing business in our community. We have a vibrant technology community that is leaning forward and building smart partnerships that connect citizens with government and provide transparent efficient services.”

The top-10 ranked cities will be honored at an awards ceremony during the National League of Cities’ annual conference in Charlotte, N.C., on

Nov. 16.

About the Center for Digital Government:

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute focused on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. CDG is a division of e.Republic, the nation’s only media and research company focused exclusively on state and local government and education.