

Public Health on Purpose:

How Braided Funding and

Strategic Partnerships Power

Local Innovation

Eliana Argueta, Vanessa Bigham, Katelyne Lent, Stephanie Tanksley

CHEAC Annual Conference 2025



Agenda



Learn how Inyo County leverages braided funding & partnerships to maximize impact



Explore innovative approaches to CalAIM, MCP engagement, and LIFE Night



Identify replicable strategies for small and rural jurisdictions

Meet the Panel

Eliana Argueta- Health Net Regional Program Manager, Medi-Cal Operations

Vanessa Bigham- Inyo County Prevention Program Manager

Katelyne Lent- Inyo County First 5 Program Manager

Small County, Big Innovation

- Population: 19,016
- Size: 10,140 sq. miles (2nd largest in CA)
- HHS Department: Public Health & Prevention, Behavioral Health, Public Assistance & Aging, Social & Placement Services, Fiscal Oversight
- Public Health & Prevention size: 28
 - 3 Admin, 5 Public Health, 5 Jail Medical, 15 Prevention
- Public Health & Prevention: 26 funding streams



What is Braided Funding?

Funding sources are combined to cover costs, but each retains its specificity

Costs and expenses are tracked separately

Must abide by each funding streams regulations

Separate reporting structure

Takes significant effort

Why it Works

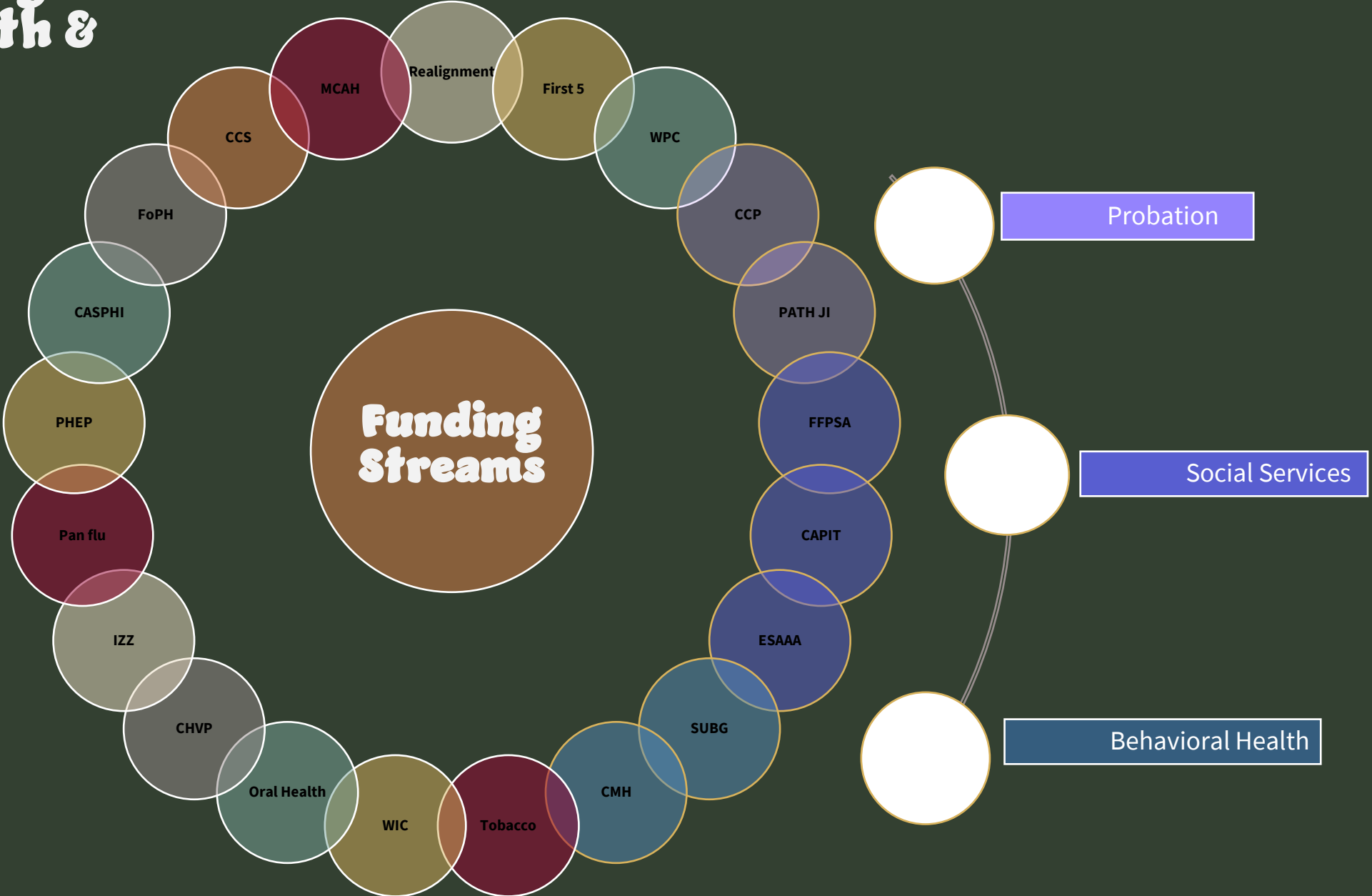
Efficiency: Maximizes every dollar by avoiding duplication

Flexibility: Allows creative program design that isn't tied to one rigid funding stream

Sustainability: Diversifies funding to protect programs from cuts

Alignment: Supports multiple agency goals with shared resources.

Current Funding Streams for Public Health & Prevention



Inyo County's Approach

Identify overlapping goals and allowable expenses across funding streams.

Share staff across programs to stretch capacity.

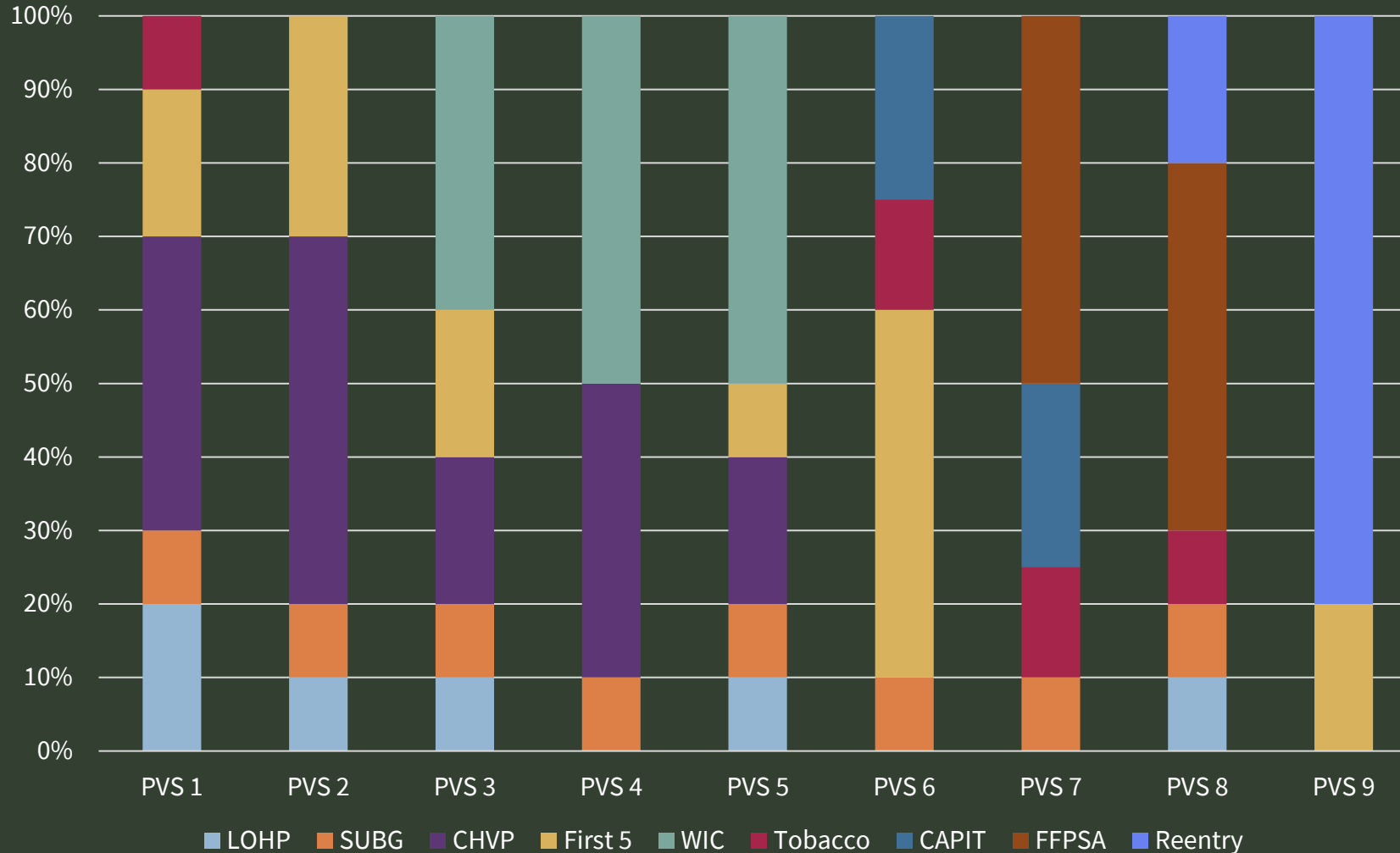
Engage partners early to pool resources and expertise.

Document and track how each funding source supports specific activities.



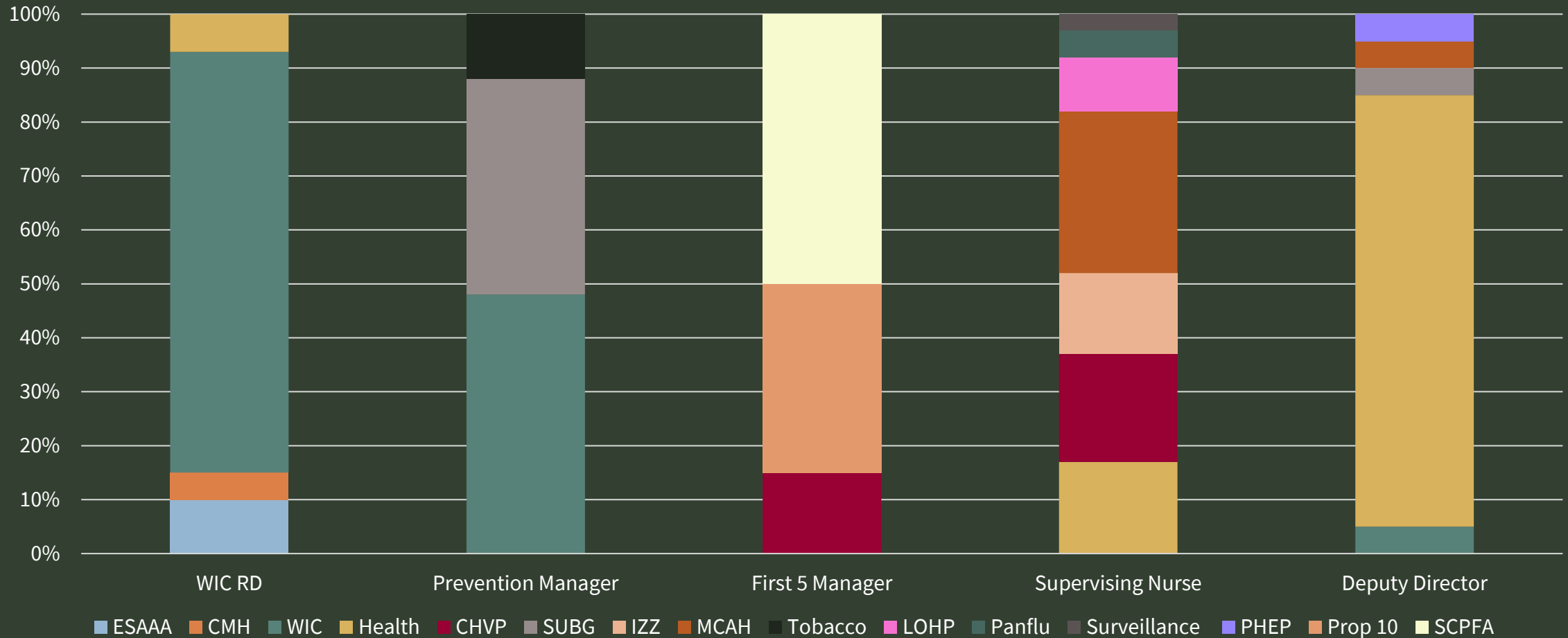
How we braid staff to sustain programs

Prevention Specialist Spreads



How we braid staff to sustain programs

Supervisor Spreads





Panel Discussion



Strategic Partnerships at Work



Strategic Partnerships



Start with relationships- not funding



Connect the dots between your work and their goals



Create regular and open communication channels



Celebrate small wins and stay flexible



Invite them in, early and often

Partnership Spotlight

Health Net

CHA/CHIP

- Sit on Steering Committee
- Funded contractor for CHIP
- Partnered for graphic designer

LIFE Night

- PHM Funding for Community Dinners from Nov 2024-Dec 2025

CalAIM-JI

- Active in workgroups
- Successfully partnered on DSA

Dental Van

- Partnered with Smile CA to bring the dental van to Inyo in 2024 & 2025

LISA ALLSUP, MOUNT WHITNEY

JENNIFER MILLS, MOUNT WHITNEY

CHA/CHIP Overview

LAURA LEGASPI, ALABAMA HILLS

CHIP Steeping Committee

Participate in workgroups

Provided funding

CHA/CHIP Rooms at LIFE Night



LIFE Night Overview

Linking Individuals and Families for Empowerment

- Hosted Monthly – Consistent presence builds trust.
- Community-Driven – Families help shape topics and activities.
- Cross-Sector Participation – MCPs, First 5, Public Health, Prevention programs, CBOs, and local agencies.
- One-Stop Resource Hub – Health screenings, benefits enrollment, parenting resources, prevention education, and more.

11 LIFE Nights to date

Over 200 participants

25 Programs/Partners

LIFE Night

Linking Individuals and Families for Empowerment

DINNER PROVIDED @ 6:30 PM

AUGUST 7TH
5:00 - 6:30 PM

Inyo Community
LIFE Night!
Linking Individuals and Families for Empowerment

1360 N Main St Bishop CA, 93514

Featuring:
Annual Community Baby Shower
Hosted by Inyo County WIC to celebrate National Breastfeeding Awareness Month

Children's Playgroup
Children ages 0-6 are invited to attend a community playgroup and take home a FREE book! A caregiver (14+) must be present with the child.

Car Seat Safety Check
Join us for a free car seat safety check! Certified techs will ensure your seat is properly installed to keep your child safe on every ride.

Lactation & New Mom Support
Meet 1-on-1 with a certified lactation consultant (IBCLC) from Eastern Sierra Nutrition & Lactation for breastfeeding help, new mom support, and answers to your questions.

Connect through Technology
Stay connected anytime, anywhere! Learn easy ways to use FaceTime, Zoom & more—plus how connection supports your mental health. All ages including our valued older adults.

Safety & Injury Prevention
Learn emergency response skills to help you care for your loved ones from a caregiver's perspective. Babysitters & older siblings encouraged to attend!

Community Health Improvement Plan
An update on Inyo County's Community Health Improvement Plan, highlighting progress, goals, and next steps for a healthier community.

healthnet Anthem

DINNER PROVIDED @ 6:30 PM

JULY 3RD
5:00 - 6:30 PM

Inyo Community
LIFE Night!
Linking Individuals and Families for Empowerment

Join us for Inyo LIFE Night, where we bring individuals and families together to connect, learn, and empower one another through valuable resources, education, and support. Held on the first Thursday of every month.

1360 N Main St Bishop CA, 93514

Children's Playgroup
Children ages 0-6 are invited to attend a community playgroup and take home a FREE book! A caregiver (14+) must be present with the child.

Community Health Improvement Plan
An update on Inyo County's Community Health Improvement Plan, highlighting progress, goals, and next steps for a healthier community.

Supporting Your Partner
Strong parenting starts with teamwork, open communication, and shared support for a child's healthy development.

Mindful Moves & Movies
Stretch your body, calm your mind, then kick back with a great movie. A chill night of movement and fun for ages 7-17.

Tech-Powered Fun & Games
Simple ways to use technology for fun and connection through Games, Virtual Travel, and more!

Inyo County Community Coalition
Join coalition members in shaping community health through hands-on planning, data collection, and education. Your voice helps drive real change!

Donations of new or gently used baby items (ages 1 & under) will be accepted at this event for our Annual Community Baby Shower!

healthnet Anthem

DINNER PROVIDED @ 6:30 PM

JUNE 5TH
5:00 - 6:30 PM

Inyo Community
LIFE Night!
Linking Individuals and Families for Empowerment

Join us for Inyo LIFE Night, where we bring individuals and families together to connect, learn, and empower one another through valuable resources, education, and support. Held on the first Thursday of every month.

1360 N Main St Bishop CA, 93514

Children's Playgroup
Children ages 0-9 are invited to attend a community playgroup and take home a FREE book! A caregiver (14+) must be present with the child.

Simple Summer Routines
Join First 5 for tips on creating fun, flexible routines that help young children thrive during the summer months. Parents & caregivers welcome!

Youth Cooking Class
Youth ages 10 and up are invited to join our team to practice kitchen safety, handwashing, and prepare something healthy and tasty!

Food and Water Safety
Join our Public Health team for a conversation on staying safe from food and waterborne diseases this summer.

Tobacco Endgame
Gain essential knowledge on the tobacco industry's endgame strategies & equip you with the latest insights into tobacco control and harm reduction.

Share Your Story Digitally
Learn simple ways to turn your memories into digital keepsakes using photos, text, and voice. Beginner friendly!

healthnet Anthem

DINNER PROVIDED @ 6:30 PM

MAY 1ST
5:00 - 6:30 PM

Inyo Community
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1360 N Main St Bishop CA, 93514

Children's Playgroup
Children ages 0-6 are invited to attend a community playgroup and take home a FREE book! A caregiver (14+) must be present with the child.

Geode, Space Alien or Rock?
Come to our activity and find out. We will explore where they come from and how they are formed. We may even get a chance to actual meet one!

Turn Awareness into Action
Mental Health Awareness with free mental health screenings and Sign up for Genasys/Ready Inyo to receive Emergency Alerts.

Parenting with Less Stress
Learn how to recognize stress, understand its impact on parenting, and build simple habits to manage daily stress with more ease.

Tobacco Endgame
Gain essential knowledge on the tobacco industry's endgame strategies & equip you with the latest insights into tobacco control and harm reduction.

Enhancing Technology
Simple ways to use technology for fun and connection through Games, Virtual Travel, and more!

healthnet Anthem

LIFE Night

Linking Individuals and Families for Empowerment



Community Dinner

MCP's



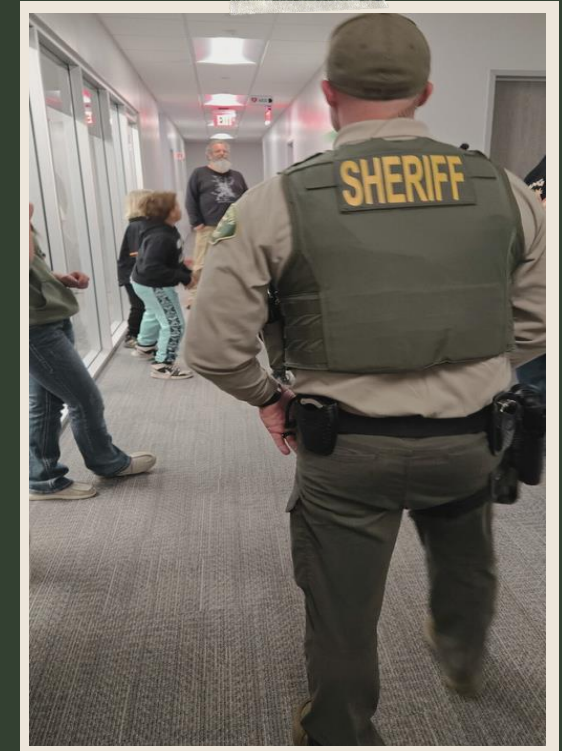
First 5 Staff

First 5/CHVP



Extended Clinic Hours

IZZ/Panflu



Youth Program/SO

ARPA/SUBG/TOBACCO



COMMUNITY BABY
SHOWER
&
LIFE Night

THANK
YOU!
♥

August LIFE Night and Community Baby Shower

Replicable Strategies

Braiding Funding

1. Map your current funding streams and look for natural overlaps.
2. Build internal agreements to clarify staff time and resource use.
3. Communicate successes to funders and partners to maintain support.
4. Start small—braid two streams first, then expand.

MCP Partnership

1. Get to know your liaisons
2. Invite them to CHA/CHIP committees
3. Align your work to MCP performance goals
4. Don't be afraid to ask!



Panel Discussion

