

## SHASTA EARLY LITERACY PROJECT

### NLAPH CULMINATING REPORT

The Shasta Early Literacy Project had four goals in mind when we applied for the National Leadership Academy. Those goals centered around three areas: Structure, Governance, and Evaluation. As our understanding of multi-sectorial collaborative leadership principles grows, our focus continues to be on Structure, Governance and Evaluation but we are more aware and embrace the five aspects of collective impact. Our ultimate goal is still to increase the number of children in our community who are ready to learn at Kindergarten and to increase early literacy and language skills in our most vulnerable children. Through this NLAPH learning process, the Team has realized the importance of developing interdependent goals with our collaborative partners, adding measurable outcomes and evaluation, and actively engaging the partners in that process. Additionally, we realized through our coaching sessions that formalizing agreements and holding partners accountable to their actions is also integral to the success of our project.

We have had numerous accomplishments this past year including strengthened lead team relationships, expanded knowledge of Collective Impact principles, identification of the SELP Steering Committee as the backbone organization, clarification of the SELP role within another community project called Reach Higher Shasta, and expansion of our NLAPH team to include a representative from the Shasta County Office of Education, Early Childhood Services. Through our efforts, we also secured an additional \$160,000 in funding to further early literacy in our community. In addition to our accomplishments, the bond that has occurred between the Team members as a result of this academy has been very valuable. Because of that bond, we feel safe with each other and turf issues have been eliminated creating an environment for candid discussion and respectful disagreement.

As we continue our efforts in the community, we will re-engage our steering committee by hosting a community summit in January 2014 and forming a multi-sectorial advisory committee to guide future work. The Shasta Early Literacy team wishes to thank NLAPH for their commitment to our growth and learning this past year.