



Calaveras County Children and Families Commission

April 11, 2012

Abriendo Puertas
1545 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of First 5 Calaveras and our community of parents and partners, I would like to commend Abriendo Puertas for the outstanding training provided in Calaveras County. As Thanks to the strong desire on the part of Abriendo Puertas to ensure our concerns were heard, and the authentic interest of Abriendo Puertas staff to meet our local needs, the training was described by several attending partners as "the best training "they have ever received. One of our key partners stated, "I have been inspired to make a difference and give hope to families. Thank you!"

The Spanish speaking and Latino population in Calaveras County is exceptionally small by California standards, but is expected to grow, leading us to look toward a strong, evidence and best practiced based approach for engaging our partners so that they could serve existing families now, and be prepared as we grow. Abriendo Puertas understood that desire and demonstrated sincere interest and exemplary coordination to adapt to our small, rural county audience.

Abriendo Puertas trained 14 partners from a range of multiple agencies. I know this is a small training in comparison to the grand work Abriendo Puertas normally provides. For Calaveras, it has resulted in enhanced agency and community relationships with families through a school district, Early Head Start/Head Start, our Food Bank and county agencies voluntarily implementing Abriendo Puertas. Families now receive consistent and meaningful parenting and child development information, wherever they enter. The depth of relationships formed during the Abriendo Puertas training series among all participants was an outcome we could not have anticipated. Our partners came as individuals interested in families, and became a united team. Abriendo Puertas did not simply give us a tool for helping families "open doors," but helped us open doors to colleagues and families. *Sí se puede abriendo puertas!*

We have recently learned that one of our partners providing a home visit, encountered a mother who expressed her concern and anxiety for a school aged child, and worried about the school experience her preschooler would have. Following the home visitor's sharing an Abriendo Puertas lesson, the mother initiated a meeting with the teacher, expressed her concern and desires for her child, and received the teacher's full support and appreciation for her contact. The mother is enormously proud of her advocacy, and is now hopeful for good school outcomes for both children.

Gracias por abrir las puertas para nosotros. Estamos mejor por haber aprendido de ustedes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Pekarcik".

Karen Pekarcik
Executive Director

CALAVERAS COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

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