

**Meeting of January 14, 2014 - 5:30-7:30 PM**  
**601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield, CA**

**CALL TO ORDER / SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

- I. Public Comment** **Information**  
*This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters not listed on the Agenda that are otherwise within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Please submit a Speaker Card and limit your comments to 3 minutes.*
- II. Consent Calendar** (5 min) **Action**  
A. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for January 14, 2014  
B. Approve Minutes of the December 3, 2013 Commission Meeting
- III. Committee Reports** (20 min) **Information/Discussion**  
A. Systems and Policy Committee (no meeting)  
B. Program and Community Engagement Committee (Commissioner Betz)  
    1. Receive a report on termination of Parent Education Services Contract #2012-702 with Dixon Family Services by mutual agreement effective January 31, 2014 (annual amount up to \$14,173)  
    *Veris Jones Boyd, Family Support and Parent Education Services Manager*  
    2. Receive a report on termination of BabyFirst Solano subcontract with La Clinica de la Raza (Health and Social Services Memorandum of Understanding #2012-602 - annual subcontract amount up to \$83,889)  
    *Chris Shipman, Health Programs Manager*
- IV. Executive Director's Report** (10 min) **Information**  
A. Receive the Agenda for the North Bay Region Commissioners Convening meeting on February 13, 2014  
B. Receive and discuss an update on FY2013/14 Discretionary Funds  
*Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director*
- V. Commissioner Remarks** (5 min) **Information**
- VI. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location** (5 min)  
The next Commission meeting will be held on March 4, 2014 at 5:30 PM at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: FY2014/15 Proposed Budget; RFA #2014-01 Pre-Kindergarten Academies Awards of Funding; Committee Reports

## **First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission**

**Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 5:30PM  
601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield, CA**

### **Attendance**

Commissioners: Linda Seifert, Dan Ayala, Jay Speck, Elise Crane, Marisela Barbosa, Stephan Betz

Staff/Public: Commission staff and 12 Members of the public.

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM with a salute to the flag.

### **I. Public Comment**

Christie Speck, Director of the Children's Programs at Solano Community College, thanked the Commission for strengthening the work that community is involved with for children 0-5 and their families. The Child Signature Program is a valuable program that has allowed staff to attend training, purchases for assets, children's curriculum, and additional tools for learning.

Becky Billing, President of Solano Napa Association for the education of young children, thanked the commission for the sponsorship of the annual Early Childhood Education conference on September 28 at Solano Community College. First 5 Solano funding allowed the planners to keep the registration costs to be affordable for parents, caregivers and other community members to participate in this valuable learning experience.

### **II. Consent Calendar**

- A. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for December 3, 2013**
- B. Approve the minutes of the October 1, 2013 Commission Meeting**
- C. Approve the minutes of the October 19, 2013 Commission Retreat**

**Moved: Commissioner Ayala**

**Vote: 6-0-0**

### **III. Committee Reports**

#### **C. Systems and Policy Committee**

#### **Motion: A. Approve the 2013-2018 First 5 Solano Long Term Financial Plan**

Discussion: Christina Arrostituto, Executive Director, reported that the First 5 Solano Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) was last updated in 2008. The plan has been updated for current language and evolving issues since 2008 that impact the LTFP. Ms. Arrostituto noted that the LTFP will assist the Commission in the plans for the future with the impacts illustrated in the model. The principles in the model have a long term approach to funding; the model supports Commission Program Investment Plans for its funding cycles, which in turn support the Commission's annual Budget. The LTFP helps the Commission to strategize about funding at the category level, without obligation to specific grantees or contracts.

Megan Richards, Deputy Director, reviewed the assumptions with the new LTFP model to include the interest rate, matching funds and the Prop 10 tax dollars. Ms. Richards reviewed

the reserves, declining revenue and the declining interest, as well as the matching funds not included after the funds are no longer secured. The current funding cycle is through FY2014/2015; the model demonstrates continued funding through FY2016/17 and partial/almost full funding in FY2017/18. Note, however that the Commission is free to change the funding levels as they move closer to the next funding cycle. Those decisions will be made over the next year.

**Moved: Commissioner Betz**  
**Vote: 6-0-0**

#### **IV. 2014 Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services**

**B. Motion: Approve an increased allocation of up to \$42,645 (from \$117,355 to \$160,000) for 2014 Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services (Source of funds: Discretionary Fund)**

Discussion: Cherelyn Ellington Hunt, Community Programs & Early Childhood Education Manager, reported on the success of the 2013 Pre-Kindergarten Academies, which were held countywide in every city. Thanks in part to the successful launch of the “Pre-K Business Champions” campaign (which allowed for an additional 65 slots), the number of children served more than doubled than the previous year academies.

**Moved: Commissioner Crane**  
**Vote: 6-0-0**

**C. Approve the Request for Applications #2014-01 for 2014 Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services**

Ms. Ellington Hunt reported that 2014 will be the third year that expanded Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services have been offered in Solano County. The request for application has slightly changed by improving the forms and templates for ease of completion by the interested applicants.

Staff brought forward a motion to the Commission to deploy an additional \$42,645 for 2014 Pre-Kindergarten Academy services. These additional funds would bring the total funding for 2014 Pre-K Academies to \$160,000, allowing First 5 Solano to solicit for the same number of children served as in 2013.

**Moved: Commissioner Betz**  
**Vote: 6-0-0**

#### **V. 2012-2015 Funding Cycle: Grantee Presentation**

Venis Jones Boyd, Family Support Programs Manager, introduced Debbie Peralez, Executive Director of Child Start, Inc., who presented the Commission with an overview of Head Start “wrap-around care”, offered with First 5 Solano funding. The second presenter, Sheila Smith, (CARES Plus Manager for grantee the Children’s Network), gave an overview of the CARES Plus program and the benefits that the providers have received over the last few years. Beth Coffman, First 5 Solano’s contracted Early Learning Systems Specialist, gave an overview of the first 18 months the Child Signature Program, offered throughout Solano County through a partnership between First 5 Solano and First 5 California.

**VI. Election of 2014 First 5 Solano Commission Officers**

**A. Consider election Jay Speck as 2014 Chair and Aaron Crutison as 2014 Vice-Chair, as recommended by the Nominating Committee.**

Commissioner Ayala led the discussion, reporting that Commissioners Dean and Ayala, who served as the Nominating Committee, nominated Commissioner Speck for the Chair and Commissioner Crutison for Vice-Chair.

**Moved: Commissioner Ayala**  
**Vote: 6-0-0**

**VII. Executive Director's Report**

**A. Approve submission of an application to join Housing First Solano as a General Member, and delegate HFS representation to the Executive Director.**

Commissioner Ayala wished everyone a happy holiday season and hope for a prosperous new year.

Commissioner Barbosa thanked the presenters for their presentations.

Commissioner Betz thanked Commissioner Seifert for her leadership as Chair, allowing the Commission to get a lot done through the last year.

Commissioner Speck appreciated being elected as the Chair of the Commission and said he was excited about what the coming year has in store for the Commission.

Commissioner Crane thanked staff for all of their work and the dedication staff has for the Commission.

Commissioner Seifert thanked the Commissioners, Staff and community partners and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

**Moved: Commissioner Crane**  
**Vote: 6-0-0**

**VIII. Commissioner Remarks**

Meeting adjourned: 7:11PM

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission**  
Program & Community Engagement Committee Meeting  
December 19 2013, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA 94533

**Minutes**

**I. Introductions, Commissioner Comment, and Public Comment**

Commissioner Speck called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Committee members present: Jay Speck, Liz Niedziela. First 5 Staff: Christina Arrostuto (Executive Director), Cherelyn Ellington Hunt (Community Programs Manager), Chris Shipman (Health Programs Manager). Public attendees: Sheila Smith (Children's Network), Nazlin Huerta (H&SS), Nancy Calvo (H&SS).

Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

Public comment: There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

**II. Consent Calendar**

A. Approve Agenda of December 19, 2013

B. Approve Minutes of September 19, 2013

***Commissioner Niedziela moved to approve the Consent calendar. The motion passed unanimously.***

**III. Community Engagement Update**

**Motion: Consider approval of a modification to the Community Engagement Budget between line items, redeploying up to \$15,000 from the "Kit for New Parents" line item to other line items in the Budget as outlined in the staff report**

Cherelyn Ellington Hunt, Community and Early Education Program Manager reviewed the staff report for this item. Ms. Hunt stated that the FY2013/14 Community Engagement Budget included up to \$25,000 customization of the Kit for New Parents. Customization of the kit, including distribution has been completed and the final cost of customization was \$10,000. Staff is requesting a budget modification<sup>1</sup> allowing the remaining \$15,000 to be redeployed to other line items in the budget, including: increasing the amount allocated for educational/community outreach supplies, such as Potter the Otter books (\$8,000), community messaging opportunities (\$3,000) and \$3,000 for finalization of the calendar.

Commissioner Speck asked how additional funds allocated to the calendar would be used if approved. Ms. Hunt explained that shipping costs were slightly higher than anticipated because this was a two year calendar and contained double the number of pages and that additional funds would be used towards those costs.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the Commission has previously delegated authority to the Committee to make changes in the line items and between categories of the annual Community Engagement budget.

***Commissioner Niedziela moved to approve the Consent calendar. The motion passed unanimously.***

**IV. 2012/2013 CARES Plus Report  
Receive the 2011-2013 CARES Plus Quality Performance Report**

Shelia Smith, Children's Network of Solano County CARES Coordinator, provided a presentation on the 2011-2013 CARES Plus Quality Performance Report, including a short description of the program and the challenges and successes of increasing the quality of care available to children in Solano County. The CARES Plus program provides support and education for childcare providers and features stipends for completed training and college education courses for participants.

CARES Plus funding provides participants with counseling and guidance, including support for a contract with Solano Community College to provide educational counseling resources to help participants have successful educational outcomes.

The program continues to have a high level of success in helping providers receive educational opportunities, training and mentoring/support, and increase the quality of care they are providing.

Ms. Hunt commented that increased outreach by Ms. Smith and support coordinator Minerva Nunez, especially to schools, has resulted in a large number of active participants. First 5 Director Christina Arrostuto also recognized Contract Manager Venis Jones Boyd for the success of this program. The program is funded by First 5 California and First 5 Solano.

**V. Program Updates**

**A. Receive a report on the Dixon Family Services-Parent Education Program**

Dixon Family Services (DFS) contracts with First 5 Solano for a 16-week parent education program. The contract included training for 12 English and 12 Spanish-speaking families. DFS struggled to meet the required number of training attendees for the first year and have informed First 5 that they are projecting smaller numbers of attendees at training for the second year. DFS increased efforts in active recruitment of families to fill the training slots, but continued to struggle to field a complete training course. First 5 Solano and DFS have mutually agreed to terminate the contract for these services effective January 31, 2014.

Commissioner Niedziela asked what obstacles prevented DFS from meeting their goals. Ms. Hunt explained that parents with small children found it nearly impossible to be away one night a week for sixteen weeks, especially in a rural area with ongoing issues related to childcare and transportation. DFS provided in-home visits to augment the group training sessions, but even with individualized attention, sixteen weeks proved to be too large a commitment for most families. Commissioner Niedziela indicated that the Committee would like to hear some recommendations for reallocating the remaining funds to serve Dixon area families.

## **B. Receive a report on the Baby First Solano LaClinica De La Raza subcontract**

Solano County Health and Social Services-Maternal and Child Health Division have terminated their contract with La Clinica de la Raza effective January 11, 2014. La Clinica is a subcontractor of the BabyFirst Solano Program funded by First 5 Solano. La Clinica was unable to meet their contractual obligations, primarily due to the difficulty in hiring a Behavioral Counselor.

Commissioner Niedziela asked whether La Clinica was given an opportunity to achieve compliance. Contract Manager Chris Shipman stated that BabyFirst staff had worked extensively with La Clinica staff to mitigate the issue but La Clinica was unable to successfully hire and retain the necessary staff. Nazlin Huerta, BabyFirst Health Programs Manager, said La Clinica is in agreement with the termination, as they understand that they could not meet the requirements. Commissioner Speck requested staff prepare recommendations for the Committee as to how the available funds could be redeployed.

## **C. Receive follow up information on data sources for the 2014 Community Indicator Report**

In October 2013, Commissioners requested additional information regarding early childhood community indicators as presented by Applied Survey Research (the First 5 Solano evaluator). Ms. Arrostituto referenced a spreadsheet with the requested information that was included in the Committee packet. The Committee thanked staff for the information.

## **VI. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location**

As of January 2014, there will be a vacancy on the Program and Community Engagement committee and a possible vacancy on the Systems and Policy Committee. Christina will be working with the chair elect to fill those vacancies. Ms. Hunt will work with the remaining members of both committees to establish or confirm 2014 meeting schedule(s).

The Program and Community Engagement Committee is scheduled to meet next on Friday, February 14, 2014, 3:00 PM, at 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA. Future agenda items include: Community Engagement Update, Calendar Distribution update, Nurse Family Partnership Report, Social Media Plan update, Stanford Regional Poverty Scorecard, Transitional Housing Update, and Childcare Data.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Amanda Holmes, Committee Staff

Approved:

**DATE:** January 7, 2014

**TO:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

**FROM:** **Jay Speck and Liz Niedziela, Program and Community Engagement Committee**  
by Venis Jones Boyd, Child and Family Programs Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Dixon Family Services Parent Education Services: Resolution of Compliance Action Plan/Termination of Contract #2012-702 by Mutual Agreement**

### **SUMMARY**

Dixon Family Services (DFS) and First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission have mutually agreed to terminate Contract #2012-702 for Parent Education Services in Dixon, which was funded up to \$14,173 annually. The Program and Community Engagement Committee reviewed detailed information about this grant at its meeting on December 19, 2013.

Dixon Family Services was unable to achieve its performance goals for year one of this 35-month agreement. DFS entered into a Compliance Action Plan on August 8, 2013, working closely with First 5 staff to try to ensure that subsequent performance targets would be met. Unfortunately, despite numerous efforts by DFS to outreach and engage parents for group classes, attendance and completion rates have remained low. It is not expected that contracted annual service goals will be satisfactorily met for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. To that end, DFS and First 5 Solano have mutually agreed to terminate the Contract #2012-702.

### **BACKGROUND**

DFS entered into a 3-year contract<sup>1</sup> to provide services related to increasing parents' competency in appropriate parenting practices with their children ages 0-5 in Dixon. The service model was the evidence-based Nurturing Parent Program (NPP), offered in a group setting but including resources for one-on-one home based instruction as needed to high risk prenatal and parenting families in English and Spanish. The First 5 Solano contract includes a scope of work with defined activities and outcomes.

Dixon Family Services was unable to achieve its performance goals for year one of this 35-month agreement, and entered into a Compliance Action Plan to proactively address issues related to programmatic and administrative contract compliance, and to assist DFS in achieving its contracted service standards for young children and their families as funded by First 5 Solano.

The Compliance Action Plan was for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. DFS staff made numerous efforts to outreach and engage parents for group classes, attendance, but completion rates remained low. It became evident at midyear that performance goals achieved continued to lag behind targets. It is not expected that contracted annual service goals will be satisfactorily met for FY2013/14. Therefore, DFS and First 5 Solano have mutually agreed to terminate these services effective January 31, 2014<sup>2</sup> per Exhibit C, Paragraph 4.A. Note that funds expended for FY2013/14 through January 2014 are expected to equal approximately \$8,260 with remaining allocation of \$5,900.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The Program and Community Engagement Committee has asked staff for options/recommendations as to possible redeployment of these funds to provide parent education to the Dixon area, and will bring this issue back to the full Commission in March 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> Contract # 2012-702 for Parent Education Services covered the period from August 15, 2012-June 30, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> The current class is scheduled to end January 29, 2014.



CHILDREN ARE OUR BOTTOM LINE

**DATE:** January 7, 2014

**TO:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

**CC:** Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director

**FROM:** **Jay Speck and Liz Niedziela, Program and Community Engagement Committee**  
by Chris Shipman, Health Programs Manager

**SUBJ:** Receive a report on termination of BabyFirst Solano subcontract with La Clinica de la Raza (Health and Social Services Memorandum of Understanding #2012-602) effective January 11, 2014

### **SUMMARY**

First 5 Solano staff were notified in early December that BabyFirst Solano Lead Agency grantee Solano County Health & Social Services Department (H&SS) will terminate its subcontract with La Clinica de La Raza (funded at up to \$82,450 for FY2013/14 and \$83,889 for FY2014/15) effective January 11, 2014. The Program and Community Engagement Committee received and discussed a detailed report on this item at its meeting of December 19, 2013.

The contract services required that La Clinica de La Raza hire a Behavioral Health Clinician. La Clinica experienced challenges in staffing this function, which was vital to the program achieving its performance measures, beginning in FY2012/13. In addition, the objectives for the first quarter of FY2013/14 were not met. H&SS-BabyFirst began a continuous quality improvement process with La Clinica, consisting of an audit of La Clinica's "Scope of Work," opportunity for the La Clinica to provide feedback and a corrective action plan that outlined the steps necessary to improve performance. La Clinica was not able to do so, and was informed on December 11, 2013 that the contract in conjunction with the First 5 Solano/H&SS BabyFirst Solano Memorandum of Understanding would be terminated in accordance with the terms of their Contract.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The Committee directed First 5 staff to work with BabyFirst partners to develop recommendations to redeploy these funds for Vallejo-area clients, and will bring this issue back to the Commission in March 2014.



CHILDREN ARE OUR BOTTOM LINE

**DATE:** January 6, 2014  
**TO:** First 5 Solano Commission  
**From:** Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director  
**SUBJ:** **Executive Director's Report for January 2014**

**Information Items:**

**North Bay Region First 5 Commissioners Convening** – The first-ever regional convening of First 5 County Commissioners is scheduled for *Thursday, February 13, 2014 from 3:00-5:00pm at the Napa Valley Community Foundation*. Commissioners from Solano, Napa, Sonoma, and Marin Counties are invited to participate in the Agenda (Attachment A) which includes a welcome and introductions by First 5 Napa, and an overview and discussion of regional and statewide First 5 issues facilitated by First 5 Association Executive Director Moira Kenney. All Commissioners are invited and welcome to participate in this event; staff request RSVPs by January 31 to provide a count for seating and refreshments.

**FY2013-14 Discretionary Funds** (Attachment B) – This item is presented to remind the Commission of obligations to its current-year (FY2013/14) Discretionary Fund, and to facilitate a Commission discussion of possible additional Discretionary Fund deployments in FY2013/14.

The amount allocated to the Discretionary Fund in the 2012-2015 Program Investment Plan is \$250,000 annually. In 2012/13 the Commission deployed Discretionary Funds as follows:

- o \$150,000 for Child Signature Program Site Grants<sup>1</sup>
- o \$9,638 for the Art for Kids Parent Education Grant
- o \$16,865 for Children's Network Data System Transition Support
- o \$69,508 for Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services Grants<sup>2</sup>

These funds total \$246,011, leaving \$3,989 that was brought forward to the FY2013/14 Discretionary Fund.<sup>3</sup>

**The FY2013/14 Discretionary Fund currently has a balance of \$112,344**, after the Commission's deployment of \$99,000 for Child Signature Program Site Grants and \$42,645 for 2014 Pre-K Academies. Any portion of the \$112,344 that is not deployed in FY2013/14 will be brought forward to the FY2014/15 Discretionary Fund. Staff recommend the Commission discuss whether and/or how to deploy these funds, and provide any needed direction to staff.

**Solano Children and Families Policy Forum** – Mark your calendars for this important March 15, 2014 event (Attachment C). The planning committee (including First 5 Solano staff) has secured sponsorship grants from several community partners (with First 5 Solano providing the Solano Events

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<sup>1</sup> Note that in addition, in FY2012/13 the Commission also approved \$99,000 (FY2013/14) and \$62,500 (FY2014/15) in Discretionary Funds for the same purpose - Child Signature Program Site Grants.

<sup>2</sup> Note that the original allocation for Pre-Kindergarten Academies in the 2012-2015 Program Investment Plan was \$80,000 annually. The Commission subsequently approved \$69,508 in 2012/13 Discretionary Funds and \$10,492 in other funds to bring the total amount awarded for FY2012/13 Pre-K Academies from \$80,000 to \$160,000, in order to fully fund the applications recommended for approval. The \$69,508 in FY2012/13 Discretionary Funds were brought forward in the FY2013-14 Budget and expended in Fall 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Commission policy provides that Discretionary Funds may be rolled forward for one year only, and then if not deployed, revert to the LTFP.

Center meeting space). The theme is ***“Investing in Our Children and Youth – It Makes Perfect Cents!”*** The Agenda includes keynote speakers Ted Lempert, President of Children Now, and Margaret Brodtkin, a successful children’s funding advocate, along with presentations to legislators and policymakers in the areas of early childhood, K-12 education, youth development and leadership, and family support/economic security. On another track, community representatives continue to explore possibilities for capitalizing on the regional “Funding the Next Generation” workshop held in September with local fund-generating efforts.

**Letters of Support** - In accordance with the First 5 Solano Signature Policy, the Chair signed letters of support for Health & Social Services as follows (Attachment D): Health Care for the Homeless Program’s Service Area Competition application; health center New Access Point grant application; and request for a Change in Scope (CIS) to become a community health center under Section 330(e) of the Public Health Service Act.

In addition, we have been notified that Children’s Nurturing Project’s application for funds to Syar Foundation for the Baby Coach program, for which First 5 Solano signed a letter of support in December 2013, was approved.

**AB99 Litigation Update** – As previously reported, the litigation in which First 5 Solano/Solano County joined to overturn AB99 (a bill designed to take \$1 billion in First 5 funds from county commissions and First 5 California) was successful. However, the Court denied a request that the state pay First 5 commissions’ attorney’s fees. This order was appealed in 2012 and continues to be unresolved. Recently, our attorneys requested an extension of time to file a brief concerning this matter.

While the First 5 Solano investment in the AB99 litigation has been relatively modest (and only \$55,536 of the original \$100,000 approved by the Commission in 2011 to participate in this litigation has been expended to date), First 5 Solano chose to participate in the continuing action appealing denial of attorney’s fees in large part to support First 5 Fresno, which led the effort to overturn AB99 and stands to lose over \$300,000 if the denial of attorney’s fees is upheld. We will keep the Commission apprised on further developments as they occur.

**Community Partner Presentations for 2014** – In order to bring information to the Commission about local activities that align with their strategic interests in building and sustaining a strong early childhood system, First 5 staff have developed a list of “community partner” presentations (one per meeting, beginning in March 2014). These are designed to be brief (10-15 minute) overviews of these areas, with time for questions from the Commissioners.

These presentations are for information only, and are outside the scope of the Commission’s current funding commitments. Information about Commission-funded programs will continue to be reported in conjunction with the current funding cycle performance reports. Possible presentations include:

- Food and Nutrition Network of Solano County (FANNS)
- Early Care and Development Partners (Solano Child Care Local Planning Council (LPC), Solano-Napa Association for the Education of Young Children (SNAEYC) & Solano Licensed Family Child Care Association (SLFCCA)
- Tobacco Education Coalition
- Help Me Grow Solano<sup>4</sup>
- Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) & North Bay Regional Center (NBRC)
- Breastfeeding Coalition of Solano County
- Solano Transportation Authority
- Solano Economic Development Corporation

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<sup>4</sup> Solano’s application for national Help Me Grow affiliation was approved in December 2013 (Attachment E)

- Mental Health Services Board & Alcohol and Drug Advisory Council

**Local and Regional Anti-Poverty/Pro-Prosperity Activities Update** – On January 9, members of the Solano Safety Net Summits on Poverty Steering Committee<sup>5</sup> are scheduled to make a report (Attachment F) to the Solano City County Coordinating Council,<sup>6</sup> detailing local and Regional work to address poverty.

First 5 Solano has been a significant support to this work, which is ongoing. Grant funding from United Way of the Bay Area, First 5 Solano and Kaiser Permanente has provided for facilitation to the Steering Committee and the “Safety Net Summits on Poverty” large community meetings. In addition, it has provided funding for a College Intern, Latoya Long, who has joined First 5 Solano staff to support workgroups that will carry out activities designed for a short-term impact on poverty in 2014, and a longer (3-year) plan for work that will have a measurable impact. Ms. Long is also working on a “Groupsite” portal to share information locally.

Regional developments include the re-branding of the regional movement as “Rise Together,” the selection of United Way of the Bay Area as the “backbone organization” for the regional work, and the expansion of the “Bay Area” region from 7 to 9 counties (now including Sonoma and Santa Clara) for the anti-poverty movement.

Statewide developments include:

- Formation of the California State Senate’s “EPIC” (End Poverty and Inequality in California) Caucus (December 12);
- “End Child Poverty” statewide summit in Los Angeles (December 16);
- UC Davis Center for Poverty Research’s “War on Poverty” conference (January 9-10); and
- Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality’s “National Poverty Scorecard” launch (January 13), expected to be followed by a Bay Area Poverty Scorecard in Spring 2014.

**Employee Giving Campaigns** – Thanks to all the First 5 staff who participated in employee giving campaigns in late 2013. Special thanks go to Chereilyn Ellington Hunt and Kara Wilson for stepping up to represent the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator’s Offices in the United Way annual giving campaign, and to Ciara Gonsalves and Joshua Bongawil for representing First 5 Solano in the “Food Fight” campaign, which raised \$396 from a gift basket and other donations for the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank’s annual “Food Fight.”

**First 5 Association/First 5 California Update** – Attached (Attachment G) are the October 2013 “Prop 10 Briefings” and an FY2012/13 statewide overview/summary of county commission annual report information compiled by First 5 Association of California, which I neglected to include with my December Executive Director’s Report. First 5 Association meets next on January 22; this is the Annual Membership Meeting at which officers and regional representatives are elected, and any Bylaws changes considered. First 5 California is no longer a co-sponsor of the upcoming annual “Water Cooler” conference scheduled for March 2014, and is instead planning its own statewide conference for Fall 2014.

**Early Care and Education System Restructuring** – There are indications as of the date of this report that both the Governor and the Democratic leadership of the Legislature plan to bring forward

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<sup>5</sup> Laura Escobar/United Way of the Bay Area; Christina Arrostuto/First 5 Solano; Cynthia Verrett/Kaiser Permanente; Alan Kerzin/Children’s Network of Solano County; Kari Rader/Community Action Partnership Solano; Stephan Betz/Solano County Health & Social Services; and Rochelle Sherlock/Senior Coalition of Solano County.

<sup>6</sup> This body is comprised of the Mayors of all seven Solano cities and the Board of Supervisors.

proposals to restructure early care and education in California. While no plan has been made publicly available, the concepts that we have heard being discussed include expansion of Transitional Kindergarten to include all 4-year-olds, and reorganizing state preschool and general child care structure and funding to better align and coordinate with Early Head Start/Head Start to better serve children from birth through Kindergarten. We expect to hear and see more as the Governor's Budget is released, and the state budget process evolves.

Attachment A: North Bay Region Commissioners Convening Agenda

Attachment B: 2012-2015 Discretionary Funds Table

Attachment C: Solano Children and Families Policy Forum Announcement

Attachment D: Letters of Support signed by First 5 Solano Chair

Attachment E: Help Me Grow National Affiliate Award Letter to Solano County

Attachment F: Report to the City County Coordinating Council on Local and Regional Anti-Poverty Work

Attachment G: October 2013 Prop 10 Briefings and Annual Report Overview by First 5 Association of CA

## North Bay Region First 5 Commissioners Convening

Thursday, February 13, 2014

3:00-5:00 PM

**Location: Napa Valley Community Foundation  
3299 Claremont Way, Napa CA 94558**

### CALL TO ORDER

- I. Public Comment** **Information**  
*This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the Commissioners on matters not listed on the Agenda that are otherwise within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commissions. Please submit a Speaker Card and limit your comments to 3 minutes.*
  
- II. Welcome and Introductions** (10 min) **Information**  
*Stephanie Paravicini, Chair and Sally Sheehan-Brown, Executive Director, First 5 Napa County*
  
- III. Lay of the Land** (15 min) **Information**  
Receive a presentation on statewide and regional issues of interest to First 5 Commissions  
*Moira Kenney, Executive Director, First 5 Association of California*
  
- IV. Information-Sharing/Dialogue** (60 min) **Information/Discussion**  
Discuss issues of mutual interest  
*Commissioners*
  
- V. Wrap-Up/Closing Remarks** (10 min) **Information**  
*Moira Kenney, Commissioners*

### ADJOURN

**Attachment B  
First 5 Solano  
Discretionary Fund Tracking**

Discretionary Fund Allocation		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total 2012-2015
Beginning Balance		250,000	250,000	250,000	750,000
Roll Forward		-	3,989		
<b>Annual Funding Allocation</b>		<b>250,000</b>	<b>253,989</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>
<b>Discretionary Fund Deployment</b>	Authorized				
<i>Child Signature Project Site Grants</i>	<i>May 2012</i>	(150,000)			(150,000)
<i>Art for Kids/Parent Education</i>	<i>Jun 2012</i>	(9,638)			(9,638)
<i>Children's Network Data System Support</i>	<i>Aug 2012</i>	(16,865)			(16,865)
<i>Child Signature Project Site Grants</i>	<i>Jan 2013</i>		(99,000)	(62,500)	(161,500)
<i>2013 Pre-K Academy Expanded Sessions</i>	<i>Mar 2013</i>	(69,508)			(69,508)
<i>2014 Pre-K Academy Expanded Sessions</i>	<i>Dec 2013</i>		(42,645)		(42,645)
					-
					-
					-
					-
					-
<b>Discretionary Fund Remaining Balance:</b>		<b>3,989</b>	<b>112,344</b>	<b>187,500</b>	<b>299,844</b>

# SAVE THE DATE: March 15, 2014



## “Investing in our Children and Youth: It Makes Perfect Cents”

THE 1st ANNUAL CHILDREN & FAMILIES POLICY FORUM

Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities

Please join us for a discussion with local, state and federal legislators, community agencies and community members regarding current children’s issues

### Keynote Speakers Include:

Children’s Advocate **Margaret Brodtkin**, whose work transformed the landscape for children in San Francisco

**Ted Lempert**, President of Children Now, a national research and advocacy organization based in Oakland, California.

### Invited Guests Speakers Include:

Federal and state legislators, local elected officials and business leaders.

### When:

Saturday, March 15, 2014

9:00 am—2:30 pm

### Where:

Solano County Events Center

601 Texas Street

Fairfield, CA 94534

**Cost: FREE**

Continental Breakfast

& Boxed Lunch

Please visit the Children’s Network website for more information.

[www.childnet.org/Policy-Forum](http://www.childnet.org/Policy-Forum)

For more information, please call:

The Children’s Network Office at 707-421-7229 extn. 101

**We are asking for your support. You can help by sponsoring the event at any level.  
For more information on sponsorship, please contact Monica Soriano at 707-421-7229.**

**Children’s  
Alliance**

A partner of the  
Children’s Network  
of Solano County

**Family Resource  
Center Network**

A partner of the  
Children’s Network  
of Solano County

**Child Care  
Planning  
Council**

A partner of the  
Children’s Network  
of Solano County



**Children’s  
Network**  
*united voice  
for the children of Solano County*

**COMMISSIONERS**

Linda J. Seifert

*Chair*

Dan Ayala

Marisela Barbosa

Stephan Betz

Elise Crane

Aaron Crutison

Dana Dean

Liz Niedziela

Jay Speck

December 19, 2013

Larry Blitz

Family Health Services Administrator

Solano County Health and Social Services Department

2201 Courage Drive MS 9-100

Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Mr. Blitz,

On behalf of First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, it is with great pleasure to support Solano County's Department of Health & Social Services' request for a Change in Scope (CIS) to become a community health center under Section 330(e) of the Public Health Service Act, along with continuing to be a Section 330(h) Health Care for the Homeless facility. We strongly believe that the request to operate as a community health center and healthcare for the homeless center will increase the capability to provide access for health care services for low income, at-risk, uninsured, and underinsured residents in Solano County, specifically in light of the implementation of the ACA and the expanded Medi-Cal (Medicaid) program.

First 5 Solano Children & Families Commission leverages and invests Proposition 10 tobacco tax funds approved by California voters in 1999 for prenatal, health, quality child care, school readiness, community engagement and parent, provider, and family support programs serving Solano County's children aged 0-5 and their families. These services help young children access supports to thrive and enter school healthy, ready to learn and grow to become productive members of Solano County's workforce and community.

Health and well-being is a key priority area of First 5 Solano, including the goals of all children being born to and maintain their optimal health potential. Key results under this priority are that mothers have healthy pregnancies, newborns are healthy, children have access to health insurance and health care services, and children and families access appropriate mental health services.

We share a common goal of serving the target population as part of a collaborative effort. We fully support SCDHSS as they move forward with this very important change in their target population which will allow an even greater role in providing access to health care and mental health services for some of the most vulnerable children and families in our County.

Sincerely,



Linda J. Seifert, Chair

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

**STAFF**

Christina Arrostuto

*Executive Director*

Megan Richards

*Deputy Director*

Venis Jones Boyd

*Family Support Programs Mgr.*

Cherelyn Ellington

*Early Learning & CE Programs Mgr*

Ciara Gonsalves

*Policy & Fund Development Mgr.*

Chris Shipman

*Health Programs Mgr.*

*Vacant*

*Office Assistant III*

Amanda Holmes

*Office Assistant II*

Joshua Bongawil

*First 5 Futures College Intern*

Kara Wilson

*CE College Intern*

Latoya Long

*Anti-Poverty/CE College Intern*

*First 5 Solano Children & Families Commission uses Proposition 10 tobacco tax and other funds for prenatal, health, quality child care, school readiness and parent, provider, and family support programs across Solano County. These services help ensure that children thrive and enter school healthy and ready to learn, grow and become productive members of Solano County's workforce and community.*



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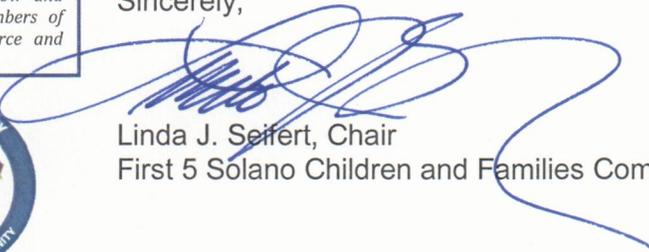
On behalf of First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, it is with great pleasure to support Solano County's Department of Health & Social Services for the Health Care for the Homeless Program's Service Area Competition application. Our agency is committed to continue collaborative efforts with the Health Care for the Homeless Program to improve the health of homeless people in Solano County, including children ages 0-5 and their families.

First 5 Solano Children & Families Commission leverages and invests Proposition 10 tobacco tax funds approved by California voters in 1999 for prenatal, health, quality child care, school readiness, community engagement and parent, provider, and family support programs serving Solano County's children aged 0-5 and their families. These services help young children access supports to thrive and enter school healthy, ready to learn and grow to become productive members of Solano County's workforce and community.

Health and well-being is a key priority area of First 5 Solano, including the goals of all children being born to and maintain their optimal health potential. Key results under this priority are that mothers have healthy pregnancies, newborns are healthy, children have access to health insurance and health care services, and children and families access appropriate mental health services. Solano County's Department of Health & Social Services' Health Care for the Homeless Program plays a key role in providing access to health care and mental health services for some of the most vulnerable children and families in our County.

Please give your strongest consideration to Solano County's Department of Health & Social Services' Healthcare for the Homeless Program. This organization is a vital contributor to Solano children's health and well-being.

Sincerely,



Linda J. Seifert, Chair

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

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*First 5 Futures College Intern*

Kara Wilson

*CE College Intern*

Latoya Long

*Anti-Poverty/CE College Intern*

On behalf of First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, it is with great pleasure to support Solano County's Department of Health & Social Services' health center New Access Point grant. We understand that you plan to purchase an *additional* mobile health unit to increase your outreach efforts for Solano's homeless and low income clients throughout the community. We are in full support of your proposal to co-locate services at homeless shelters, food banks, and any other community facilities, including those that serve children ages 0-5 and their families.

First 5 Solano Children & Families Commission leverages and invests Proposition 10 tobacco tax funds approved by California voters in 1999 for prenatal, health, quality child care, school readiness, community engagement and parent, provider, and family support programs serving Solano County's children aged 0-5 and their families. These services help young children access supports to thrive and enter school healthy, ready to learn and grow to become productive members of Solano County's workforce and community.

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We share a common goal of serving the target population as part of a collaborative effort. Your services will assist clients we serve obtain better healthcare services and are committed to assisting in connecting our grantee organizations with you to host the mobile health unit at their sites. We fully support SCDHSS as you move forward with purchasing a mobile van which will allow an even greater access to health care and mental health services for some of the most vulnerable children and families in our County.

Sincerely,



Linda J. Seifert, Chair

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

First 5 Solano Children & Families Commission uses Proposition 10 tobacco tax and other funds for prenatal, health, quality child care, school readiness and parent, provider, and family support programs across Solano County. These services help ensure that children thrive and enter school healthy and ready to learn, grow and become productive members of Solano County's workforce and community.



December 18, 2013

Department of Pediatrics

Paul H. Dworkin, MD  
*Professor of Pediatrics*

Debbi Davis  
Executive Director  
Children's Nurturing Project  
P. O. Box 304  
Fairfield, CA 94533

*Executive Vice President  
for Community Child  
Health  
Connecticut Children's  
Medical Center*



*An Equal Opportunity  
Employer*

282 Washington Street  
Hartford, Connecticut  
06106

Telephone:  
(860) 837-6232  
Facsimile:  
(860) 837-6261  
E-mail:  
pdworki@ccmckids.org

Dear Ms. Davis,

Congratulations from *Help Me Grow* National! We are delighted to learn that Solano County has achieved affiliate status in California. We currently have representation in 19 states, and value the addition of Solano County to our California affiliate. Your expertise and interest will contribute to our goal of spreading *Help Me Grow* throughout the country.

The mission of the National Center is to enable and support the building of *HMG* systems across the country so that states can implement effective, early surveillance and screening for all children and link those at risk for developmental and behavioral problems to programs and services.

As an affiliate of the *Help Me Grow* National Center, please use the tagline, "A Member of the *Help Me National Network*". Guidelines and instructions on use of our logo are attached. In addition, you and your staff are now permitted to access the affiliate side of our website at [www.helpmegrownational.org](http://www.helpmegrownational.org). The site provides resources to support implementation of a *Help Me Grow* system and document sharing from all 19 affiliates.

Please contact Erin Kalla: [ekalla@connecticutchildrens.org](mailto:ekalla@connecticutchildrens.org) to be added to the password protected site.

The National Center is looking forward to working with you to bring *Help Me Grow* to the children and families of Solano County.

Please let us know if you have any immediate questions. Once again, congratulations on your team's successful efforts!

Sincerely,



Paul Dworkin, MD

Joanna Bogin

**Solano City County Coordinating Council  
Staff Report  
Meeting of January 9, 2014**

**Agency/Staff: Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director, First 5 Solano  
Office of the County Administrator**

**Agenda Item**

**Title /Subject: Receive a report on countywide and regional activities to address poverty reduction and consider endorsing the United Way of the Bay Area ‘Roadmap to Cut Poverty’ as presented by the Solano Safety Net Summits on Poverty Steering Committee.**

**Background:** Beginning in 2010, United Way of the Bay Area conducted extensive community conversations about the issue of poverty, laying the groundwork that led to the identification of a goal to cut Bay Area poverty in half in ten years, and the development of a “Roadmap” which deconstructed, quantified and provided initial measures to support this goal.

Also during this period, Solano representatives organized to begin local activities that would align with and support this regional goal. They began holding “Safety Net Summits on Poverty” meetings that drew 50-100 representatives per meeting. The purpose of these meetings was to provide information and education about poverty and its deleterious impacts for individuals, families, and communities, and to strategize about ways to reduce poverty and contribute to the growth of economic prosperity in Solano County.

In December 2012, representatives of the Solano “Safety Net Summits on Poverty” (SNS) Steering Committee (Attachment A) brought forward a presentation to the City County Coordinating Council (4Cs) on these local and regional activities. This presentation included an overview of the “Roadmap to Cut Bay Area Poverty” (Attachment B) as an organizing framework for addressing poverty reduction and a recap of Solano-specific activities to implement this framework in meaningful, measurable ways.

One of the initial steps reported by the Solano SNS Steering Committee was a plan to present the “Roadmap to Cut Bay Area Poverty” to every City Council and Board of Education in Solano County along with a presentation about local anti-poverty/pro-prosperity activities (Attachment C), with a request that these bodies formally endorse (Attachment D) the Roadmap. The 4Cs members discussed the issue of poverty, the local response and directed the Solano SNS Steering Committee to return to them when the City Council endorsements were secured, and at that time they would consider also endorsing the “Roadmap.”

***Solano anti-poverty activities:*** Over the past year (2013), the Solano SNS Steering Committee has:

- Sponsored two additional local “Safety Net Summits on Poverty” meetings, in February and in November, resulting in signups of over 50 local representatives to form 4 Work Groups. Additional workgroup members will be recruited to fill in key knowledge and support gaps. The groups will seek short-term results as well as developing more detailed, 3-year plans to make measurable changes in these areas for our most vulnerable residents living in poverty. The workgroups are:
  - Childhood Literacy (Close the Word Gap campaign for ages birth-8)
  - Youth development (Community Schools and Summer Youth Employment)
  - Jobs/Economy (Work for All Solano)
  - Strong Safety Net (Food Security)

In addition, the Children's Network of Solano County will lead in pursuing relevant policy issues.

- Submitted an application resulting in a 2013 National Association of Counties "Achievement Award" to Solano and Contra Costa Counties for their anti-poverty/pro-prosperity work;
- Sought and secured funding from United Way of the Bay Area (\$25,000), First 5 Solano (\$10,000) and Kaiser Permanente (\$5,000) for "backbone organization" staffing and logistics for Solano "Roadmap"-related activities;
- Hosted a second successful Solano "Bridging Poverty Opportunity Conference" in April 2013, with a multi-agency, public/private planning committee working to bring together about 50 of our Neighbors living in poverty together with about 20 community volunteers to act as informal mentors, or "navigators;" and
- Expanded the Solano SNS Steering Committee to include representatives of Solano County Health and Social Services and the Senior Coalition of Solano County.

In addition, the effort to secure "Roadmap to Cut Bay Area Poverty" endorsements has been highly successful, with every City Council and Board of Education formally signing on to the anti-poverty movement. A number of additional local endorsements have been requested or sought, resulting in the current list of 34 endorsed organizations (Attachment E). Over the coming year, the Steering Committee will expand the endorsement requests to additional businesses, community groups and individuals.

Most recently, the Solano SNS Steering Committee has secured a communications site for Solano anti-poverty/pro-prosperity activities ([www.solanosns.groupsie.com](http://www.solanosns.groupsie.com)), where community representatives will be able to find local and regional information, and communicate with each other about this work. In addition, grant funding is supporting a College Intern to help manage the web portal and the Work Group meetings, which are expected to begin in Spring 2014.

**Regional and statewide anti-poverty activities** - At the regional level, there has also been a great deal of work going on to begin articulating the "Roadmap" framework. The Regional Steering Council (with Solano representative Christina Arrostuto, First 5 Solano Executive Director) has been working on fund development, shared measurement ideas and outreach/education efforts. Specifically, over the past year:

- The regional "Roadmap" movement has been re-named. It is now called "**Rise Together.**" Community participants begin seeing this name as we transition to new phases of activity.
- United Way of the Bay Area (UWBA) was selected in a competitive process as the Rise Together regional "backbone" coordinator. UWBA will be putting together a special team to lead this coordination work over the next few years under the leadership of the regional Steering Council.
- Both the Rise Together movement and the regional Rise Together Steering Council membership have been expanded from the 7 counties served by UWBA (Solano, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Napa and Alameda) to include Santa Clara and Sonoma Counties. The Rise Together Steering Council meets quarterly to guide and support our regional efforts.
- Initial seed funding to support infrastructure development has been secured, and Rise Together staff have received invitations from both the Bay Area Early Childhood Funders group and the First 5 Association of California to present on their regional activities.

Other important anti-poverty news includes:

- On December 12, Senator Mark DeSaulnier announced the formation of the “End Poverty and Inequality in California” (EPIC) Legislative Caucus. Goals of the EPIC Caucus include:
  - Increasing awareness by elevating the conversation around poverty and inequality;
  - Working with the Executive branch, academia, employers, community based organizations, labor, local government and others to develop and implement data driven policy changes to reduce poverty rates and increase income equality; and
  - Providing a lasting structure within the Legislature to regularly examine the state of poverty and income inequality in California and to drive policy change.
- On January 9-10, 2014, the UC Davis Center for Poverty Research will hold a “War on Poverty” conference to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federal War on Poverty campaign.
- On January 13, 2014, an important milestone is marked with the announcement below of the launch of the “National Report Card on Poverty and Inequality” developed by the Stanford University, which is one of the three federally-sponsored National Poverty Research Centers. In the coming months, Stanford plans to unveil a companion “Bay Area Report Card on Poverty and Inequality” that is expected to offer more timely, relevant and local poverty data to aid us in our work.

**Summary** - Local partners have worked very diligently to put in place a local infrastructure that both operates independently and aligns with regional “RISE together” efforts. We will continue to engage local partners in specific poverty reduction work, and take advantage of the regional expertise and support available for this work. In addition, Solano County is frankly ahead of most counties in the Bay Area in their

As noted in the previous report to the 4Cs, poverty is a complex and multi-faced problem. It drains the vitality of the local economy and the hope and motivation of the individuals and families across Solano County who seek a more productive, stable and prosperous life. The Solano Safety Net Summit on Poverty and regional Rise Together partners are convinced that only through long-term, collective community action can it be effectively addressed. Since poverty is the root cause of so many of the socially disruptive and costly problems impacting Solanoans on a daily basis – illiteracy, lack of education, unemployment, welfare, child abuse and neglect, and incarceration, to name a few – poverty-reduction activities can yield financial and human benefits far beyond the minimal investments needed to move the efforts forward.

**Recommendation:** Receive the “Solano Safety Net Summits” report and consider endorsing the United Way of the Bay Area’s “Partner Pledge” to support the Roadmap to Cut Poverty.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Solano Safety Net Summits on Poverty Steering Committee Membership
- Attachment B: Roadmap to Cut Bay Area Poverty
- Attachment C: PowerPoint presentation on anti-poverty activities
- Attachment D: Roadmap Endorsement Form
- Attachment E: List of Solano Roadmap endorsements

# Solano Safety Net Summits on Poverty

## Steering Committee Members



Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director  
First 5 Solano Children & Families Commission  
707-784-1340 / [clarrostuto@solanocounty.com](mailto:clarrostuto@solanocounty.com)

Laura Escobar, Director, Safety Net Programs  
United Way of the Bay Area  
415-808-4380 / [lescobar@uwba.org](mailto:lescobar@uwba.org)

Kari Rader, Programs Director  
Community Action Partnership Solano  
707-422-8810 / [kari\\_rader@scbglobal.net](mailto:kari_rader@scbglobal.net)

Alan Kerzin, Executive Director  
Children's Network of Solano County  
707-421-7229 / [kthomas@childnet.org](mailto:kthomas@childnet.org)

Cynthia Verrett, Community Benefit Manager  
Kaiser Permanente  
707-651-3670 / [cynthia.verrett@kp.org](mailto:cynthia.verrett@kp.org)

Rochelle Sherlock  
Senior Coalition of Solano County  
707-864-3904 / [Rochelle\\_sherlock@comcast.net](mailto:Rochelle_sherlock@comcast.net)



# ROADMAP *to cut* BAY AREA POVERTY

A BETTER MORE VIBRANT BAY AREA FOR ALL

4

## OUR GOAL

220,000

FAMILIES WILL REACH  
ECONOMIC SUCCESS



3

## CREATING PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY

FOCUS ON THREE KEY DRIVERS OF ECONOMIC SUCCESS



### BASIC NEEDS

Ensure building blocks are in place: healthcare, childcare, food, housing, financial services, technology access



### EDUCATION

Close education gap. More people graduate high school and are ready for college and or 21st century careers.



### JOBS

Develop a vibrant local economy that creates good jobs and offers pathways to employment.

### 5 CRITICAL POPULATIONS



FEMALE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD



FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN



MEN AND BOYS OF COLOR



IMMIGRANTS



SENIORS

2

## COLLECTIVE IMPACT

CROSS-SECTOR INSTITUTIONS THAT ALIGN RESOURCES, PASS PUBLIC POLICIES AND CHANGE SYSTEMS



1

## SOCIAL MOVEMENT

PASSIONATE CHAMPIONS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE WHO SHIFT PUBLIC WILL AND GIVE, ADVOCATE AND VOLUNTEER



# Reducing Poverty & Growing Prosperity in Solano County

- **Safety Net Summits on Poverty**
- **Bay Area Roadmap to Cut Poverty**



April-May 2013



# The Journey

- 2008/09 – Economic downturn
- 2009/10 – High-profile Solano child deaths/injuries
- 2010 – CWDA Symposium on Poverty
- 2010 – United Way launches 10-year campaign to cut Bay Area poverty in half



# Coming Together

## Steering Committee

- First 5 Solano
- United Way of the Bay Area
- Children's Network of Solano County
- Kaiser Permanente
- Community Action Partnership Solano
- Senior Coalition of Solano County
- Solano County Health & Social Services



# The Framework

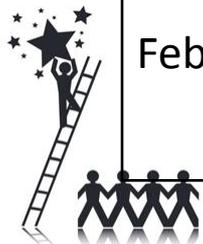
## “Safety Net Summits on Poverty”

- Community Planning Group
  - Public agencies, non-profit & faith community, educators, service providers, concerned residents, businesspeople
- Goals
  - Educate ourselves about poverty and its negative effects
  - Raise awareness about poverty and generate support/engagement across Solano County to reduce poverty
  - Identify and pursue specific poverty reduction strategies and results



# SNS on Poverty Meetings

April 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Poverty 101” training</li> <li>• Asset-mapping</li> </ul>
June 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short/medium/long-term goals set</li> </ul>
Sept. 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key goals set (“education” and “jobs”)</li> </ul>
January 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity conference planning</li> </ul>
July 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Suburbanization of Poverty”</li> <li>• Fiscal, Policy, Program &amp; Safety Net workgroups</li> </ul>
February 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bay Area Roadmap – 3.0 update</li> <li>• Public Safety Realignment – Implications</li> <li>• Planning for Backbone Organization</li> </ul>



# Neighbor to Neighbor



2012

Over 100 participants

30 Navigators

Scores of volunteers

2013

47 Neighbors & 20 Navigators

Active H&SS participation

Follow-up support & assessment

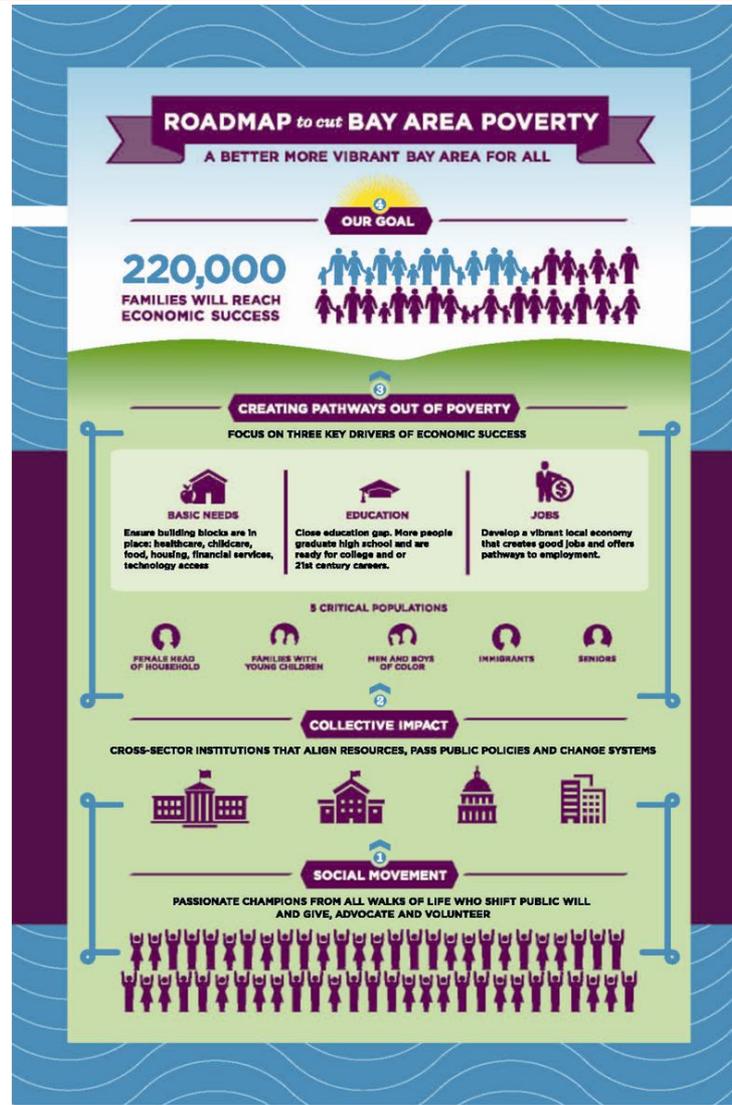


# Roadmap to Cut Bay Area Poverty

- United Way convenes Founding Steering Council to refine Roadmap
- Contra Costa and Solano SNS launch Roadmap-related activities
- Stanford National Poverty Research Center develops Bay Area & US Poverty Scorecards
- Solano Board of Supervisors & every City Council/School Board in Solano County endorse the Roadmap!



# Collective Action



# Collective Impact

# Continuing the Work

- Opportunity Conference 2013
- Solano SNS partners secure “Backbone” funding for local collective action
- Long-term commitment to reducing poverty and growing prosperity in Solano County and the Bay Area
- SNS Meeting #7 draws over 60 participants and establishes 4 “Big Tent Idea” work groups



Continued Roadmap Endorsements



# Questions & Comments





## PARTNER PLEDGE FOR THE BAY AREA ROADMAP TO CUT POVERTY

### **1 IN 5 BAY AREA FAMILIES CANNOT MAKE ENDS MEET. 1 IN 5 IS SIMPLY NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

\_\_\_\_\_ (organization name) joins hundreds of other Bay Area organizations coming together to cut poverty in half by 2020.

### **AUDACIOUS? YES. DOABLE? ABSOLUTELY — BY WORKING TOGETHER.**

As a leader in fighting poverty, we know that no one program or expert can do the job alone. Only by working together can we attack the problem at its source and at scale. Only by working together can we make a significant, lasting difference.

As a partner in the Roadmap to Cut Bay Area Poverty in Half by 2020, we are excited to connect our efforts with the work of hundreds of partners and thousands of individuals to transform the Bay Area. The Roadmap Partnership will help the people in need that we care about and help us achieve more for them. The Partnership will give us more tools to shine a light on the issue, attract support, measure progress and communicate results.

### **AS A ROADMAP PARTNER, WE AGREE TO:**

- 1. BE NAMED AND ACKNOWLEDGED PUBLICLY AS A ROADMAP PARTNER** and, therefore, a leader in the movement to cut Bay Area poverty in half by 2020. We will be recognized as part of the outstanding team of organizations coming together across sectors to achieve this bold and important goal. Our organization name and logo can be included in printed, online and media materials related to the Roadmap, and we will do our best to participate in major media events.
- 2. PARTICIPATE IN DECISION MAKING ABOUT THE ROADMAP.** My organization will make every effort to have senior staff participate in key decisions about the Partnership, including the Roadmap's content, metrics of success, and the Partnership's structure. We understand our input is welcome, and our ideas and expertise are needed to ensure we reach our goal.
- 3. HELP DEFINE SUCCESS METRICS AND EXPLORE HOW WE CAN SHARE DATA WITH ONE ANOTHER.** We pledge to help create the process for partners to share and aggregate data about their work on poverty. This pledge does not obligate us to change any of our current data systems, nor to collect or report any data. Rather, we pledge to help create an effective approach to evaluating the Roadmap, and to strongly consider participating in the measurement process when it begins.
- 4. PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST ONE ROADMAP STRATEGY.** This can be a current area of our work, a natural extension, or something new to us that allows our organization to innovate and learn.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Solano “Roadmap to Cut Bay Area Poverty” Partners

<b>Partners</b>
<b><u>City Councils/County Officials</u></b>
Solano County Board of Supervisors
City of Fairfield
City of Suisun City
City of Rio Vista
City of Vacaville
City of Benicia
City of Vallejo
City of Dixon
<b><u>School Districts/Boards of Education</u></b>
Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
Vallejo City Unified School District
Benicia Unified School District
Vacaville Unified School District
Dixon Unified School District
River Delta Unified School District
Solano County Office of Education
Solano Community College
Travis Unified School District
Fairfield Adult School (FSUSD)
<b><u>Organizations</u></b>
Children’s Network of Solano County
Community Action Partnership Solano
Faith in Action
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
Northern Solano Democratic Club
Senior Coalition of Solano County
Solano County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board
Solano County Department of Child Support Services
Solano County Health & Social Services
Solano County Library
Solano County Public Defender’s Office
Solano Family & Children’s Services
Youth and Family Services
Valero Refinery, Benicia
Help Me Grow Solano/Children’s Nurturing Project
Home Care



# Prop 10 Briefings

October 2012

## State Commission Meeting October 17, 2012

### Highlights

#### Interim Executive Director Report

Renee Webster-Hawkins provided information about Kris Perry's departure and new position with First Five Years Fund, noting that her appointment to this national position speaks volumes about First 5's prominence in early childhood policy discussions. She also provided details on a number of activities at the State Commission:

- First 5 CA has a new partnership with Scholastic, called Reading Power!. This collaboration, led by the Fraser Communications team, will provide 30,000 books in 14,000 classrooms in low income neighborhoods, targeting those with high numbers of Latino English Language Learners.

According to the press release, "*Reading Power!* program kits are designed to enhance literacy activities in preschool and kindergarten classrooms. Each kit includes English and Spanish versions of "Lola Loves Stories," teaching guides, a poster, and worksheets that can be incorporated into lesson plans. It also contains bilingual activities that students can take home to complete with their families."

Teachers call access these free resources at [www.scholastic.com/first5CA](http://www.scholastic.com/first5CA).

- The Hands on Health Express is a finalist for a Prism Award – which recognizes the

"accurate depiction of social issues by the Entertainment Industry."

- First 5 CA has a new Chief of Communications – Lindsay Van Laningham. She previously worked with California EPA, where she worked on a number of key public relations issues.
- Commissioner Kathryn Icenhower has been appointed to the California Child Welfare Council, an advisory body responsible for improving the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies and the courts that serve the children in the child welfare system.
- Commissioner Magdalena Carrasco is serving on the California State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care.
- Renee highlighted the work to increase communication with the First 5 Association and the 58 county commissions, focusing on areas of collaboration including the reauthorization of CARES Plus and the Child Signature Program. She announced the plan to create a formal mechanism for joint decision making and planning. "Counties, she said, "are our boots on the ground and we need their partnership to achieve our shared objectives."

Commissioners offered their appreciation to Renee for stepping in as Interim Executive Director, and for her focus on county partnerships.

## Advisory Committee Reports

Commissioners McKeever and Icenhower met as the Program Committee and reviewed the CARES Plus Reauthorization.

Commissioners Duterte and Iseri met as the Research and Evaluation Committee.

Commissioner Duterte reported that they had discussed the need for longitudinal studies, but that they would need to collaborate with other – including universities and county commissions – to accomplish these since there is no funding in the First 5 CA budget for studies at this time.

## Association Report

Moira Kenney reported:

Numerous county commissions are engaged in longitudinal evaluation and other long-term studies of funded programs. The Association would be happy to provide a report on these efforts at the next meeting.

In response to a query from Commissioner Jennifer Kent at the last State Commission meeting, the Association was asked to prepare an overview of First 5 investments at the county level. A PowerPoint showing the focus of investments in the 2012-2013 fiscal year was presented.

The following are some of the highlights from that presentation:

- 55% of First 5 funds at the county level are reinvested in public agencies and safety-net hospitals.
- 69% of First 5 funds at the county level are focused in 5 key areas: Early Care and Education Quality, Services for At-Risk Mothers and Children, Developmental Screening and Services for Special Needs Children, Oral Health, and Health Insurance and Access.
- County First 5 Commissions are investing in Evidence-Based Models that have proven effective in communities like those served by First 5.

- Note: A copy of this PowerPoint is attached to these Prop 10 Briefings.

Commissioner McKeever asked whether it would be possible for the First 5 Association website to have a one-page overview for each of the county First 5 Commissions. Moira will follow-up on this request.

Commissioner Conway Collins asked what would be the most important activity or action the Commission could take, in the next year. Moira responded that the State Commission could play a very important policy role in ensuring the health and well-being of children 0-5, and suggested that the State Commission engage in the discussions regarding the roll-out of the Affordable Care Act.

## Financial Update

Sandy Beck provided a Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Year-End Summary. Her report is attached to these Prop 10 Briefings. The following are highlights from her report:

- The total Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenue received in FY 2011-12 was \$499 million representing a 1.09% decrease in revenue from FY 2010-11.
- The FY 2011-12 Backfill totaled \$16.5 million, a decrease of 18.32% from FY 2010-11.
- Adjustments for BOE operational costs for tax collection and enforcement activities totaled \$15.7 million, an increase of 10.56% from FY 2010-11.
- In FY 2011-12 First 5 California received a total of \$544,635 in interest earnings for all state accounts, representing a decrease of 55% from FY 2010-11 interest earnings (\$1,204,020). Currently, the interest rate is 0.361%.
- At the end of FY 2011-12, First 5 CA had a year-end fund balance totaling \$112 million, representing an 11.8% decrease from the FY 2010-11 year-end fund balance.

- First 5 CA has prepared a draft financial plan showing the impact of the proposed transfer of \$40 million to the Department of Developmental Services for Early Start and \$40 million to the General Fund for Medi-Cal services. The assumption in the plan is that the expenditures would be prorated across the State accounts pursuant to the formula used to allocate Prop 10 revenues across the State Commission accounts.
- Participation of 34 counties and 4,200 teachers
- 400 pre- and post-CLASS Observations
- 221 My Teaching Partner participants
- Satisfaction survey of 976 CARES Plus participants showing 79% reporting that the program was Very Useful for their professional development.

Commissioners asked specific questions about the funding requests, primarily, whether the staff had made any decisions about the impacts on currently funded programs.

Public comment on the item included CARES Plus participants and coaches. All speakers requested approval of the item and indicated strong support for the program.

Commissioner Iseri again requested that the financial report be presented in a way that showed the complete budget for each funded project, rather than just showing the amounts spread across the separate accounts.

The request for reauthorization was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Kent asked for a discussion item that would allow the Commission to explore the impact of these requests on program activities. Commissioners agreed that they would need to understand the impact of the cuts, as well as the impact on state-funded programs (Medi-Cal and Early Start) if First 5 CA did NOT approve the requests

Finally, Commissioners commented that the requests, and the financial situation in general, pointed to the necessity for a new Strategic Plan.

### **CARES Plus Reauthorization**

Diane Levin and First 5 CA staff presented the item for the reauthorization of CARES Plus. Specifically, the staff requested Commission approval for up to \$14 million per year for three years (7/1/13 – 6/30/16) to fund the CARES Plus program, and to allow the carryover of unexpended program funds at the end of each fiscal year throughout the term of the program. The complete item is attached.

Highlights of the program, as presented by Diane Levin include:

## Association Meeting October 18, 2012 Highlights

### Report from the State Commission

President Harry Freedman introduced Renee Webster-Hawkins, commenting on the very positive atmosphere at the State Commission meeting, the many comments about the need for greater collaboration, and the recognition of the county commissions' co-funding role.

Renee introduced herself, explaining that she is trained as a lawyer but is a social worker at heart. She became interested in law and working for economic justice and social change while working with domestic violence and family shelters. She has served with State Department of Community Services Development and is now passionate about the mission of First 5 and wants to combine resources to create dynamism.

Renee commented that the hiring process for the new Executive Director is "in the hands of the commission, is moving forward and will materialize when it is meant to."

In response to a question about the proposed coordination with the First 5 Association, Renee said that this conversation began with a focus on Race to the Top and Child Signature Project collaboration but is expanding to bring in other projects as well. Renee will be working with Association leadership over the next few weeks to clarify the framework for collaboration.

Francine Rodd (Monterey) asked Renee to keep in mind the need to bring First 5 CA staff into the conversation, since this focus on partnership will be a paradigm shift for them as well. Renee agreed, and said that leadership will be key on both sides to ensure the success of the effort, and also encouraged commissions to think about some areas to focus on that would lead to early success upon which we can build.

Renee described the State Commission meeting as exciting, noting that that commissioners feel passionately about the work of First 5 and want to be engaged. She sees them getting more engaged in their committees and advisory boards, in part because they are committed to leading First 5 California as a strong and relevant movement.

Pat Wheatley (Santa Barbara) asked about the Reading Power! Program. Renee acknowledged that there is a need to keep county commissions informed of new initiatives, although the time frame for this project was very short.

Laurel Kloomok (San Francisco) pointed out that there is a real need to coordinate with local efforts, especially since their local literacy projects have evaluation frameworks, which Scholastic does not have. Counties have been in conversation with Scholastic, and their feedback might have been helpful. Most importantly, she said, leveraging local activities should be prioritized. Jolene Smith (Santa Clara) echoed that call for greater attention to leveraging and coordination.

Finally, on the subject of the State Budget requests, Renee commented that she is dedicated to making sure the requests from DDS and Medi-Cal look very different from those of the past. Renee wants to put specific details in the agreements: which kids were served, which regional centers were funded, and how the funding was used to further the goals of First 5.

### Association Planning

Harry Freedman provided an overview of the Association's strategic planning efforts since April – including the work with Vonnie Madigan, the July Summit and the August Executive Committee retreat. He reiterated that the focus has been on partnership, communication, and policy.

Moirra then provided specifics on the activities since the last meeting:

- The EC has drafted new goals for the Association. Members were given an opportunity to provide input on these draft goals, and the final edits will be emailed to Association members soon.
- A Decision-Making Protocol Committee was convened to current communications, structure, and process for Association decision-making and developed plan for discussion with full membership. Members of the committee included Sean Casey (Contra Costa), Francine Rodd (Monterey), Claudia Harrison (Ventura), Toni Moore (Sacramento), Jamie Henderson (Kern), and Lindsay Dunckel (Nevada). The group suggested time at the Association meeting be spent focusing on the role of Association members. A draft document on the roles of Association officers, Regional Representatives, and Committee Chairs was prepared for the meeting (and is attached to these Briefings).
- The Association has posted a job announcement for a Policy and Communications Director position, and Amy Reisch (Marin), Julie Gallelo (Yolo), Christina Arrostuto (Solano) and Erin Blount (Sacramento) are participating in interviews.
- The Communications Liaison and Legislative Liaison have become Committee Chairs, with the new Communications and Legislative Committees established with regional representation.
- Mark Friedman (Alameda) and Sheila Kruse (Tuolumne) met to set a timetable for the Small-County Augmentation Workgroup, which will begin work in January 2013.
- Francine Rodd convened a first meeting of county representatives from the Child Signature Project, including Laurel Kloomok, Kathi Walker (El Dorado), Kathy Peterson (Mono), Francine Rodd, Jolene Smith, Claudia Harrison (Ventura), and Pat Wheatley to discuss issues raised by counties about these projects. Representatives of the group met with

Diane Levin and David Dodds to establish a framework for collaboration. This conversation will be continued.

### **Nominating Committee**

Pat Wheatley provided an update on the process for nominating officers for the Executive Committee elections which will be held in January. The Executive Committee wants to make sure the Association captures the ongoing and new talent with the group. Pat asked regions to provide reps to the committee. The slate will be electronically published at least a month before the election, if not earlier. Pat asked people to step up and let their regional representatives know if they are interested in being nominated. The committee chairs will be working very hard to involve the expertise of their local commissions.

At the end of Pat's report, Harry Freedman recognized Pat's role as a founding member of the Association, and her leadership at the county, regional, and statewide level. She is retiring in December. Wendy Rowan (Humboldt) presented a gift to Pat on behalf of the Association. Karen Pautz (Siskiyou) provided dessert to honor Pat's commitment and efforts.

Pat accepted the well-wishes of all meeting attendees and commented on the key role the Association has played in building the First 5 movement, and the support she has received from her colleagues across the state. She promised to stay in touch.

### **Association Planning (continued)**

Moira reviewed the document outlining the roles of EC members (mentioned previously). Members then reviewed the document and providing helpful input on the Roles and Responsibilities of Association members.

## **Program and Activity Updates**

Francine facilitated a conversation about the appropriate framework for collaboration with the State Commission as “co-funders.”

Members agreed that there is a need to slow down and focus on the appropriate locus for this work – the Executive Committee, the Program Committee, or a new committee? In addition, members agreed that the Association needs to first identify the role of the group as well as the desired outcomes.

Francine agreed that the EC needed to hear from members, identify the appropriate process, and remain focused on increasing dialogue.

There was a very lively discussion of the subject of increased collaboration, with many members providing input. There was general consensus that the Executive Committee needs to lead this process for Association members, to ensure that the process moves forward without delay.

Moira and Harry both agreed to keep members informed in the weeks to come.

## **Regional Updates**

Lani reported that Sacramento is working jointly on a school readiness insert for the News & Review. The region now has 4 new Executive Directors.

Karen Pautz (Siskiyou) reported the Northwest is working on social marketing, building a network for training and capacity, and bridging connections to statewide efforts.

Pat Wheatley said the Southern region is meeting on Friday to look at the opportunity of bringing together the work done through SCALAR and strategic communication. They want to develop key indicators and bring it all together and hopefully to connect to Association-wide effort on communication.

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.



# First 5 County Commissions

2012-2013 Funding  
Highlights



# Association Goals

- The First 5 Association partners with the 58 county First 5 commissions to:
  - ensure better outcomes for all young children;
  - effectively steward the Proposition 10 funds and protect public resources for young children and
  - increase the effective and efficient operation of the 58 county First 5 commissions.

# 55% of Funds Support the Public Safety-Net

Type of Partner / Grantee	%
School Districts / COEs	18%
Safety-Net Hospitals and Clinics	17%
Public Health / Mental Health	10%
Social Services	4%
Higher Education	2%
Other (Libraries, Police, Recreation, Water Agencies)	2%

## 69% Invested in 5 Key Areas

Key Area	%
Early Care and Education Quality and Access	31%
Services for At-Risk Mothers and Children	14%
Developmental Screening and Services for Special Needs Children	13%
Oral Health	6%
Health Insurance and Referral	5%

# ECE Highlights

- \$152 M committed in 2012-2013
- 15 Race to the Top counties
- New preschool spaces in non CSP #1 counties
- Scholarships for children on subsidy waiting lists
- Capital grants
- Funding for additional staff (ELL coaches, mental health specialists, case managers)

# Children with Special Needs

- \$66M committed for 2012-2013
- 37 counties providing coordinated screening, assessments, referrals for children with suspected developmental delays.
- *Help Me Grow*: county-wide systems built by First 5 in Alameda, Fresno, and Orange County expanding to 15 additional counties

# Special Needs Highlights

- Inclusion support for mainstreamed children
- Parent-child ECE programs for children with special needs
- Intervention services for children who do not qualify for Early Start under revised (tougher) guidelines
- Assessment centers focused on hard-to-diagnose children
- Intensive kindergarten transition case management
- Specialized programs for children with autism

# At-Risk Mothers and Children

- \$67M committed in 2012-2013
- Prenatal and perinatal services for teenage mothers, homeless mothers, other populations
- Home visiting using evidence-based models for families needing intensive support
- Case management and support for families at risk of child removal or in the process of reunification
- Counseling for mothers with perinatal mood disorders
- Differential response services at family support programs to keep families out of the child welfare system

# Oral Health

- \$29M committed for 2012-2013
- 30 counties providing direct services to children – screenings and education, fluoride varnish, and treatment of caries
- Alameda, Sonoma, San Luis Obispo, and Los Angeles partnering with WIC sites to expand access to dental services in non-traditional settings.
- Counties increasingly focusing on ensuring access to sedated dental care when needed.
- Sacramento and Los Angeles building new dental clinics in 2013

# Health Access and Coverage

- \$28M committed for current fiscal year
- Outreach, Enrollment, Retention
- Premiums for Healthy Kids and Healthy Families
- 2-1-1 Referral Services
- First 5 investments at the county level are critical for the success of the Affordable Care Act

# Leading Implementation of Evidence-Based Programs

Program	Focus
Triple P	Parenting, Mental Health
AVANCE	Parenting, K Readiness
Nurturing Parenting Program	Family Intervention
Nurse Family Partnership	Newborn Home Visiting
Healthy Families America	Newborn Home Visiting
Parents as Teachers	Home Visiting, K Readiness
Early Steps to School Success	Home Visiting, K Readiness
Reach Out and Read / Raising a Reader	Early Literacy Promotion
Strengthening Families	Framework for Partnerships



## Persimmony Update

By Venis Jones Boyd  
*Family Support and Parent Education Programs Manager*

Persimmony is the data collection software that has been used by First 5 Solano (as well as many other First 5s across the state) since 2007 to collect program data of its grantees, including information on activities and clients served, performance measures, and expenditures. The system is also used by some grantees to track client-level data and caseloads. The system can be customized to meet the needs of individual grantees, including importing client-level surveys and creating custom reports.

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Many grantees have been using Persimmony for some time, but are interested in rolling out new capabilities, such as referring between organizations. Other grantees have recently begun using Persimmony, including the Family Resource Centers to track client level data this Fiscal Year. As with rolling out any new data system or new functionality, there is a significant learning curve.

To that end, First 5 has been working with grantees as well as First 5 Solano’s evaluator Applied Survey Research (ASR) to set up a series of meetings to ensure the data system is set up to meet the needs of both grantees and First 5 Solano. In addition, trainings are taking place for individual organizations that are new to the system or have new staff that may be unfamiliar with Persimmony. Lastly, Michael Kogus (Persimmony CEO) will be meeting directly with grantees in January to answer questions about the system and discuss other functionality that is not currently used with the goal of maximizing the system for grantees.

By taking full advantage of all the opportunities the system can provide, the Commission will be able to better-demonstrate, through data and outcomes, all of the great work that is being provided by First 5 Solano-funded grantees.

## Community engagement activities support First 5 partners

By Cherelyn Ellington Hunt  
*Community Engagement and Early Childhood Education Programs Manager*

### First 5 Solano Parent Information Calendar

The First 5 Solano 2-year (2014/2015) calendar has been mailed out to over 1400 childcare, health, dental, legislator, non-profit and community partner sites. The calendar is also being distributed by First 5 grantees and partners. Staff have already receiving positive response about the calendar from parents, caregivers and First 5 peers! English and Spanish calendars are available and make a great opening to talk to people about the important work being funded by First 5 in Solano County.

## **Pre-Kindergarten Academies Update**

The Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services Request for Proposals has been released. Mandatory applicant workshops will be held on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 3-5 pm and January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm. The purpose of these workshops is for First 5 staff to provide technical assistance and support to potential applicants. The workshops offer applicants and opportunity to receive information about the program, ask questions and complete their applications. Applications are due January 31, 2014.

## **Social Media Planning**

The Turrell Group, a social media consulting group, will be working with First 5 staff to research and write a social media outreach plan that will align with the required components of the Solano County Social Media Policy, and find ways to maximize the outreach of First 5 Solano within the community. The plan should be completed and presented to the Program and Community Engagement committee in March and the full Commission in April 2014.

## **Community Engagement**

First 5 Interns Kara Wilson and Latoya Long provide support at community events held throughout Solano County. Staff and commissioners are invited and encouraged to participate in any upcoming Community Engagement Opportunities Recently held and upcoming events include:

### ***Benicia Moms Group Pre-School Faire-January 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, 350 East K Street, Benicia***

The Benicia Mom's group, with the support of a First 5 Solano Community Engagement Grant provided information about pre-school and other child resources to more than 40 families at their second annual Resource Faire. First 5 Solano was represented by interns and materials were provided to parents.

### ***Solano Connects-Housing, Health and Financial Education Conference-January 25, 2014, 9 am to 2 pm, Solano Events Center, Fairfield***

First 5 is pleased to provide resources for Solano Connects Housing, Health and Financial Education Conference. The conference is designed to provide resource and counseling information for families related to finding, keeping or maintaining a safe place to live. In addition to resource materials, First 5 will be providing information about the Family Resource Centers and other Community Partners.

### **KROC Center Health Fair – January 25, 2014. 11 am to 4 pm, KROC Center, Suisun**

The Salvation Army Kroc Center is holding its annual health fair to provide services and information to the community. This event is free and will focus on providing health materials and education to the community. First 5 Solano's participation will include providing Potter the Otter materials, the 2014/15 Calendar and parent information guide and Kit for New Parents.

## **Child Signature Project**

All Child Signature Program classrooms have completed their Classroom Improvement Plans (IPs) and these IPs have been submitted to First 5 California. Classrooms will begin implementing their plans in the spring, with the support of Beth Coffman, the Early Learning System Specialist (ELSS) and the First 5 California WestED Support team. Ms. Coffman, Ms. Ellington Hunt and Megan Richards will all be attending the first annual Child Signature Program statewide meeting on February 26 in Los Angeles.

## **CDA CARES Dental Clinic Coming Soon – April 25-26, 2014**

By Christine Shipman  
*Health Programs Manager*

The California Dental Association will hold a CDA Cares dental clinic on **April 25-26, 2014** at the Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall and Expo Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Dr., Vallejo, CA 94589. This event provides cleanings, fillings, extractions, oral health education and assistance in finding a dentist for

follow-up care to patients that would not otherwise be able to receive dental services, especially preventive services.

There are many life-changing moments that happen at every CDA Cares program, and it wouldn't be possible without the help of a multitude of volunteers. The CDA Foundation is seeking volunteer dentists, including oral surgeons, lab technicians, dental hygienists and assistants, and other community volunteers are needed to assist with registration, clinic setup, data entry, escorting patients, translating, and other tasks to make this event successful. Approximately 1,000 volunteers are needed for this event. Visit <http://www.cdafoundation.org/give/volunteer/cda-cares-volunteer-dental-program> for more information about CDA Solano.

In addition, it's not too early to register as a CDA Cares community-level volunteer! Visit <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=310030331> and click on volunteer registration on the right side of the page, directly under the word SOLANO to complete the requested information.

In preparation for the event, First 5 staff is working with Dr. Takeshi G. Ichikawa to secure funding for reprinting informational pediatric dental brochures in English and Spanish and will be providing \$1,000 towards this effort matching funds have been requested from both Kaiser and the Health & Social Services Dental Program to assist in this effort. Chris is working with the Solano County H&SS Dental Team and other dental clinic providers to ensure that all contact information is current.

## **First 5 Futures Update**

By Ciara Gonsalves *Policy & Fund Development Manager*

### **Business Engagement**

First 5 Commissioners Dean and Seifert (represented by Belinda Smith), along with First 5 staff Ciara Gonsalves and Christina Arrosto, participated in the annual Spirit of Solano awards luncheon in December. Spirit of Solano honors one local business nominated by each Solano County Chamber of Commerce as "Business of the Year." Among the 9 honorees included Lameka Gratton, owner of Nana's Glory Family Child Care and a former First 5 grantee, who was selected by the Solano County Black Chamber of Commerce.

The 2014 "Pre-K Business Champions Campaign" is planned to launch on February 1, 2014. Ciara and College Intern Joshua Bongawil have been working diligently behind the scenes to outline project tasks, costs, and what needs to be done to get this year's campaign off the ground. An early task for this project included securing the date for First 5 Solano's fifth annual Economic Development Corporation Breakfast on May 29, 2014. First 5 Commissioners Dean, Barbosa and Ayala have agreed to serve as an ad hoc committee to oversee the development and execution of this year's campaign.

### **Fund Development**

First 5 Solano was selected for Cal Poison and Safe Kids' California's Poison Prevention award. The award is a reimbursement award, with activities outlined in educating the community concerning accidental poisonings in children and how to prevent them. First 5 Solano secured up to \$4,000 in reimbursement for Poison Prevention activities over the next few months, including training and outreach to community residents and service providers.

In order to gain an understanding of how the uniquely designed Foundation Center Online's logic sequence works, Ciara and Joshua attended a "Master Foundation Research Class" at the Foundation Center in San Francisco on December 6, 2013. The training was geared to educate Foundation Center Online users how to efficiently use the research tool in identifying grant opportunities aligned with organizational funding needs. Ciara gained an understanding of how to manipulate searches more effectively to get a variety of results as well as new knowledge on how to find corporate grants, which has been a challenge in the past.

Ciara and Joshua have finalized a grant scoring rubric to create a standardized means of reviewing possible grant opportunities. This way, First 5 Solano utilizes their time and efforts wisely when it comes to pursuing possible funding opportunities.

In more fund development news, First 5 Solano released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on December 20 to establish a list of “pre-qualified” consultants for grant writing and technical assistance. Responses are due January 24, 2014. The consultants list will give First 5 Solano flexibility to move quickly on time-sensitive grant applications.

### **Policy**

First 5 staff are pursuing partnership opportunities with Solano Transportation Authority and Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (supported by Assembly Member Jim Frazier’s office, which received our legislative application to support an expansion of Transitional Kindergarten in December) to expand services to Solano’s youngest children.

Ciara is also in the process of transitioning to represent First 5 Solano on both the Planning Committee for the Children’s Network-led “Policy Forum” on March 15, and the planning for “Funding the Next Generation.”



### **Spotlight on Staff:**

First 5 Solano staff and Commissioners welcome **Latoya Long**, College Intern for anti-poverty and community engagement, and **Irma Calderon**, Office Assistant III, to the team!