



Social Advocates for Youth
Helping Sonoma County youth & families grow stronger

Social Advocates for Youth

www.saysc.org

Board of Directors

Robert B. Casanova
President

Matthew Davis
Vice President

Ray Olmstead
Treasurer

Jonna Greene
Secretary

Todd Beal

Tom Burrell

Nancy Fastenau

Dennis Kelley

Kevin Konicek

John Meislahn

Luann Steele

Linda Tavis

**Honorary
Board of Directors**

Marcus Benedetti

Sanford Bressick

Ernie Carpenter

Bill Friedman

Hon. Gayle Guynup

Barbara Konicek

Alan Strachan

Willie Tamayo

Matt Martin
Executive Director

UPSTREAM RESOLUTION of ALIGNMENT
Aligning Social Advocates for Youth Practices and Activities
With the Upstream Investments Initiative

RESOLUTION of Social Advocates for Youth

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma is sponsoring a community-wide strategic initiative called Upstream Investments with the following **mission**: To facilitate the implementation of prevention-focused policies and interventions that increase equality and reduce monetary and societal costs for all residents of Sonoma County.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments **vision** for all residents of Sonoma County is that poverty is eliminated and all people have an equal opportunity for quality education and good health in nurturing home and community environments.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative is designed to target the following **factors**:

- Social and economic factors
- Poverty and racial/ethnic disparities
- Community conditions
- Public opinion, public policy, and laws

- Family and individual factors
- Family dysfunction
- Negative peer influences
- Early antisocial behavior

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to promote four community **goals**:

1. The whole community is engaged in supporting the healthy development of children.
2. Community members have access to education and training and are adequately prepared for the challenges of the future.
3. All community members are well sheltered, safe, and socially supported.
4. Sonoma County has a thriving diverse economy that produces economic security for all.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to expand **funding** for Model Upstream Programs and also seeks to promote **organizational practices** that support the Upstream Vision.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Strategic Initiative promotes the implementation of outcomes-based practices including Evidence-Based Practices, Promising Practices, and Emerging Practices.

WHEREAS, Twenty-two indicators of success will inform the community about the success of Upstream Investments.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Reduced child maltreatment | 12. Improved higher education |
| 2. Reduced youth binge drinking | 13. Improved housing affordability |
| 3. Reduced youth drug use | 14. Reduced homelessness |
| 4. Reduced youth depression | 15. Reduced juvenile arrests |
| 5. Reduced youth tobacco use | 16. Reduced adult arrests |
| 6. Reduced teen births | 17. Reduced domestic violence |
| 7. Reduced obesity | 18. Reduced gang membership |
| 8. Improved pre-school attendance | 19. Improved youth connectedness |
| 9. Improved 3rd grade reading | 20. Reduced poverty |
| 10. Improved 3rd grade math | 21. Reduced unemployment |
| 11. Improved high school completion | 22. Improved health insurance rates |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) shares the Upstream Investments mission, goals, commitment to improving the indicators of success, and vision and has aligned its organizational practices with the Upstream Investments Initiative as follows:

SAY saves lives and protects the community's investment

Social Advocates for Youth serves an especially high-risk population whose needs are acute, but whose ability to access services is severely limited. For those youth who are already living on the streets, our goal is to keep them safe, while encouraging them to come in from the streets to safe housing. For youth in our programs, we provide the support and services these young people need to become healthy, contributing members of our community.

Many of the youth SAY counselors work with are involved with the foster care, juvenile justice, and mental health systems, and many of these youth become homeless when they leave these systems. Other youth run away to protect themselves but once on the street become highly vulnerable and targets for sexual predators and physical assault. Some wind up in jail. Ignoring these situations is not only inhumane, it is very expensive. It costs \$145,000 a year to house a young person at Juvenile Hall. For approximately \$1,600 our counselors and staff can reunite that same young person with their family. Every \$1 spent on counseling services in our Teen Shelter saves the community \$29 in public intervention costs.

SAY provides high quality services and programs at a low cost to our community. We seek a high return on investment in providing our services. Without intervention, the number of runaway and homeless young adults, including youth with severe mental health issues, will grow and become part of the next generation of chronic homeless adults; however, with intervention, they instead can become part of the next generation of creative, productive members of our community.

SAY implements outcome-based upstream programs

SAY's organizational strategy and programs have been a prevention-focused intervention for children and families since its inception in 1971. Sonoma County community members no longer looked the other way as youth who had run away from abusive and dysfunctional families filtered into the juvenile justice system. SAY founders took action by coaxing runaway youth off the street and into counseling and family support services.

Social Advocates for Youth's mission is to provide support, opportunities and hope to children, youth and families. We are dedicated to creating and supporting a caring community where all children, youth, and families grow, thrive and succeed. SAY's Street Outreach, Emergency Teen Shelter, Medi-cal Family Counseling Clinic, Youth Employment Center, and Transitional Housing Facility programs work closely together to provide a continuum of care unmatched in Sonoma County.

SAY's Reverend James E. Coffee House Teen Shelter provides emergency shelter to youth ages 12 to 17 for up to 21 days. A crisis counselor and drop-in services (ages 12-24) including food, clothing, sleeping bags, basic toiletries, and laundry facilities are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This past year SAY

staff at the Coffee Shelter successfully reunited 93% of teens in the program with their families or helped them find stable housing through SAY services and referrals.

SAY's Mary and Jose Tamayo House Transitional Housing Facility (ages 18-24) serves vulnerable young adults that include former foster youth and homeless young adults, many of whom have serious mental health issues. Youth Advocates provide stable housing, counseling, and coaching. Emphasis is placed on preparing young adults for independence and helping residents attain income and life skills to better integrate back into the community. Where over 70% of former foster youth end up homeless, 80% of youth coming out of the Tamayo House moved into stable housing last year.

SAY's Medi-Cal Counseling Clinic has been continuously supported by the Sonoma County Department of Mental Health (SCMH) for over 20 years. The counseling clinic serves children, youth, and young adults from diverse cultural, sexual, and linguistic backgrounds that have Medi-Cal or Healthy Families insurance. Individual and family counseling are available for both English and Spanish speaking people who are experiencing severe emotional problems and are having substantial difficulties at school, at home, or in the community.

We assist at-risk and high needs children, youth, and young adults and families from ages 5 through 25. We serve youth who have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused – those who are at risk of abuse, runaway and homeless teens, transitional age youth (former foster youth and young adults), gang-involved youth and youth at risk of gang involvement, young parents, and teens and young adults who seek guidance in finding jobs and completing their education. We also serve youth with serious emotional disturbances who concurrently are impaired in at least one of the major areas of life functioning, i.e. self-care, school, family, or social/community functioning. The clinic has served 231 unduplicated clients/families so far this fiscal year.

SAY's Youth Employment Center helps youth turn away from gang lifestyles by providing intervention and secondary prevention services to Santa Rosa youth, ages 14-24, who are currently involved with gangs, who may exhibit high-risk, pre-gang behaviors, or who were formerly involved with gangs and now wish to have their visible, gang-related tattoos removed. Since the Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program began in 2008, 125 former gang-involved youth have had their visible, gang-related tattoos removed. Breaking this physiological connection to gang life is a vital link to increasing self esteem and opening pathways to developing legitimate careers

SAY's programs and services address the following indicators

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Reduced child maltreatment | 14. Reduced homelessness |
| 2. Reduced youth binge drinking | 15. Reduced juvenile arrests |
| 3. Reduced youth drug use | 16. Reduced adult arrests |
| 4. Reduced youth depression | 17. Reduced domestic violence |
| 5. Reduced youth tobacco use | 18. Reduced gang membership |
| 11. Improved high school completion | 19. Improved youth connectedness |
| 12. Improved higher education | 20. Reduced poverty |
| 13. Improved housing affordability | 21. Reduced unemployment |

SAY commits to submit its programs to the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs.

SAY measures the strength and viability of its programs

To achieve SAY's mission of providing support, opportunities, and hope to Sonoma County children, youth, and families, SAY seeks to grow its strengths. SAY recently completed a Program Strength & Viability (PSV) assessment of its 23 programs and services. The PSV assessment is a four-point, 23 item scale that measures a program's impact, need, community support, relevancy, and solvency.

SAY's strategic plan promotes efficiencies and partnerships with evidence-based services

All SAY programs are based on Positive Youth Development (PYD). Developed by the Search Institute, a national leader in youth development, resiliency, and prevention, PYD believes that in order to be successful, every youth needs opportunities, positive encouragement and guidance from adults – especially during adolescence. Our counselors and clinicians skillfully challenge youth to engage in activities and relationships that

encourage them to discover and develop their unique talents, strengths, and abilities. The following summarize the three goals in SAY's 2010-2013 Strategic Plan goals.

1. **Comprehensive, integrated services:** Provide comprehensive prevention and intervention services for children, youth, and families.
2. **Organizational excellence:** Promote program excellence by enhancing communication, staff development, and job satisfaction.
3. **Secure funding:** Secure SAY's future through balanced funding (grant-funded programs and philanthropic investment), a substantial endowment, and sound fiscal management practices.

SAY collaborates with numerous agencies that promote Upstream Investments

- **Continuum of Care** – SAY's participation in the Sonoma County Continuum of Care exhibits its dedication to providing a comprehensive continuum of services to its clients, either in-house or via referrals with community partners.
- **VOICES** – SAY works with VOICES to serve transition-aged youth in Sonoma County emancipating from systems of care.
- **Measure O** – SAY helps youth turn away from gang lifestyles by providing intervention and secondary prevention services to Santa Rosa youth, ages 14-24, who are currently involved with gangs, who may exhibit high-risk, pre-gang behaviors, or who were formerly involved with gangs and now wish to have their visible, gang-related tattoos removed.
- **NAMI** – SAY collaborates with NAMI to offer support and services to transition-age foster youth in our Tamayo House Transitional Living Facility.
- **Sonoma County Mental Health** – SAY and SCMHC collaborate to serve young adults with mental illness as they integrate into the community.

SAY commits to promote community-wide knowledge and understanding of Upstream Investments by posting a link to SonomaUpstream.org on SAY's website and, where appropriate, including Upstream Investments in Organizational publications).

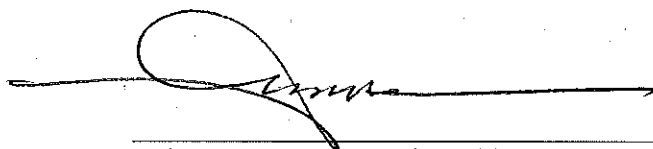
Approved and adopted the 11th day of May 2011. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Social Advocates for Youth Board of Directors.

Following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 10

Nos: 0

Absent: 2



Robert Casanova, Board President
Social Advocates for Youth Board of Directors