

Welcome!



Our Vision

San Luis Obispo County is a community where every child is born free of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, tobacco or other harmful substances.

Our Mission

Beginnings' mission is to create a local culture that supports women in their efforts to abstain from alcohol, tobacco or other harmful substances during pregnancy.

Goals

Beginnings goals are to build collaborative partnerships between county programs, community agencies, policymakers, local businesses and community members in order to:

1. **Raise Community Awareness** about the benefits of healthy pregnancy and the consequences of prenatal exposure to alcohol, tobacco or other harmful substances.
2. **Educate our community**
 - a. Develop culturally relevant and group specific educational materials for the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and the effects of other harmful substances.
 - b. Enhance and expand training of all health care providers on the message of ‘Zero’ use of alcohol, tobacco or other harmful substances during pregnancy.
3. **Advocate** for increased access to effective & culturally appropriate alcohol, tobacco and other harmful substance use treatment for women of childbearing age

Recent Projects

- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day
- Not A Mixer ad campaign
- Buzz Free Beverage coasters
- Facebook Outreach - facebook.com/beginningsofslo
- High School & Adult FASD Prevention education



Buzz Free Beverage - coasters



Not A Mixer ad campaign



White flags up at the Courthouse for FASD Day

Structure

Beginnings is fiscally administered through the SLO Child Abuse Prevention Council (SLOCAP). There are no contracts or MOU's required of Beginnings partners, just a willingness and desire to participate collaboratively to enhance our mission, vision and goals.

Financial decisions are made primarily through the Beginnings Steering Committee. Steering Committee members are currently comprised of: Fiscal Administrator, Beginnings Coordinator, and representatives from Public Health, CAPSLO & ALPHA. **Based on input from our 2010 Retreat we would like to evolve to a model in which the Steering Committee is comprised of: Fiscal Administrator, Beginnings Coordinator, and Committee Chairs.**

Currently, Beginnings is funded by First5 of SLO County and United Way of SLO County (ending Dec. 2011). This funding pays for a part-time coordinator, health education in the high schools through the ALPHA Pregnancy Support Center, outreach and peer education through CAPSLO Community Education, and several trainings and community outreach events throughout the year.

Beginnings 2012 Meeting Schedule (TBA)	
Meeting location: County Public Health Conference Room 2191 Johnson Ave, SLO	

History

Beginnings is a group that was created when the Perinatal Leadership Team and the Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force merged. The Perinatal Leadership Team was a multi-agency group that came together to develop strategies that would help to identify and successfully intervene with pregnant substance using women. The Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force was established in 1994 in response to Senate Bill 2669, which mandated the California Health and Welfare Agency to develop and disseminate a model needs assessment protocol for pregnant and postpartum substance using women. The law also required each county to establish protocols in conjunction with their department of social services, public health department, and hospitals, to assess the needs of, and appropriate referrals for, a substance-exposed infant. Through the endeavors of the task force, a standardized assessment criteria and referral form was developed to assess the needs of the mother and child when maternal substance use was identified. This standardized assessment, is now used in all delivery hospitals in San Luis Obispo County.