Report Outs from Communications Forum "Caring for Kids in Turbulent Times"

NOTE: A number of people pointed out that the fear and uncertainty around immigration issues affects not only the Latino community, but the Muslim community, Asian community and all immigrant communities. In addition, the anxiety "in the air" generally impacts all children, regardless of their status. The hate and division so openly expressed in the past several months extends beyond national origin to religion, color, sexual identity, and gender.

Things For Families to Do:

- Fill our authorization forms
- Fill out power of attorney forms
- Update/obtain passports
- Save $$ for legal support
- Attend Immigration Law Workshops, e.g.
   - Canal Alliance
   - Welcome Center
- Make copies of all legal documents (e.g. driver's license, ss card, birth certificate)
- Keep "red card" on person
- Memorize important phone numbers
- Do a family preparedness plan

Support for Families:

- Assure families that the services they currently receive (social services, sports, education) are still there for them
- Remind them of safe places: schools and early care settings, churches
- Pair up with a family for support and, potential, "safe house". Accompany to appointments, shopping, etc.
- Provide transportation – door-to-door -- services
- Peer support groups --- particularly for older children/teens

Resources Needed:

- Hot lines and community alerts (there is an emergency response team system in place)
- Safe places for families and their children to have fun and to share with each other, especially outdoor play spaces
- Additional opportunities for sharing and collaboration
- List of alternative (to government) service sites e.g. for food (Extra Food)

Challenges:

- Self-isolation of families
- Fear, leading to non-participation in programs intended to help
- Uncertainty

Thank you for participating! If you have additions or comments, please email Amy@First5Marin.org.