

## Francesca Wright, MPA

### Background Information

Francesca Wright works to create communities where children and families feel supported, connected, and contributing. She designs collaborative learning that honors all participants and helps groups discover wise and effective strategies to reach their goals. Cesca sees her role, as facilitator or short-term staff, to help people in organizations collaborate with others, assess existing programs or policies, and tap collective wisdom to develop workable approaches and programs.

Cesca has worked with statewide associations, commissions, state and local agencies and local government. She has served community-based organizations, faith-based communities, schools, parent groups, homeowners associations, philanthropy and higher education.

Her statewide work began as Senior Program Director for the Foundation Consortium for California Children and Youth where she oversaw the development of results accountability tools and resources. She became a trainer of outcome accountability for program staff, managers and policy makers.

During her tenure at the Consortium she worked with California's Healthy Start grantees, after school programs, First 5 Commissions, and family resource centers. While promoting shared outcome measures as a collaborative tool, Cesca learned from those she was teaching. She gained a deeper understanding of the the trickiness of service models, the power of self help, the deeply personal aspects of organizational leadership, the vast terrain of cultural diversity, and the importance of mutuality and respect.

As an independent consultant, Cesca has been drawn to people and projects that are making a quiet difference.

- She facilitates the “Working Well Together Collaborative” with mental health leaders representing clients and their family members.
- She works with Connie Busse of Cities, Counties and Schools Partnerships on joint use of facilities, cross-jurisdictional approaches for the prevention of childhood obesity, and successful transitions for emancipating foster youth. This has included research, writing, and facilitation.

- She works with the University of Southern California Leadership Programs where she has coordinated leadership programs for the Senator Polanco and the California Latino Caucus Institute, the California Institute for Mental Health and the National Council of State Legislatures, and the Sierra Health Foundation.
- She works with the California Comprehensive Center at WestEd and the Department of Education to integrate parental involvement into district monitoring and capacity building strategies.

Cesca is on the founding Board of Directors for the California Alliance for School Family and Community Partnership, a statewide coalition for effective family involvement in education. She also serves on the school site council at her son's school.

Cesca graduated from Wheelock College in 1977 with a Bachelors of Science degree in early childhood education. She has held teaching credentials and taught in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and California. She completed intermediate level studies in Spanish in Guatemala in 2004 and received her Masters in Public Administration degree from the University of Southern California in May 2006. She has been trained in classic facilitation, appreciative inquiry, open space technology, world café and online facilitation techniques.

Cesca lives in Davis with her husband Lee Bartholomew and their two teenage children.