

**Meeting of December 2, 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 December 2, 2014  
B. Approve Minutes of the October 7, 2014 Commission Meeting  
C. Approve Minutes of the October 25, 2014 Commission Retreat Meeting
- III. Committee Reports** (90 min) **Information/Discussion**  
A. Systems and Policy Committee (Commissioner Crutison)  
1. Strategic Planning Session - Review Emerging Systems Map  
*Lori Allio, HTA, Michele Harris, Executive Director*  
2. Receive an update on Funding the Next Generation Polling Results  
*Curt Below, FM3, Ciara Gonsalves, Community Engagement, Policy & Fund Development Manager*  
B. Program and Community Engagement Committee (Commissioner Niedziela)  
1. Review Updated Child Poverty and Child Welfare Data  
*Applied Survey Research, Megan Richards, Deputy Director*  
2. Receive the Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) Evaluation Report  
*Applied Survey Research, Megan Richards, Deputy Director*
- IV. Election of 2015 First 5 Solano Commission Officers** (10 min) **Action**  
Consider election of Aaron Crutison as 2015 Chair and Marisela Barbosa as 2015 Vice-Chair, as recommended by the Nominating Committee  
*Commissioners Dana Dean and Dan Ayala, Nominating Committee*
- V. Executive Director's Report** (5 min) **Information**  
*Michele Harris, Executive Director*
- VI. Commissioner Remarks** (5 min) **Information**
- VII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location** (5 min)  
The next Commission meeting will be held on January 13, 2015 at 5:00 PM at 601 Texas Street Fairfield. Future agenda items include: Committee Reports; Strategic Planning; Pre-Kindergarten Academy Report

**ADJOURN**

**Vision:** All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities. **Mission:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission creates and fosters programs and partnerships with community entities to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.

*The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, please call (707) 784.1332 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Non-confidential materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission are available for public inspection at the First 5 Solano business office, 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA during normal business hours.*

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

October 7, 2014, 2:30 PM – 8:00 PM  
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA

**Minutes**

Commissioners present: Jay Speck (Chair), Aaron Crutison (departed at 6:30pm), Dan Ayala, Dana Dean, Elise Crane (arrived at 6:45pm), Erin Hannigan, Liz Niedziela, Marisela Barbosa, and Patrick Duterte

First 5 Staff present: Megan Richards (Interim Executive Director), Ciara Gonsalves (Policy and Fund Development), Cherelyn Ellington-Hunt (Early Childhood Development), Christine Shipman (Health and Well-Being), and Christiana Lewis (Office Assistant III)

Members of the public present: Debbi Davis (Children's Nurturing Project & Help Me Grow Solano), Debbie Peralez (Child Start), Karen Sanchez (Child Start), Niccore Tyler (Solano County Health & Social Services)

Chair Speck called the meeting to order at 2:30pm.

**I. Closed Session**

Commissioners retreated to Closed Session.

**II. Reconvene to Public Session**

Chair Speck reconvened Public Session at 6:45pm. Chair Speck reported no action was taken during closed session.

**III. Public Comment**

No public comment

**IV. Consent Calendar**

- A. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for October 7, 2014
- B. Approve Minutes of the August 12, 2014 Commission Meeting
- C. Approve the 2015 Commission Meeting Dates

***Motion: Approve the October 7, 2014 Commission Meeting Agenda, the August 12, 2014 Commission Meeting Minutes, and the 2015 Commissioner Meeting Dates***

**Moved by Commissioner Dean; Seconded by Commissioner Crane  
Approved 8-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Speck, Crane, Hannigan, Ayala, Niedziela, Duterte, Dean, Barbosa**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

## **V. Public Hearing: First 5 Solano FY2013/14 Annual Report**

Ms. Ellington presented the First 5 Solano contribution to the FY2013/14 First 5 California Annual Report that included Solano County program accomplishments, summaries of aggregate data, and detailed information about First 5 Solano Commission revenues, expenditures, and fund balance.

Overall highlights include 11,807 services provided to Solano County residents. First 5 Solano is in the second year of the 3 year funding cycle and grantees have achieved 89% of performance measures.

Ms. Richards stated that the FY2013/14 Audit was not yet complete by the County Auditor's Office. Once the audit is finalized, the annual report may be slightly adjusted to match the audit as required by First 5 California. The final audit will be presented at the October 25, 2014 Annual Retreat.

***Motion: Approve the First 5 Solano submission to the First 5 California the FY2013/14 Annual Report***

**Moved by Commissioner Duterte; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala**

**Approved 8-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Speck, Crane, Hannigan, Ayala, Niedziela, Duterte, Dean, Barbosa**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### **A. Systems and Policy Committee**

1. Ms. Richards reviewed the agenda for the October 25, 2014 Commission Retreat which will include a Public Hearing for the FY2013/14 Audit, review of the current strategic plan, updates to the organizational history chart, and Collective Impact training. Ms. Richards explained that Commissioners have agreed to a new Commission Meeting start time of 5:00pm beginning in 2015 to allow for 30 minutes of allocated strategic planning time.
2. Ms. Shipman presented the updated First 5 Solano Tobacco/Nicotine Education, Prevention and Investment Policy for review and approval. Changes to the policy included adding "nicotine" in the revised title and wherever tobacco is mentioned to expand the objective to include e-cigarettes and other types of nicotine products.

Commissioner Hannigan asked if the policy was broad enough to consider all the possibilities of future additives to e-cigarettes. Ms. Shipman explained that according to the First 5 staff's research, the updated policy is all

encompassing, but staff will continue to monitor the market and make changes as necessary.

***Motion: Consider approval of an update to the First 5 Solano Tobacco Use Policy***

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala**

**Approved 8-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Speck, Crane, Hannigan, Ayala, Niedziela, Duterte, Dean, Barbosa**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

**B. Program and Community Engagement Committee**

Ms. Ellington provided the background that First 5 was approached by the County Administrator's Office to work to retain the vacant space at 275 Beck Avenue as a child care facility. First 5 reviewed the possible tenants, including Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District and other private childcare providers; ultimately Child Start emerged as the most fitting partner. The proposal is for First 5 to fund a reduced-rate lease and then to implement a use agreement with Child Start for Head Start to use the space at no cost.

Ms. Richards explained that the dollar amount of \$49,968 presented in the motion reflects the \$0.95/sf rate; since then, the BOS has indicated they would support the \$0.80/sf rate and the motion could be amended to reflect that rate. Commissioner Niedziela pointed out that the motion does not include a ten year lease. Ms. Richards replied that the Commission may choose to add that provision to the motion.

In addition to the lease, General Services has identified some necessary structural changes to comply with ADA requirements and Child Start has requested improvements to the space to meet their quality standards. The request before the Commission includes a one-time expense of \$45,000 from the Discretionary Fund to cover the costs of the ADA requirements and the planning for the improvements until the use agreement is in place with Child Start. At that time, Child Start would fund the construction. The lease agreement between General Services and First 5 would be a part of the Commission's long-term financial plan, beginning in 2015. Commissioner Duterte asked if Child Start would consider preservation of the current lactation room located inside the proposed facility. Ms. Ellington confirmed that Child Start would keep the lactation space available for H&SS staff.

Commissioner Dean asked if First 5 contacted other providers before moving forward with Child Start. Ms. Ellington replied that staff did contact Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District and Ms. Richards explained that they have limitations from the Field Act and were unable to occupy the space. First 5 did not contact any private providers, but in considering private providers considered the fact that the previous private provider's revenue was not adequate to meet the lease agreement and that

Child Start is able to use the fair market value of the space and leverage three times the federal funding.

Commissioner Dean expressed concern for making decisions about funding outside of other decisions while still in the current budget cycle and not having the entire picture of the next funding cycle. Ms. Richards explained that the opportunity to secure the vacant space is restricted by the time constraints and other interested parties. Commissioner Dean asked for the percentage of the budget this funding would expend. Ms. Richards replied that the approximate \$42,000/year lease would expend about 0.6% of the \$6.7 million dollar budget. Commissioner Duterte said that although he understands Commissioner Dean's hesitation to make a decision on the next budget cycle, this is a rare funding opportunity and would be a great benefit to the community. Commissioner Crane concurred with Commissioner Duterte and emphasized that Child Start's target clients are children from low-income families.

Commissioner Crane and Chair Speck asked for clarification as to how many slots would be available at the facility. Ms. Peralez answered that the slots would include 20 preschool children currently being served at the Woolner Avenue facility, and 16 new toddler children. Chair Speck asked why Child Start does not plan to keep the Woolner facility in addition to proposed new facility at Beck Avenue. Ms. Peralez explained that the current facility is not an ideal location and presents child supervision challenges, but Child Start also does not have a budget to support such a wide expansion. Chair Speck asked if it was uncommon among other First 5 Commissions to have childcare facilities. Ms. Ellington answered that it is very common and that some other Commissions buy or build childcare facilities.

***Motion: Consider a recommendation to fund a lease for the childcare center at 275 Beck Ave at a rate of no greater than \$49,968 annually, with an annual 3% increase to support Head Start/Early Head Start slots in Solano County and allocate up to \$45,000 from the Discretionary Fund for one-time expenses associated with start-up costs.***

***Amended Motion: Consider a recommendation to fund a 5 year lease, with an option to extend for an additional 5 years, for the childcare center at 275 Beck Ave at a rate up to \$42,240 annually, with an annual 3% increase, to support Head Start/Early Head Start slots in Solano County and allocate up to \$45,000 from the Discretionary Fund for one-time expenses associated with start-up costs.***

**Moved by Commissioner Niedzela; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan  
Approved 8-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Speck, Crane, Hannigan, Ayala, Niedziela, Duterte, Dean,  
Barbosa**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

## **VII. Chair Appoints Nominating Committee for 2015 Officers**

Chair Speck announced that he has appointed Commissioners Ayala and Dean as the Nominating Committee for 2015 Officers and if anyone is interested in being a 2015 Office to contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Appointment of 2015 Officers will take place at the December Commission Meeting.

### **VIII. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Richards reported that First 5 Solano applied as part of an effort by the Local Childcare Planning Council to the State of California to be a subgrantee for a Federal Preschool Expansion Grant. Solano was not selected as a subgrantee, however, Ms. Richards expressed hope to move forward on quality childcare efforts in the future.

First 5 Solano staff and Commissioner Crane recently attended the First 5 Association summit at Lake Tahoe which afforded the opportunity to learn other First 5 Commission best practices. In addition, First 5 California is co-hosting a conference in Sacramento in February and there will be an opportunity for local Commissioners to participate. Ms. Richards will provide details as they emerge.

First 5 Solano received a \$25,000 grant from Rise Together Bay Area for the Solano Safety Net Summit for FY2014/15 which will support the Steering Committee, work groups, and the Parent Leadership Training Institute.

The First 5 Association is working toward transitioning their role in the technical assistance and provided details on the four policy areas they will develop. There is a detailed handout in the packet outlining their policy areas.

### **IX. Commissioner Remarks**

None

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

Ms. Richards announced a correction to the Commission Retreat start time of 10:00am.

The Commission Retreat will be held on October 25, 2014 at 10:00am at the Solano County Office of Education, 5100 Business Center Dr, Fairfield, CA 94534. The next Commission meeting will be held on December 2, 2014 at 5:30 PM at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: Strategic Planning; Committee Reports.

### **Adjourn**

Commissioner Speck adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Christiana Lewis, Office Assistant III

Approved:

**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission  
Annual Commission Retreat**

October 25, 2014, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA

**Minutes**

Commissioners present: Jay Speck (Chair), Aaron Crutison, Dan Ayala, Dana Dean, Erin Hannigan, Liz Niedziela, and Marisela Barbosa

First 5 Staff present: Megan Richards (Interim Executive Director), Venis Jones Boyd (Family Support Programs), Ciara Gonsalves (Policy and Fund Development), Cherelyn Ellington-Hunt (Early Childhood Development), Christiana Lewis (Office Assistant III), Raisa Ballesteros (College Intern), and Ashley Forsyth (College Intern)

Members of the public present: Rian Smith (EMQ Families First), Nazlin Huerta (BabyFirst Solano), Denise Winters (Child Nurturing Project), Michele Harris (Child Nurturing Project), Isabel Montano (City of Vacaville), Christina Arrostuto (United Way Bay Area), Becky Billing (Napa County Child Care Local Planning Council), Debbi Davis (Child Nurturing Project), Susan Brutchy (Applied Survey Research), Dr. Lori Allio (Hatchuel Tabernik Associates), Kim Carpenter (Applied Survey Research), Christina Branom (Applied Survey Research), Alan Kerzin (The Children's Network), and one member of the public.

**I. Call to Order/Salute to the Flag**

Chair Speck called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

**II. Welcome and Overview of the Agenda**

***Motion: Approve the Commission Retreat Meeting Agenda for October 25, 2014***

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala  
Approved 5-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Speck, Crutison, Hannigan, Ayala, and Barbosa**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

**III. Public Comment**

Ms. Arrostuto congratulated Ms. Richards on her term as Interim Executive Director, and Ms. Michele Harris as the new Executive Director of First 5 Solano. Ms. Arrostuto expressed the United Way Bay Area's (UWBA) pride in the upcoming work First 5 Solano and The Safety Net Summit will be doing to help boost Rise Together Bay Area in Solano.

#### **IV. Public Hearing: FY2013/14 Annual Audit**

Ms. Richards explained that a representative from the Auditor's Office could not attend the Retreat to present on the FY2013/14 audit, but instead provided a memo outlining the highlights from the Audit for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2014. Ms. Richards read to the Commission the memo that detailed the dates in which the audit will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors where it is anticipated they will accept the audit report. Solano County Internal Audit Division conducts the annual First 5 Solano Audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States.

***Motion: Receive the FY2013/14 First 5 Solano Audit***

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala  
Approved 5-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Speck, Crutison, Hannigan, Ayala, and Barbosa**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

Ms. Richards commented that appropriate systems have been set up within First 5, so even with some turnover in staff, First 5 Solano maintains reliable accounting practices. Chair Speck complimented Ms. Richards and the First 5 staff for the favorable audit.

(Commissioner Dean arrived at 10:15am)

#### **V. Public Hearing: Annual Review of the First 5 Solano Strategic Plan**

Dr. Allio reviewed the vision, mission, core values, and framework in First 5 Solano's current Strategic Plan that was adopted at the December 6, 2011 Commission Retreat.

(Commissioner Niedzela arrived at 10:30am)

Ms. Carpenter from Applied Survey Research (ASR) presented the First 5 Solano Strategic Framework Results Dashboard. Ms. Carpenter explained that the results presented were extracted from the Results Dashboard and that they represent a selection of indicators with the most reliable County data over approximately the last five years and reviewed the data for the first line on the Dashboard as an example.

Ms. Carpenter then presented the Solano County Community Trends data related to the Commission's priority areas 1 and 2, while Ms. Branom presented information on priority area 3.



The Commission asked how the rates of poverty compared to California overall and how many kids are actually affected. Ms. Branom stated that this data is not in this presentation, but it is available.

Ms. Branom presented data on the homeless population and pointed out that it is difficult to capture accurate data regarding this population. While Solano County has improved its ability to measure the homeless population, it is still under-reported in our County. Discussion occurred regarding types of homeless housing (transitional versus shelter) and under-reporting of homelessness.

Ms. Branom also presented information on youth in foster care in Solano County. The Commission asked how many children are affected and how this compares to California. Commissioner Crutison confirmed the number of children currently in foster care in Solano County is approximately 450, and about 65,000 in California. Commissioner Barbosa commented that she would like to know the overall well-being of children once they enter the foster care system. Commissioner Hanningan added that it would help to determine if First 5 was targeting the most appropriate communities. Ms. Richards said First 5 will be presenting a draft report of the PEAK outcomes for children referred from child welfare at the next Program and Community Engagement Committee and could bring more detailed data on poverty and child welfare to that meeting for Commission Review. Commissioner Barbosa asked if there was a tracking system for children living with relatives. Commissioner Crutison said Child Welfare does track that information and continues to advocate for children to remain with their families, and there is new legislature that provides families the same financial aid it does to foster parents.

## **VI. Organizational History Review**

Dr. Allio led the Commissioners, staff, and audience in updating the First 5 Solano Organizational History chart. The chart was originally created in 2011 and updated through 2014.

## **VII. Collective Impact Training**

Dr. Allio presented the Collective Impact (CI) training. CI fosters the idea that organizations are able to accomplish more with less if they are able to collaborate on a shared goal rather than compete. Dr. Allio continued to explain that CI is an approach with five elements: a broad range of actors; shared measures; mutually reinforcing programs; continuous communication; and a backbone agency.

Chair Speck asked if “will” was an appropriate verb to describe First 5 Solano’s plan “unfolding parallel with the CI planning.” Dr. Allio responded that it is very unlikely that the CI group will come up with a plan that is completely outside of the First 5 Strategic Framework, but the Commission has sole authority on what to fund. Chair Speck offered

that he does not necessarily disagree with the statement, but asked to avoid defining words like “will” and “shall.”

Dr. Allio solicited input from the Commissioners on whether they believe CI will change Commission roles. Commissioner Dean expressed that she is specifically concerned that CI may infringe on First 5’s statutory and regulatory constraints and responsibilities. Commissioner Dean pointed out that throughout the CI process, the Commission must continue to respect its authority. Dr. Allio responded that the First 5 Commission is not, at any time, obligated to yield to CI and may continue to remain in control of all aspects.

Ms. Richards added that it is important to distinguish between the Commission’s Strategic Plan which can be broad in scope and the Program Investment Plan which defines what part of the plan the Commission will fund.

***Adjourned for lunch at 12:15pm***

**(Commissioner Crutison left the meeting at 12:45pm)**

***Reconvened at 12:45pm***

Ms. Gonsalves led the Commissioners, staff, and audience in a group exercise, “Flocking”.

### **VIII. Collective Impact: Help Me Grow and First 5**

Ms. Davis presented the history of collaboration and the framework of Help Me Grow. Dr. Allio added that Help Me Grow is an evidence-based national model. Dr. Allio continued with the process utilizing the Help Me Grow framework with the CI process. The dates in the CI timeline were shifted slightly to align with the finalized Commission meeting dates in 2015. The anticipated timeframe to share the mapping and strategy with the Commission and a large convening of community players is around March 2015.

The Commission discussed what the role of the Commission would be while building the CI Collaboration. Commissioners voiced desire to be involved at varying levels of commitment. The Commission agreed that they wanted to be informed of the CI meetings and workgroups so they could choose at what level they wanted to participate and could stay informed of the process.

### **IX. Commissioner Remarks**

Each Commissioner thanked the members of Help Me Grow, CI Leadership, staff, and everyone who attended, and also conveyed excitement for moving forward with the CI process and getting to know new staff/partners. Commissioner Barbosa provided a touching personal story to emphasize the importance of family, care for young children, and community relationships. Commissioner Speck acknowledged that the decision to update the Strategic Plan was appropriate given the current fiscal circumstance.

**X. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location**

The next Commission meeting will be held on December 2, 2014 at 5:30 PM at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: Strategic Planning; Committee Reports.

**Adjourn**

Commissioner Speck adjourned the meeting at 1:40pm.

Christiana Lewis, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DRAFT

**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission  
Systems & Policy Committee Meeting  
November 13, 2014, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM  
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA**

**Minutes**

**I. Introductions, Public Comments, Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Aaron Crutison called the meeting to order at 3:16pm.

Committee Members present: Aaron Crutison and Marisela Barbosa

First 5 Staff present: Michele Harris (Executive Director), Megan Richards (Deputy Director), Christiana Lewis (Office Assistant III)

Members of the public present: Lori Allio (Hatchuel, Tabernik, and Associates), Dave Metz (Fairbanks, Maslin, Maullin, Metz), Christie Speck (Solano College), Debbi Davis (Children's Nurturing Project)

Public Comment: None

Commissioners' Comments: None

**II. Consent Calendar**

***Motion: Approve Agenda of November 13, 2014, approve minutes of September 2, 2014, and receive Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report.***

Moved by Commissioner Barbosa; Seconded by Commissioner Crutison  
Approved: 2-0-0

**III. Co-Sponsorship Grant Requests**

A. Ms. Richards presented the Co-Sponsorship request for the ECE Fund Development and Grant Writing Technical Assistance Workshop which would help prepare Solano agencies to apply for the wave of state and federal grants that are scheduled to be released for ECE pre-school and childcare services. This workshop is a collaboration between the Local Childcare Planning Council and the Solano Community College (SCC) Children' Program.

Ms. Speck added that in the past there have been funding opportunities in the past to support access to childcare for the over 4,000 children in the County that are on the waiting list, but SCC has not been in a position to apply for those funds. However, at present, especially with the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), it is the perfect time to cooperate with community partners and make a regional effort to pull resources and go after larger funding opportunities.

Commissioner Barbosa asked Ms. Speck to clarify the relationship between SCC and the Children's Program. Ms. Speck clarified that the Children's Program is a department within SCC. Commissioner Barbosa asked the reason behind not being able to apply for past grants. Ms. Speck explained that the college had a lack of data, workforce, and facilities, and the State cut funding to the SCC collaborative wait list. Commissioner Barbosa asked how many agencies will be impacted with the provision of the workshop. Ms. Speck said that many agencies that support childcare, including the County's resource and referral agencies, programs that provide state-funded subsidized child care, Child Start/Head Start, and legislative aides, would benefit. Commissioner Barbosa asked if there were plans for a type of mentorship program to continue after the workshop. Ms. Speck responded that this workshop is the starting place for an action plan. Ms. Richards added that there are discussions to determine if other Bay Area counties could mentor Solano.

***Original Motion: Consider approval of a request from Solano Community College Children's Program to deploy up to \$3,000 for the ECE Fund Development and Grant writing training and technical assistance workshop. (Source of funding: FY2014/15 Training and Co-Sponsorship Fund)***

Moved by Commissioner Barbosa; Seconded by Commissioner Crutison

Approved: 2-0-0

#### **IV. Funding the Next Generation**

Ms. Richards introduced Dave Metz from Fairbanks, Maslin, Maullin, Metz (FM3) who presented key findings from a countywide voter survey of alternate funding sources for children and family services in Solano.

Mr. Metz pointed out that even in tough economic times the results show that children and family services remain a relatively high priority for the public. Commissioner Crutison asked if larger cities received more representation in the poll and Mr. Metz confirmed the representation of each city was proportionate to the share they would likely make up in the 2016 electorate.

Ms. Harris asked if there should be concern that some of the poll results did not exceed the 2/3 vote by Mr. Metz's previously recommended 10 points. Mr. Metz clarified that the 10 point threshold is usually more applicable to a majority vote rather than a 2/3 measure, and recent history shows that exceeding a 2/3 vote by 10 points in California for a new tax is almost unheard of. Also, there are two years before these measures hit the ballot and Mr. Metz recommends viewing these results as a "green light" to continue.

Ms. Harris asked how these measures may fare if there are multiple interest groups proposing other forms of taxing methods. Mr. Metz said a potential for conflict would arise if there is a perceived overlap in funding or funding mechanisms. Mr. Metz offered collaborating with a similar or related interest group could be an option.

## **V. Planning for 2016 and Beyond**

Dr. Allio explained that the core item that is happening in the Help Me Grow (HMG) meetings is the development of a “0-5 Systems Map” which is a conceptual map that describes all the systems that serve children ages 0-5 in Solano County, how they relate to each other, and documents the critical gaps and strengths. Dr. Allio said that the next HMG meeting should produce a more accurate schedule of the 2015 meetings.

Commissioner Crutison described what he believes Collective Impact (CI) to be as a larger goal of which First 5 will contribute a portion focused on children ages 0-5. Dr. Allio concurred and said that the main goal is to get all community partners to collectively share one vision.

Dr. Allio asked if the Commissioners would like to be actively involved in creating the 0-5 Systems Map. Both Commissioner Crutison and Barbosa expressed interest and agreed.

## **VI. Receive a Staffing and Finance Update**

Ms. Richards announced that Michele Harris officially began as the Executive Director on November 10, 2014 and staff is working to orient her with current processes, procedures, and projects. First 5 Solano has also hired three new college interns that are focusing on First 5 Futures, community engagement and anti-poverty work. These interns will participate in a pilot program that will allow grantees to request their assistance with time-limited project to help boost and maximize their intern experience.

First 5 Solano is right on track with regards to its financial position, and experienced a salary savings with the brief gap between Executive Directors.

## **VII. Receive a First 5 Futures Update**

Ms. Richards summarized the three-day CI training in St. Louis, MO attended by Ciara Gonsalves (First 5), Debbi Davis, Dr. Allio, and herself. The training helped the group understand CI-specific language and gain insight into what different communities implementing CI are currently doing. The training provided tools and ideas for how to “strategically bring people on board and keep them”. Commissioner Crutison said he liked this element because it is critical to the process.

Commissioner Crutison and Commissioner Speck attended a Stakeholders Summit the previous week as a follow up to the Children and Families Policy Forum that was held in March of 2014. The goal was to prioritize specific targets within the community that could be presented to legislature. The end result was four priority areas: promoting safety for all children, increasing funding for homeless youth, restoring and expanding quality preschool and childcare, and supporting mental and developmental health screening, prevention and early intervention for children. The next Children and Families Policy Forum will be held February 21, 2015.

First 5 Solano was the feature member story in October for Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (GEO) website and social media. First 5 was asked to provide details on First 5 Futures and CI. A link to the story can be found on First 5 Solano's website.

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

The Systems and Policy Committee is December 9, 2014, 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA. Future agenda items include: First 5 Solano Budget and Staffing Update; Commissioner Meeting Attendance; First 5 Futures Update, Planning for 2016 and Beyond.

### **Adjourn**

Commissioner Crutison adjourned the meeting at 4:34pm.

Christiana Lewis, Office Assistant III

Approved:



CHILDREN ARE OUR BOTTOM LINE

**SYSTEMS AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**November 13, 2014, 3:00-4:30**  
**601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA 94533**

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. Consent Calendar**

**Action**

- A. Approve Agenda of November 13, 2014
- B. Approve Minutes of September 2, 2014
- C. Receive Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report

**III. Co-Sponsorship Grant Requests**

**Action**

- A. **Motion:** Consider approval of a request from Solano Community College Children's Program to deploy up to \$3,000 for the ECE Fund Development and Grant writing training and technical assistance workshop. *(Source of funding: FY2014/15 Training and Co-Sponsorship Fund)*

*Cherelyn Ellington Hunt, Early Care and Education Manager*

**IV. Funding the Next Generation**

**Discussion**

Receive a presentation from the Funding the Next Generation Committee regarding preliminary polling information

*Ciara Gonsalves, Community Engagement, Policy & Fund Development Manager*

**V. Planning for 2016 and Beyond**

**Discussion**

Review upcoming activities for the Commission's Strategic Planning process

*Lori Allio, Hatchuel, Tabernik, and Associates*

**VI. Receive a Staffing and Finance Update**

**Information**

Receive a report on First 5 staffing and financials

*Megan Richards, Deputy Director*

**VII. Receive a First 5 Futures update**

**Information**

Receive a report on First 5 Futures

*Ciara Gonsalves, Community Engagement, Policy & Fund Development Manager*

**VIII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location**

**Discussion**

The Systems and Policy Committee is December 9, 2014, 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA. Future agenda items include: First 5 Solano Budget and Staffing Update; Commissioner Meeting Attendance; First 5 Futures Update, Planning for 2016 and Beyond

**ADJOURN**

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**Vision:** All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities.

**Mission:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission creates and fosters programs and partnerships with community entities to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.



**DATE:** November 25, 2014

**TO:** First 5 Solano Commission

**FROM:** Aaron Crutison, Systems and Policy Committee (SPC) Chair  
by Michele Harris, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: Review Emerging Systems Map**

**Summary/Discussion:**

At the August Commission meeting, the Commission approved a proposal to embark on a comprehensive, county-wide “Collective Impact” process to create a common agenda, shared measures and mutually-reinforcing activities aimed at strengthening the Solano early childhood system. The community-wide common agenda and activities could then be used to inform First 5 Solano’s strategic planning process and future funding priorities.

The Commission chose to complete an 18 month planning process and agreed to extend their current funding portfolio while they complete the Collective Impact and Strategic Planning Processes.

At their Retreat, the Commission received a presentation on Collective Impact and what this process entails. The current step requires review of the Emerging Systems Map. This Systems Map takes a broad look at the early childhood system by using data exploration and practitioner knowledge to look at resources and gaps.

The Help Me Grow Leadership took a first pass at the early childhood system. During this Commission Strategic Planning session, the Commissioners will spend some time reviewing each of the categories in the system map (ex: schools, law & justice, prenatal, health, etc.) and fill in gaps in information based upon their knowledge of programs and services in the community.

The next Help Me Grow Leadership Meeting will take place on December 10, 2014 2:00-4:30pm and will work to finalize the System Map.

Attachment A: Systems Mapping Process

## ***Collective Impact Planning through March, 2015: Details on System Mapping, Data Gathering & Identification of Collective Impact Goals***

---

For First 5 Solano, 2014 – 2015

This document provides detail on the process for Systems Mapping - an early step in the development of a Collective Impact strategy being undertaken by the Help Me Grow Collective Impact Leadership group. Systems mapping is both conceptual and empirical and is conducted using stakeholder knowledge and expertise, existing plans and documents, and quantitative data. This system mapping effort also constitutes a robust source of stakeholder input for the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission who are simultaneously conducting their strategic planning work. The resulting product will inform both planning efforts and document systemic gaps in relation to the needs of young children in Solano County.

The major steps in this systems mapping process include:

**1. Identification of multiple systems that serve young children and the creation of a shared understanding of system strengths, weaknesses (gaps), opportunities and threats as related to system engagement and service for young children and their families.**

**A: Gather a list of and create a relational model of systems serving young children; identify organizations perceived to fall within these systems (some organizations will be part of more than one). (November-December 2014)**

*Data Source: On-line Questionnaire, CI Leadership Group, First 5 Solano Commission, Interviews, Other groups TBD, existing data and reports*

**B. For systems identified in 1A, identify and explore connections, including collaborations, crossover issue areas and programming, and identify Strengths, Weaknesses (Gaps), Opportunities. (November 2014 – January 2015)**

*Data Source: Interviews, Group work and participation, existing data and reports*

**C. With support of data partners, use multiple venues including large and small ad hoc groups to intensively and empirically further explore key systemic strengths and weaknesses (gaps) that have emerged during systems mapping process. (December 2014 – February 2015)**

*Data Source: All previous data source and deeper exploration with support of stakeholders and ASR*

**2. Build agreement on set of shared goals (Common Agenda Items) that broad collective impact collaborative members will focus on. (January – March 2015)**

**A. During a range of meetings through March, shared collective impact goals (Common Agenda Items) will be identified and some consensus will be built. The Help Me Grow Collective Impact Leadership Group will ratify goals emerging from this process and present to a large convening in late March for review and input.**

*Data Source: Data sources supporting importance of priority areas that are emerging from systems mapping process with support of ASR.*

**DATE:** December 2, 2014

**TO:** First 5 Solano Commission

**FROM:** Aaron Crutison, Systems and Policy Committee (SPC) Chair  
by Ciara Gonsalves, Policy & Fund Development Mgr.

**SUBJ:** **Receive an update on Funding the Next Generation Polling Results**

At the June 2014 Commission Meeting, the Commission approved an allocation of up to \$30,000 toward Solano's Funding the Next Generation effort. The \$30,000 was allocated as follows: up to \$22,450 to match the funding raised thus far for Poll number one of three; \$5,000 for a stipend for Kimberly Thomas to coordinate the effort; and \$2,550 for administrative expenses associated with managing the grant.

The goal of Funding the Next Generation Solano is placing a ballot measure before Solano County voters in 2016 to generate an alternate funding stream for children and family services in Solano. Drawing in alternative funds has been an overarching goal of the First 5 Futures Implementation and Fund Development Plan since its inception in 2010, and Funding the Next Generation could be a large step in the area of alternate funding options to off-set First 5 Solano's declining revenue and reserve funds.

The idea originated several years ago when a handful of local leaders, including two members of the Board of Supervisors, began meeting informally to discuss the possibility of a local ballot initiative for kids. At that time, little was known to the community about what steps to take. During the recession, Solano became one of the hardest hit counties in the US. The economy is beginning to recover, but is still nowhere near funding at the level prior to 2008. Approximately two years ago, Margaret Brodtkin spoke at a Children's Alliance meeting regarding California Endowment-funded Funding the Next Generation project which provides the tools and technical assistance to introduce and successfully pass a ballot measure.

The \$30,000 investment of the First 5 Solano Commission allowed for Dave Metz of FM3 and his team to conduct the first poll, which included a sampling of 600 Solano voters likely to turn-out for the November 2016 election. The poll was tailored to gain initial insight into what services and funding methods the community may support.

The polling results revealed:

- More than four in five likely voters agree: Pre-K helps kids learn later in school; county residents have a shared responsibility to help kids grow up ready to learn; and that it takes two incomes to raise a child.
- The highest-rated potential uses of the money (with over two-thirds rating extremely or very important) include: helping homeless children stay in school; child abuse prevention; preventive health care; and helping at-risk youth get jobs.
- The top messages include focusing on brain development and parent engagement.

Next steps of the Funding the Next Generation Solano Steering Committee include re-convening in December to discuss what to do with the information collected from the poll and how to proceed strategically. A presentation by FM3 is provided in Attachment A and a formal report of the polling results will be available at a later date.

Attachment A: Solano Funding the Next Generation Poll 1 Results

# Funding the Next Generation in Solano County

## Key Findings from a Countywide Voter Survey

*Interviews Conducted September 23-28, 2014*

220-3991

*Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates - FM3*

*Public Opinion Research & Strategy*

**DRAFT**

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# The Big Picture

**DRAFT**

1

**Even in tough economic times, our research continually shows that voters are willing to vote to increase funding for services that benefit kids. Why?**



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2

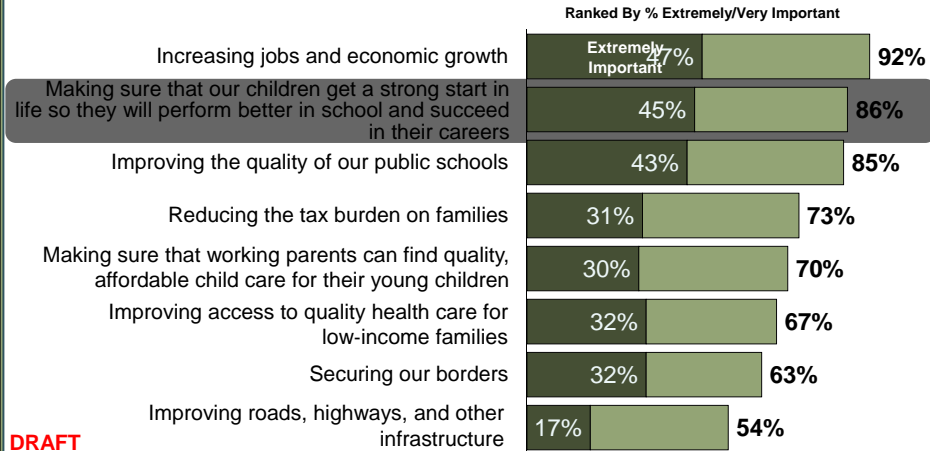
**#1:**

**Voters rank helping kids as a more urgent priority than many other national issues.**

3

## Voters place children getting a strong start in life as one of the highest national priorities.

Now I'm going to read you some goals that people might have for our country right now, and I'd like you to rate how important you personally consider each goal to be - is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important or not that important to you.



DRAFT

Fairhead, Manin, Madala, Metz & Associates - FSM  
Public Opinion Research & Strategy

2013 National Survey by Public Opinion Strategies/Hart Research Associates

4

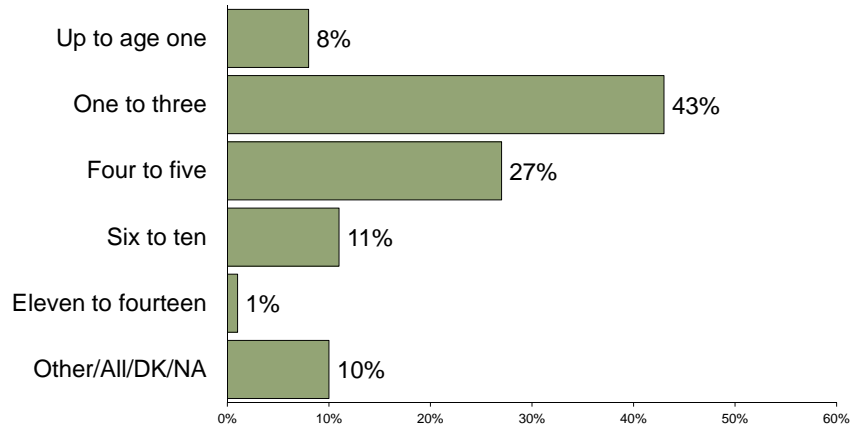
# #2:

**Voters appreciate the critical and lasting importance of helping kids while they are very young.**

5

## A plurality of voters views one to three as the most critical ages in a child's development.

What do you think is the most important age for developing a child's capacity to learn? Is it...



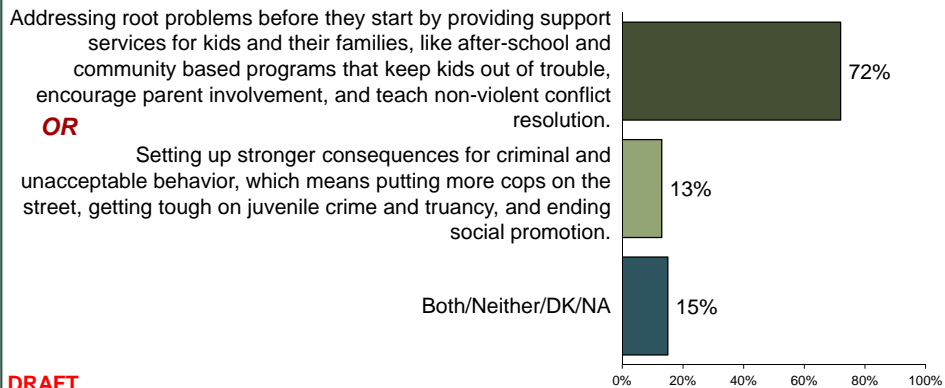
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Public Opinion Research & Strategy  
2004 Arizona Voter Survey

6

## Voters see addressing root problems early as the best way to keep kids out of trouble.

I am going to read you two statements that describe different approaches to addressing youth related problems. Please tell me which one you think is the best way to prevent kids from falling behind and dropping out of school or turning to gang violence and drug abuse.



**DRAFT**

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Public Opinion Research & Strategy  
2008 City of Oakland Survey

7



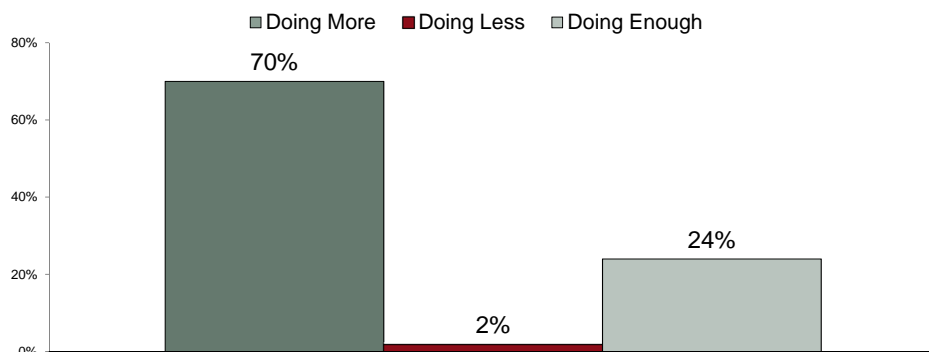
# #3:

**Voters don't believe that we, as a society, are doing enough to help kids.**

8

**Overwhelmingly, voters say we should be doing *more* to ensure children start kindergarten ready to do their best – virtually no one says do *less*.**

*And when it comes to ensuring that children begin kindergarten with the knowledge and skills they need to do their best in school, do you think we should be doing more, doing less, or are doing enough?*



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Forbes, Madia, Madia, Metz & Associates / FMI 2013 National Survey by Public Opinion Strategies/Hart Research Associates  
Public Opinion Research & Strategy

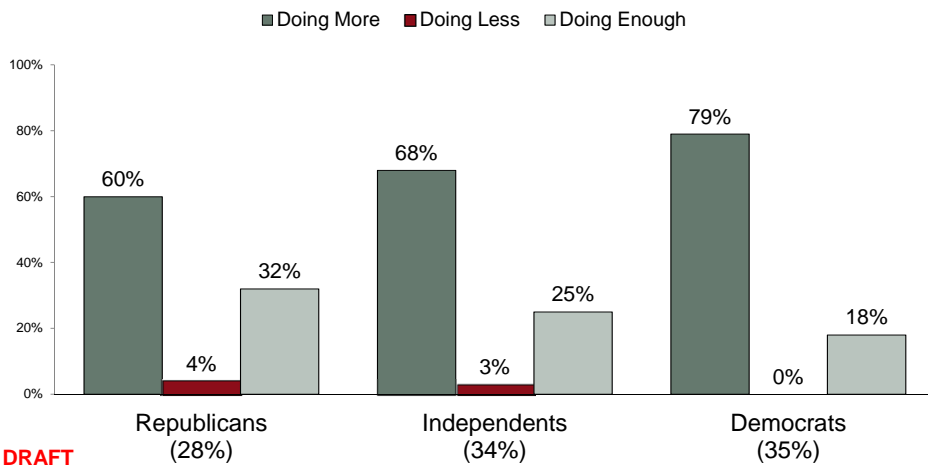
9

# #4:

**In our hyper-partisan time, kids are one issue that is non-partisan.**

## Voters across the political spectrum say that we should be doing more.

*Start Kindergarten with Skills/Knowledge To Succeed By Party*



**DRAFT**

Forbes, Media, Media, Media & Associates - FMI

Public Opinion Research & Strategy

2013 National Survey by Public Opinion Strategies/Hart Research Associates

# #5:

**Voters see investments in kids as helping *everyone* – not just individual kids and their families.**

12

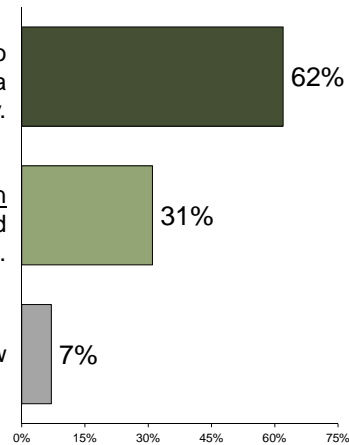
**And three in five voters say these programs benefit *everyone*, not just the children who are enrolled and their families.**

Pre-school programs benefit everyone, by leading to better-educated kids, lower crime rates, and a stronger economy.

OR

Pre-school programs primarily benefit the children who are enrolled in them, and their parents and families.

Both/Neither/Not sure/Don't know



**DRAFT**

Fuhrman, Madis, Madis, Metz & Associates, P/M  
Public Opinion Research & Strategy

2012 San Antonio Voter Survey

13

# Key Findings in Solano County

DRAFT

14

## Methodology

- 600 telephone interviews with Solano County voters likely to cast ballots in November 2016
  - Interviews conducted September 23-28, 2014
  - Interviews on both landlines and cell phones
- Margin of sampling error of +/- 4.0%
- Some percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding



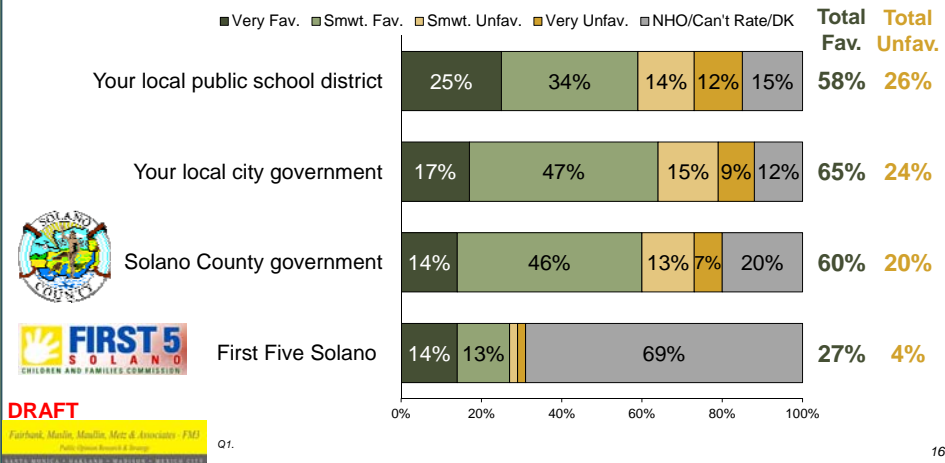
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Forrest, Madie, Madie, Metz & Associates - FMA  
Public Opinion Research & Strategy

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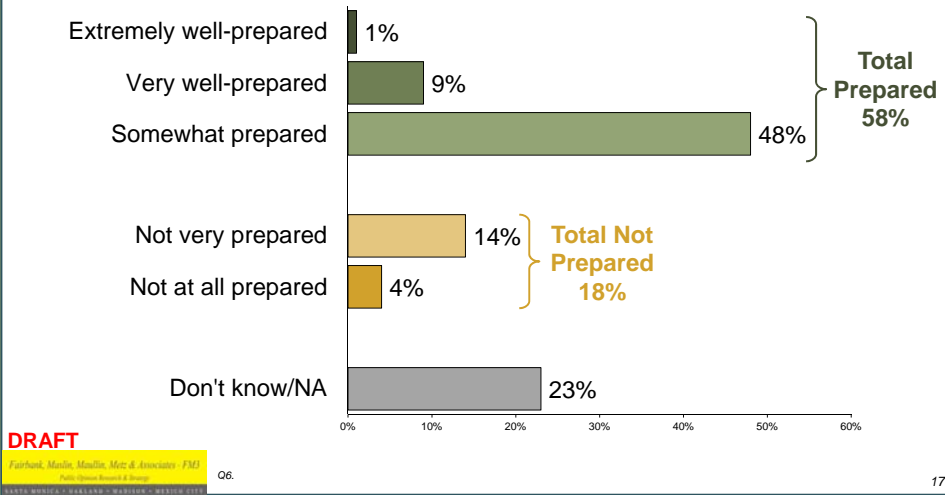
## Attitudes toward local public agencies that help children and youth are favorable.

I am going to read you a list of names of some local institutions that are often in the public eye. Please tell me if your overall impression of that institution is favorable or unfavorable. If you don't recognize any of them, just say so.



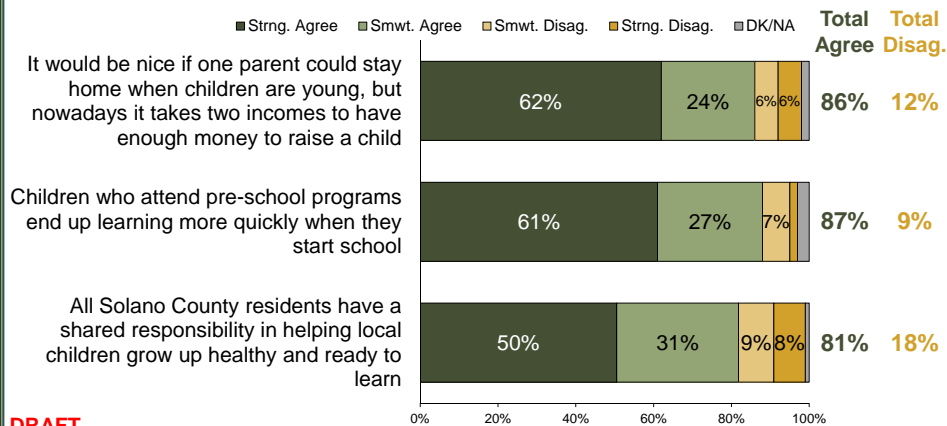
## Only ten percent believe the County's children are "very well-prepared" for Kindergarten.

In general, how prepared do you think Solano County's children are for learning when they enter kindergarten: are they...



## Solano County voters feel a strong sense of collective responsibility for helping kids.

I am going to read you a series of statements.  
Please tell me whether you agree or disagree.



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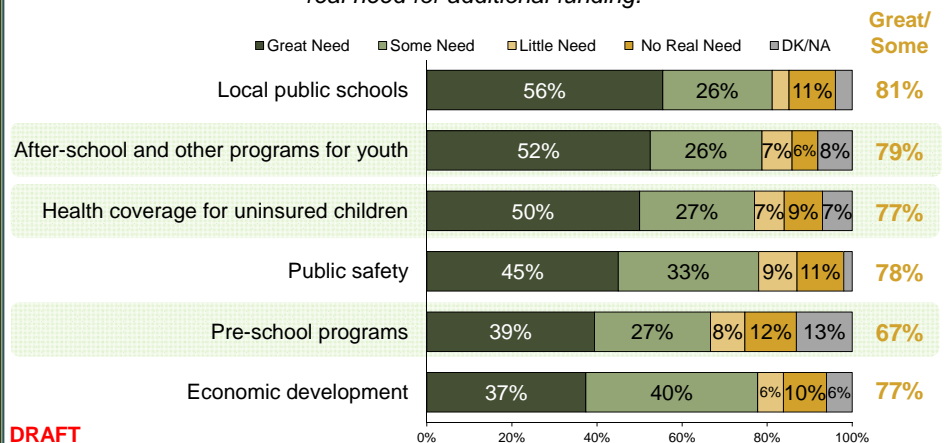
Fairhead, Madin, Madin, Metz & Associates - FSM  
Public Opinion Research & Strategy

Q7.

18

## Voters see a substantial need for funding programs that benefit children and youth.

I am going to read a short list of public services in Solano County. Please tell me if you think there a great need for additional funding, some need, a little need or no real need for additional funding.



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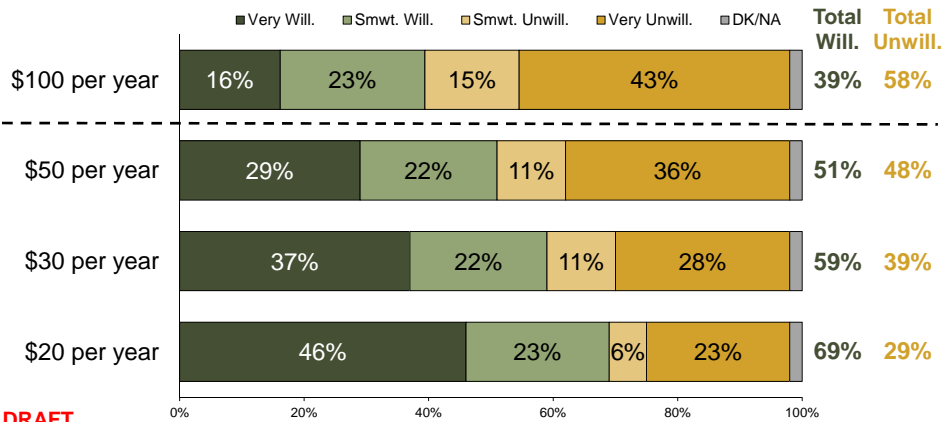
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Q2. Split Sample

19

## The tipping point for support seems to be right around \$50 per year.

Regardless of how the money were raised, would your household be willing to pay \_\_\_\_\_ in additional taxes to improve and expand access to children's services throughout Solano County?



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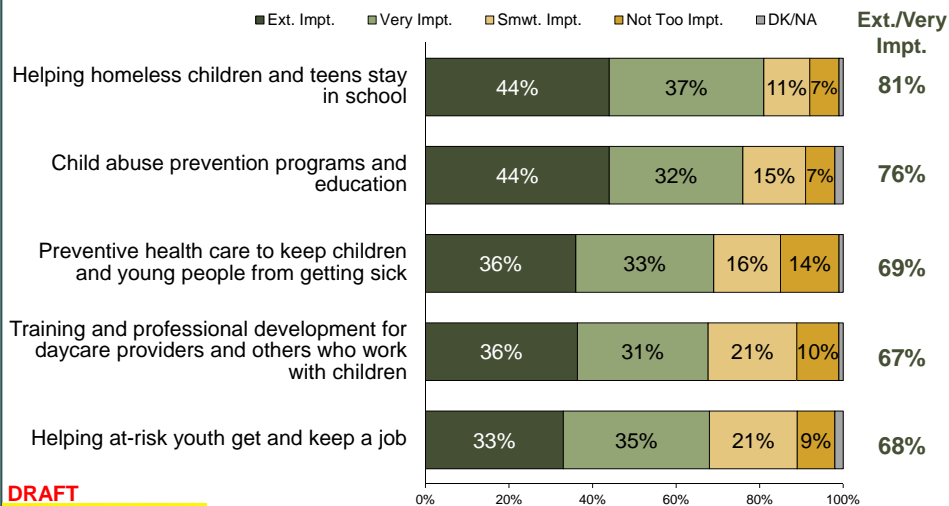
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Q10.

20

## Voters offer the strongest support for helping homeless youth and child abuse prevention.

Ranking the Importance of Children's Services to be Funded



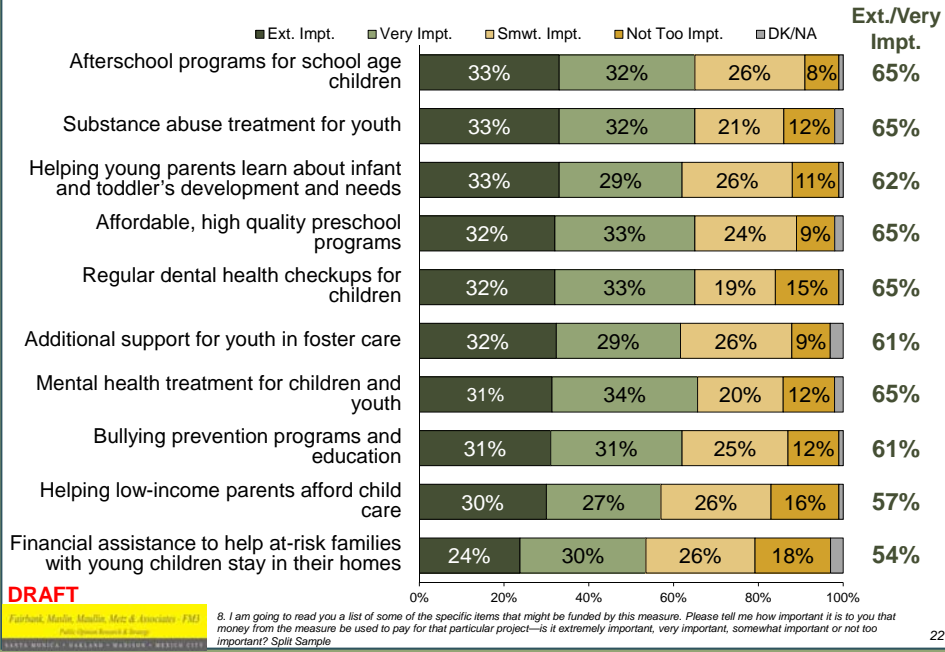
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Q8. Split Sample

21

## Majorities rate many other services as “very important.”

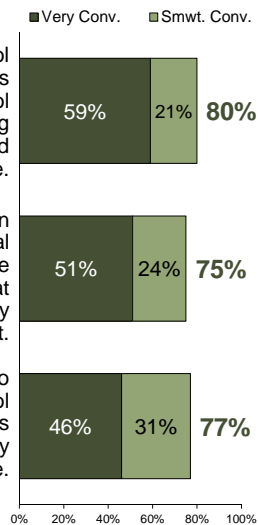


## A message about supporting parental responsibility tests most strongly.

**(PARENTS)** The most important factor in helping kids succeed in school is getting their parents involved. That's why this measure requires parents to actively participate in their kids' education, from pre-school through graduation – by bringing kids to school on-time and ensuring they have excellent attendance; participating in school activities; and reading to kids at home.

**^(BRAIN DEVELOPMENT)** Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically during the first five years of life. This critical period is a window of opportunity to lay the foundation for all of the years that follow. By voting for this measure, we can help ensure that every child in Solano County has the health and education support they need to get off to a strong start.

**(SCHOOL READINESS)** Voting "yes" on this measure will help to strengthen local schools. Increasing access to quality pre-school programs will help strengthen K-12 education. Studies show that kids who go to pre-school are better prepared to learn, more likely to read by the fourth grade and more likely to graduate and go on to college.



**DRAFT**  
 Fairfax, Manito, Manito, Manito & Associates - FMO  
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 12. Here are some statements from people who support the measure. Please tell me whether you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not convincing as a reason to vote yes on this measure. ^Not Part of Split Sample

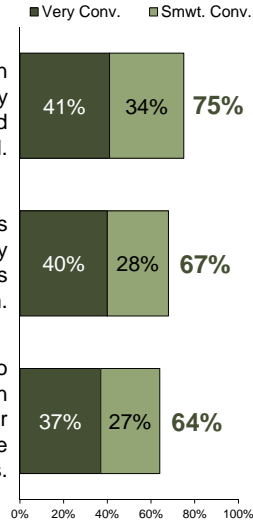


## Messages about the broader benefits of the measure also score highly.

**(BETTER FOR EVERYONE)** It will be better for all of us who live in Solano County if we can support programs to make sure that every parent can meet their children's basic needs for food and shelter and that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

**(CRIME)** Studies show that quality preschool cuts crime by helping kids stay in school and stay out of trouble with crime, drugs and gangs. By helping Solano County kids get the right start in life, this measure helps keep kids on the right track and out of the criminal justice system.

**(INCREASING NEED)** Since the recession in 2008, more Solano County children are living in poverty. In Solano County, nearly one in three households with children now qualifies for food stamps, and over 2,000 children are homeless. This measure will help to ensure that we can meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents.



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12. Here are some statements from people who support the measure. Please tell me whether you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not convincing as a reason to vote **yes** on this measure. \*Not Part of Split Sample

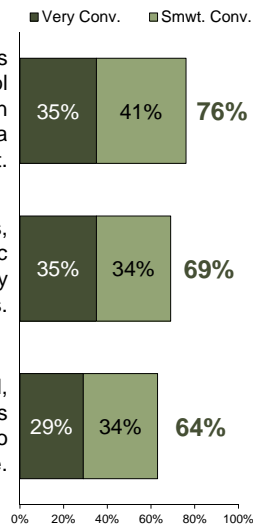
24

## A message focused on economic benefits is generally the least compelling.

**(HAND UP NOT HAND OUT)** The programs for children that this measure will support – whether they are quality preschool, after-school programs, or efforts to help at-risk kids – provide the support children need to succeed so they can be self-reliant as adults. They provide a hand UP, not a hand out.

**(ACCOUNTABILITY)** This measure has strict accountability provisions, including citizens' oversight, annual independent audits and public reporting of all expenditures, to ensure that funds are spent efficiently and as promised to voters.

**(JOBS/ECONOMY)** Our local economy depends on having skilled, educated workers, and being a place where companies and workers want to locate. This measure will help us make the investments now to ensure that our economy will be strong into the future.



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12. Here are some statements from people who support the measure. Please tell me whether you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not convincing as a reason to vote **yes** on this measure. \*Not Part of Split Sample

25

**Demographic Profiles of Groups Disproportionately Likely to Support, Oppose, or be Swing Voters on Additional Investments in Kids**

<b>Consistent Supporters</b>	<b>Swing Voters</b>	<b>Consistent Opponents</b>
Latinos	Ages 75+	Republican Men
Liberal Democrats	Republicans Ages 18-49	Republicans Ages 50+
Independents Ages 18-49	Use All/Mostly Landline	Conservative Republicans
Liberal	Conservative	Liberal/Moderate Republicans
Democratic Women	Conservative Republicans	Republicans
Liberal/Moderate Independents	Children Attend Public School	Conservative
African-Americans	Republican Men	Republicans Ages 18-49
Independent Women	Republicans	Conservative Independents
Women Ages 18-49	Moderate/Conservative Democrats	Men Ages 50+
BOS District 1	Ages 40-49	Republican Women
Ages 18-29	HH Income \$0-\$30,000	Have Adult Children
Ages 30-39	Children's Ages 5-10	Independents Ages 50+
Children Do Not Attend Pre-School/Pre-K	African-Americans	Ages 65-74
Voters of Color	Permanent Absentee Voters	HH Income \$120,000+
Interviewed on Cell Phone	All Other Cities	Men

**DRAFT**

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**For more information, contact:**

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*Dave@FM3research.com*

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**Oakland, CA 94612**

**Phone (510) 451-9521**

**Fax (510) 451-0384**

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CHILDREN ARE OUR BOTTOM LINE

**Program & Community Engagement Committee Meeting**  
**November 6, 2014**  
**2:00 PM – 3:30 PM**  
**601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA 94533**

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- I. Introductions, Commissioner Comment, Public Comment**
- II. Consent Calendar** **Action**
  - A. Approve Agenda of November 6, 2014
  - B. Approve Minutes of September 25, 2014
- III. PEAK Evaluation Report** **Information/Discussion**

Receive a draft report on the Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) Evaluation and Cost Benefit Analysis  
*Megan Richards, Interim Executive Director*
- IV. Child Poverty and Child Welfare Data Review** **Information/Discussion**

Receive an update on Solano County Child Poverty and Child Welfare data  
*Megan Richards, Interim Executive Director*
- V. Program Update** **Information**

Receive an update on the BabyFirst Solano Program  
*Chris Shipman, Health and Well-Being Program Manager*
- VI. Community Engagement Activities Update** **Information**

Receive a report on Community Engagement Activities  
*Ciara Gonsalves, Policy, Fund Development & CE Program Manager*
- VII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location** **Discussion**

The Program and Community Engagement Committee is scheduled to meet next on Thursday, December 18, 2014, 2:00 PM, at 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA. Future agenda items include: Pre-Kindergarten Academies Report; Program Updates; Community Engagement Activities.

**ADJOURN**

**Vision:** All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities. **Mission:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission creates and fosters programs and partnerships with community entities to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.

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## First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Program & Community Engagement Committee Meeting  
November 6, 2014, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM  
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA 94533

### Minutes

#### I. Introductions, Commissioner Comment, Public Comment

Committee Chair Niedziela called the meeting to order at 2:12 PM.

Committee members present: Committee Chair Liz Niedziela and Commissioner Erin Hannigan

First 5 Staff present: Megan Richards (Interim Executive Director), Cherelyn Ellington Hunt (Early Care and Education Programs Manager), Christine Shipman (Health Programs Manager), Ciara Gonsalves (First 5 Futures and Community Engagement Manager), and Christiana Lewis (Office Assistant III)

Public attendees: none

Commissioner Comment: None

Public Comment: None

#### II. Consent Calendar

- a. Approve Agenda of November 6, 2014
- b. Approve Minutes of September 25, 2014

**Moved: Commissioner Hannigan, Seconded: Commissioner Niedziela**  
**Approved: 2-0-0**

#### III. PEAK Evaluation Report

Ms. Richards presented the draft Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) Evaluation Report in which First 5 commissioned Applied Survey Research to evaluate the effectiveness of PEAK early intervention services to reduce child maltreatment and to provide estimates of the cost savings when developmental issues are detected and addressed early.

Several important conclusions can be drawn from the report: PEAK early intervention services help improve children's cognitive, social, behavioral, and self-help skills; 97% of participants received screening for developmental disorders and psychosocial disorders; children in the PEAK sample who identified as developmentally delayed or at-risk for delay received a higher level of services from PEAK; and children who were evaluated out by Child Welfare Services who received PEAK services were less likely than those who did not receive PEAK services to be re-reported.

The report is currently being reviewed by relevant partners and local subject matter experts, including the Child Welfare Division, PEAK partners, and Mental Health Services Act staff. It is anticipated that the report will be finalized for presentation at the December 2, 2014 Commission Meeting.

Commissioners agreed that the report included important data regarding the PEAK program and was a great asset to have to document the work that is being provided.

#### **IV. Child Poverty and Child Welfare Data Review**

Ms. Richards provided background that the Commission heard a presentation on Solano County Community Indicators at their October 25, 2014 Retreat as part of the annual review of their Strategic Plan. During the presentation, the Commission had further questions regarding the poverty data and the child welfare data and requested that a more detailed report regarding those two indicators be brought back to the Commission for review.

Ms. Richards reviewed the presentation prepared by Applied Survey Research (ASR) which provided more detailed data regarding child poverty and child welfare trends, including comparison data between Solano County and California, breakdown of poverty data by age, breakdown of maltreatment allegations by zip code and race/ethnicity, and substantiated maltreatment, foster care, and family reunification by race/ethnicity.

Commissioners Niedziela and Hannigan expressed their concern for children and families that were living close to, but not at, the poverty line, stating that those families are still in need of services such as childcare. The Commissioners voiced their preference to see statistics regarding allegations of maltreatment and foster care entries within specific cities as a whole, rather than by zip codes. In addition, the Commissioners asked for confirmation that the foster care entry data by zip code was the zip code from which the child was removed.

Commissioner Hannigan asked Ms. Richards to explain the difference between Foster Family Agencies (FFA) and Foster Family Homes (FFH). Ms. Richards answered that she was not sure, but would confirm with ASR and report back to the Commission. Commissioners Niedziela and Hannigan commented that they believe Kinship Care is the best option for a child that must be placed in foster care because it allows them to remain with family in a relatively comfortable and familiar environment.

Ms. Richards stated she would work with ASR to update the data with the questions from the Commissioners and the data would be presented at the December 2 Commission Meeting.

#### **V. Program Update**

Ms. Shipman provided an update on BabyFirst Solano's Compliance Action Plan that was entered in the first quarter of FY2014/15. First 5 and BabyFirst Solano staff met on October 29, 2014 to review FY2014/15 Quarter 1 Performance Measures and results show great improvements including meeting 26 out of 29 of the updated Performance Measures. The remaining three were calculated based on small overall numbers which leads to high variance when broken down by quarter. First 5 staff will continue to monitor BabyFirst Solano's progress and will continue to report out at upcoming PCE Meetings.

#### **VI. Community Engagement Activities Update**

Ms. Gonsalves reported that she recently presented at a Solano Community College Early Education and Community class. She reviewed a brief organization history of First 5 Solano, the Commission's strategic plan, key grantees, and community outreach materials. In addition, she advised students of potential future college intern opportunities.

In addition, Ms. Gonsalves and the Community Engagement Intern, Ashley Forsyth, staffed a booth at the October 22, 2014 annual Day of Remembrance for Domestic Violence victims hosted by Lift3 Support Group.

First 5 Staff will continue to work with the Help Me Grow Outreach Committee. The group is working toward developing a formal community outreach plan and aims to have it ready to share with the Help Me Grow Leadership Team in December and with the larger Help Me Grow Collaborative by January 2015.

**VII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location**

The next PCE meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 2:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 PM.

Christiana Lewis, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DRAFT

**DATE:** November 19, 2014

**TO:** First 5 Solano Commission

**FROM:** Liz Niedziela, Program & Community Engagement Committee (PCE) Chair  
by Megan Richards, Deputy Director

**SUBJECT: Child Poverty and Child Welfare Data Review**

On October 25, 2014, as part of the Commission's Annual Strategic Plan review, the Commission reviewed Solano County community-wide indicators that correlate with the Commission's Result Areas, presented by Applied Survey Research (ASR).

During the review of the data, the Commission expressed interested in more detailed data, specifically pertaining to child poverty and child welfare outcomes. ASR compiled additional data regarding these measures and the data is presented for the Commission's review (Attachment A).

Attachment A: Solano County Poverty and Child Welfare Trends

November 2014  
Applied Survey Research

# SOLANO COUNTY POVERTY AND CHILD WELFARE TRENDS



## Overview

### Data shared in this presentation from Solano County and California:

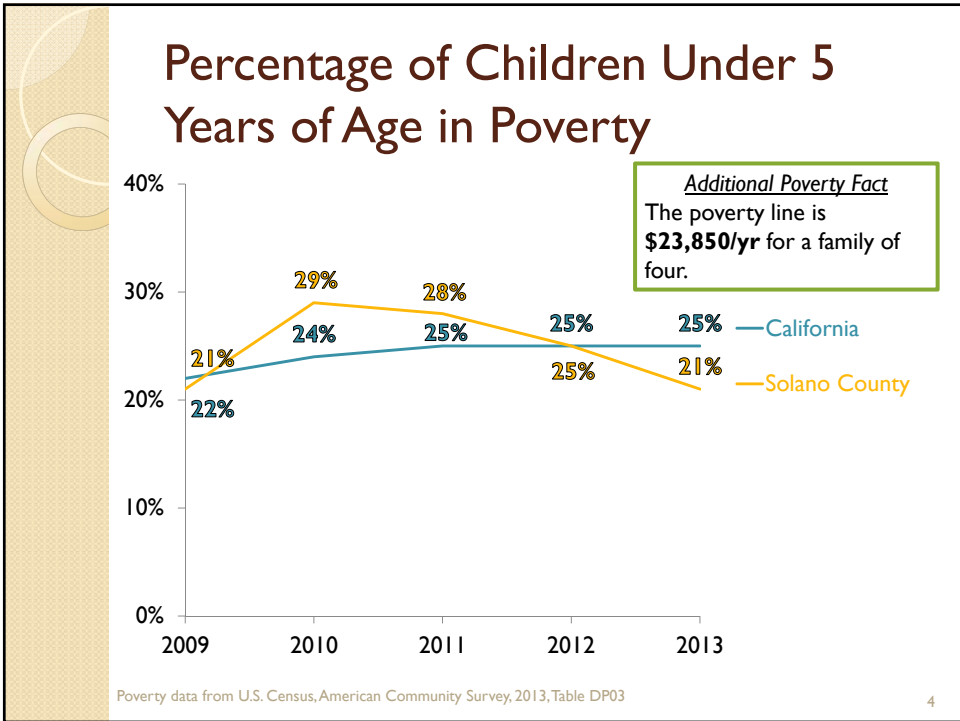
- Poverty among children
- Maltreatment allegation and foster care entry rates by city and zip code
- Substantiated maltreatment allegations
- Recurrence of substantiated maltreatment
- Foster care point-in-time rate
- Foster care placement types
- Family reunification rate

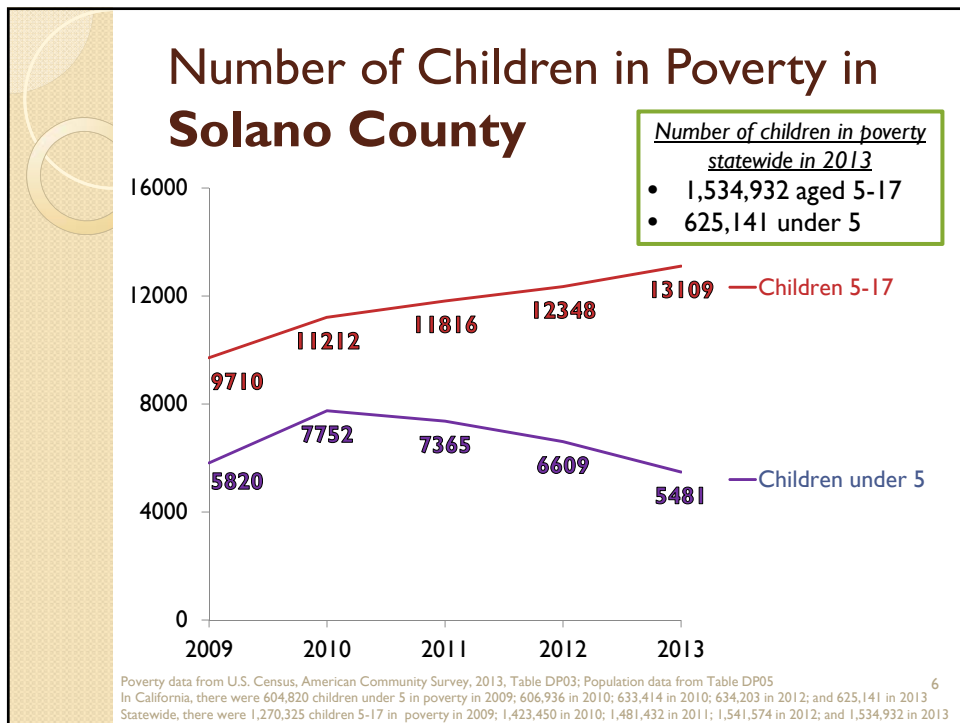
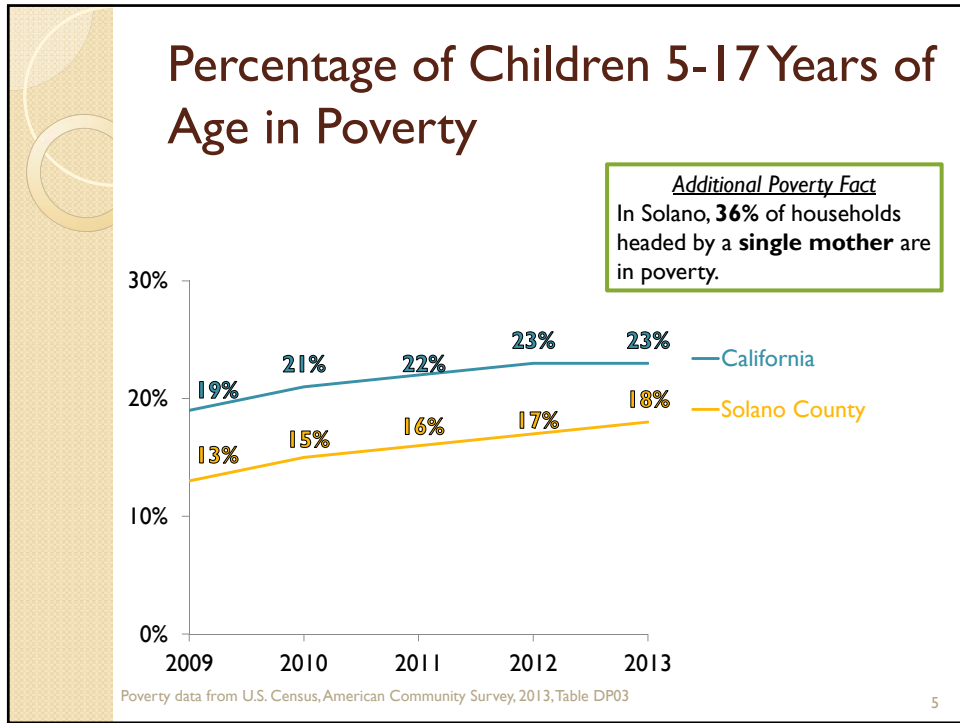
#### Data notes

- Except where otherwise indicated, all figures in these slides are for children 0-5
- In some cases, racial/ethnic comparisons were made using 5-year averages due to small population sizes within certain sub-groups



# CHILD POVERTY IN SOLANO COUNTY





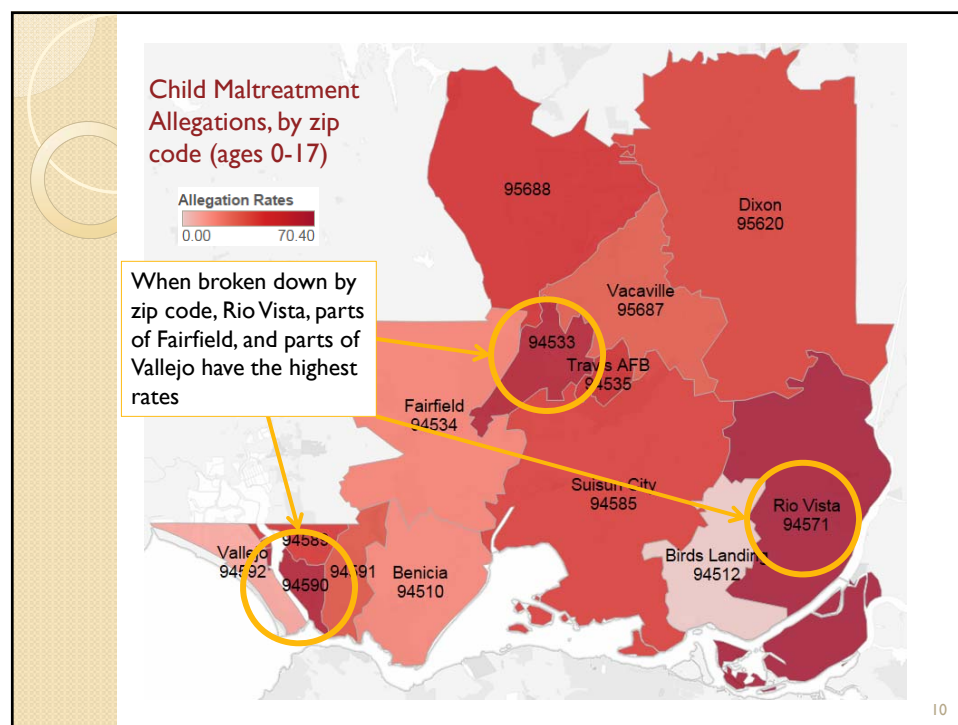
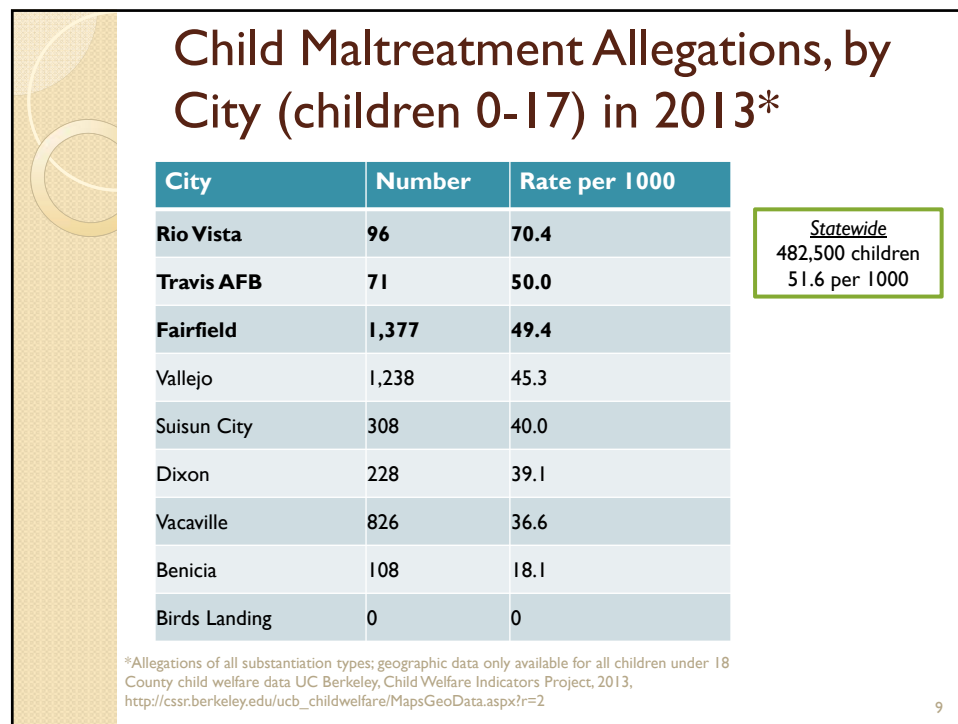
## Child Poverty Take-aways

- **Children under 5**
  - Poverty rate was higher in Solano in 2010 and 2011 than in the state
  - Solano's rate has dropped in recent years to be slightly below the rate statewide in 2013
- **Children 5-17**
  - Poverty rate is lower in Solano than in the rest of the state
  - Rates in both Solano and across the state have been steadily climbing since 2009

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## ◦ **CHILD WELFARE IN SOLANO COUNTY**

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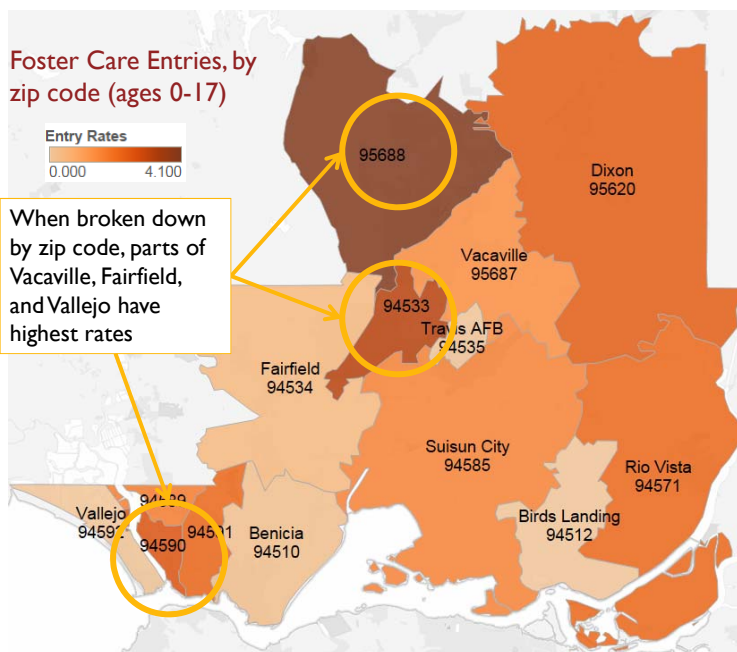
## Foster Care Entries, by City of Removal (children 0-17), 2013\*

City	Number	Rate per 1000
Vacaville	55	2.4
Dixon	14	2.4
Fairfield	63	2.3
Rio Vista	3	2.2
Vallejo	60	2.2
Suisun City	12	1.6
Benicia	1	0.2
Birds Landing	0	0
Travis AFB	0	0

Statewide  
31,976 children  
3.4 per 1000

\*All entries into foster care in 2013; geographic data only available for all children under 18  
County child welfare data UC Berkeley, Child Welfare Indicators Project, 2013,  
[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/MapsGeoData.aspx?r=2](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/MapsGeoData.aspx?r=2)

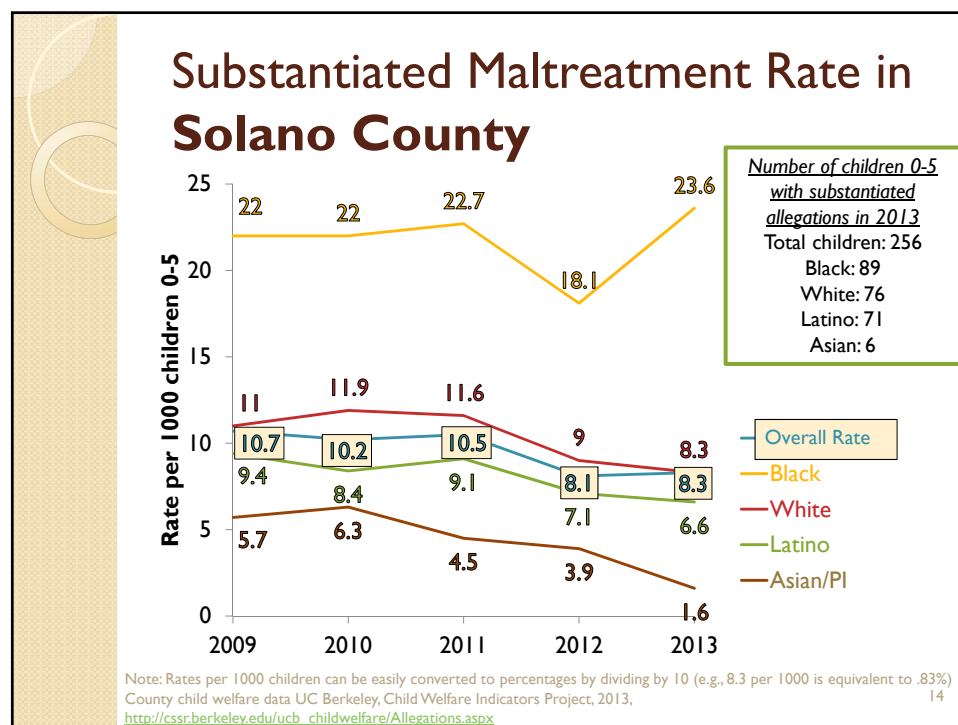
## Foster Care Entries, by zip code (ages 0-17)

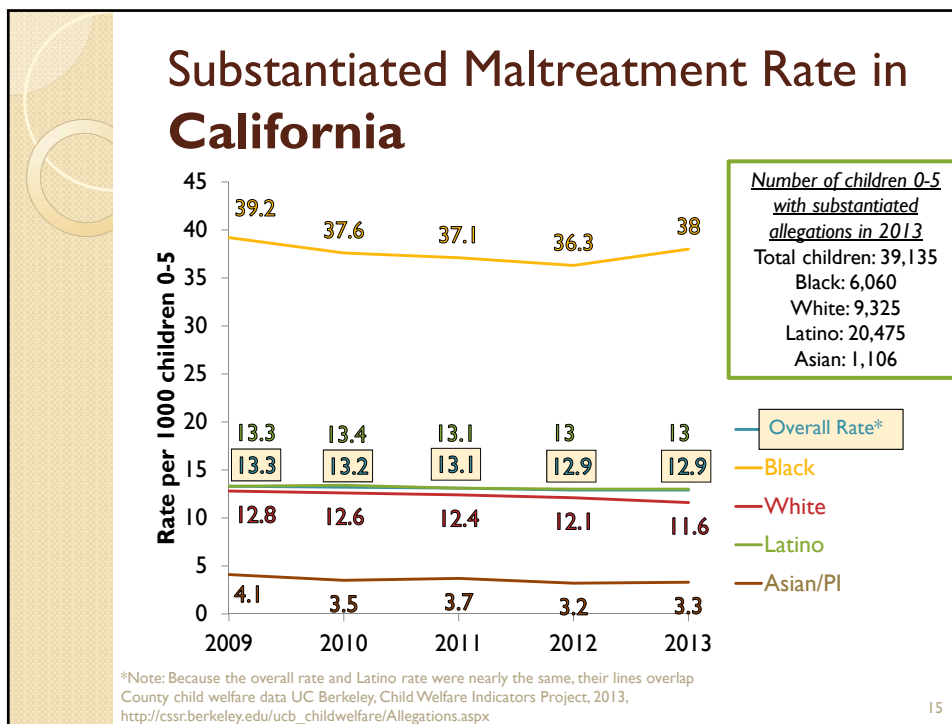


## Geographic Take-aways

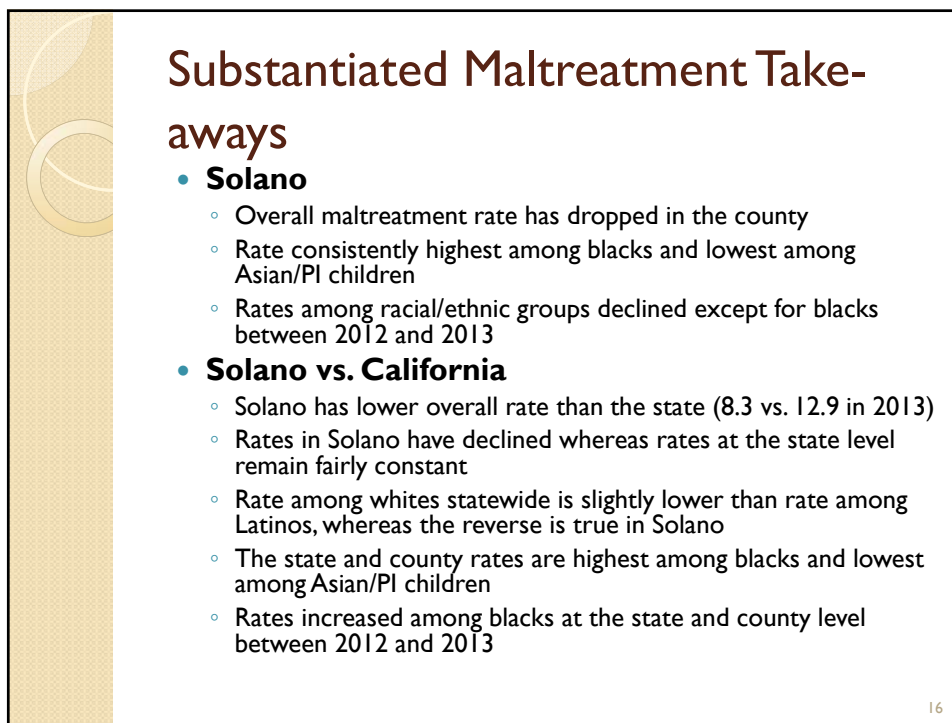
- **Allegations**
  - Allegation rates are highest in Rio Vista, parts of Vallejo (94590), and parts of Fairfield (94533)
  - Rates are lowest in Birds Landing, parts of Vallejo (Mare Island) and Benicia
- **Foster Care Entries**
  - Foster care entries are highest in parts of Vacaville (95688), parts of Fairfield (94533), and parts of Vallejo (94590)
    - The areas of Fairfield (east of I-80) and Vallejo (west of I-80) with high allegation rates also have high foster care rates
  - Entries are lowest in Birds Landing, Travis AFB, and parts of Vallejo (Mare Island)

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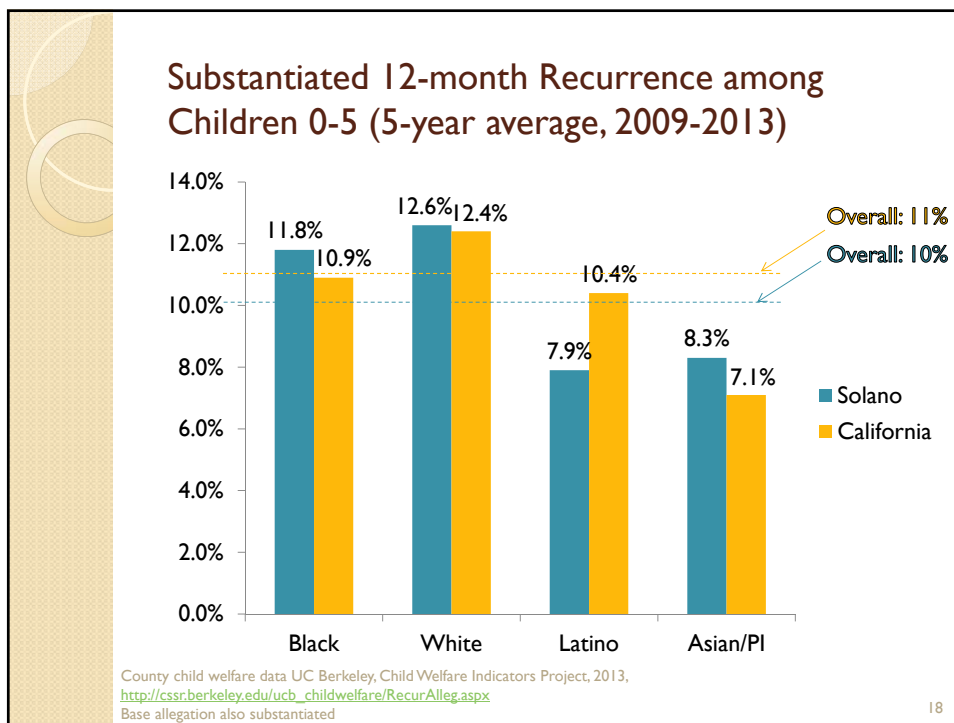
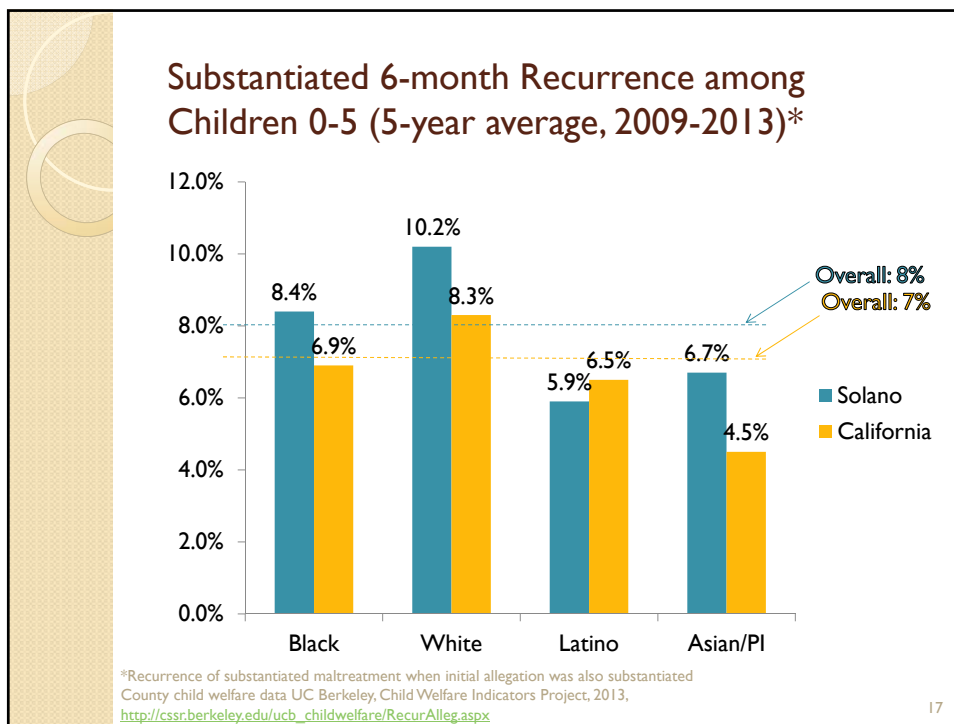




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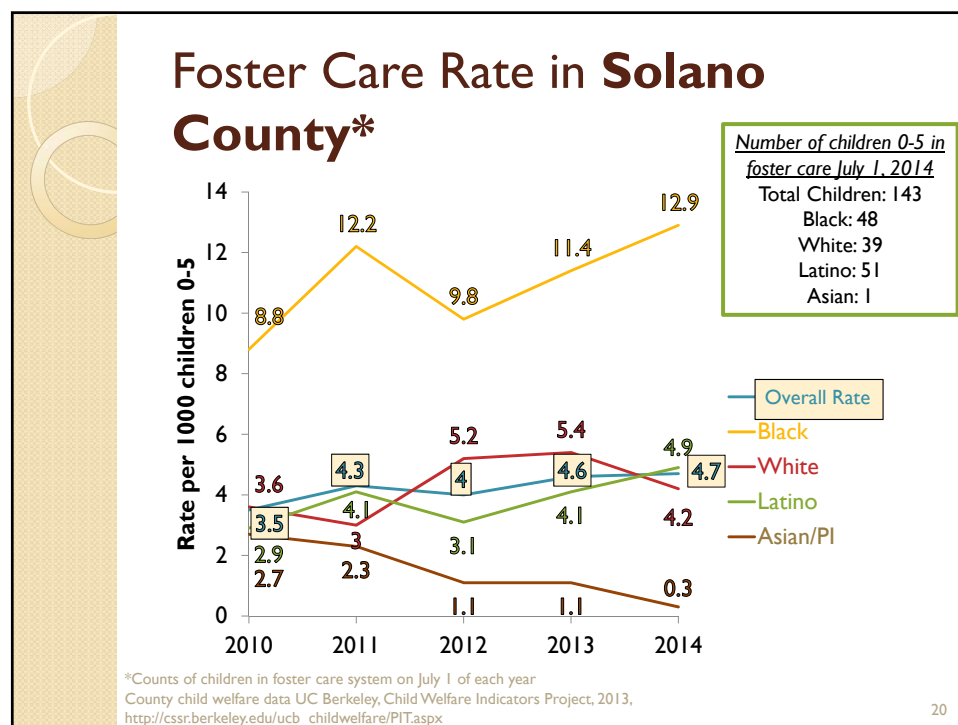


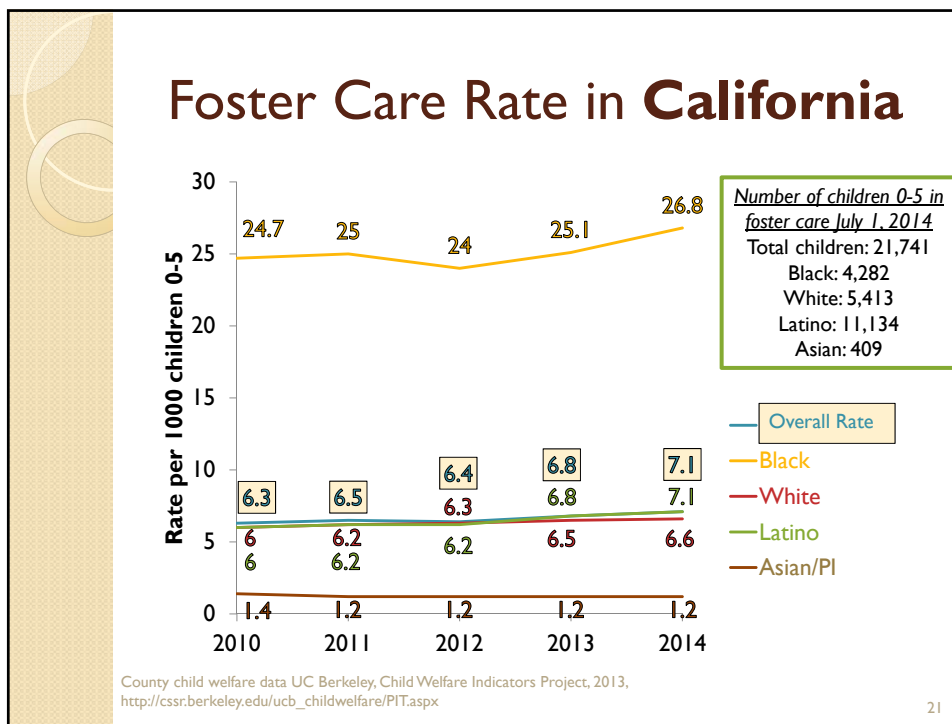


## Substantiated Recurrence Take-aways

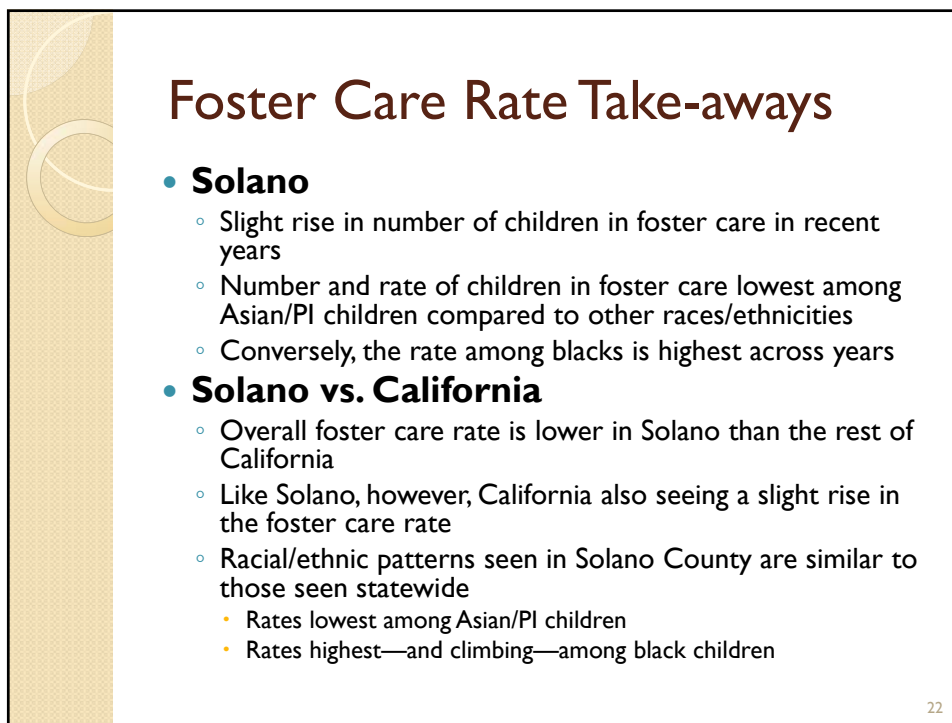
- **Solano**
  - Within 6 months and within 12 months
    - White children most likely to experience a substantiated maltreatment recurrence
    - Latino children least likely to experience a recurrence
- **Solano vs. California**
  - Overall recurrence rates at 6 and 12 months are similar
  - In Solano and statewide, white children most likely to experience a substantiated maltreatment recurrence
  - However...
    - Asian/PI children least likely to experience a recurrence in California (Latino children least likely in Solano)
    - Rates for black, white, and Asian/PI children higher in Solano

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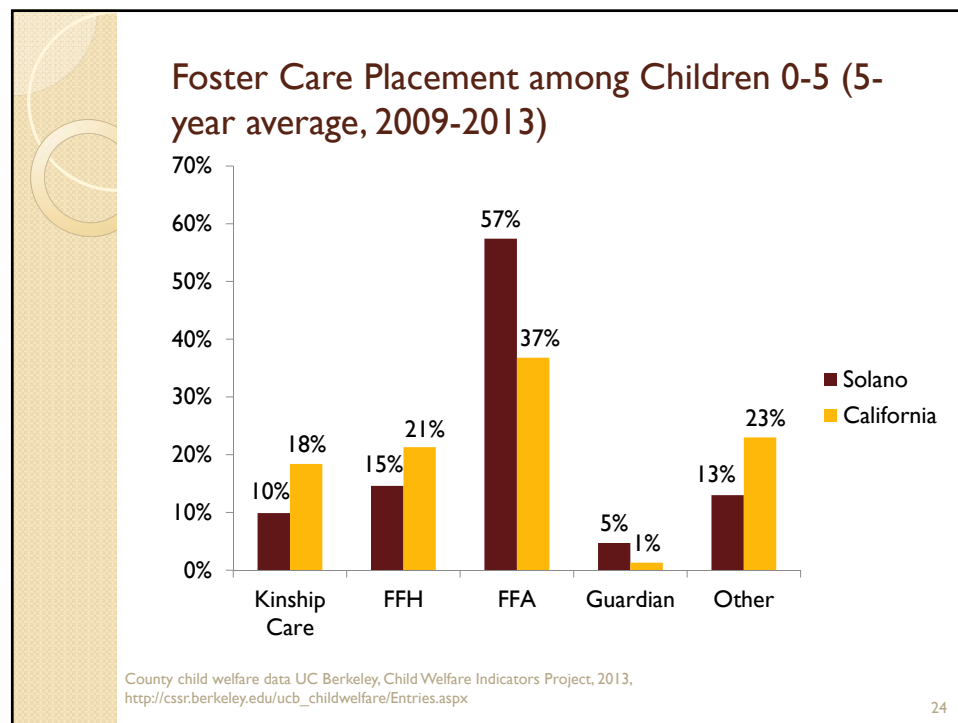


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## Foster Care Placement Types

- Kinship Care
  - Foster child is placed with a relative for care and supervision
- Foster Family Homes (FFH)
  - County licensed foster homes supervised by foster parents
- Foster Family Agency (FFA)
  - Placement for children who require more intensive care, as an alternative to group homes; foster parents are recruited, trained, and supported by the FFA
- Guardian
  - Child is placed with a legal guardian
- Other
  - Includes group homes, pre-adoption, trial home visits, court-specified homes
- *State law requires child welfare services to give preference to placement with relative caretakers*

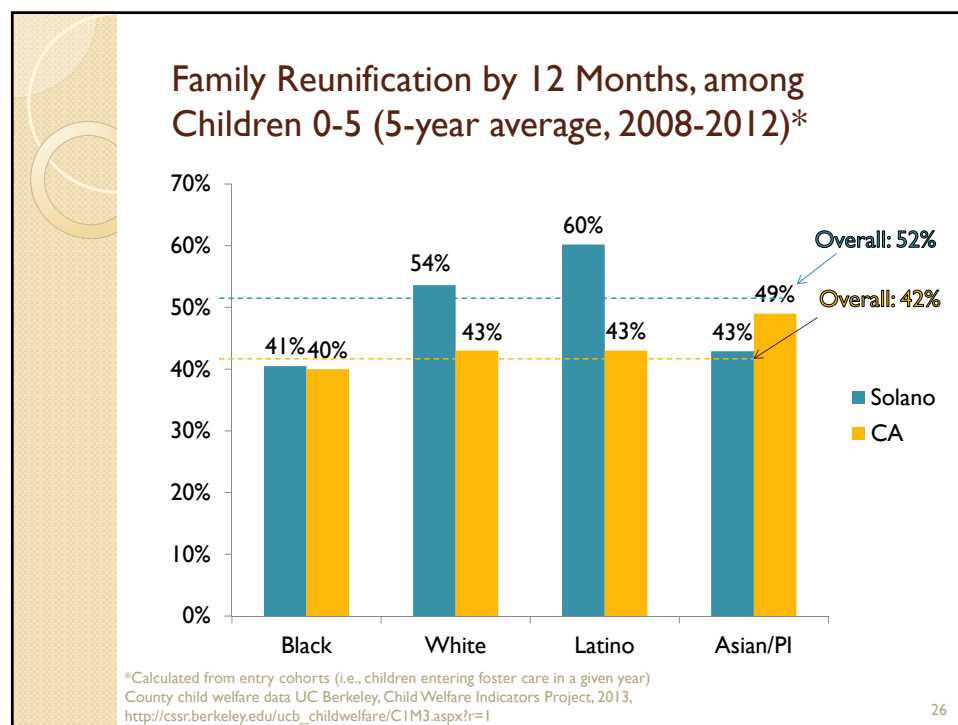
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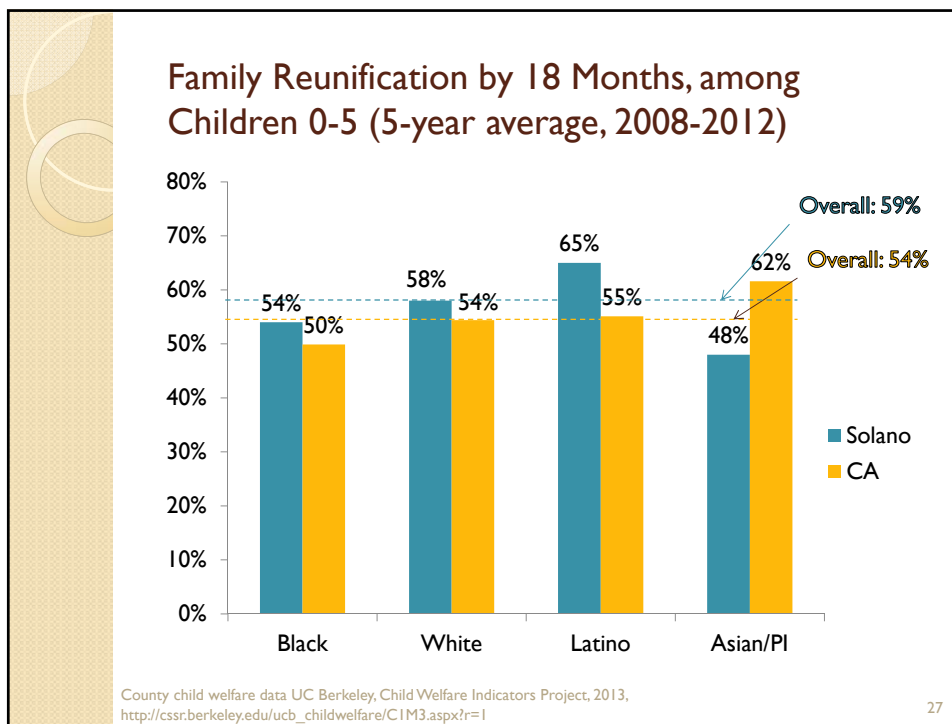


## Foster Care Placement Take-aways

- **Solano**
  - Solano places the majority of foster care children aged 0-5 with FFA's
- **Solano vs. California**
  - A higher proportion of foster care children in Solano are placed with FFA's compared to the rest of the state
  - Compared to the rest of the state, children 0-5 in Solano are less likely to be placed in kinship care and FFH's, but more likely to be placed with a legal guardian

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## Family Reunification Take-aways

- **Solano**
  - Within 12 months
    - Latino children are most likely to reunify with their families
    - Black children are least likely to reunify
  - Within 18 months
    - Latino children are again most likely to reunify with their families
    - Asian/PI children are least likely to reunify
- **Solano vs. California**
  - The overall reunification rate is higher in Solano compared to the rest of California (especially within 12 months)
  - Racial/ethnic reunification patterns in Solano and statewide differ somewhat
    - For example, unlike in Solano, Asian/PI children in the state are most likely to reunify within 12 months and within 18 months
    - Statewide, black children are least likely to reunify at both time points (this is only the case at 12 months in Solano)

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## Summary

- Solano County currently faring better on child poverty and several child welfare indicators than rest of state
- Certain groups and regions at greater risk
  - Families in parts of Vallejo, Vacaville, and Fairfield have high levels of child welfare involvement
  - African-American families have higher than average maltreatment and foster care rates
  - White families have higher than average maltreatment recurrence rates in the county
- Data like these may be used to better target and tailor supportive services

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**DATE:** November 19, 2014

**TO:** First 5 Solano Commission

**FROM:** Liz Niedziela, Program & Community Engagement Committee (PCE) Chair  
by Megan Richards, Deputy Director

**SUBJECT: Partnership for Early Access (PEAK) Evaluation Report**

In 2008, First 5 Solano, through a partnership with Solano County Health & Social Services Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention (MHSA-PEI), launched the Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) program, a mental and developmental health screening and early intervention program for children 0-5 years of age and their families.

The goal of PEAK is to ensure that children receive long-term benefits that come from identifying and treating problems early. The program also helps parents develop the skills to support their children and build healthy families. Many PEAK families are or have previously been involved in the Child Welfare System. PEAK is able to support families to improve childhood developmental outcomes with the intention of preventing future child welfare involvement.

First 5 Solano identified PEAK as an opportunity for in depth evaluation and commissioned Applied Survey Research (ASR), the Commission's evaluator, to provide an evaluation and cost-benefit analysis regarding children who have accessed PEAK who have touched the Child Welfare system.

The report reviews the benefits and cost savings of screening and early intervention services, outlines the developmental profiles and services received by Solano children, and compares PEAK participants who have been involved with the Child Welfare System to a control group of Solano County children to determine if PEAK is associated with maltreatment prevention. The report concludes with a discussion of the findings and areas for further research.

The report outlines several important conclusions that can be drawn from the literature on screening and early intervention and the review of PEAK participant's outcomes:

- ▶ Early intervention services provide children with essential supports that improve children's cognitive, social, behavioral, and self-help skills.
- ▶ Benefits from early intervention services are associated with downstream cost savings related to a reduced need for special education and economic benefits to individuals and communities from increased educational attainment.
- ▶ Nearly all PEAK participants received screenings to identify developmental delays and psychosocial disorders; children who were identified as developmentally delayed or at-risk for delay received a higher level of services from PEAK. In particular, these children were more likely to receive assessment and referrals, suggesting the support PEAK provides is proportional to the clients' needs.
- ▶ Children whose initial allegation was classified as "evaluated out" by Child Welfare Services and were connected to PEAK services were less likely than similar cases where the children were not connected to PEAK to have a subsequent substantiated maltreatment allegation. This finding suggests PEAK may help prevent maltreatment among families at lower risk for abuse.

The Brief Report of the PEAK Evaluation Report (Attachment A) is presented for Commission review. The full report will be available on the First 5 Solano website at [www.first5solano.com](http://www.first5solano.com).

First 5 Solano staff and ASR wish to thank the Child Welfare Division and the PEAK partners for their assistance in collaborating on the report.

Attachment A: PEAK Evaluation Brief Report



# Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK)

A Look at Child Welfare-Referred Families in First 5  
Solano's Screening and Early Intervention Program:  
Brief Report



Report prepared by:  
Applied Survey Research  
1871 The Alameda, Ste 180  
San Jose, CA 95126  
*November 2014*

# Acknowledgements

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ASR would like to acknowledge the contributions of Solano County Child Welfare Services, First 5 Solano, and Children's Nurturing Project to the success of this project. In particular we appreciate the assistance of the following individuals:

- ▶ Aaron Crutison, Deputy Director, Solano County Child Welfare Services
- ▶ Linda Liles, Social Services Manager, Solano County Child Welfare Services
- ▶ Christina Arrostuto, First 5 Solano Executive Director 2003-2014
- ▶ Megan Richards, Interim Executive Director, First 5 Solano
- ▶ Chris Shipman, Health Programs Manager, First 5 Solano
- ▶ Debbi Davis, Executive Director, Children's Nurturing Project
- ▶ Carla Denner, PEAK Program Manager, Children's Nurturing Project

# Brief Report

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## Overview

The Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) program is a jointly funded effort by First 5 Solano and Solano County Health and Social Services, Mental Health Services Act. The program provides screening and early intervention services in Solano County, supports children 0-5 years of age and their families. Many of these families face challenges, including delays in child development and child welfare involvement. The screening and early intervention services and referrals PEAK clients receive aim to improve the developmental outcomes of children, strengthen family relationships, and promote child safety. This brief report highlights the major findings of a full report produced for First 5 Solano. The full report reviews activities and outcomes of PEAK program clients referred by Child Welfare Services (CWS) in three parts. The three parts include:

- ▶ **Part I:** Discussion of the benefits and cost savings associated with the screening and early intervention services provided by programs like PEAK
- ▶ **Part II:** A summary of the services received and developmental profiles of CWS-referred PEAK children and families
- ▶ **Part III:** A comparison of the involvement of PEAK participants in the child welfare system to the involvement of children across Solano County to determine if PEAK is associated with maltreatment prevention

## Part I: Benefits and Cost Savings of Screening and Early Intervention

### Benefits

The services PEAK provides to children and families are based on the recognition that screening and early intervention are essential to address the developmental and psychosocial needs of young children. When children at risk for a developmental disability or psychosocial disorder are identified through early screening, and subsequently receive needed services, a range of cognitive, social, and emotional problems can be prevented or ameliorated.

Screening and early intervention services are linked to improved cognitive, language, and social development of children.

The benefits of early intervention can be pervasive and long-lasting. For example, children with autism receiving early intervention services experience improvements in IQ, language development, and social skills (Eldevik et al., 2009; Reichow, Barton, Boyd, & Hume, 2012; Rogers, 1996; Rogers & Vismara, 2008), while children with behavioral problems adjust better to home and school with early treatment (Webster-Stratton & Reid, 2010), and families affected by child maltreatment who receive services early have a lower risk of future child welfare involvement (Fuller, Wells, & Cotton, 2001). Each of the immediate impacts of early intervention can then result in a range of longer-term benefits to the individual, family, and community.

### Cost-savings of Early Intervention

There is substantial evidence for cost savings associated with catching and treating developmental problems early on. These savings include the costs associated with:

- ▶ Grade retention (\$9,600 per student, per year; Legislative Analyst's Office [LAO], 2013)
- ▶ Special education (\$22,300 per student, per year; LAO, 2013)
- ▶ High school dropout (\$72,000 per person, over lifetime; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013)
- ▶ Criminal activity (\$47,100 per inmate, per year; LAO, 2007).

While children with developmental challenges require treatment and education services over the course of childhood to address their needs, it is clear the cost-savings associated with improved outcomes over the life course is significant.

Similar to the cost-savings associated with early intervention services, the savings from child maltreatment prevention are substantial. These savings come from reduced health care costs, need for special education, criminal activity, and child welfare costs, along with the individual's increased lifetime earnings (Fang et al., 2012). With strong evidence that a program prevents maltreatment, the cost savings per child is estimated to be \$210,012 (including \$7,728 in child welfare costs) over the life of the child in California.

The cost-savings of preventing child maltreatment are estimated at \$210,012 per child

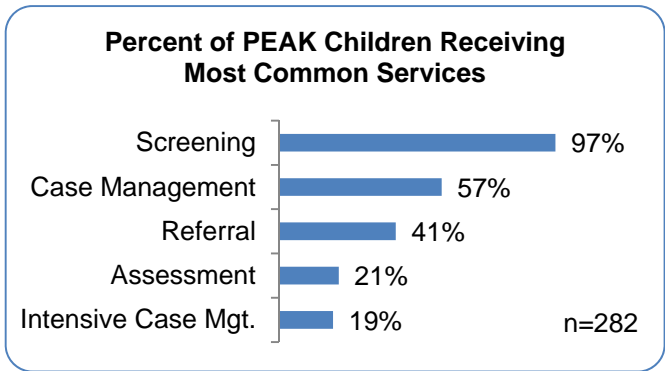
## Part II: Services and Developmental Profiles of PEAK Participants

### PEAK Study Participants

Child welfare-involved children are by definition a highly vulnerable population in need of strong developmental support. The children and families highlighted in this report received a variety of screening and early intervention services from PEAK with the goal of improving developmental outcomes and supporting the needs of parents and caregivers to reduce the risk of maltreatment reoccurrence and ultimately increase wellbeing. Data used for this report was selected from all available records of children who met the two following criteria: 1) enrollment in one of First 5 Solano's PEAK programs between January 1, 2008, and June 30, 2013, and 2) referred to PEAK from Solano County Child Welfare Services (CWS) following a maltreatment allegation that brought them to the attention of CWS. The average age of the final sample of 282 children was 31 months.

### Services Received

Once enrolled in PEAK, nearly all children received screening services to identify potential developmental delays (97% using ASQ-3, ASQ-SE, DP-3, and/or M-CHAT). In addition to developmental screens, some PEAK clients also received other forms of services, including case management, referrals, assessments, and a small number of other activities.



### Child Development Profile

44% of children were delayed or at risk for delay

Children identified as delayed received a higher level of PEAK service

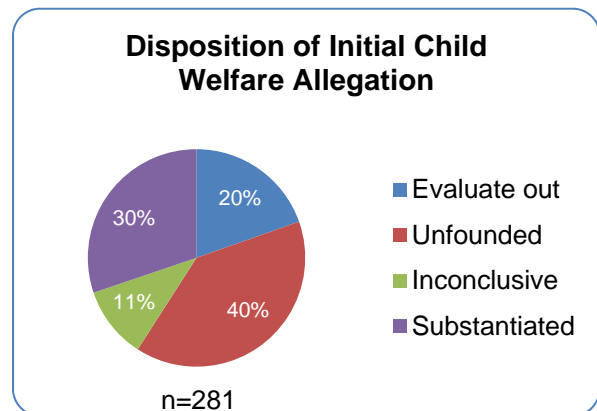
Of the children who received a screen, about 44 percent were delayed or at risk for delay in one or more developmental area (e.g., in their cognitive, language, or social-emotional development).

Importantly, PEAK service provision was significantly correlated with the developmental need of the child. For example, children who were identified as delayed or at-risk for delay on one of the screeners were significantly more likely to receive full assessments and referral to outside services. Also, a slightly higher percentage of these children received high-intensity services, like parent coaching and intensive case management. In general, PEAK appeared to be providing services appropriate to the needs of the family.

### Part III: Child Welfare Outcomes of PEAK Participants

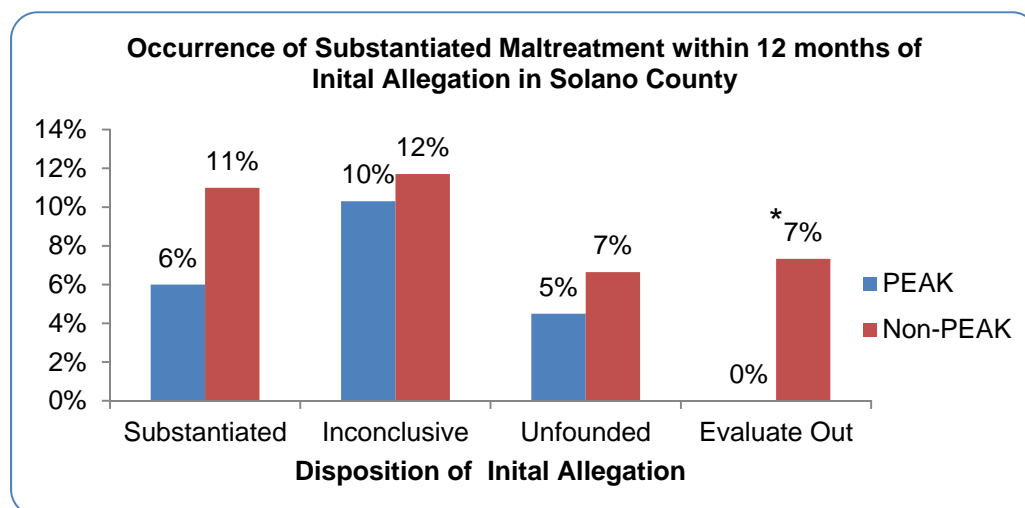
This study evaluated the degree to which PEAK helps prevent additional child maltreatment among families who already have some contact with CWS.

As a condition of study inclusion, all children were referred to PEAK following a child maltreatment allegation. The disposition of the initial allegation varied, with 70 percent of allegations being unsubstantiated and 30 percent substantiated. Rates of maltreatment recurrence and foster care use among PEAK participants were then compared to rates in the county overall.



#### Main Findings

- ▶ PEAK participants who initially received an “evaluate-out” disposition (i.e., an in-person investigation was not appropriate given the low likelihood maltreatment occurred) were significantly less likely than similar cases in the remainder of the county to present with a substantiated maltreatment event within 12 months of the evaluate-out allegation.



PEAK appears to help prevent maltreatment among families who “evaluate out” of Child Welfare Services.

Note: PEAK Substantiated n= 88; PEAK Inconclusive N=29; PEAK Unfounded N=111; PEAK Evaluate-out N=55; Non-PEAK Substantiated n=1306; Non-PEAK Inconclusive N=1136; Non-PEAK Unfounded N=3032; Non-PEAK Evaluate-Out N=4067; \*difference statistically significant at p<.05

- ▶ Rates of maltreatment recurrence among all other initial allegations, including *substantiated*, were slightly lower in the PEAK sample than in the county as a whole, but these differences did not reach statistical significance.
- ▶ Among cases that had a *foster care* entry, there were no significant differences between PEAK participants and children in the remainder of the county in terms of reunification or foster care re-entry rates.

The first outcome offers some evidence that PEAK participation is associated with reduced child maltreatment among families that are classified as “low risk” by CWS, but may nevertheless have great needs. Such families have had a child maltreatment allegation, but do not have

continued CWS involvement as an incentive to engage in services. The supportive, short-term nature of PEAK may motivate these families to accept parent support services along with screening and early intervention services as a “developmental checkup” for the child.

## Summary of Findings

First 5 Solano commissioned this study to evaluate the effectiveness of PEAK early intervention services to reduce child maltreatment and to provide estimates of the cost savings when developmental issues are detected and troubled families are strengthened through appropriate interventions. There are several important conclusions that can be drawn from the literature on screening and early intervention and the review of PEAK participant outcomes:

- ▶ **PEAK screening and early intervention services provided an important first step to help children get the support they need to address developmental issues, which is associated with issue improvement and significant cost-savings.**
  - Nearly all PEAK participants (97%) received screening services, which are necessary to identify children with developmental delays and psychosocial disorders. Forty-one percent of PEAK participants got a referral for services.
  - It is clear from research on early intervention that these services provide children with essential supports that improve children’s cognitive, social, behavioral, and self-help skills (Gomby et al., 1995; Reichow et al., 2012; Sharkey et al., 1990).
  - When the needs of children are fully addressed by PEAK and other early intervention programs, the accrued benefits are associated with a reduced need for special education and economic benefits to individuals and communities in the tens of thousands of dollars per child for greater educational attainment (BLS, 2013; LAO, 2013).
- ▶ **The support PEAK provides is proportional to the child’s needs.** The PEAK program appears to do a good job of systematically and appropriately matching child needs to services. Higher need children tended to receive more intensive services.
- ▶ **PEAK may help prevent maltreatment among families who are determined to be “low risk” by CWS, but are likely to be high risk for other family needs.** Children in the PEAK sample whose initial allegation was classified as evaluate-out were less likely than similar cases in the remainder of the county to have a subsequent substantiated maltreatment allegation. These families are not mandated by CWS to accept services, but may be open to the parent support and short-term services and linkages provided by PEAK as a “developmental check-up” for their child.
- ▶ **When PEAK prevents maltreatment of just one child, this is associated with over \$200,000 in cost-savings to society over the life of the child.**

Beyond the cost savings that come from screening, early intervention, and maltreatment prevention are the intangible benefits that flow to children and families experiencing improved developmental outcomes and stronger relationships. In their work, Solano’s PEAK providers aim to help clients overcome challenges and promote strong and healthy children, families, and communities.

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# Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK)

A Look at Child Welfare-Referred  
Families in First 5 Solano's Screening and  
Early Intervention Program



[ 1 ]

## Study Overview and Objectives

- Study provides a look at how PEAK screening and early intervention activities may help CWS-referred families
  - Link to needed services
  - Reduce child maltreatment
  - Reduce the need for more costly interventions/services later on
- The study had the following objectives:
  1. **Describe** the benefits and cost-savings associated with screening and early intervention programs like PEAK
  2. **Summarize** the developmental profiles and services of PEAK participants who had contact with child welfare
  3. **Evaluate** the child welfare outcomes of these PEAK participants compared to the general Solano County population of children 0-5 years of age

[ 2 ]



## Benefits of Screening and Early Intervention

- Screening and early intervention are linked to improved cognitive, language, and social development of children
  - American Academy of Pediatrics recommends routine and repeated screenings from birth
  - Intensive intervention is most effective in improving cognitive, social, and emotional skills when it begins as early as possible
  - Treatments that strengthen parents' relationship with their children can improve child welfare outcomes

3

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013; Legislative Analyst's Office [LAO], 2007, 2013; Fang, Brown, Florence, & Mercy, 2012; Heckman, 2006

## Benefits of Screening and Early Intervention

- Cost savings per child associated with **early intervention** include reduced likelihood of
  - Grade retention (\$9,600 per student, per year)
  - Special education (\$22,300 per student, per year)
  - High school dropout (\$72,000 per person, over lifetime)
  - Criminal activity (\$47,100 per inmate, per year)
  - Child maltreatment (\$210,012 per person, over lifetime)



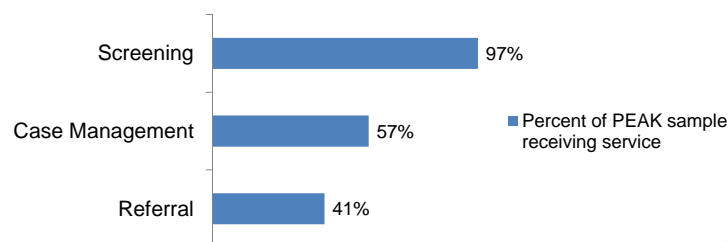
4

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013; Legislative Analyst's Office [LAO], 2007, 2013; Fang, Brown, Florence, & Mercy, 2012; Heckman, 2006

## Study Sample and Services Received

- 282 children referred by CWS who were enrolled in PEAK between January 2008 and June 2013
- A range of services were provided proportional to need; however, nearly all participants received screening services

**Most Common Services Received**



[ 5 ]

## Developmental Profiles

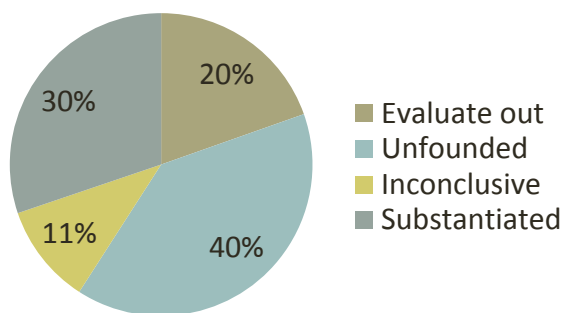
- PEAK participants evaluated via Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ-3, ASQ-SE), Developmental Profile assessment (DP-3), and Modified Checklist for Autism (M-CHAT)
- A large portion of PEAK participants are considered 'high-need' for developmental support

**44%** delayed or at risk  
for delay at time of screen in  
one or more developmental  
domains

[ 6 ]

## Child Welfare Profile of PEAK Participants

Disposition of Initial Maltreatment Allegation



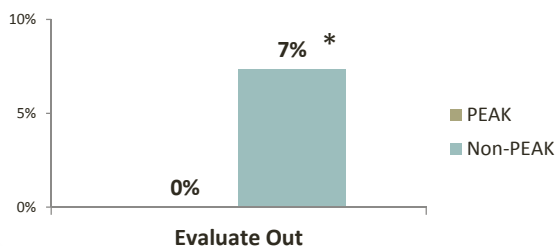
- 70% were unsubstantiated initial allegations
- Most of the substantiated allegations were for neglect (~74% of cases)

{ 7 }

## Child Welfare Outcomes of PEAK Participants

- Maltreatment recurrence among PEAK participants was compared to rates in the remainder of the county (non-PEAK)
- No PEAK participants with an initial 'evaluate out' allegation had a subsequent substantiated allegation, whereas 7% of the non-PEAK participants did (significant difference,  $p < .05$ ).

Occurrence of Substantiated Maltreatment Within 12 Months of Initial Allegation



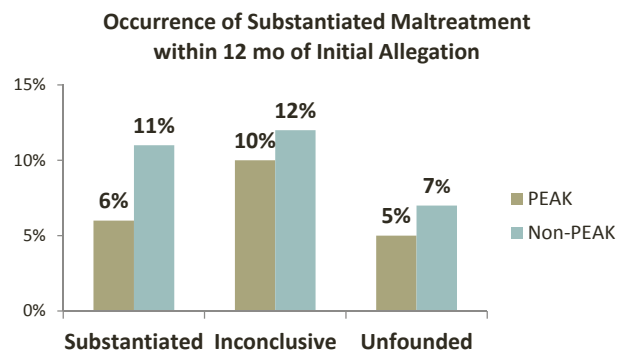
Note: PEAK N=55; non-PEAK N=4067

This suggests that PEAK may help prevent maltreatment of children initially evaluated out of CWS

{ 8 }

## Child Welfare Outcomes of PEAK Participants

- Although similar positive trends were found among cases with another type of initial allegation, no comparison reached statistical significance.



Note: PEAK substantiated N=88; non-PEAK substantiated N=1306; PEAK inconclusive N= 29; non-PEAK inconclusive=1136; PEAK unfounded N=111; non-PEAK unfounded N=3032

9

## Conclusions

- ✓ PEAK screening and early intervention provide important first step to address developmental issues
- ✓ Early intervention, in turn, is associated with improved developmental outcomes and significant cost savings.
- ✓ The support PEAK provides is proportional to child need
- ✓ PEAK may help prevent maltreatment among families determined to be “low-risk” by CWS, but are nevertheless likely to have high family needs (i.e., those with evaluate-out dispositions)
- ✓ When PEAK is able to prevent maltreatment of just one child, this is associated with a cost savings of over \$200,000
- ✓ Further research can explore additional benefits that PEAK provides families in Solano County

10

Sources: Gomby et al., 1995; Reichow et al., 2012; Sharkey et al., 1990

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CHILDREN ARE OUR BOTTOM LINE

**DATE:** November 20, 2014  
**TO:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission  
**FROM:** Commissioners Dana Dean and Dan Ayala, Nominating Committee  
**SUBJ:** Recommendations of Nominations for 2015 First 5 Solano Commission Officers

**MOTION: Consider election of Aaron Crutison as 2015 Chair and Marisela Barbosa as 2015 Vice-Chair, as recommended by the Nominating Committee**

In December of each year the First 5 Solano Commission elects its officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) as per its Bylaws. To facilitate this process, each October the Chair calls for 2-3 Commissioner volunteers to comprise an ad hoc Nominating Committee, and bring forward a recommended slate of officers for the upcoming year.

The Nominating Committee recommends Aaron Crutison for Commission Chair and Marisela Barbosa for Commission Vice-Chair. Officers serve a term of one calendar year, beginning with the January Commission meeting.

**DATE:** November 24, 2014  
**TO:** First 5 Solano Commission  
**From:** Michele Harris, Executive Director  
**SUBJ:** **Executive Director's Report for December 2014**

**Information Items:**

**Youth and Family Services:** On October 31, 2014, First 5 Solano received written notification that Youth and Family Services (YFS) was no longer in business. Youth and Family Services was a partner in the Partners for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) Mental Health Continuum, providing Early Intervention parent coaching and case management services for parents with children 0-5. YFS was also a funded partner in the BabyFirst Solano program, providing case management services to women at risk of substance use, to link them with treatment. First 5 staff worked diligently with YFS staff, County Counsel and other community partners to find solutions that would continue these vital services in the community.

PEAK Resolution - YFS had recently begun providing PEAK services in the County jail with soon to be released inmate parents and continued follow-up services upon release from incarceration. All PEAK partners (Aldea, Children's Nurturing Project, EMQ FamiliesFirst, Solano Family and Children's Services) were provided the opportunity to pick up this piece of the PEAK service delivery model. The provider group decided that Child Haven should take on the reassignment of this portion of the PEAK program, as the services best fit with their mission. Included in the Standard County Contract is language that allows for administrative assignment of the contract to another agency, which facilitated a seamless transition of services to Child Haven.

BabyFirst Resolution – As part of the BabyFirst Solano Prenatal collaborative, YFS had been providing case management and linkage services to women at risk of abusing substances since 2012. Health and Social Services, the lead agency for this collaborative, reached out to several partners to explore their taking over these services. Children's Nurturing Project (CNP) agreed to hire the YFS employee and take over these services in the community. Again, the Standard County Contract language allowed for administrative assignment of the contract to another agency, which facilitated a seamless transition of services to CNP.

**Children Now Scorecard:** Children Now has released its 2014 California County Scorecard, an interactive online data tool which presents a snapshot of children's overall well-being within California's 58 counties. It presents county-level data organized by the categories of health, education, and child welfare and economic well-being. Other County's data can be retrieved at <http://scorecard.childrennow.org/2014/>.

Solano County's information from this scorecard is attached to this report. It details where we are doing well and where there is room for improvement.

**First 5 California 2015 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit:** First 5 California is co-hosting with other state agencies a 2015 Child Health, Education and Care Summit in February 2015.

Commissioner Preconference: The hosts are now looking for Commissioners to participate in panels at the Pre-Conference to engage participants in a conversation about how, collectively and regionally,

Commissioners might work across county borders to support the sustainability and spread of First 5 efforts.

First 5 California is specifically looking for Commissioners for the following panels:

- Advancing Policy for 0-5: early learning, oral health, early intervention, & family strengthening
- Leading First 5 through declining revenues

The Pre-Conference will be held on February 10, 2015. will run from 1PM to 5PM at the Hilton Doubletree in Sacramento. If any Commissioner is interested in participating as a speaker in either one of these panels, please let me know.

Help Me Grow Solano Session: Debbi Davis, Solano's Help Me Grow Coordinator has been approved to present alongside Patsy Hampton, the Statewide Help Me Grow Coordinator at the 2015 Child Health, Education and Care Summit. The presentation, titled "Systems Integration that Actually Works: Help Me Grow" is a great opportunity to highlight the outstanding work being done in Solano. Additionally, this presentation supports the growing statewide interest in moving toward the Help Me Grow model for referral to services.

**Local and Regional Anti-Poverty/Pro-Prosperity Activities Update:** Solano Safety Net Summit #8 was rescheduled to January 29, 2015 8:30am-2:30pm. The day will be co-hosted by Rise Together Bay Area and give Solano constituents an opportunity to Discuss data on economic modeling and weigh in on key strategies for moving families and communities out of poverty in the bay area. In addition, the SNS work groups will share their current work and measurements,

Many members of the SNS Steering Committee, First 5 Staff, and Commissioner Niedziela attended a *Discussion on Women in Poverty in Solano County* hosted by Supervisor John Vasquez. The morning included presentation by many UC Davis Professors on Early Childhood Stress, Nutrition, Education Funding, Domestic Violence, and Generational Poverty. In addition, Rochelle Sherlock and Stephan Betz presented on some local measures to mitigate poverty, including the Senior Poverty Summits and the Family Justice Center. The morning ended with table-top discussions on what we could do as Solano County members and providers to address women in poverty at the local level.

**Stakeholders Policy Summit:** Children and family stakeholders gathered November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to prioritize top policy and/or budget issues in Solano County. Stakeholders included: representatives from the Solano County Board of Supervisors and the California State Assembly and Senate; Solano County leaders from Health and Social Services, First 5 Solano, Child Support Services, Solano County Office of Education, United Way of the Bay Area, the Solano Children's Network, child care providers and many more.

Participants received presentations from California Budget Project and Children Now on how State Level Priorities Align with Local Priorities. In addition, Dave Metz, a consultant who conducted a local poll regarding Solano County likely voters attitudes on funding for children's services presented preliminary polling results. Lastly, participants heard from local experts regarding the impact to Solano County on the eight issues below (in no particular order):

- Addressing food insecurity
- Preventing obesity
- Restoring and expanding subsidized childcare and preschool that supports families
- Promoting safety of all children (multi-part: gang prevention, child abuse prevention, & anti-bullying)
- Supporting mental health screening, prevention, and early intervention (including social-emotional support) birth to eighteen years of age
- Improving language accessibility and cultural competency



- Increasing minimum wage at the local level
- Increasing funding for homeless youth

Following the eight presentations, participants voted on the topic areas that they recommend should be taken forward to policy makers as the highest priorities to address in Solano County. Four priorities emerged as the focus of the second-annual Children and Families Policy Forum from this process:

- Promoting safety for all children
- Increasing funding for homeless youth
- Restoring and expanding quality preschool and childcare
- Supporting mental and developmental health screening, prevention, and early intervention for children birth to 18.

These 4 priority areas will be presented to policy makers at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Children and Families Policy Forum. At that time, policy makers will be provided with a specific “ask” for each priority area – to provide the policy maker a clear understanding of how they can help support the local efforts.

Save the Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Children and Families Policy Forum to be held February 22, 2014 at Solano Community College 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

**Board of Equalization (BOE) Hearing:** In mid-November, the Board of Equalization held a Stakeholder Meeting on the Tobacco Licensing Program. The hearing was in response to State lawmakers requiring the BOE to justify its rising costs to collect the tobacco tax. In the most recent year, the BOE utilized \$17 million to manage the distribution of \$462 million in statewide Proposition 10 tobacco tax dollars.

Many First 5 Commissions were represented, as well as First 5 California and First 5 Association; Ciara Gonsalves represented First 5 Solano at the hearing. With no presentation by the BOE staff, the meeting was conducted as an opportunity for stakeholders to make suggestions regarding the funding of the Tobacco Licensing Program. The BOE staff indicated that they would forward suggestions to the legislature by the April 1 deadline.

First 5 representatives made comments about the concerns First 5’s have regarding the rising administrative costs. Attached to this report is a copy of the First 5 Association BOE Fact Sheet that outlines this issue.

Other stakeholders, representing the tobacco control (Proposition 99) advocates, similarly commented on the impact of rising administrative costs on their programs and on the process used to increase fees after the exhaustion of the AB71 account. Tobacco retailers focused in their comments on the need to recover taxes from Internet sales and other aspects of the current tax program.

The First 5 Association will be meeting with the tobacco control advocates in the coming weeks, and will continue conversations with First 5 CA, the Tobacco Control Branch of CDPH, and others.

**Letters of Support:** The Administration for Children and Families is currently soliciting applications from public or private non-profit organizations that seek to provide a high-quality, comprehensive birth-to-five program incorporating both Head Start and Early Head Start funding, or to provide for Head Start only or Early Head Start only, to children and families residing in Napa and Solano Counties, California. Funds in the amount of \$10,856,088 annually will be available to provide Head Start and/or Early Head Start program services to eligible children and their families.

Two separate First 5 Solano grantees are applying for this funding opportunity and approached First 5 Solano for letters of support. Those letters are attached to this report.

**Operation Christmas Child:** First 5 staff participated in Operation Christmas Child, a program that distributes shoe box gifts to children in need all across the world. For many of those children, that one shoe box of toys, school supplies, clothes and/or hygiene items might be the only gift they receive this holiday season.

Chris Shipman coordinated this volunteer effort among First 5 Staff and the entire staff stepped up to shop and fill shoe boxes for kids. Staff selected the age and gender of the child from ages 2-4 years, 5-9 years and 10-14 years. First 5 Staff filled the boxes with such items as, but are not limited to, dolls, balls, yo-yos, crayons, colored pencils, pens, books, world maps, baseball caps, shoes, socks, toothpaste, and hair brushes. Staff also donated funds to help with the shipping costs to deliver the boxes.

Several staff had their own kids participate in the process, because as one First 5 staff member said "I wanted my kids to learn about volunteering and giving to those in our society who are in need. What a perfect opportunity. We tend to take the simple things in life for granted."

Thank you First 5 Solano staff for working to brighten the lives of children not only locally, but all across the world.

**2014 Strengthening Families Summit:** Venis Jones Boyd, Family Support Contract Manager attended the convening of Strengthening Families organizations from 42 states; the California cohort included representatives from ten First 5 Children and Families Commissions.

The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) hosted the Summit and works to secure equal opportunity and better futures for all children and families, especially those most often left behind. CSSP introduced its Strengthening Families Approach and Protective Factors Framework in 2003 as a research informed, strengths-based initiative for preventing child abuse and neglect in families of children birth to 5 years old.

The Solano County Family Resource Center Network has adopted the Strengthening Families Approach in serving our families and is in its third year of implementation. The Summit provided discussions on what is working in other parts of the country including: understanding Strengthening Families, emerging trends in accountability, the role of Help Me Grow, child welfare innovations using protective factors, Strengthening Families and home visiting, and many more.

Ms. Boyd returned from the Summit encouraged to assist the Solano County FRC Network to utilize newly released self-assessment tools for community-based programs to identify areas of success and room for improvement, evaluate programs and create an action plans for continued strength and maintaining successful outcomes.

Attachment A: First 5 Association BOE Fact Sheet

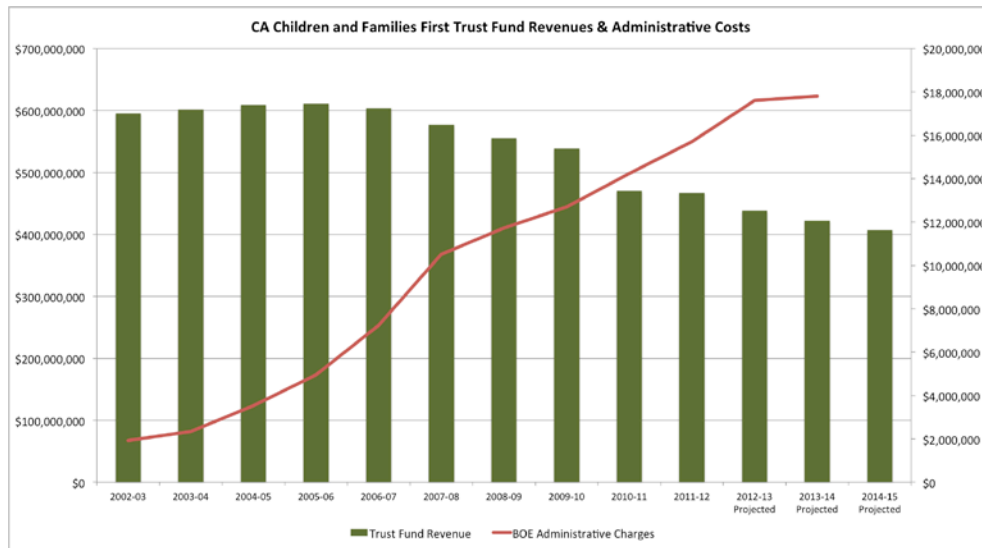
Attachment B: Head Start Grant Application letters of support

Attachment C: 2014 California County Scorecard for Solano County – Children Now

Attachment D: October 2014 First 5 Briefings

## Board of Equalization Rising Costs Impact on Children’s Services in California

Proposition 10 – approved by the voters in 1998 – allows for the reimbursement of the State Board of Equalization (BOE) for expenses incurred in the administration and collection of the tobacco taxes. These costs have risen 700% in the past ten years, while tobacco tax receipts have decreased by 25%, as shown below:



### Need for Relief

- *BOE fees are likely to increase over time* – BOE staff does not anticipate any decline in the costs of these programs in the future. Costs are likely to increase as the State allows the rehiring of positions, eliminates the furloughing of state employees, and allows for future salary increase.
- *BOE charges to Proposition 10 funds are likely to increase significantly if additional tobacco tax increases are approved* – BOE staff has indicated that any new tax would result in a significant increase in BOE tobacco tax collection costs and the increased cost of the programs would be allocated to all eligible revenue sources, with Proposition 10 taking the majority share.

### State-Level Interest in Rising BOE Costs

- In 2013, the Department of Finance, in its independent audit report of First 5 California, made the following finding: *“The BOE does not have written cost allocation (CAP) procedure for program and administrative costs allocated to the various funds it administers.”* The report further recommended that the BOE is required per applicable government code and the State Administrative Manual to maintain *“documentation of cost allocation procedures... with detailed information required for the costs being allocation, allocation methodology, frequency of allocation, and the rationale for the allocation base.”*



In October 2013, BOE did provide a narrative explanation of the methodology employed and examples of how the cost allocation methodology is applied. The document, however, does not explain specific costs for any fiscal year.

- In May 2014, Assemblyman Tom Daly drafted supplemental language for the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) report that will be released in August regarding the Board of Equalization costs for tobacco related programs. The supplemental language lays out a timeline requiring a report by October 15, 2014 with a detailed breakdown of BOE’s expenditures on the tobacco programs for the recent fiscal year; and a step-by-step explanation of the methods used to allocate costs for the tobacco programs among the various funds, including, but not limited to, the California Children and Families Trust Fund. By February 1, 2015 the BOE will be required to convene a stakeholder meeting to discuss potential approaches for future funding of the tobacco licensing program and by April 1, 2015 BOE will be required to submit a report describing three alternative approaches for future funding of the tobacco licensing program.

**BOE Diverted Costs from AB 71 Licensing Revenues to Proposition 10**

- In 2003 the BOE received broad, new authority with the passage of AB 71 to create a licensing and enforcement program to track the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products in California. To support this new level of enforcement, AB 71 imposed a one-time fee on retailers, distributors/wholesalers and manufacturers of tobacco products. The Appropriations Committees in the Legislature recognized in 2003 that if there were shortfalls in the AB 71 licensing fee revenues there would be a risk to the General Fund to support the costs of the program.
- In 2006, the BOE submitted a BCP (budget request) requesting approval to reimburse the costs of the licensing program from the General Fund and the three special funds – Breast Cancer, Prop 99, and Prop 10. The BCP stated that the shortfall was the result of declining revenue from the initial license fee established by AB 71. The BOE made this change in the funding stream to support the AB 71 program without new legislative authorization and created a new cost allocation methodology between the General Fund and special funds that remains to this day. First 5 Commissions have asserted that this redirection conflicts with the “no supplanting” requirement of the Prop 10 legislation.

**Impact on County Commissions**

<b>Current Impact of BOE Administrative Costs – FY2013/2014</b>		
<b>County Commission</b>	<b>Share of Statewide Births</b>	<b>Annual Cost of BOE</b>
Los Angeles	25.96%	\$3,696,330
San Diego	8.69%	\$1,237,320
Orange	7.59%	\$1,080,715
Riverside	6.10%	\$868,260
Alameda	3.79%	\$538,996
Fresno	3.22%	\$458,297
First 5 CA		\$3,560,000

**COMMISSIONERS**

Jay Speck

*Chair*

Dan Ayala

Marisela Barbosa

Elise Crane

Aaron Crutison

Dana Dean

Erin Hannigan

Liz Niedziela

Patrick Duterte

**STAFF**

Megan Richards

*Interim Executive 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.*

Christiana Lewis

*Office Assistant III*

Amanda Holmes

*Office Assistant II*

Raisa Ballesteros

*College Intern*

Courtney Perry

*College Intern*

Ashley Forsyth

*College Intern*

Debbie Peralez, Executive Director  
Child Start, Inc.  
439 Devlin Road  
Napa, CA 94558

**Re: Early Head Start/Head Start 5 Year Funding Opportunity**

Dear Ms. Peralez:

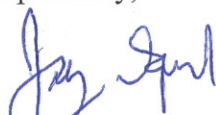
On behalf of First 5 Solano, I strongly support Child Start's efforts to secure funding from the Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families/Office of Head Start to provide high quality early childhood and family services throughout Napa and Solano Counties.

Child Start has been a pillar in the early childhood community in Solano and Napa Counties for 14 years and through its extensive experience and exceptional management systems, is the best agency within Napa and Solano Counties to continue to operate the Early Head Start/Head Start program. Children who participate in Child Start's Early Head Start or Head Start programs develop proficient language skills, exhibit strong social skills, and are well prepared for kindergarten. Child Start has done an excellent job of engaging each child's parent in their role as the lifelong teacher of their child, and has demonstrated the ability of providing parents with a broad range of leadership opportunities.

First 5 Solano can attest to the high-quality childcare and preschool services Child Start provides to low-income and at-risk children. Child Start has been a reliable partner in the Solano Community and as a First 5 Solano funded grantee for the last eleven years, participating in the Child Signature Program to increase quality in the classroom, and providing full-day wrap around care to children whose parents are working or in school. In the most recent partnership, First 5 Solano and Child Start are partnering on securing, renovating, and providing services in a vacant space co-located with Solano County Health & Social Services that will provide an additional 16 new slots for infants and toddlers.

As the First 5 Solano Commission Chair, I am in full support of Child Start's efforts to continue providing and expanding much needed quality early childhood and family services. If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Jay Speck

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission Chair

*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.*



**COMMISSIONERS**

Jay Speck  
*Chair*  
Dan Ayala  
Marisela Barbosa  
Elise Crane  
Aaron Crutison  
Dana Dean  
Erin Hannigan  
Liz Niedziela  
Patrick Duterte

November 19, 2014

Kris Corey, Superintendent  
Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District  
2490 Hilborn Road  
Fairfield, CA 94534

Re: Early Head Start/Head Start 5 Year Funding Opportunity for Solano County

Dear Superintendent Corey:

On behalf of First 5 Solano, I am writing this letter to express our support of the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District's efforts to secure the Early Head Start/Head Start grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start to provide high quality early childhood education and family services throughout the Upper Solano County region. Through its extensive experience and exceptional management and fiscal accountability systems, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District is highly qualified to operate an Early Head Start/Head Start program.

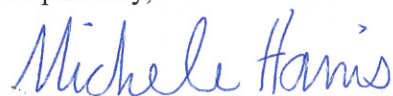
Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD) is uniquely positioned to provide this region of Solano County with high quality social and education services, including preschool, to our neediest families. We know FSUSD has maintained an excellent reputation in the region as a service provider for children with disabilities for the surrounding communities for many years. They are well known for ensuring high quality outcomes for children, compliance with all state and federal mandates, fiscal responsibility and on-going professional development of the highest caliber. We support FSUSD's efforts to expand their role as a regional service provider through their implementation of Early Head Start/Head Start services to the same area of Solano County that they have an established history of serving.

Our organization, First 5 Solano, funds programs for children ages 0-5 and their families. First 5 Solano has partnered with FSUSD on many programs, including programs that get kids ready for school, parent education programs, and general school readiness programs. The services that FSUSD provides to the 0-5 population BEFORE they get to elementary school are highly valued in this community and are always high quality programming.

As Executive Director of First 5 Solano, I am expressing our support of Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District's efforts to provide this region with high quality early childhood and family services through the Early Head Start/Head Start grant. Moreover, we are committed to our ongoing partnership with FSUSD to ensure that our families receive seamless support services to enhance their children's education and reduce poverty in our community.

If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Michele Harris  
Executive Director

**STAFF**

Michele Harris  
*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.*  
Christiana Lewis  
*Office Assistant III*  
Amanda Holmes  
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Raisa Ballesteros  
*College Intern*  
Courtney Perry  
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Ashley Forsyth  
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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.



# Solano County

COUNTY COMPARISON RATING

Education

Health

Child Welfare & Economic Well-Being

COUNTY QUICK FACTS

**96,723** children live in Solano county.

Ethnicity is **35%** Latino, **29%** White, **12%** African-American,

**13%** Asian, **11%** Other

**\$78,394** is the average family income for this county.

**52%** of families can afford basic living expenses.

**19%** of children live in poverty.

**EDUCATION**

DATA ACROSS COUNTIES

DATA OVER TIME

DATA BY RACE / ETHNICITY

	2014 Rank	DATA ACROSS COUNTIES			DATA OVER TIME			DATA BY RACE / ETHNICITY				
		Low	CA Avg	High	2014	Change	2012	Latino	White	African American	Asian	Other
1. Young children, ages 0-5, who are read to every day	10	52%	62% CA	81%	70%	↑	68%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2. 3- and 4-year-olds who attend preschool	32	32%	47% CA	67%	44%*	↑	42%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3. 3rd graders who read at grade level	17	24%	46% CA	66%	46%	↑	45%	33%	60%	33%	57%	58%

4.	7th graders who meet or exceed state standards in math	41	32%	51% CA	67%	45%	-	45%	37%	59%	24%	57%	51%
5.	Students who are low income and have access to a state-funded afterschool program	47	0%	12% CA	51%	8%	↓	10%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6.	High school science classes that are taught by a highly qualified teacher	19	23%	89% CA	100%	97%	↑	95%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7.	Students who feel connected to their school	28	25%	44% CA	66%	37%	↑	34%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
8.	Suspensions that are limited to serious offenses, not willful defiance	50	27%	57% CA	80%	45%	↓	59%	43%	51%	43%	50%	55%
9.	Expulsions that are limited to serious offenses, not willful defiance	51	38%	94% CA	100%	90%	↓	97%	88%	92%	86%	100%	100%
10.	Students who are ready or conditionally ready for college-level math courses	12	41%	60% CA	74%	63%	↑	61%	52%	63%	46%	75%	71%
11.	12th graders who graduate on time	34	32%	80% CA	95%	81%	↑	75%	76%	88%	70%	88%	NA

DATA ACROSS COUNTIES

DATA OVER TIME

DATA BY RACE / ETHNICITY

HEALTH

	2014 Rank	DATA ACROSS COUNTIES			DATA OVER TIME			DATA BY RACE / ETHNICITY					
		Low	CA Avg	High	2014	Change	2012	Latino	White	African American	Asian	Other	
1.	Women who receive early prenatal care	25	52%	84% CA	94%	80%	↑	77%	76%	85%	76%	75%	81%
2.	Newborns who are exclusively breastfed while in the hospital	32	28%	63% CA	91%	73%	↑	65%	68%	82%	61%	74%	75%
3.	Children who have health insurance for the entire year	3	86%	92% CA	97%	96%	↑	93%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4.	Children with a usual source of health care	9	85%	91% CA	95%	93%	↓	95%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA



5. Children who have visited a dentist in the last year	27	80%	88% CA	92%	87%	↓	91%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6. Asthmatic children who have been given an asthma management plan	4	25%	40% CA	64%	57%	↑	35%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7. Children who are in a healthy weight zone	38	41%	56% CA	78%	54%	NA	NA	48%	60%	50%	58%	58%
8. Students who are low income and eat free or reduced price breakfasts during the school year	52	17%	35% CA	75%	27%	↓	30%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
9. Students who are low income and eat free or reduced price meals during the summer	26	0%	18% CA	46%	13%	↑	12%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
10. Schools that have a health center	11	0%	2% CA	14%	3%	↑	2%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
11. Adolescents who are not at risk for depression	20	63%	70% CA	74%	69%	-	69%	67%	73%	91%	89%	64%

### CHILD WELFARE & ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

	DATA ACROSS COUNTIES			DATA OVER TIME			DATA BY RACE / ETHNICITY					
	2014 Rank	Low	CA Avg	High	2014	Change	2012	Latino	White	African American	Asian	Other
1. Young children, ages 0-3, who do not experience recurring neglect or abuse	19	73%	93% CA	100%	94%	↑	92%	95%	90%	95%	NA	NA
2. Children in the child welfare system who have stability in their placement	54	67%	87% CA	100%	70%	↓	81%	78%	66%	64%	NA	NA
3. Adolescents in the child welfare system who are placed in family-like settings	19	58%	81% CA	100%	85%	↑	81%	85%	85%	85%	NA	NA
4. Children in the child welfare system who have had a medical exam in the last year	24	60%	86% CA	100%	91%	↑	86%	89%	95%	88%	NA	NA

5. Children in the child welfare system who exit to permanency within three years	28	73%	86% CA ▲	100%	87%	↓	88%	76%	89%	89%	NA	NA
6. Children who are not living in communities of concentrated poverty	23	56%	86% CA ▲	100%	98%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7. Youth who attend school or are employed	35	84%	92% CA ▲	97%	91%	-	91%	90%	95%	80%*	93%*	NA

**NOTES+**



## First 5 Briefings October 2014

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### Association Meeting October 22, 2014

Moira Kenney and Association President John Sims welcomed new Interim Executive Director Sharon Baskett (Riverside).

### Association Updates

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#### Summit Feedback

Moira Kenney reported that 210 First 5 staff from 51 county commissions attended the Summit in Lake Tahoe. She noted that peer-to-peer networks around evaluation and fiscal topics are being re-engaged. There is also interest in potentially alternating between all-staff summits and convenings with evaluation and fiscal tracks every other year.

#### Updates from Executive Committee Meeting

John Sims reported that at their meeting on October 21, the EC discussed the commissioner meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2015 from 12 – 5PM during the preconference day for the First 5 California Summit in Sacramento. There is interest in a 2015 advocacy day - Christina Altmayer and the Advocacy Committee will work with First 5 California to determine whether this could take place the morning of February 10.

The Association will also reapply for an AmeriCorps grant, and will reach out to county commissions to determine interest.

Lastly, John reported that the EC approved a \$30,000 contract with strategic communications consultant PR & Company. The focus will be on framing the Association's message for Sacramento and elected officials. The Association will engage the Communications Committee and Advocacy Committee in this work.

#### New Help Me Grow Consultant

Moira reported that the Association is working with First 5 California to support the development and potential expansion of Help Me Grow efforts, including policy and evaluation. Moira introduced Patsy Hampton, who will join the Association as a consultant focusing on developmental screening policy on November 1.

#### Dental Policy Agenda Setting

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Moira Kenney introduced Jenny Kattlove of The Children's Partnership, which is a national child advocacy organization that works with partners to examine best practices and identify policy and program solutions.

Jenny provided an overview of opportunities to improve the oral health of young children in California, including funding for a State Dental Director, the Pediatric Oral Health Action Plan, and outreach to families of young children. Her PowerPoint presentation is available here: <http://first5association.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/JKattlove-Oral-Health-Policies-F5-Association-mtg-102214.pdf>.

Association members then engaged in discussion regarding oral health policy and partnership opportunities, and challenges faced by communities. Key opportunities for county commissions include the following:

- Provide TA to keep counties informed of what is happening around the state that counties can take advantage of.
- Facilitate peer-to-peer conversations to engage counties
- Collect better information regarding connections to other early interventions, i.e.

determine how many home visiting programs include oral health education.

- Message county commission investments and successes more effectively.
- Examine DentiCal utilization rates and expenditures per capita to then examine what the components of a successful, integrated county system.
- Educate providers to ensure consistent messaging.

Commissions reported on their current activities to find sustainability for their oral health partnerships:

- First 5 Humboldt is finalizing their oral strategic plan.
- Ventura's FQHCs have been successful in billing DentiCal.
- San Francisco is collaborating with public health nurses around oral health interventions.

Information about the Association's four policy areas, including oral health, can be found here:

<http://first5association.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/First-5-Association-Policy-Areas-092414.pdf>

### **Report from the State Commission**

Camille Maben reported that planning for First 5 California's February summit is well underway. Confirmed keynote speakers include Neera Tanden, President of the Center for American Progress, and Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, founder and CEO of the Center for Youth Wellness. Workshops will focus on poverty, early trauma, and early brain development.

Camille and Sarah Neville-Morgan then engaged in conversation with county commissions regarding the Child Signature Program, noting that the current allocation is due to sunset in June of 2015. Counties raised the following key concerns that should be addressed in any future program:

- Commissions are eager to see First 5 CA focus on systems-improvement, rather than specific site-level investments that are not sustainable.
- The QRIS Matrix should be the guide for any new partnership.

- Family engagement and infant-toddler level supports remain under-supported, but commissions were not in agreement about how best to address these needs.
- Future investments need to be spread more equitably across counties.

First 5 California will continue to engage with county commissions regarding program elements, principles of engagement, and communications with executive directors.

### **California Poverty Measure**

Sarah Bohn and Caroline Danielson of the Public Policy Institute of California presented an overview of the California Poverty Measure (CPM), which accounts for both family earnings and safety net resources and adjusts for work expenses and housing costs. Using the CPM, 25 percent of California's children are in poverty. An additional 26 percent of children live in households that are "near poor." Poverty rates, earnings, and the role of safety net resources vary by region, with LA and Orange counties containing larger shares of children in poverty. But most poor children live in "working poor" families, with one or more working adults. Association members engaged in discussion about the findings. Updated CPM data will be released annually; members noted that this is exciting since data about trends are more useful for policy makers than point-in-time studies.

The presentation is available here:

<http://first5association.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/PPIC-child-poverty-PPT-10-22-2014.pdf>

The PPIC report on Child Poverty and the Social Safety Net in California is available here:

[http://www.ppic.org/main/publication\\_quick.asp?i=1114](http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_quick.asp?i=1114)

## State Commission Meeting October 23, 2014

Please note: all the materials from the State Commission meeting are available on the First 5 CA website at:

[http://ccfc.ca.gov/commission/Meetings/meeting\\_handouts\\_2014-10.html](http://ccfc.ca.gov/commission/Meetings/meeting_handouts_2014-10.html)

### Commissioners Present:

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George Halvorson, Chair  
Conway Collis  
Muntu Davis  
Kathryn Icenhower  
Casey McKeever  
Ex Officio Member: Jim Suennen

### Executive Director Report

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Camille Maben provided the following updates to the State Commission:

- She has now visited 14 counties and continues to be inspired by the local work. She highlighted the joint Commission meeting with Alpine, Inyo and Mono; Santa Cruz's Baby Gateway program which has reduced ER visits; Del Norte's Wonder Bus; and Ventura's healthy choices for kids program with local restaurants.
- The State Commission has added four new staff since the April Commission meeting.
- California has submitted an application for the Federal Preschool Expansion Grants, which would bring in \$35M a year for four years for 3,700 new and improved spaces. First 5 CA would receive \$850K (total over four years) for parent engagement and teacher training.
- Camille also described the upcoming process for reaching out to counties for planning the future of the Child Signature Program as well as Evaluation efforts.

### Association Report

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Moira Kenney reported on the following:

- Partnerships with First 5 CA continue to grow, especially in the area of shared policy interests. The meetings we co-hosted with ECE leaders during the budget negotiations led to greater clarity that our role as a voice for quality investments. Advocates and other partners are clearly noticing that First 5 has a clearer identity, and real unity around this issue of ensuring high-quality benchmarks for our investments, and that is changing the way First 5 is engaged at all levels.
- We are also partnering in conversations about the future of our shared investments in the Child Signature Project. Local commissions are committed to a co-funding approach. This planning together is perhaps more important than ever, as funds are over-committed, and strategic choices will be the order of the day in the years to come.
- The Association will be ramping up its strategic messaging work on our four policy areas.
- We will be convening our county Commissioners at the February Summit. This pre-conference convening will focus on the ways county commissioners are providing leadership on these four areas, and explore ways we can engage all Commissioners in this critical work on policy that will sustain and spread First 5 efforts as our funds decline.
- We are partnering with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to study First 5 local investments in the family support field to ground the policy work. We are finalizing a first study that assesses the spread of our programs, the best practices in parent education and family engagement, and the connections between family support and early learning.

Commissioners expressed an interest in a presentation on our Family Support study.

**DHCS Request for Funding to Support Dental Outreach**

Rene Mollow from the Department of Health Care Services presented the request for \$8M to support dental outreach to families aged 0-3 with a child who has not seen a dentist in the past year. The proposed campaign would include a mailer and other materials costing \$812K and would expect to generate \$16M in increased Denti-Cal usage.

Commissioners expressed their dismay that this request was included in the Governor’s Budget. While these requests were at some level understandable in the years of state recession, the state should not be turning to First 5 when their funds are increasing, and ours are rapidly declining. Commissioners also agreed that these services are important, but encouraged the Department to look to other sources – such as the ACA outreach funds – to accomplish this same goal.

Moira Kenney, Karen Pautz, and Christina Altmayer all made comments encouraging the Department to work more closely with county commissions to understand the barriers to accessing care – including the availability of dental providers with the training needed to serve young children.

The Commissioners declined to make a motion on this item. As a result, funds will not be made available for this project.

**Commission Meeting Calendar for 2015**

The following dates were confirmed for 2015:

- January 22, 2015 – Sacramento
- April 23, 2015 – Sacramento
- July 23, 2015 - Sacramento
- October 22, 2015 – Burbank

**State Board of Equalization (BOE) Audit**

Frank Furtek and Jennifer Clark presented a request for \$100,000 item on a private audit. Their presentation noted the 600% increase in administrative costs over the last 10 years and the failure of the BOE to provide adequate explanation of these expenditures. The staff also acknowledged the significant efforts of the Association and the

county commissions – particularly First 5 LA and the Children and Families Commission of Orange County – to pursue this matter.

Commissioner Collis noted that there have been conversations on this issue for more than eight years, and that it may well be time to create some friction. While he supports the legislative action to request information, he is concerned that there is a need for independent verification of the allocations and the hours being utilized by the various classifications.

Commissioner Halvorson raised concerns that the Commission does not have the standing to request an audit.

Commissioners then discussed the likelihood that the BOE would comply with the request, and the timing of such a request – either before or after the conclusion of the current process requested by the legislature.

Before the Commission voted, Commission Collis noted that it is clearly time to show that we are serious about “protecting the limited resources dedicated to children 0-5.” The Commission then voted to approve the funding.

**Evaluation of Child Signature Program (CSP) 1**

Sarah Neville-Morgan and David Dodds presented the Year One CSP evaluation, including the following highlights:

- CSP successfully targets children at high-risk of school failure in low API catchment areas.
- The racial and ethnic background of the children enrolled in CSP programs reflects the diversity of the state as a whole.
- Dual-language learners make up 55% of the CSP-enrolled children, with Spanish-speaking children making up more than 80% of these DLLs.
- Seven percent of CSP teachers hold graduate degrees, 37% have a bachelor’s degree, and 25% have an associate’s degree.

- Most classrooms meet the following criteria: ERS global scores of 5 and CLASS domain scores of 5 for Emotional Support, 3 for Classroom Organization, and 2.75 for Instructional Support.
- DRDP results suggest that CSP children make significant gains in nearly all domains.
- Parents report high satisfaction with their children's program.

### **Alternative Sources for Additional Revenue**

Frank Furtek and Jennifer Clark presented a report on possible additional revenue sources to augment the declines in Proposition 10 revenues.

- E-Cigarettes – redefining the statutory definition of tobacco products to include products that include nicotine.
- Marijuana – including early childhood programs in any proposition to legalize marijuana.
- Tobacco – increasing the tobacco tax from 87 cents.
- Specialized License Plates
- Voluntary Contributions on Income Tax Forms
- Requesting Donations in F5CA Advertisements
- Applying for Federal, State and Philanthropic Grants

Commissioners were most interested in the first three options, which are most likely to result in significant revenues. Staff was asked to come back in January with further research on the feasibility of these options and any information on the restrictions on either staff or Commissioners in engaging in conversations on these issues.