

COMMISSION MEETING
April 27, 2021 – 5:30-7:30pm
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590

In furtherance of the direction from Governor Newsom (Executive Order N-25-20) and pursuant to the Executive Order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom (Executive Order N-29-20), **public access to the First 5 Solano Commission Meeting will be limited.**

Commissioners and public may attend via remote meeting using the following options:

Join livestream via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5922775330>

Join via Phone:

1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 592 277 5330

Public Comments:

Public Comment may be provided by: During the meeting via the phone/computer audio when the Chair calls for Public Comment on an item; or submitting written public comments to First 5 Solano via email at cfcsolano@solanocounty.com by 4:00pm on the day of the meeting.

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 April 27, 2021 Commission Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the March 2, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes
- C. Approve two Administrative Technical Adjustments:
 - i. Approve a recommendation to the Solano County Board of Supervisors to change the County Code section 7.3 to align the due date of the required annual audit public hearing with state requirements
 - ii. Approve a revised FY2021/22 Proposed Expenditure Budget totaling \$4,625,327 in expenditures, an increase of \$19,395 over the Proposed Expenditure Budget of \$4,605,932 that was approved by the Commission in March 2021, due to increased County costs for retirement benefits

III. April Children's Month Resolutions (10 min)

Action

Adopt resolutions recognizing April 2021 as Children's Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month
Juanita Morales, Program Manager; Susan Ferdinandi, Child Abuse Prevention Council Coordinator

IV. Child Care Provider Appreciation Day Resolution (10 min)

Action

Adopt resolution recognizing May 7, 2021 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day
Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager; Kathy Lago, Executive Director, Solano Family and Children's Services; Bronwyn Kennedy, Local Child Care Planning Council Liaison

- V. Policy & Oversight Committee Report** (Supervisor Hannigan) (50 min) **Information / Discussion**
- A. Strategic Planning**
Review Vision and Values input from First 5 Solano stakeholder groups and discuss updating First 5 Solano's Mission, Vision and Values
Michele Harris, Executive Director; Christina Branom, Applied Survey Research
- B. One Year Review of First 5 Center Activities and Outcomes**
Receive a report on the first year of activities and outcomes at the First 5 Center
Megan Richards, Deputy Director; Andrea Azurdia, Center Director, Bay Area Community Resources
- C. Solano County H&SS Legislative Proposal**
Receive a presentation on the Solano County legislative proposal for TANF Flexibility to Address Issues of Child Neglect
Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager; Marla Stuart, Solano County Health & Social Services Employment & Eligibility Deputy Director and First 5 Solano Commissioner
- VI. Systems Change 4-Year Summary** (25 min) **Information / Discussion**
Review Result 14 systems change activities for FY2016/17-FY2019/20
Michele Harris, Executive Director; Christina Branom, Applied Survey Research; Lisa Eckhoff, Senior Director Early Learning Programs, Solano County Office of Education
- VII. Executive Director's Report** (10 min) **Information**
Michele Harris, Executive Director
- VIII. Commissioner Remarks** (5 min) **Information**
- IX. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location** **Information**
The next Commission meeting will be held on June 8, 2021 at 5:30PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Annual Grant Allocations of Funding, System Change Result 15 Strategic Planning, Committee Report.

ADJOURN

Vision: All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, and nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities. **Mission:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission is a leader that fosters and sustains effective programs and partnerships with the community 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
Commission Meeting**

March 2, 2021, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present via Zoom videoconferencing: Jennifer Barton, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Erin Hannigan, Jerry Huber, Nicole Neff, Marla Stuart, Tyffany Wanberg

Chair Barton called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

I. Public Comment

No public comment

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

A. Approve the March 2, 2021 Commission Meeting Agenda.

B. Approve the January 12, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Approved 6-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. First 5 Solano FY2021/22 Annual Budget

Deputy Director Megan Richards presented the proposed budget for FY2021/22, with an overview of the County budget process and Commission planning tools. Ms. Richards explained budget that the budget is built in some assumptions such as projected Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues and matched funding obligations from First 5 California. The proposed budget also requests authority be delegated to the Executive Director to incorporate additional grant funds, should they be secured during the fiscal year. Projected revenues of \$4.2 Million are stable from last year with decreases in MHSA and interest income offset by State Match for Home Visiting Coordination. Ms. Richards illustrated an observed decreased rate of decline in the Prop 10 revenue over time. Projected expenditures of \$4.6 Million have no net substantive change by category from previous year. Commissioner Stuart asked for details on the home visiting coordination that the State is funding. Ms. Richards explained most funds were passed to Solano Public Health through a MOU to coordinate all home visiting programs in the county.

Motion:

- A. Consider approval of the First 5 Solano FY2021/22 Proposed Budget**
- B. Delegate authority to the Executive Director to incorporate additional grant funds in the FY2021/22 budgets**

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Approved 6-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Ms. Richards explained that motions C, D, and E continued contracts currently in place at current funding level through FY2022/23. Ms. Richards reminded the Commission that Rio Vista was determined the community of second highest need in the County after Vallejo and that extra funding had been granted in previous years. Motion C would extend the funding to Rio Vista CARE for an additional two years.

Motion:

- C. Consider approval of an allocation of funding of up to \$100,000 (\$50,000 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Rio Vista CARE for family support services in Rio Vista**

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg

Approved 6-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Stuart recused herself.

Motion:

- D. Consider approval of an allocation of funding of up to \$200,000 (\$100,000 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Solano County Health & Social Services, Mental Health Division, for Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services**

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Neff

Approved 5-0-1

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Neff, Wanberg

Nay: None

Recused: Stuart

Commissioner Stuart returned.

Commissioner Estrella-Henderson recused herself.

Motion:

- E. Consider approval of an allocation of funding of up to \$150,000 (\$75,000 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Solano County Office of Education to provide the Raising a Reader program**

Moved by Commissioner Neff; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan

Approved 5-0-1

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart, Wanberg

Nay: None

Recused: Estrella-Henderson

Commissioner Estrella-Henderson returned.

Commissioner Wanberg recused herself.

Ms. Richards explained that Motion F continues funding for current Triple P Parent Education providers for an additional 2 years based on previous years' successes and future years projections. Commissioner Hannigan asked how many families have participated in Triple P services. Ms. Richards reported an estimated 1,000 parents a year have received services.

Motion:

- F. Consider approval of allocations of funding of up to \$985,540 (\$492,770 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Triple P Parent Education providers as follows:**
- a. Up to \$400,960 (\$200,480 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Parents by Choice**
 - b. Up to \$202,500 (\$101,250 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Child Haven**
 - c. Up to \$122,160 (\$61,080 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Catholic Charities**
 - d. Up to \$110,560 (\$55,280 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Child Start**
 - e. Up to \$41,500 (\$20,750 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Rio Vista CARE**
 - f. Up to \$40,200 (\$20,100 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Fairfield-Suisun Adult School**
 - g. Up to \$40,160 (\$20,080 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District**
 - h. Up to \$27,500 (\$13,750 annually for FY2021/22 & FY2022/23) to Solano Family and Children's Services**

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Stuart
Approved 5-0-1**

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart,

Nay: None

Recused: Wanberg

Commissioner Wanberg returned.

Ms. Richards reported the developmental health screenings occurring at the Vallejo First 5 Center were very successful. The \$100,000 Motion G is 100% Mental Health Services Act funding but requires Commission approval. Ms. Richards detailed the blended funding of the First 5 Center and the Bay Area Community Resources contract.

Motion:

G. Consider approval of an additional allocation of \$100,000 to Bay Area Community Resources for developmental screenings at the First 5 Center in Vallejo for FY2021/22

**Moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Stuart
Approved 6-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart,
Wanberg**

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Ms. Richards reported on the difficulties COVID-19 gave to the Pre-Kindergarten Academy providers in 2020, with many academies cancelled and far fewer children served. There remains uncertainty on what classrooms will look like in 2021, but First 5 Solano is working with a design team, Solano County Office of Education and Applied Survey Research to look at models and options for Pre-K academies in Summer 2021 and fund the districts and agencies who provided academies in 2018 and 2019.

Motion:

H. Consider approval of up to a \$200,000 allocation of funding to the following Pre-Kindergarten Academy providers for summer 2021 with delegated authority to the Executive Director for final allocation amount for each provider:

a. Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District

b. Fairfield-Suisun Adult School

c. Travis Unified School District

d. Dixon Unified School District

e. Benicia Unified School District

f. River Delta Unified School District

g. Vallejo City Unified School District

h. Vacaville Unified School District

i. Child Start, Inc

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Neff

Approved 6-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Estrella-Henderson recused herself.

Ms. Richards explained motions I and J would apply \$42,000 currently unallocated, and any amount remaining from Motion G, should grantees be unable to provide Pre-K Academies in 2021, toward new sites and providers to serve more children with Pre-K Academies. Solano County Office of Education has developed relationships with many family child care homes and private child care centers who, with support, may be able to provide a Pre-Kindergarten experience for children entering kindergarten.

Motion:

- I. Consider a sole source allocation of up to \$42,000 to the Solano County Office of Education to provide additional Pre-Kindergarten Academies in underserved areas and with non-traditional partners for summer 2021***
- J. Consider approval of delegated authority to the Executive Director to reallocate any unspent funding from the \$200,000 in Motion E to Solano County Office to provide additional Pre-K Academies in underserved areas and with non-traditional partners for summer 2021***

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg

Approved 5-0-1

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart, Wanberg

Nay: None

Recused: Estrella-Henderson

Commissioner Estrella-Henderson returned.

Ms. Richards described the next steps in the budget process.

IV. Policy and Oversight Committee Report

Lorraine Fernandez, First 5 Solano Program Manager, presented proposed changes to the First 5 Solano legislative platform addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and adding language around ACEs awareness and trauma-informed care. The changes were discussed and recommended at the February Policy and Oversight Committee meeting.

Motion: Consider approval of the 2021 First 5 Solano Legislative Platform

Moved by Commissioner Wanberg; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Approved 6-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

V. Executive Director's Report

Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Executive Director, reported that Commissioners were surveyed, and a time was identified to hold Commission meetings during business hours. The proposed new schedule begins in July and moves Commission meetings to 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on third Wednesdays. There is a goal that Commissioners will be able to participate in activities at the First 5 Center on meeting days.

Motion:

A. Consider approval of the FY2021/22 First 5 Commission and Committee Meeting schedule

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Approved 6-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Wanberg recused herself.

Ms. Harris explained that the funds in Motion B are for the current fiscal year. Parents by Choice is exceeding their projected pace of services and is seeing an increased need in the community. First 5 Solano staff has identified \$22,280 unspent Triple P Parent Education funds that can allow Parents by Choice to provide additional services through June.

Motion:

B. Consider approval of an allocation of up to \$22,820 to Parents by Choice for FY2020/21 to provide additional Triple P Parent Education

Moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson Seconded by Commissioner Stuart

Approved 5-0-1

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Neff, Stuart

Nay: None

Recused: Wanberg

Commissioner Wanberg returned.

Ms. Harris thanked Commissioners for participating in Kindergarten backpack distribution events in the Community and invited Commissioners to participate in the Vallejo First 5 Center anniversary event on March 26. Ms. Harris shared that the annual grants RFA will be released on March 8 and will require individual grant development sessions with staff to build out proposed ideas.

VI. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioners shared their experiences participating in backpack distribution events. Commissioner Estrella-Henderson highlighted the importance of Pre-K Academies and school readiness. Commissioner Barton suggested Governor Newsom be invited to visit the Vallejo First 5 Center. Commissioners discussed vaccination progress in the County with prospects of returning children to the classroom.

VII. Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting will be held on April 6, 2021 at 5:30 PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30 in Vallejo. Future agenda items include: First 5 Center Year 1 Report, System Change Result 14 Summary, Strategic Planning; Committee Report.

Adjourn

Chair Barton adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DATE: April 22, 2021
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Megan Richards, Deputy Director
SUBJ: **Administrative Technical Adjustments**

This item brings forward to administrative technical adjustments that have been identified by staff.

Motion i: Consider approval of a recommendation to the Solano County Board of Supervisors to change the County Code section 7.3 to align the due date of the required annual audit public hearing with state requirements

Staff Report: In March 2021, the Commission modified its Commission Meeting schedule to allow meetings to occur during the day when more parents/community could attend. In identifying the best day of the week for Commissioners, Commission meetings were moved to the third Wednesday of the month.

In reviewing the timeline for required First 5 annual audit it was noted that the County Code 7.3-05 (g) states: *The commission shall cause the Solano County Auditor to prepare an annual audit and report pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 130150, which shall be the subject of at least one public hearing held by the commission before its adoption by the commission on or before October 15.* By moving the Commission meetings to the third Wednesday of the month, this deadline would not always be met depending on how the calendar fell.

The Proposition 10 legislation regarding the annual audit requires the audit to be published by October 15, and the public hearing be held prior to submission to the state no later than November 1, but the legislation does not require the public hearing to be held by October 15. Staff is recommending to bring forward a change to County Code section 7.3-05 (g) to: *The commission shall cause the Solano County Auditor to prepare an annual audit and report pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 130150, which shall be the subject of at least one public hearing held by the commission before its adoption by the commission ~~on or before October 15.~~*

Should the Commission move forward with this recommendation, staff will bring forward the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion ii: Consider approval of a revised FY2021/22 Proposed Expenditure Budget totaling \$4,625,327 in expenditures, an increase of \$19,395 over the Proposed Expenditure Budget of \$4,605,932 that was approved by the Commission in March 2021, due to increased County costs for retirement benefits

Staff Report: In March 2021, the Commission approved its FY2021/22 Proposed Budget. The budget included \$4,605,932 in expenditures and \$4,222,838 in revenues. Subsequent to the Commission's approval of the budget, First 5 Solano was notified of a change in methodology for the PARS retirement calculation which requires an additional allocation in the First 5 Solano FY2021/22 budget.

PARS is a retirement benefit that was provided to Senior and Executive Management. While the benefit is no longer available to new employees, there are costs associated with retired employees, including retired First 5 Solano employees.

When budgeting for FY2020/21, staff was inadvertently told that First 5 Solano no longer needed to budget for PARS costs, so no expenses were budgeted in that line item. In April 2021, First 5 Solano was notified our County share of PARS is actually \$19,395. This is an increase over previous years budget due to a change in allocation methodology.

This item brings forward a motion to include this cost as an expense in FY2021/22, bringing the total First 5 Solano expense budget to \$4,625,327.

Resolution No. 2021-02

RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2021 AS “CHILDREN’S MONTH” IN SOLANO COUNTY

WHEREAS, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission is committed to the improvement of health and wellness of all those who live and work in our community and acknowledges the health, safety and well-being of children in Solano County as critical components of the Commission’s strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, each year since 2006 Solano County has celebrated and observed the multiple children’s events in April as “Children’s Month”; and

WHEREAS, many community partners have joined to expand awareness of children’s issues by promoting “April Children’s Month” through public education and events; and

WHEREAS, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission recognizes April as World Autism Month and April 2 as Autism Acceptance day in recognition of people with autism and those who love and support them; and

WHEREAS, National Association for the Education of Young Children and local partners including Solano County Office of Education recognize April 10-16, 2021 as Week of the Young Child celebrating early learning, young children, their caregivers and teachers, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Solano County Library, in conjunction with the American Library Association and public libraries across the country, celebrates April 4-10, 2021 as National Library Week and April 30, 2020 as “El Dia de los Niños/El Dia de los Libros” (Children’s Day/Children’s Book Day); and

WHEREAS, Month of the Military Child allows us to pay tribute to military children across the country for their ability to take on unique challenges and adapt to present and future changes that other youth their age never experience; and

WHEREAS, these observances focus on the need to give children in our community and around the country a better chance for safe and positive futures and supportive environments in which to thrive; and

WHEREAS, many local organizations have dedicated their efforts to ensuring that all Solano children receive the care, support and services crucial to their growth and development, to build better futures for everyone in Solano County and should be recognized for the work that occurs year-round.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission hereby proclaims the month of April 2021 as “Children’s Month” in Solano County, and encourages all residents to work to support the health, safety and well-being of children and youth in Solano County.

Dated this 27th day of April 2021

Jennifer Barton, Chair
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

ATTEST:

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Resolution No. 2021-03

RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2021 AS “CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH” IN SOLANO COUNTY

WHEREAS, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission is committed to the improvement of health and wellness of all those who live and work in our community and acknowledges the health, safety and well-being of young children in Solano County as critical components of the Solano County Board of Supervisors’ strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, Solano Children’s Alliance is sponsoring the Blue-Ribbon Campaign in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month to promote public awareness of the abuse and neglect of children, and the resources available to strengthen and support families; and

WHEREAS, across America, National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association and its local member organizations set aside a day in April as Children’s Light of Hope Day to recognize and acknowledge the CASA volunteers, foster and adoptive parents who have opened up their hearts and homes to abused and neglected children in our community; and

WHEREAS, Children’s Memorial Flag Day is recognized in the United States by the Child Welfare League of America on the fourth Friday of April as a way of memorializing the thousands of children who die each year and as a day to raise awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects and are a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone as our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Solano County; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risks for children in all circumstances, as families and communities may have become isolated and faced diminished resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission hereby proclaims the month of April 2021 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in Solano County, and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families in Solano County.

Dated this 27th day of April 2021

Jennifer Barton, Chair
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

ATTEST:

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Resolution No. 2021-04

RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION PROCLAIMING MAY 7, 2021 AS CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

WHEREAS, high quality child care and early education play a crucial role in child development, health and nutrition, child abuse prevention, and social-emotional outcomes that result in enhanced school readiness, and successful K-12 educational and higher education experiences; and

WHEREAS, Child Care Providers include teachers and caregivers in child care centers, family child care homes, extended family, friends, and neighbors, all of whom are essential to supporting working parents; and

WHEREAS, there are over 530 Licensed Child Care Providers and over 600 License-Exempt Child Care Providers in Solano County who provide this most essential service which supports the local economy; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 Pandemic Child Care Providers have continued to respond to the needs of frontline and essential workers by providing safe and consistent care for their children; and

WHEREAS, Child Care Providers have made critical adjustments to their environments, personal situations and daily schedules in order to meet the new COVID-19 Pandemic requirements for health and safety, distance learning and daily activities to support the immediate social-emotional needs of children in their care; and

WHEREAS, Solano County has been critically affected by the loss of licensed child care settings during the last year further exacerbating the already low capacity of available child care spaces that existed prior to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Solano Family & Children's Services in partnership with other early childhood community partners has initiated a Child Care Provider Recruitment Campaign with the goal of expanding the availability of licensed Child Care settings to serve families in Solano County to aid in the recovery stage of the pandemic and to support growth in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, Solano Family & Children's Services, the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, the Local Child Care Planning Council, along with advocacy organizations across the United States will be increasing awareness of the importance of Child Care Providers on May 7, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Solano County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim May 7, 2021 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day in Solano County.

Dated this 27th day of April 2021

Jennifer Barton, Chair
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

ATTEST:

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
March 24, 2021 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm
3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590

In furtherance of the direction from Governor Newsom (Executive Order N-25-20) and pursuant to the Executive Order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom (Executive Order N-29-20), **public access to the First 5 Solano Committee Meeting will be limited.**

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5922775330>

Join via Phone:

1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 592 277 5330

Public Comments:

Public Comment may be provided by: During the meeting via the phone/computer audio when the Chair calls for Public Comment on an item; or submitting written public comments to First 5 Solano via email at cfcsolano@solanocounty.com by 12:00pm on the day of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

I. Introductions, Public Comment, Commissioner Comment

II. Consent Calendar

Action

- A. Approve the March 24, 2021 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the February 10, 2021 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
- C. Receive the Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report

III. Solano County H&SS Legislative Proposal

Information

Receive a presentation on the Solano County H&SS legislative proposal for TANF Flexibility to Address Issues of Child Neglect
Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager; Jerry Huber, Solano County Health & Social Services Director and First 5 Solano Commissioner

IV. Strategic Planning

Information

Review Strategic Planning activities for April 2021 Commission meeting.
Michele Harris, Executive Director; Christina Branom, Applied Survey Research

V. FY2020/21 Mid-Year Report

Information/Discussion

Receive the FY2020/21 Mid-Year Performance Report
Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager

VI. Vallejo First 5 Center – Year 1 Report

Information/Discussion

Receive a Year 1 Report on the Vallejo First 5 Center
Megan Richards, Deputy Director; Andrea Azurdia, Vallejo First 5 Center Director

- VII. Strategic Plan Implementation Updates** **Information/Discussion**
Receive updates on the following:
A. Systems Change Implementation Plan Update
B. Community Engagement Activities Update
Megan Richards, Deputy Director; Juanita Morales, Program Manager; Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager
- VIII. First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update** **Information**
Receive a report on First 5 Solano staffing and financials.
Megan Richards, Deputy Director
- IX. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location** **Information**
The Policy and Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet next on Monday, May 17, 2021, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm, at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA. Future agenda items include: Co-Sponsorships of Training and Conferences; Program Update, Strategic Planning, Systems Change Implementation Update; Community Engagement Update; and Staffing and Finance Update

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, 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA, 94590 during normal business hours.

**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
Policy & Oversight Committee (POC) Meeting**

March 24, 2021, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd Ste 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present (remotely via Zoom video conference): Erin Hannigan, Jennifer Barton, Lisette Estrella-Henderson

Chair Hannigan called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM

I. Introduction, Public Comment, Commissioner Comment

There were no public or commissioner comments.

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

- A. Approve the March 24, 2021 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the February 10, 2021 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting minutes
- C. Receive the Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report

**Moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Barton
Approved 3-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Solano County H&SS Legislative Proposal

Jerry Huber, Solano County Health and Social Services Director and First 5 Solano Commissioner, provided information on the legislative proposal "TANF Flexibility to Address Issues of Child Neglect." H&SS would like to expand their Family Stabilization Program to act as an alternative response to neglect referrals that are not egregious coming into Child Welfare Services. The Committee recommended to present the proposal to the full Commission.

IV. Strategic Planning

Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Executive Director, updated the Committee on the strategic planning process timeline and introduced Christina Branom of Applied Survey Research. Ms. Branom detailed efforts in polling stakeholder groups about their vision for children and families. April's presentation to the Commission will be interactive and key informant interviews will also be conducted with Commissioners regarding the Commission's systems change efforts. Commissioner Estrella-Henderson suggested acronyms be spelled out to be better understood by the general public.

V. FY2020/21 Mid-Year Report

Megan Richards, First 5 Solano Deputy Director, introduced the item as a check in with contractors halfway through the fiscal year, informing the Committee of progress and any challenges, and, if applicable, recommendations for improvement. Overall, grantees are meeting 72% of performance measures during the first half of FY2020/21. Some performance measures are annual targets not reported until the end of the Fiscal Year. Grantees with unmet measures have been reminded of their targets and are working toward meeting these performance measures.

Gene Ibe, First 5 Solano Program Manager, explained how Solano County H&SS Mental Health is working to provide supports to improve their measures that have been impacted by limited client engagement in the shift to telehealth. Ms. Ibe also highlighted the success in the third year of Triple P Parent Education services. Juanita Morales, First 5 Solano Program Manager, highlighted the success of Solano County Office of Education's Raising a Reader program. Ms. Richards explained some of the struggles and successes Bay Area Community Resources has had in operating the Vallejo First 5 Center through their start-up year while also managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lorraine Fernandez, First 5 Solano Program Manager, shared a fund development report for July 1, 2020-December 31, 2020.

VI. Vallejo First 5 Center – Year 1 Report

Ms. Richards introduced Andrea Azurdia, Vallejo First 5 Center Director. Ms. Azurdia presented a report on activities and demographics of families served through the first year of operation for the Vallejo First 5 Center. 88% of families served resided in Vallejo. Over half of individuals were Hispanic. 19% of families served reported Spanish as their primary language. Ms. Azurdia summarized the classes, activities, and services at the Center. A total of 55 six-week classes were offered, along with 2 dental screening and varnishing events, a mask giveaway, and a mobile farm as Bay Area Community Resources and the First 5 Center "adapted and overcame." 700 activity bags, 100 food cards, 170 produce boxes, 1,400 books, and countless diapers and wipes were distributed to families at the Center. Committee members thanked Ms. Azurdia and Center staff for their commitment in a time of great need.

VII. Strategic Implementation Updates

A. Systems Change Implementation Plan Update

Ms. Fernandez shared that First 5 Solano had signed on to a budget advocacy letter to state lawmakers maintaining continuous Medi-Cal coverage for children 0-5 and new mothers, and that the First 5 Association had submitted a letter to California Senators supporting key provisions of the American Rescue Plan.

B. Community Engagement Activities Update

Ms. Morales reported on the widespread distribution of 2021 First 5 Solano calendars throughout the community.

C. First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update

Ms. Richards reported nothing additional outside of the report.

D. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

The next Policy and Oversight Committee is scheduled for Monday, May 17, 2021, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm, at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA. Future agenda items include: Co-Sponsorships of Training and Conferences; Program Updates; Strategic Planning; Community Engagement Update; and Staffing and Finance Update.

Adjourn

Chair Hannigan adjourned the meeting at 4:41 PM.

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DRAFT

DATE: April 22, 2021

TO: First 5 Solano Commission

FROM: Erin Hannigan, Policy and Oversight Committee (POC) Chair
By: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Policy and Oversight Committee Strategic Planning Kickoff Report**

As a launch to the strategic planning process, Applied Survey Research has conducted an activity with each of First 5 Solano's 4 collaborative groups to gather input on the Commission's Vision and Values. That data will be presented to the First 5 Solano Commission to inform its discussion on updating the Commission's Mission, Vision and Values.

Applied Survey Research (ASR) intends to kickoff the strategic planning process by conducting the same activity with the full First 5 Solano Commission to gather its input into the develop of a new Mission, Vision and Values.

ASR will take the information from this activity and develop a draft Mission Statement, a Vision Statement and a list of Core Values as underpinnings to the Commission's Strategic Plan Update.

Committee Discussion: The Policy and Oversight Committee discussed the plan to share data and then gather input from the First 5 Solano Commission and had no changes to the process.



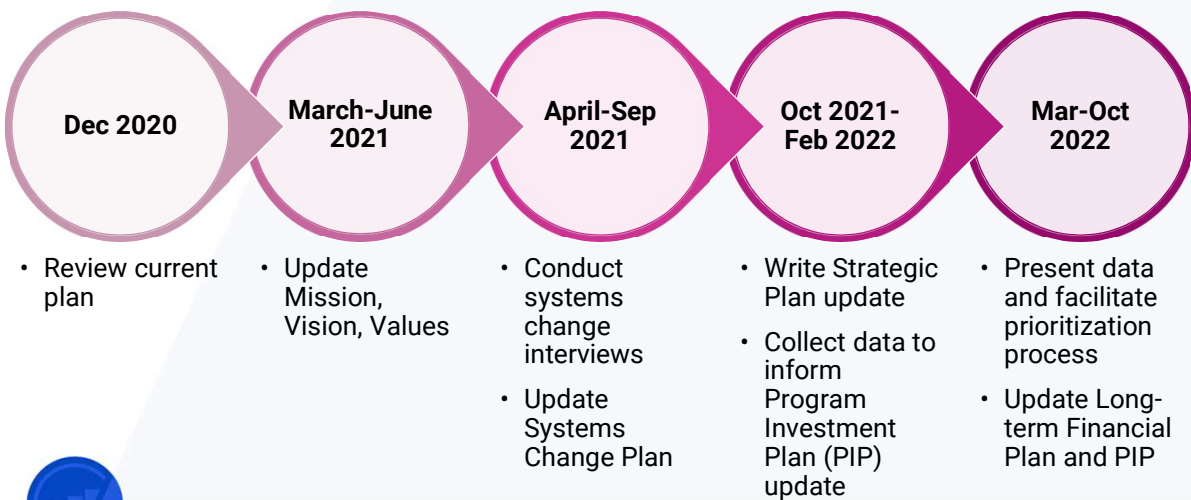
First 5 Solano Strategic Planning Kickoff

April 27, 2021

Presented by:
Christina Branom
Director of Research
Applied Survey Research



First 5 Solano Strategic Plan Update Timeline



Updating Mission, Vision, and Values

March

Four stakeholder groups were polled about their vision for children and families and values important to their work

TODAY

Stakeholder poll results presented

Commissioners polled on vision for children and families, First 5 Solano's role, and values important to First 5 Solano's work

April-June

Input from polls used to draft a revised Mission, Vision, Values

Revised Mission, Vision, Values presented to Policy and Oversight Committee and then the full Commission

Questions and Respondents

RESPONDENTS

- Staff (N=7)
- Quality Counts (N=15)
- Grantees (N=19)
- Triple P (N=30)

Note that there could be small overlaps in these groups.

QUESTIONS

1. *If you could wave a magic wand and transform Solano County for young children and families, what would it look like?*
2. *What 3 values should be central to the work of First 5 Solano and its partners to support young children and families?*

Vision for Solano County Key Themes, Overall

1. Families can access free/affordable services
2. Children can access high-quality early care & education
3. The environment is safe for children
4. Families' basic needs are met
5. Positive caregiver-child engagement opportunities are available
6. Services and opportunities are equitable
7. Children and families are healthy
8. Services are inclusive of all families
9. Families can access needed mental health support
10. Caregivers engage in responsive caregiving

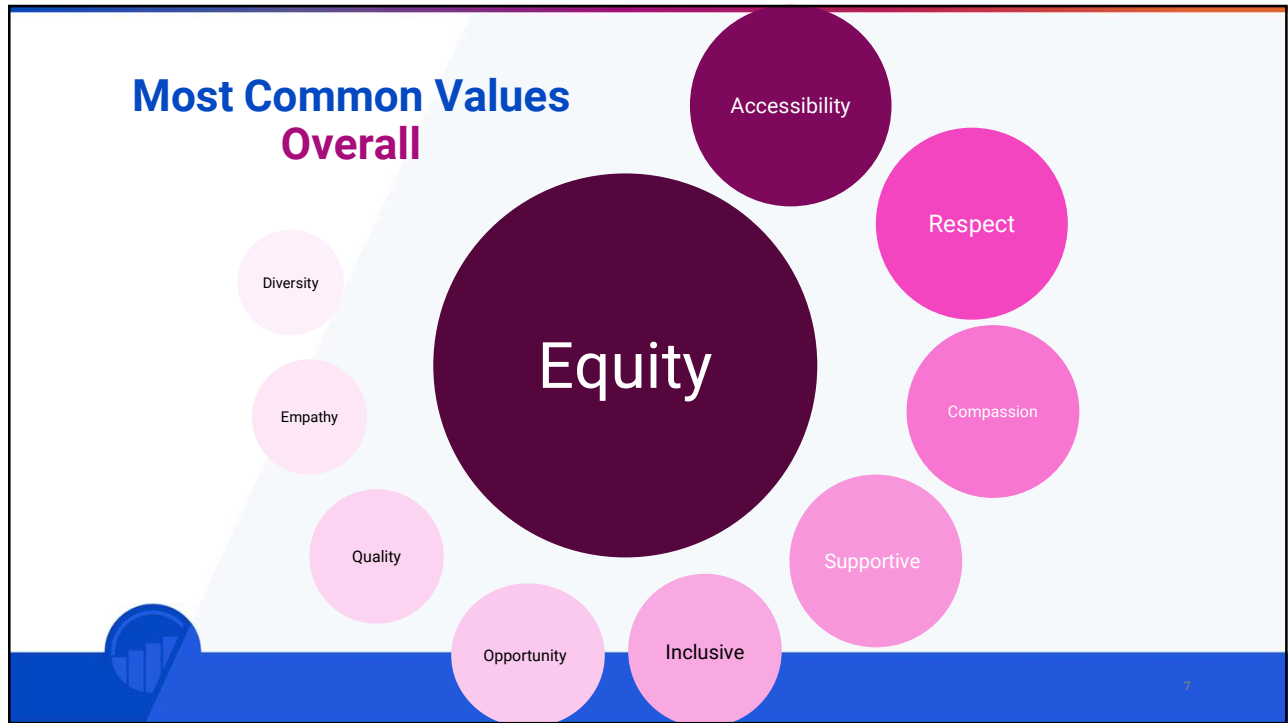


5

Values, Sample Group



6



Now it's your turn!

COMMISSIONERS ONLY go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter this code:

Code: _____

A small bar chart icon is located in the bottom left corner of the slide.

Reflection

Now that we have gathered input from you and the community, we will work with Policy and Oversight Committee to draft Mission, Vision, Values

- *What takeaways do you have from what has been presented today?*
- *What should the Policy and Oversight Committee be thinking about as they work on the Mission, Vision, Values?*



9

Next Steps

- Policy and Oversight Committee will consider all data and draft new Mission, Vision and Values for Commission consideration
- Commission will consider the new Mission, Vision and Values at its June 2021 Meeting
- Systems change interviews will be set individually with all Commissioners during April and Early May



10

DATE: April 22, 2021

TO: First 5 Solano Commission

FROM: Erin Hannigan, Policy and Oversight Committee (POC) Chair
By: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Vallejo First 5 Center Year 1 Report of Activities and Outcomes**

The Vallejo First 5 Center opened its doors on February 13, 2020. Since then, the Center has been providing a combination of in-person and virtual services to address the needs of children and families in Vallejo and throughout Solano County. In addition, with First 5 Solano support, the Center has shifted activities where needed to services related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as supply distribution and connecting additional families to resources. The attached report (Attachment A) documents the activities that have occurred during the first year of services.

Committee Discussion: The Committee thanked Center Director, Andrea Azurdia, and Bay Area Community Resources for their willingness to pivot because of the pandemic and get them what they need, to have a successful first year of services for families.

Attachment A: First 5 Center Year 1 Report
Attachment B: First 5 Center Year 1 Presentation



FIRST5 CENTER

Year 1 Report
February 2020 to January 2021



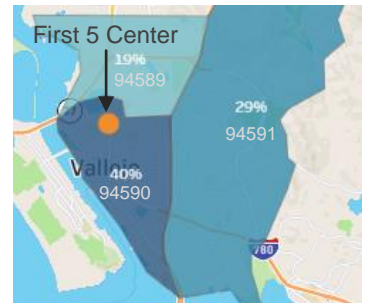
“Staff is very friendly, knowledgeable, and welcoming. The classes have been great for my daughters to learn and interact with others even if it is on the webcam, they look forward to each Zoom session. The resources have been helpful for me, I wish I would’ve known about First 5 when I was pregnant with my first child.” - Erica

The First 5 Center Celebrates One Year of Serving Vallejo and Solano County!

The Vallejo First 5 Center opened on February 13th, 2020 with a grand opening celebration of nearly 400 community members, families, funders and policy makers. Despite closing one-month later due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center has remained a community hub for families with young children. We are pleased to share what has been happening over the last year!

FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS

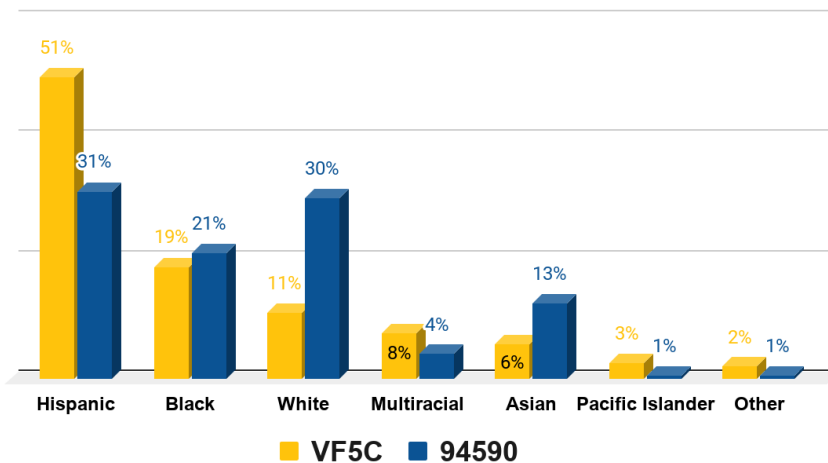
During the first year of operation 369 families enrolled in services for a total of 1,111 individuals. 88% of the families served by the Center live in Vallejo, with over 40% living in the local ZIP Code of 94590. Out of the remaining Vallejo families, 29% live in the 94591 ZIP Code and 19% live in the 94589 ZIP Code. 13% of Center families live outside of Vallejo or have unknown ZIP Codes.



Family participation by ZIP Code

The families served at the Center have represented the diversity of the County and specifically the 94590 ZIP Code. Just over half of the individuals served at the center over half were Hispanic. The second highest reported race/ethnicity was Black at 18% followed by White at 11%. In comparison to the target ZIP Code of 94590 the center served a higher proportion of Hispanic, multiracial, and Pacific Islander families and a lower proportion of Black, White, and Asian ethnicities in comparison to the 94590 ZIP Code.

Race/Ethnicity Comparison



Of the families served, 19% reported Spanish as their primary language. The remaining families reported English as their primary language at 80% and other languages at 1%. It is important to note that this was reported primary language and many families spoke both English and Spanish.

In addition, staff represent both the race/ethnicity and language of Center participants. Half of the Center staff is bilingual and all outreach materials and Center publications are Spanish bilingual to be as inclusive as possible.

CLASSES, ACTIVITIES, & SERVICES

A total of 55 six-week class series were offered in year one. Examples of classes included *Tinker Tots*, *Belly Babies*, *Messy Hands & Math*, *Wiggle & Scribble*, *Brickspace* and *Zumbini*. Drop in activities included workshops such as *Infant Massage* and *Kinder Here I Come*. Parent only classes, Triple P Positive Parenting, Parent Cafes, and Parent Advisory Council meetings were offered starting in the Fall.

The Center put on monthly events that included a mobile farm, dental screenings and varnishes, and a children's mask giveaway. Many partners were involved in events including Touro University and Solano County Public Health.

The Early Interventions Screening Facilitator and instructors completed developmental screenings for 45 children. The Community Resource Specialist had 297 consultations with families to connect them to community resources.

The Center was able to provide families with basic needs items such as car seats, strollers, pack n' plays, toiletries, towels, and diapers and wipes. In August 2020, the Center became a diaper bank site and provides 70 families with a monthly distribution of diapers and wipes.

100% of families who completed a class series and completed a post series survey demonstrated increased knowledge and awareness of healthy behaviors and activities such as:

- Increased awareness of healthy eating for kids
- Increased ability to implement age appropriate activities
- Increased ability to provide preschool and kindergarten readiness activities

In a satisfaction survey conducted February 2021, Center participants rated their satisfaction with the Center at 4.9 out of 5!





EFFECTS OF COVID ON CENTER ACTIVITIES

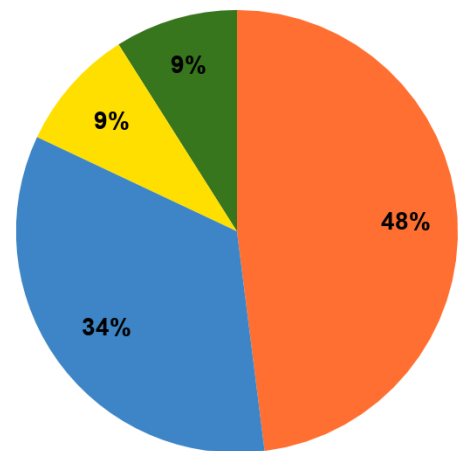
One month after the grand opening of the Center, Solano got the first shelter-at-home order. From March to June the Center provided various community resources to help alleviate the burden families were experiencing. Starting in July, the Center reopened on a limited basis and provided a mix of in-person outdoor classes and activities, as well as virtual classes and activities. Outdoor classes provided staff the opportunity to offer messy activities such as water play, painting with toes, and chalk art. In the fall, indoor classes resumed, but were reduced to accommodate social distancing standards and reconstructed to include easy to clean materials and take-home activities. The Center launched 100% virtual classes starting in January 2021 that included starter kits and an activity bag for each class due to the increase in COVID rates over the holidays.



YEAR 1 FUNDING

During the first year of operation, the Center had four main funding sources. Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, First 5 Solano, Kaiser, and Solano County Mental Health Services Act. Yocha Dehe and First 5 Solano provided funds for general operation. Kaiser Community Benefit provided funds for a nutrition education/obesity prevention education program and MHSA provided funds for a new developmental screening position. Some smaller donations were received in light of COVID, including \$4,110 from Ball Corporation to fund basic needs support.

February 2020 - January 2021



● Yocha Dehe: \$314,661
 ● First 5 Solano: \$220,124
● Kaiser: \$60,053
 ● MHSA: \$55,161

CONCLUSION

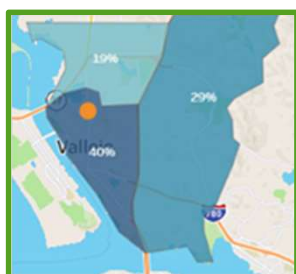
In the first year, the Vallejo First 5 Center transitioned from an intentional start-up phase to full implementation. This occurred in the midst of a global pandemic and local wildfires during which the Center worked closely with First 5 Solano staff to shift services where necessary to address local need. While Year 1 was nothing like what anyone imagined, the Center has already become a staple in the Vallejo community to meet the needs of young children and their families.



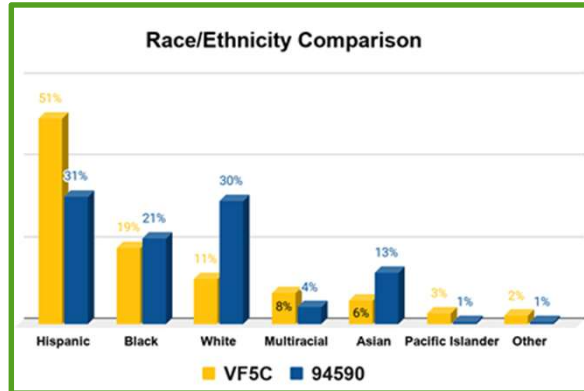
One Year of Serving Vallejo!

Families Reached

369 Families Served
1,111 Individuals
88% Living in Vallejo
40% Living in 94590



Race/Ethnicity Comparison



Classes

55 Six-Week Series Offered



Classes

40 Drop-In Classes Offered



Community Events



Parent Education & Support

Triple P Positive Parenting Program

- LEVEL 2
- LEVEL 3
- LEVEL 4 GROUP SESSIONS
- LEVEL 4 INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) aims to equip parents with the skills and confidence they need to be self-sufficient and to be able to manage family issues without ongoing support. The programs encourage parents to choose their own family goals while providing tips and tricks on ways to achieve them.

Level 2: Level 2 is a great introduction to the Triple P program. Level 2 consists of a one-time 2-hour workshop that offers parents useful tools to help build stronger relationships and family foundations.

Level 3: Level 3 is a more detailed and individualized approach than Level 2. Level 3 consists of a handful of one-on-one sessions that help address minor behavior and developmental concerns. They can be done over the phone or in person.

Level 4 Group: Level 4 Group provides a community approach that focuses on managing behavior and dealing with stressful situations. Going through the program with other parents can offer reassurance, friendship, and encouragement. Level 4 Group consists of five group sessions with other families and three one-on-one phone consultations.

Level 4 Individual: Level 4 Individual is designed for families who have specific concerns that would be better addressed on a one-on-one basis. Level 4 Individual consists of ten one-on-one sessions to learn a range of parenting strategies specific to you and your child's needs.

INTERESTED IN JOINING A CLASS? PHONING OR VISITING? CHECK OUT OUR LEVEL FLYERS FOR INDIVIDUAL DATES OR ASK ANY OF OUR STAFF HOW TO SIGN UP!

707-784-1240

Yoga Prenatal

Mamas, ¡esto es para ustedes! Participe en clases prenatal para madres embarazadas de todos los niveles de Napa Valley Yoga Center. Natalie es bilingüe en Español y se adapta a la comodidad y necesidad de cada mamá que toma sus clases. 6 Semanas (Marzo)

Martes: 10am-11am

Virtual Parent Café

Tuesday, January 19, 2021
1:00pm-2:30pm
Raffle for a \$10 Starbucks giftcard

A Parent Café is a monthly group where parents and caregivers create safe spaces to explore their strengths and learn from themselves and each other.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

When: February 5th
Time: 10:30am

Want to see change in your community? Find your voice at the Parent Advisory Council hosted by the Vallejo First 5 Center. We will discuss what positive visions we have for our community and figure out concrete ways to follow through with our ideas. Text us at 707-229-0190 for more information!

BONUS: GIFT CARD RAFFLE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!

Resources & Referrals

COMMUNITY RESOURCE SPECIALIST: VERONICA LEDESMA

Do you need help getting connected to community resources including:

- Housing
- Food assistance
- Child care
- Child support
- Employment
- Financial hardship
- Mental health services

CALL: 707-784-1232
OR EMAIL: VLEDESMA@BACR.ORG

Just need diapers and wipes? Stop by on Thursday's from 9am-11am or call Veronica to schedule a pick-up appointment any other day!

Banco de Pañales

¿Necesita pañales y toallitas para su pequeño? Estamos aceptando inscripciones para un programa de banco de pañales patrocinado por First 5 Solano. Para asegurarnos de que estamos ayudando a las familias necesitadas, solo aceptamos inscripciones de familias que viven en el área de Vallejo. Solo pañales de talla 1 a 5, pero note que corren pequeños. Si usted es el primer proveedor de pañales de la zona, contacte a la Especialista de Recursos Comunitarios, Veronica Ledesma, para poder recibir más información.

Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)






ASQ APPOINTMENT

The Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) provides reliable, accurate developmental and social-emotional screening for children between birth and age 5. It looks at strengths and trouble spots, educates parents about developmental milestones, and incorporates parents' expert knowledge about their children.

Date: _____
Time: _____
Facilitator: _____

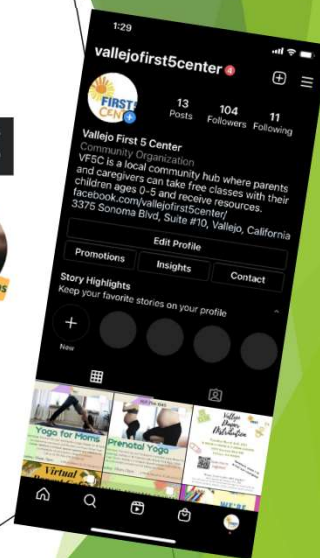
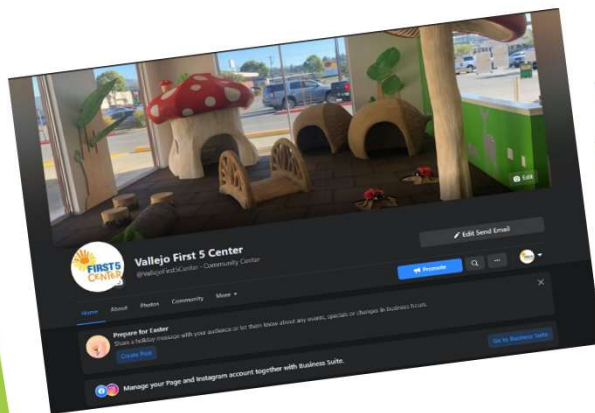
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite #10 707-784-1239 (Daisy)
 Vallejo, CA 94590 707-784-1240 (main)

Survey Results

"Staff is very friendly, knowledgeable, and welcoming. The classes have been great for my daughters to learn and interact with others even if it is on the webcam, they look forward to each Zoom session. The resources have been helpful for me. I wish I would've known about First 5 when I was pregnant with my first child." - Erica



Social Media



600+ followers on Facebook
Newly created Instagram

Our COVID Story

- February 13th, 2020 - Grand Opening
- March 13th, 2020 - First Shutdown Order
- March through June 2020 - Special COVID Resources
- July 2020 - Outdoor Classes
- September 2020 - Outdoor and Indoor Classes
- December 2020 Second Shutdown Order
- January 2021 - 100% Virtual Session



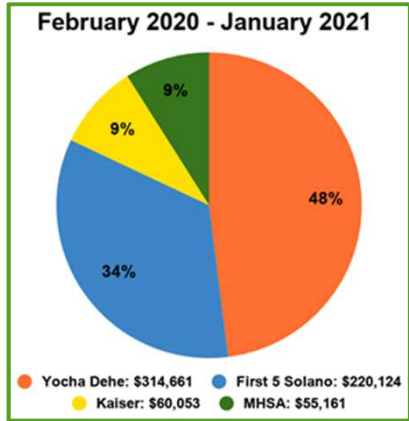
COVID Resources



COVID Class Creativity

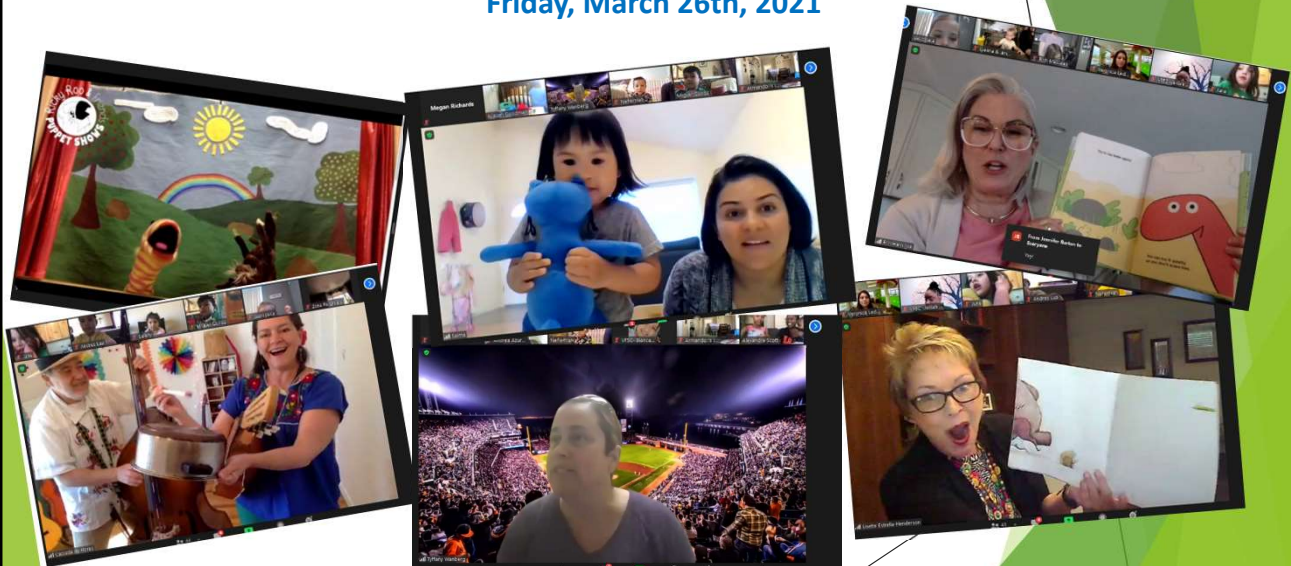


Funding



One Year Anniversary Celebration

Friday, March 26th, 2021





IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

DATE: April 22, 2021
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Lorraine Fernandez, Program Manager
SUBJ: **Solano County H&SS Legislative Proposal**

Solano County Health and Social Services (H&SS) submitted a legislative proposal “*TANF Flexibility to Address Issues of Child Neglect*” to the Solano County Legislative Committee. The County’s Legislative Committee and the full Board of Supervisors approved the proposal to be shared with California legislators as a potential topic for future legislation. H&SS would like to expand their Family Stabilization Program to act as an alternative response to neglect referrals that are not egregious coming into Child Welfare Services. This approach would be implemented by the Family Stabilization Program team and would provide families facing concerns of neglect with assistance such as housing and wrap around services to address the lack of resources that are often the underlying issues. Jerry Huber, Solano County Health and Social Services (H&SS) Director and First 5 Solano Commissioner, will provide the Commission with information about this proposal.

Committee Consideration and Recommendation:

The Policy and Oversight Committee received a report from Jerry Huber, Solano County H&SS Director and First 5 Solano Commissioner at its March 24, 2021 meeting on the H&SS legislative proposal “*TANF Flexibility to Address Issues of Child Neglect*”.

Upon the conclusion of the presentation, the committee directed staff to add this presentation to the agenda for the April 27th First 5 Solano Commission Meeting.

Attachment A: Solano County H&SS Legislative Proposal
Attachment B: Legislative Proposal Presentation

2021 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Solano County, Health & Social Services

Title: TANF Flexibility to Address Issues of Child Neglect

Current (State and/or Federal) Law: Currently in CA, the federal TANF program is largely focused on work requirements for those who are eligible. Child welfare also is responsible for referrals addressing parental neglect of child.

Problem Statement: Intervention with families largely depend on which “doors” they may enter. Over 40% of child welfare referrals relate to child(ren) neglect; often associated with poverty; lack of affordable housing and other issues. Related to lack of income/resources. A more consistent approach to families to address poverty will benefit both child welfare and eligibility programs and likely produce better outcomes for families.

Proposed Solution: Solano County H&SS would like to expand our Family Stabilization Program in E&E to act as an alternative response to neglect referrals that are not egregious coming into CWS. Family stabilization will be able to assist families with housing and wrap around services to address the lack of resources families facing concerns of neglect often deal with.

Proposed Effective / Operative Date of Solution: Discussions would need to occur first with state CDSS to determine any proposed legislation that may involve legislation. This process would begin early 2021.

Justification: As stated above it is believed that families will experience better outcomes with wrap around supports that allow an alternative response to neglect matters, regardless of the doors families enter our system of care.

Implementation: If approved both child welfare & employee and eligibility will be working together to determine how referrals coming through various programs can be streamlined to assure consistency of interventions across various H&SS programs.

Fiscal Impact:

County:

State/Federal: It is believed that housing an alternative approach to non-egregious neglect cases fits into state TANF allocations and likely reduces long term child welfare expenditures.

Other States: None at this time although, CWDA has been looking at similar initiative.
Attach Proposed Bill Language (if available)



Solano County New Initiative (Name TBD)

*TANF Flexibility to Address Issues of Child Neglect
Children & Families Initiative to Support Families at Risk for Neglect Referrals*

Marla Stuart, Deputy Director, Employment & Eligibility Services
Aaron Crutison, Deputy Director, Child Welfare Services
Health & Social Services Department

Convergence of Initiatives

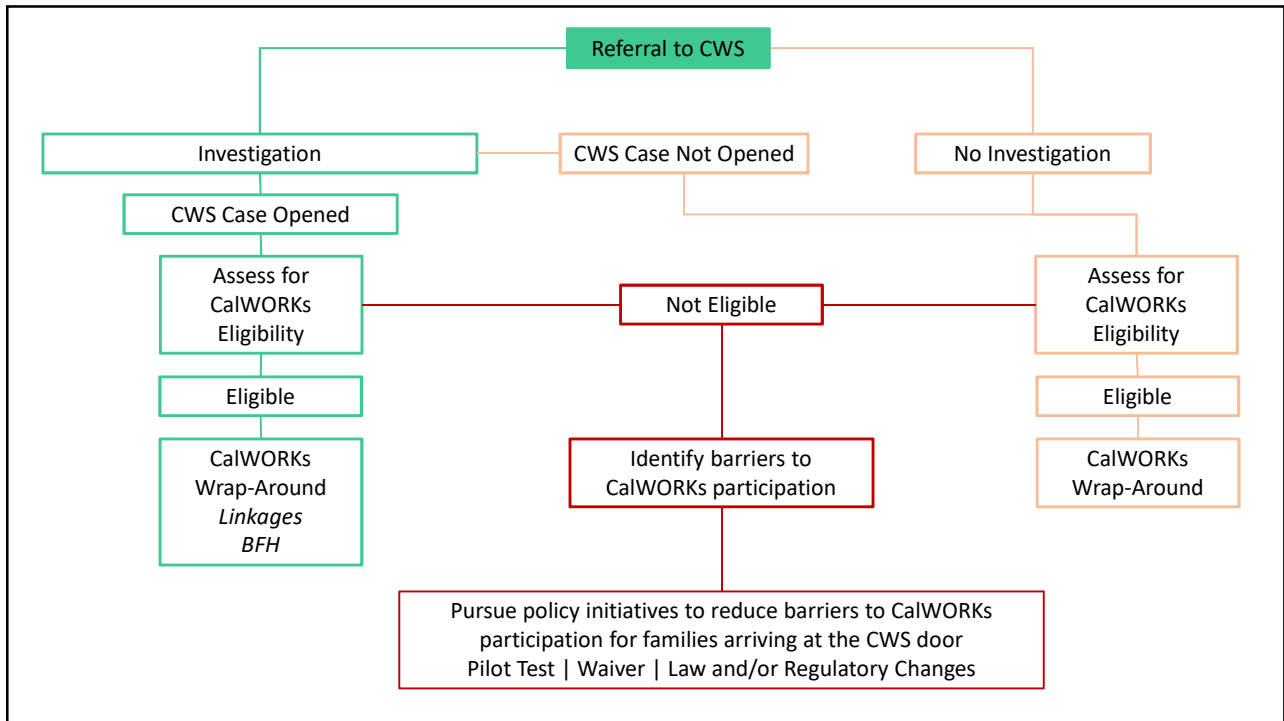
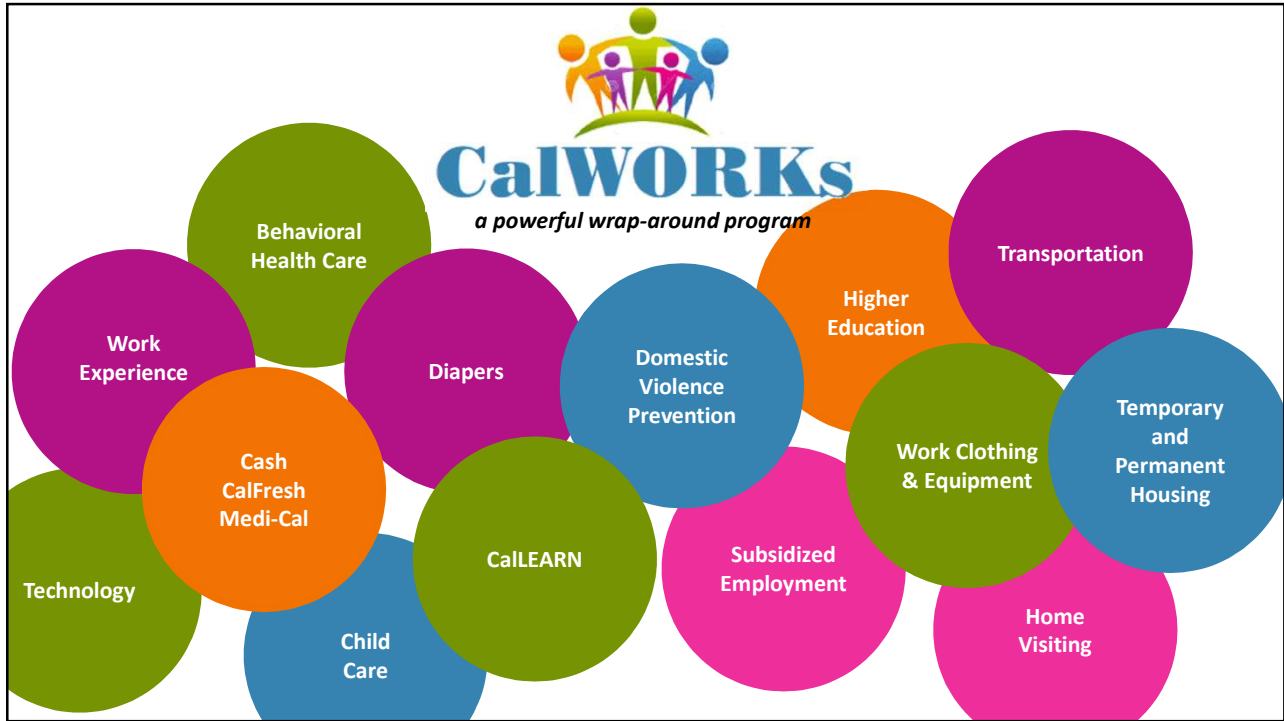
NATIONAL
↓
STATE
↓
COUNTY

Families First ↔ upEND

Systems of Care, Housing Focus, CalWORKs 2.0, Unused CalWORKs Funding

Child & Family Integration, Navigator Services, Integrated Data System

PROBLEM: How to resolve the role of poverty in child welfare referrals?
ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION: Use CalWORKs as a wrap-around program for families referred to child welfare for which the disposition is unsubstantiated and poverty is present.



Activities

OPERATIONS

Implement all the ways that we can already better use CalWORKs to support families that come to the attention of CWS

DATA

Develop reports that will allow us to identify families, co-manage cases, and track outcomes

POLICY

Identify and advocate for policy changes at state and/or federal levels

Coordinate with Systems of Care

DATE: April 22, 2021

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

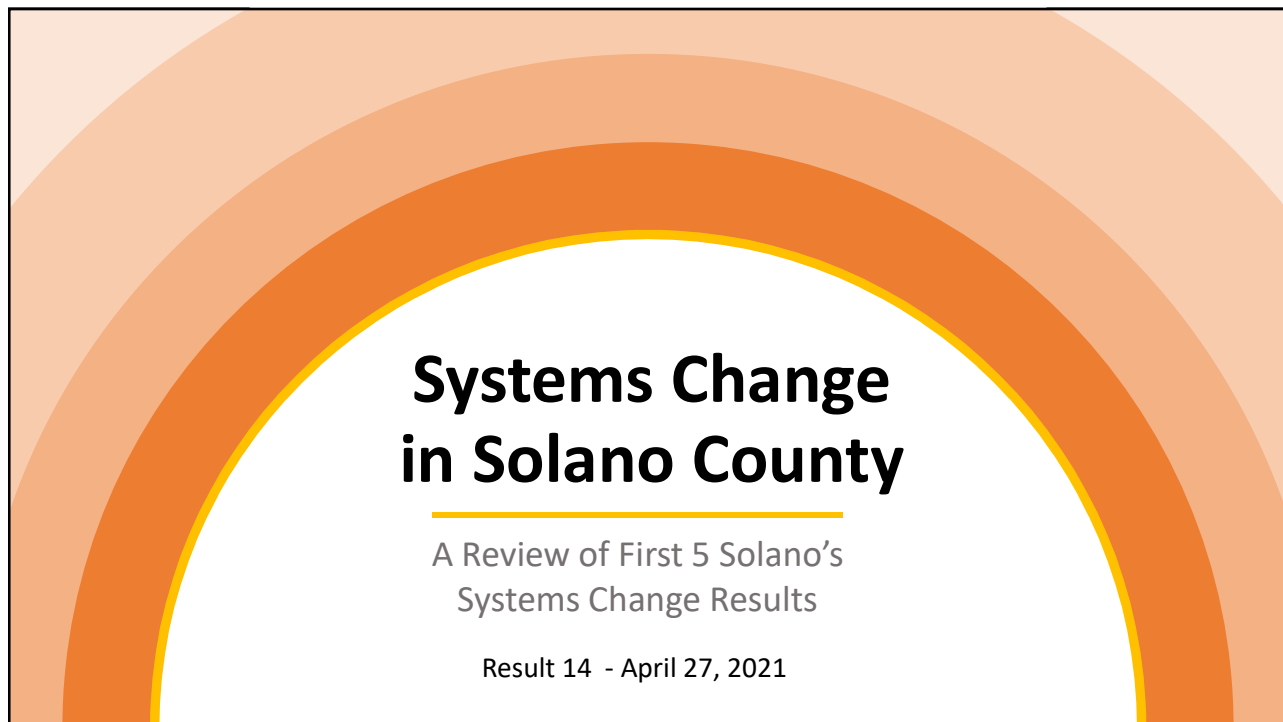
FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Systems Change 4-Year Summary**

At the October 2020 Commission meeting, Commissioners expressed interest in reviewing the last several years of systems change activities to understand where we were and how the systems change activities have evolved over time.

Applied Survey Research, the Commission's evaluation consultant, has prepared a detailed summary of activities by Result Area which the Commission will review over several Commission Meetings. Today's presentation will be focused on Result 14: Systems are integrated with increased cross-systems understanding, resource sharing, referral and collaboration.

Attachment A: Systems Change 4 Year Review Result 14 Presentation



Systems Change in Solano County

A Review of First 5 Solano's
Systems Change Results

Result 14 - April 27, 2021



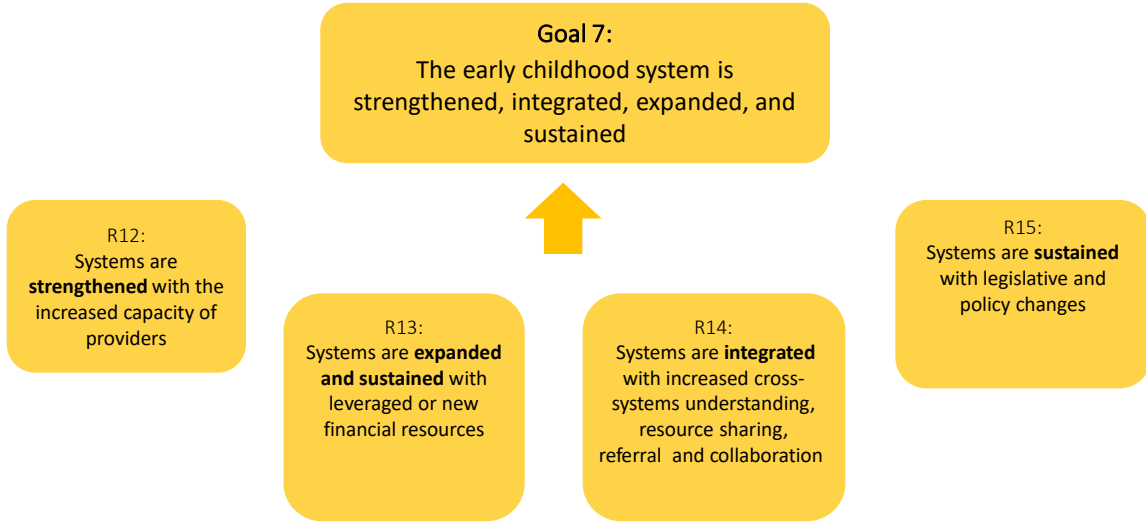
Systems Change Results Review

- At each Commission meeting, we will highlight a result:
 - Present early activities, recent activities, key wins, and future directions
 - Invite a partner involved in the efforts to talk about how they have been impacted
- Review other Priority Areas next



2

Priority Area 4: Systems Change



3

First 5 Solano Systems Change - 2016-2020 Results Overview

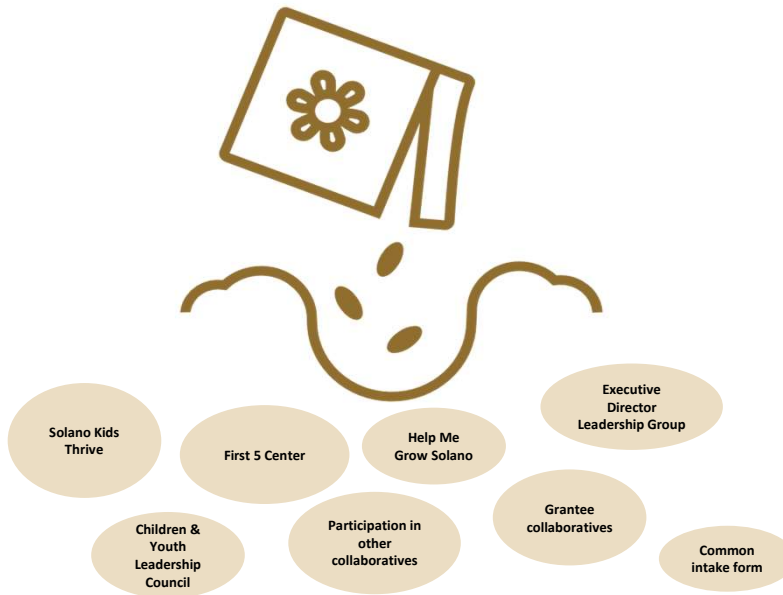
<p>R12: Strengthened Increase service delivery capacity of providers to ensure more equitable access/experiences; organizational capacity of providers; and knowledge and skills of providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explored creation of a local social work education and bicultural certificate program. - Considered models to pool nonprofit administrative resources. - Planned shared training calendar for agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered trainings to increase equitable access to trauma-informed, culturally responsive services. - Commissioned the 2018 <i>Nonprofit Capacity Assessment</i> and engaged in activities directly addressing top needs identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engaged over 200 providers and policymakers in poverty trainings and simulations. ✓ Supported 26 directors to attend the UC Berkeley Fundraising and Volunteer Management program. ✓ Provided training to help 9 agencies refine strategic plans.
<p>R13: Expanded Find new funding and maximize resources to fund services for children and families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed a Funders Packet with the 2016 <i>Foundation Giving</i> report and county data and shared with funders. - Encouraged school districts to include early childhood education in their Local Control Accountability Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met quarterly with funders. - Continued to apply for competitive funding opportunities. - Continued to identify alternative funding sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Secured or assisted in securing \$11.2 million in grants since July 2016. ✓ Received \$600,000 in matching funding annually from MHSA.
<p>R14: Integrated Utilize First 5 Solano's unique position as a multi-sector convener to increase integration; enhance cross systems understanding and procedures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formed Solano Kids Thrive (SKT) as a collective impact collaborative. In FY17/18, SKT began focusing on resiliency. - Convened the Children and Youth Leadership Council; group discussed developing a multiagency common intake and consent form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed Resilient Solano Strategic Plan and website; SKT engaged in activities to implement the plan. - Developed, funded, and launched Vallejo First 5 Center. - Continued to connect families to services via Help Me Grow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hosted 11 screenings of <i>Resilience</i> film for 620 attendees. ✓ Reached over 82,000 radio listeners with ACEs ads. ✓ Enrolled 110 families at First 5 Center in month following grand opening.
<p>R15: Sustained Increase policymakers' awareness of issues facing Solano County children and families, and advocate for changes pursuant to First 5 Solano's Legislative Platform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed a First 5 Solano Legislative Platform. - Researched local lawmakers and their areas of interest and developed an outreach plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued to submit and sign on to letters to state leaders. - Visited legislators (in-person advocacy paused due to COVID-19). - Participated in Solano County State and Federal Legislative Platform updates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Submitted or signed on to 18 letters to legislators. ✓ Successfully advocated for bill to require Medi-Cal coverage for developmental screenings. ✓ Successfully advocated for continuation of First 5 California Diaper Program.

4

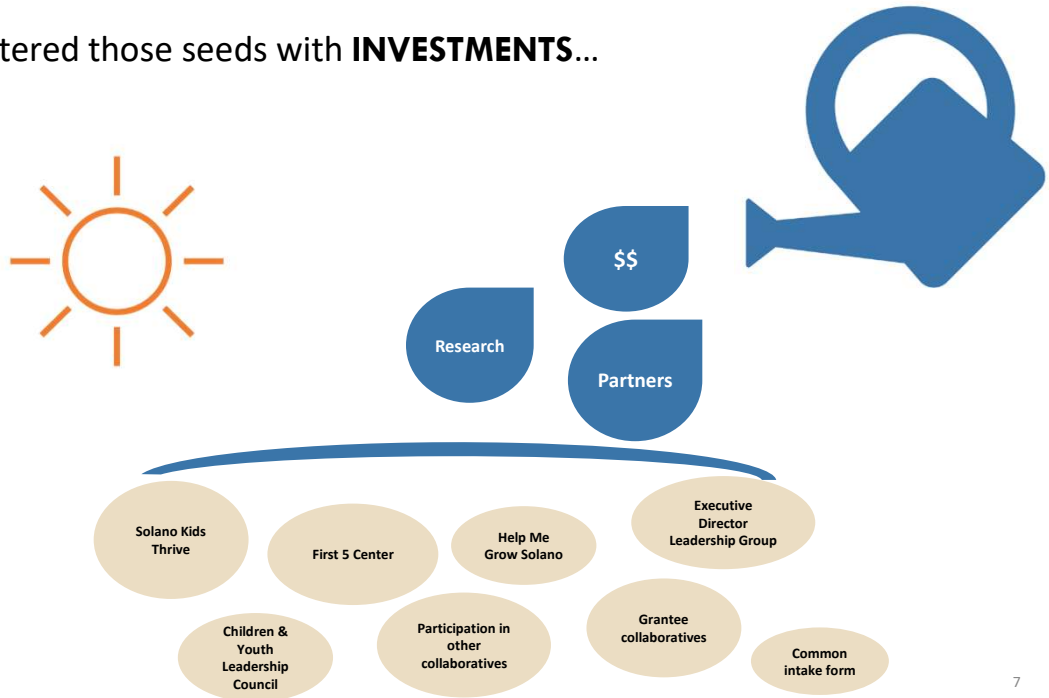
Today's Highlight:
Result 14

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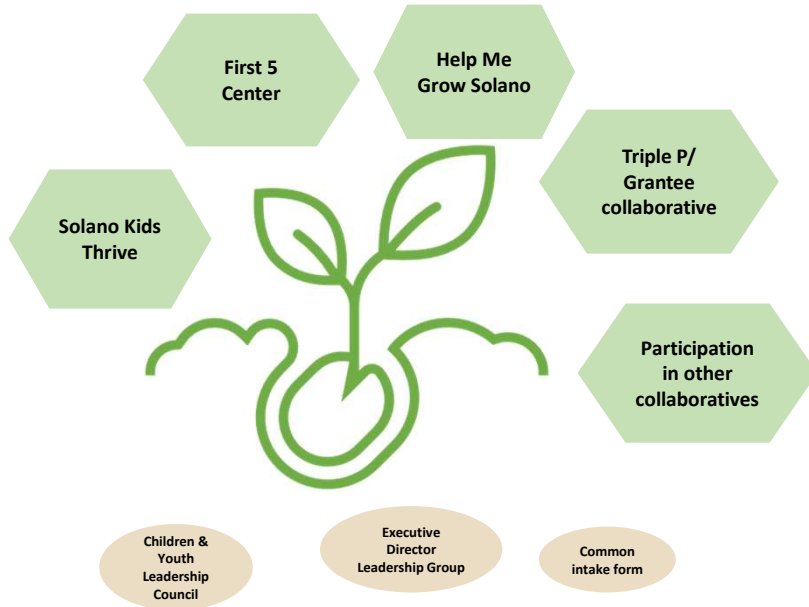
First 5 and its partners planted seeds to **INTEGRATE SYSTEMS...**

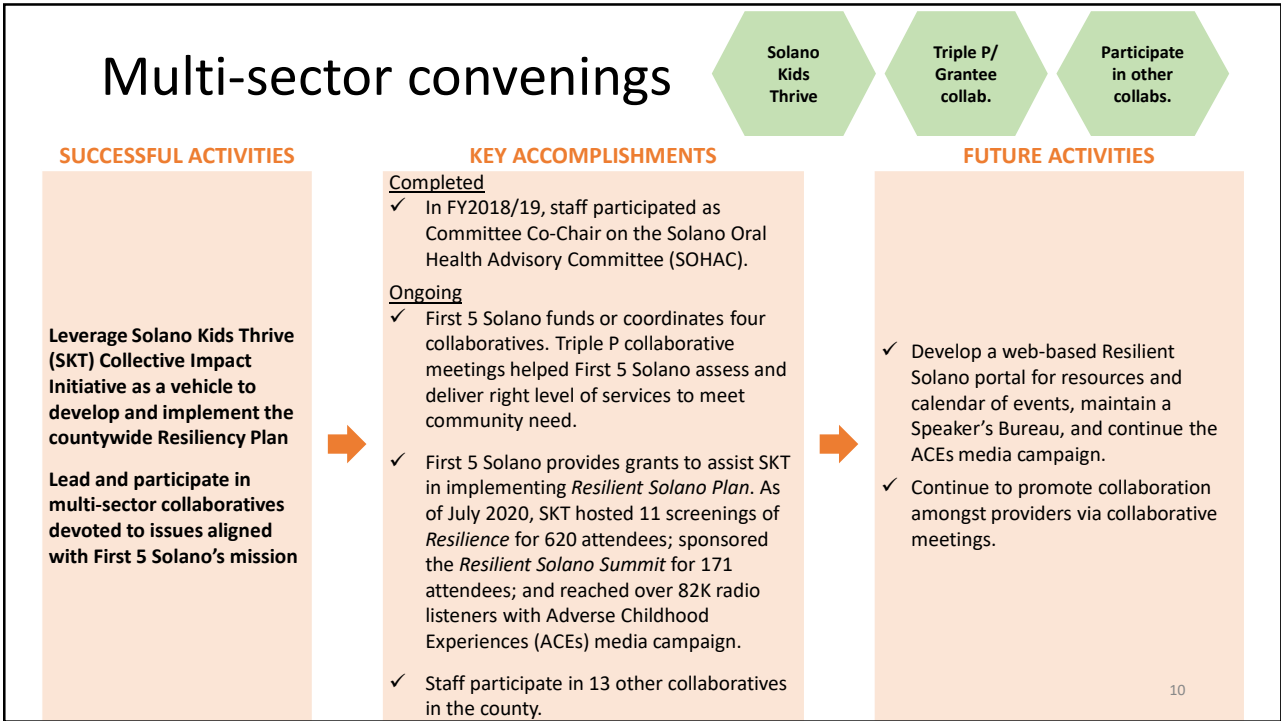
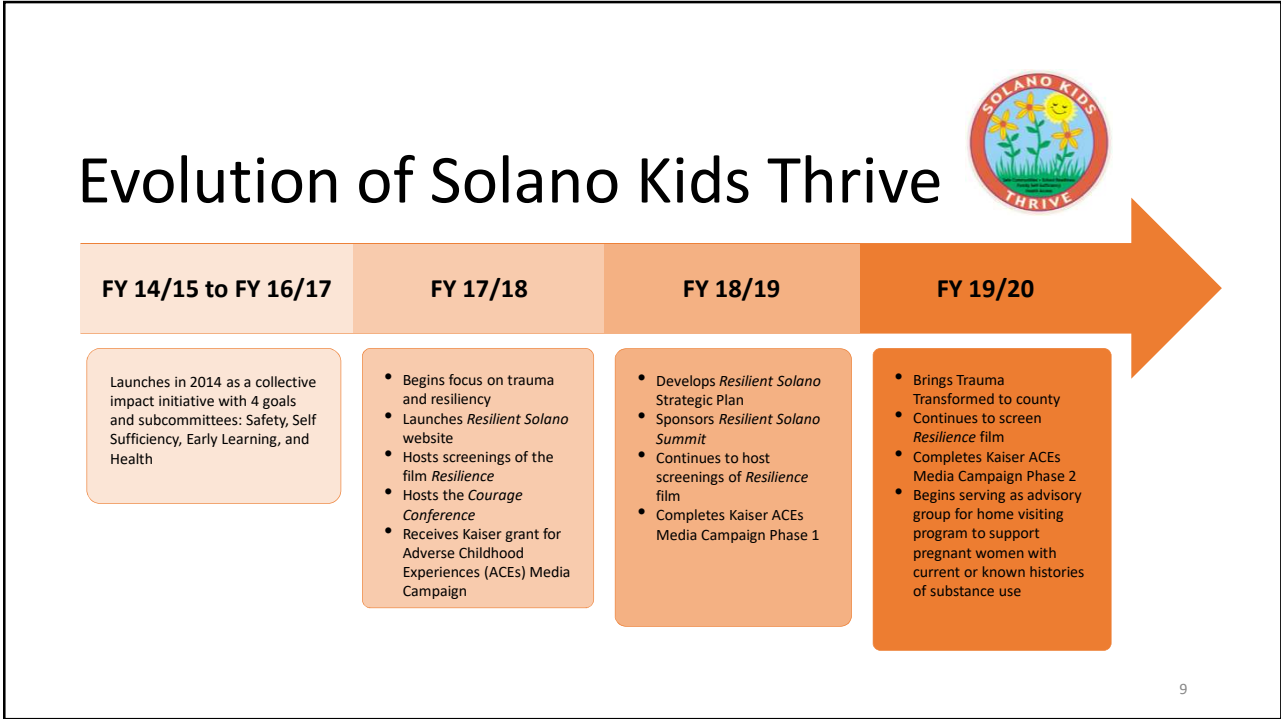


and watered those seeds with **INVESTMENTS...**



and the most robust seeds grew to **INTEGRATE SYSTEMS** in Solano







Integrated services



SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES

Develop, fund, and launch the First 5 Center in Vallejo

Address system fragmentation and develop the necessary tools and procedures to mitigate fragmentation



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed
- ✓ First 5 Center held its grand opening in Feb 2020, hosting close to 400 people.
 - ✓ In Feb/Mar 2020, 110 families enrolled, and 25 classes and activities were offered.
- Ongoing
- ✓ During COVID-19, Center staff provided warm handoffs to resources; offered virtual classes and story-times; and distributed produce boxes, gift cards, diapers, wipes, and activity bags.
 - ✓ In FY2019/20, Help Me Grow (HMG) Solano call center received 1,784 calls, and 97% of those receiving referrals were successfully connected to services.
 - ✓ HMG Solano began implementing the ASQ online screening tool in FY2019/20.



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Continue to provide place-based integrated services with initiatives like the First 5 Center.
- ✓ Continue to help families navigate the service system and outreach to the community and providers via HMG Solano.
- ✓ Promote collaboration and service integration in early childhood system via First 5 California home visiting coordination project.



Questions?

DATE: April 22, 2021

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Executive Director's Report for April 2021**

Grant submittals to Syar Foundation: Syar Foundation has approved funding for two grants that were supported by First 5 Solano by referring these nonprofits to the grant opportunity and providing letters of support.

- **Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)** was approved for \$23,760 in funding to support the children and families at the Vallejo First 5 Center, including books to support early learning, fresh produce items to support nutrition, and new baby items for children in low-income families.
- **Solano Family & Children's Services (SFCS)** submitted a grant application for \$40,000 over two years to fund business resources and support for community members as a part of the SFCS Solano County Child Care Recruitment Campaign. Syar Foundation approved \$10,000 in funding which will be utilized to support this campaign.

First 5 Solano – Advancing Racial Equity in Government Training: Several First 5 Solano Commissioners and staff along with staff from the Vallejo First 5 Center participated in the *Advancing Racial Equity in Government* training on March 24th and 25th. These sessions were presented by trainers from the *Solano County Community Action for Racial Equity* team. This training is designed for participants to gain awareness of the history of race; implicit and explicit bias; individual, institutional, and structural racism; and how our lives and the lives of our clients are impacted by racism.

Results Based Accountability Training: On April 12, First 5 Solano partnered with our Evaluator Applied Survey Research (ASR) to do a virtual Results Based Accountability (RBA) Training. RBA is a simple framework that helps organizations and programs communicate their contribution toward the health of a community. It also helps organizations design strategies that “turn the curve” and improve outcomes for the community. Thirty-four people who work in Solano County and whose work impacts children 0-5 and their families attended the training, most with little or no experience with RBA. Overall, training evaluations were very positive and staff is planning with ASR follow up small group or one-on-one trainings to provide additional technical assistance to providers.

The First 5 California Express is an interactive exhibit that travels the state visiting each county to promote the importance of early literacy to families of young children. It has been one year since First 5 California had to pause the traveling resource tour due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, based on state and CDC guidelines, the Express remains on hiatus and there are no plans at this time to return to the road for in-person events. First 5 California has shifted focus from in-person events to bringing the experience onto their website and also included resources

(i.e., storybooks and tote bags) in First 5 California's distribution of COVID-19 emergency relief supplies across the state. The current contract with the manager of the Express exhibit ends June 2021. First 5 California is entering the RFP phase bringing on a new contractor under which the Express program will fall. First 5 California hopes to bring a "new retrofitted Express program" back on the road in Winter 2022.

Pre-K Academies: At the March 2nd Commission meeting the Commission allocated \$200,000 of funding for the Summer 2021 Pre-K academies. Over the last month First 5 Solano, Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) and Applied Survey Research staff convened a design team of early care specialists, and included a focus group of previous Pre-K Academy contractors, to discuss ways to address the effects of the pandemic on pre-kindergarten students and support sites to ensure successful summer academies. Some considerations were on curriculum and training for staff to support trauma and social-emotional learning as well as tools and strategies for digital learning. The design team also considered additional COVID-19 guidelines that included cohort and class size, and safety and sanitizing precautions. The Commission also allocated \$42,000 in funding to contract with SCOE to engage non-traditional sites in Pre-K Academies in order to serve more children. The group is still working on how this may roll out. The 2021 Summer Pre-K academies are in the contracting phase, with most sessions being held in person, and some beginning as early as June 7th.

Resilient Solano Strategic Plan Implementation Projects (RFA): First 5 Solano recently announced an RFP for Solano Kids Thrive Participating Organizations to create and implement innovative strategies and activities related to the Resilient Solano Strategic Plan (RSSP). Through First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission's Systems Change funds, the total funding amount available for the RFA is \$80,000 with a maximum award of \$10,000 per agency for a 15-month period approximately from April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The RFA focuses on continuing the work of the plan to prevent and heal trauma in Solano County for young children, their families, and providers of services. On March 15, 2021 an intent to award for the RSSP Implementation Projects RFA went to Innovative Health Solutions. Innovative Health Solutions implementation project will deliver a trauma-informed nutrition education intervention to pregnant and postnatal mothers to increase food knowledge and resilience.

First 5 Solano Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Services: On April 5th First 5 Solano released a RFQ for Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Services to support the First 5 Solano Responsive Grants Fund that will provide grants of up to \$7,500 in funding or services for community partners to build capacity beginning in July 2021. Through this RFQ First 5 Solano is seeking to build a pool of highly qualified consultants who can provide services for community agencies serving pregnant women, children ages 0-5, and their parents/caregivers. Responses are due on Monday, May 10th and staff will report out on the consultants who are approved to provide future services.

Child Haven Update: Child Haven, local nonprofit and partner of First 5 Solano, has announced an affiliation agreement with Victor Community Support Services (VCSS) effective April 1, 2021. This affiliation was completed to further advance the missions of both organizations. VCSS brings a statewide presence and a track record of effective program operations and growth while Child Haven is a well-established agency in Solano County with local relationships and reputation for providing 0-5 mental health services. Under the Affiliation Agreement adopted by both Boards,

Child Haven will continue to operate as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization through July 2022 under the direction of the Victor Leadership Team, at which time Child Haven will fully integrate with VCSS. Tonya Burns will continue to serve as the Executive Director for Child Haven under the oversight of VCSS Regional Director Tonya Nowakowski (former Assistant Director of Solano County Health & Social Services). First 5 Solano and Solano County Health & Social Services will be working closely with Child Haven and VCSS to ensure a smooth transition.

Letter of Support for Touro University Community Project Funding Proposal: On April 7th First 5 Solano provided a letter of support to Touro University (Attachment A). The letter supports a Community Project Funding proposal that will be submitted through Congressman Mike Thompson's office and would provide funding to expand campus healthcare and education programs to increase diversity and address health and education disparities. This funding would allow Touro University to renovate a building so that they can expand these programs.

Legislative Visit with Senator Bill Dodd: On April 7th First 5 Solano Commissioner Erin Hannigan and staff member Lorraine Fernandez held a virtual legislative visit with Senator Dodd. The conversation included an overview of the progress of the Vallejo First 5 Center, the countywide basic needs fund funded by Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, a request for support of SB 395, and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Senator Dodd commented that he sees the wonderful work of the First 5's and appreciates what we do.

Solano County Board of Supervisors submits letter of support for SB395 (Caballero): On March 31st the Solano County Board of Supervisors submitted a letter of support to California State Senator Anna Caballero in support of SB395 (Attachment B). This bill would impose an additional 12.5% point of sale tax on vaping products. Fifteen percent of the revenue from this additional tax would be deposited into the California Children and Families Trust Fund – Prop 10. The bill would also create the Health Careers Opportunity Grant Program for the purpose of improving access by underrepresented students from disadvantaged backgrounds to health profession programs offered by the state's public postsecondary education institutions.

First 5 Association submitted an advocacy letter to California Senators: The First 5 Association submitted a letter to Senators Feinstein and Padilla on March 3rd detailing support for key provisions of the American Rescue Plan that will provide the needed support for young children and families in California, including the critical need for the Fiscal Relief Funds to Local Governments. (See Attachment C)

Key provisions included:

- \$40 billion allocation to the child care sector
- Significant expansion of the child tax credit
- A provision that allows states to extend Medicaid eligibility to women for 12 months postpartum
- \$150 million in emergency funding for (MIECHV)
- Extension of the 15% increase in SNAP benefit, and investment of \$3 billion in Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for WIC
- Expansion of employer tax credits to offer emergency paid leave and paid sick days
- \$65.1 billion in the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

First 5 Solano signed on to a budget advocacy letter to state lawmakers: On March 15th, First 5 Solano signed on to a letter to state lawmakers supporting a budget proposal to maintain continuous Medi-Cal coverage for children up to age 5, and eligibility for women up to 12 months postpartum. This budget proposal would preserve the continuous eligibility currently in place under the COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE) and continue it after the PHE ends. The letter was drafted by the First 5 Association of California, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District IX, March of Dimes, Maternal and Child Health Access, and The Children's Partnership. (See Attachment D)

First 5 Solano signed on to an advocacy letter from Children Now to Governor Newsom: On March 22nd, First 5 Solano signed on to a letter from Children Now to Governor Newsom. The letter urges the Governor to prioritize dollars for supports for kids, across the early childhood, family and economic support, health, K-12 & higher ed, housing, and child welfare domains. Specifically, for when the Governor releases his May Revise, the letter urges investments in child care, education, mental health, Medi-Cal and foster care. (See Attachment E)

Attachment A: Letter of Support-Touro University

Attachment B: SB395 Solano County Board of Supervisors Letter of Support

Attachment C: First 5 Association COVID-19 Relief Letter

Attachment D: First 5 Solano sign-on – continuous Medi-Cal coverage

Attachment E: Children Now sign-on – prioritize children



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

April 7, 2021

Re: Community Project Funding Proposal April 2021 – Touro University California
CA05 Committee on Appropriations

COMMISSIONERS

- Jennifer Barton
Chair
- Lenesha Anderson
- Mina Diaz
- Lisette Estrella-Henderson
- Erin Hannigan
- Gerald Huber
- Nicole Neff
- Marla Stuart
- Tyffany Wanberg

STAFF

- Michele Harris
Executive Director
- Megan Richards
Deputy Director
- Juanita Morales
Program Manager
- Gene Ibe
Program Manager
- Lorraine Fernandez
Program Manager
- Kwiana Algeré
Health Education Specialist
- Luke Winders
Office Assistant III

Dear Dr. Sweitzer,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support on behalf of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission for the Community Project Funding Proposal titled “Increasing Health Equity By Improving Diversity in Healthcare and Education Through Targeted Programmatic Growth” submitted by Touro University California (TUC).

This project exemplifies a regional, public-private approach to further local and state economic development that will bring positive impact to Solano County, one of the most diverse counties in the nation. Training a more diverse healthcare and education workforce will require programmatic growth at Touro University California. To enable this programmatic growth, Touro has begun the renovation and improvement of Truett Hall (Building H71) on the Touro University California campus located on Mare Island. This building and infrastructure project will increase the number of local jobs, increase the training of a diverse healthcare and education workforce, graduate high numbers of primary care providers, and grow community health and education programs that address health disparities. This project has the potential to further transform the related economy within our cities and the lives of those in Solano County and across rural communities and diverse cities and counties across the nation.

First 5 Solano strongly supports this project as it aligns with the First 5 Solano Strategic Plan. One of the goals in our strategic plan is to strengthen systems by increasing the service delivery capacity of local providers. The diversity of our healthcare and education workforce is a crucial component to achieving this goal, and Touro is our local leader and institution that we walk alongside to make critical and necessary change in service of this goal.

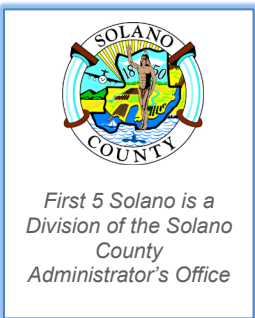
Our collaboration with Touro University has been beneficial to the communities that we serve as we have worked together on a variety of community projects. Most recently we have partnered on a mental health access initiative to ensure the residents that need mental health services in our community are connected to the correct resources for their circumstances. This initiative not only promotes access in an equitable manner, it also provides students with real world learning opportunities while increasing mental health participation rates and overall community health.

First 5 Solano is committed to continuing our partnership with Touro University and working toward a more diverse workforce in healthcare and education, by continuing to catalyze change in our healthcare system. This includes meaningful opportunities for Touro students to engage in connecting one-on-one to support an individual’s health, while keeping an eye toward supporting the overall community health and building supports that transform individual and community health.

As the Executive Director of First 5 Solano, I am in full support of Touro University’s efforts to expand their facilities to increase diversity and address health and education disparities. If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michele Harris
Executive Director, First 5 Solano
(707) 784-1340
mdharris@solanocounty.com



ERIN HANNIGAN
District 1, (707) 553-5363
MONICA BROWN
District 2, Vice-Chair, (707) 784-3031
JAMES P. SPERING
District 3, (707) 784-6136
JOHN M. VASQUEZ
District 4, Chair, (707) 784-6129
MITCH MASHBURN
District 5, (707) 784-6030

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



SOLANO COUNTY

BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO
County Administrator
(707) 784-6100

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342
Fax (707) 784-6665

www.solanoCounty.com

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5052
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE – SB 395 (Caballero) Healthy Outcomes and Prevention Education Act: excise tax: electronic cigarettes: Health Careers Opportunity Grant Program – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of your SB 395 (Caballero), which will propose a closer tax parity between the sale of vape products and traditional tobacco products.

In 2020 one in six students in sixth through twelfth grade reported using vaping products despite the Surgeon General declaring teen vaping an epidemic in 2018. Often this disparity is felt even more in low income communities who have the highest density of tobacco retailers. These communities are subsequently at a higher risk for tobacco use and lack the resources in social services, healthcare and education to combat the major risks of smoking. The increased popularity of vaping despite the health risks suggests that an increase in funding is needed for childhood education and prevention programs to curb the sale and use of vaping products in lower income communities.

Under SB 395 an additional retail tax will be levied on vaping products in accordance with the existing tax structure from multiple propositions. The bill will also create the Healthy Options and Prevention Education (H.O.P.E) Act to fund services and provide grants to students from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue careers in the health field to combat smoking.

For these reasons, Solano County is pleased to support SB 395 (Caballero) and would like to thank you for your authorship of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Vasquez".

John M. Vasquez, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC: Honorable Bill Dodd, Member, California State Senate
Honorable Cecile Aguiar-Curry, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Tim Grayson, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Jim Frazier, Member, California State Assembly
Solano County Board of Supervisors
Karen Lange, Legislative Advocate, SYASL Partners, Inc.

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

RE: COVID-19 Relief Legislation – Support for Provisions Aiding Young Children and Families, Including Local Funding

Dear Senators Feinstein and Padilla,

On behalf of the First 5 Association of California, representing the 58 First 5 county commissions, I am writing to convey our strong support for provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, as recently passed by the House, that would provide young children and families with essential food, child care, health care, financial relief, and paid sick and emergency leave. As the Senate chamber prepares to consider this desperately needed recovery package, we urge you to vote in favor of this legislation.

As you know, the coronavirus pandemic continues to have devastating impacts on our counties and communities across California. Even as long-awaited vaccines are finally being administered and the overall rate of new COVID-19 cases declines, thousands of new infections still are reported daily and California recently surpassed 50,000 total fatalities. The impacts on our young children and families have been heartbreaking, and have exacerbated longstanding inequities in our communities around basic components of survival such as food, housing, health, and employment.

Given the harsh realities facing our state’s children and families, **the First 5 Association urges your support for numerous provisions in the American Rescue Plan aimed to support children and families—as well as an essential, overarching provision for local funding to counties to ensure those closest to communities are equipped to serve their constituencies.** Specifically, First 5 strongly supports the following:

- **\$40 billion allocation to the child care sector**, in order to provide immediate relief to child care providers and the families they serve. California lost more than 33,000 child care slots between March 2020 and October 2020.¹ Providers have been unable to stay afloat due to having fewer children in their facilities and increased safety-related expenses, exacerbating a child care shortage that has been decades in the making. A byproduct of this child care crisis nationally is that 2.5 million women have left the workforce—an exodus that Vice President Harris aptly called a “National Emergency.”² All sectors of our economy benefit from and depend on

¹ Data from the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division, provided to Senate Subcommittee Hearing on February 16, 2021: [https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/02.16.2021%20-%20Childcare%20Agenda%20\(002\).pdf](https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/02.16.2021%20-%20Childcare%20Agenda%20(002).pdf)

² Rogers, Katie, *2.5 Million Women Left the Work Force During the Pandemic. Harris Sees a ‘National Emergency.’* New York Times (February 18, 2021). <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/18/us/politics/women-pandemic-harris.html>

the availability of child care, and the next COVID-19 response stimulus package must highlight the essential nature of child care. Doing so will not only rebuild the economy, but will demonstrate support for these small businesses that are predominantly owned and staffed by women of color.³

- **Significant expansion of the child tax credit** to help working families cover the cost of basic needs and childcare, and thus significantly alleviate poverty. In April 2020, nearly one-quarter of the nation’s children had at least one parent who was unemployed, and research indicates the child poverty rate has increased substantially during the pandemic. The child tax credit would move more than 4 million children out of poverty and cut in half the number of children in deep poverty.⁴
- **A provision that allows states to extend Medicaid eligibility to women for 12 months postpartum.** Approximately one-third of all maternal deaths occur one week to one year after pregnancy ends, and in some states that number is more than 50%.⁵ As the single-largest payer of maternity care in the U.S., Medicaid plays a significant role in maternal health. In California, Medi-Cal covers 45% of all hospital births.⁶ Passing this provision as part of the recovery package would be a significant first step toward a permanent federal postpartum Medicaid extension that could save thousands of lives a year.
- **\$150 million in emergency funding for the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program.** The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting recession have led to increased isolation and risks of child welfare involvement, and fewer families taking their children to the doctor. Evidence-based home visiting programs funded through MIECHV are especially important in our current moment to help families cope with the pandemic and its effects on their lives and livelihoods. Looking ahead, these programs will continue to be critical to increase take-up of vaccines and other well-child care, and reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- **Extension of the 15% Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit, and investment of \$3 billion in Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).** Nearly 1 in 4 California low-income households with children reported sometimes or often not having enough food to eat during the pandemic.⁷ The most common causes of food insecurity in general are job loss, health crisis, and/or poverty⁸—all of which have increased during the pandemic. What’s more, food prices have increased at least 3.4% during the pandemic, compared to a 2% annual increase in a typical year⁹.
- **Expansion of employer tax credits to offer emergency paid leave and paid sick days.** Paid emergency leave and paid sick days will help working Californians recover from illness without losing their jobs, and care for family members who are ill. Ensuring workers can access leave to care for children and loved ones will help address the inequities that the coronavirus has inflamed. In addition to being more likely to contract the virus, people of color are generally more harmed by it: 29% of Latinx and 31% of Black families with children face three or

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2020, January 22). *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*. www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.htm

⁴ Hendricks, Galen and Roque, Lorena, *An Expanded Child Tax Credit Would Lift Millions of Children Out of Poverty*, Center for American Progress. (February 23, 2021). [An Expanded Child Tax Credit Would Lift Millions of Children Out of Poverty - Center for American Progress](https://www.americanprogressaction.org/policy-ideas/child-tax-credit-would-lift-millions-of-children-out-of-poverty/)

⁵ Eckert, Emily. *It’s Past Time to Provide Continuous Medicaid Coverage for One Year Postpartum*. Health Affairs (February 6, 2020). <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20200203.639479/full/>

⁶ Joynt, Jen. *Maternity Care in California—2019 Edition*. California Health Care Foundation (November 25, 2019). <https://www.chcf.org/publication/2019-edition-maternity-care-in-california/>

⁷ Ramos-Yamamoto, *Many California Children Do Not Have Enough to Eat During COVID-19*, California Budget & Policy Center (December 2020). <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/many-california-children-do-not-have-enough-to-eat-during-covid-19/>

⁸ Gunderson, Craig and Ziliak, James P, *Childhood Food Insecurity in the U.S.: Trends, Causes and Policy Options*, The Future of Children (Fall, 2014). www.jstor.org/stable/26304695.

⁹ De La Haye, Kayla. *Americans Aren’t Getting Enough to Eat During the Covid Pandemic*. U.S. News and World Report. (Dec. 23, 2020). <https://www.usnews.com/news/cities/articles/2020-12-23/americans-arent-getting-enough-to-eat-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic-heres-whats-happening-in-los-angeles-county>

more health-related and economic hardships during the pandemic, compared to 16% of white households.¹⁰

Finally, First 5 strongly supports the \$65.1 billion in the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, recognizing that flexible funding to local government is essential to a responsive recovery that can reach the most vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19, including young children and their families. The immense scale of the pandemic and growing community needs are far outstripping local resources. While previous state and federal support and emergency program funding has aided counties in pandemic response efforts, public health and other safety-net program costs continue to mount as key local revenue sources remain severely constrained due to the persistent economic downturn. Affected programs included those that serve our most vulnerable young children and families in the areas of health, early learning, and overall family wellbeing. Indeed, in addition to meeting unprecedented demands in the area of public health, California's counties are responding to an increased demand for other essential safety-net services that California's children and families depend upon. The Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund is critically needed to effectively respond to the public health crisis, preserve the local safety-net delivered through cross-sector partnerships, and ultimately meet the increased demand for services that hold local communities together.

The First 5 Association of California respectfully requests your support for these provisions of the House COVID-19 relief bill, which are critical for families now and for our continued economic recovery ahead. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Stafford Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa Stafford Jones
Executive Director,
First 5 Association of California

¹⁰ Padilla, Christine and Thomson, Dana, *More than One in Four Latino and Black Households with Children Are Experiencing Three or More Hardships during COVID-19*, Child Trends (January 13, 2021). <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/more-than-one-in-four-latino-and-black-households-with-children-are-experiencing-three-or-more-hardships-during-covid-19>

March 26, 2021

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair
Senate Budget Sub-Committee No. 1
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5019
SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Chair
Assembly Budget Sub-Committee No. 3
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
BudgetSub1@asm.ca.gov

RE: Continuous Medi-Cal for Children Through Age Five, and
12-Month Postpartum Coverage

Dear Senator Talamantes-Eggman and Assembly Member Arambula:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to you in strong support of the budget proposal to maintain Medi-Cal coverage continuously for children ages 0-5 years old and to provide postpartum coverage for 12 months.

Under the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Medi-Cal is required to provide temporary continuous enrollment to most all enrollees throughout the federal COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). States are also required to develop a plan to unwind this federal PHE coverage protection to implement when the PHE ends. The Department of Health Care Services' budget assumes that the unwinding of the temporary continued coverage requirement will begin during the second half of the state budget year 2021-2022.

In order to protect essential continuity of care and to ensure a smooth transition from the existing PHE continuous coverage, a broad coalition of stakeholders urge you to adopt, with federal approval, permanent 12-month postpartum Medi-Cal eligibility and continuous Medi-Cal coverage for children up to age 5 after the end of the COVID-19 PHE.

Continuous health care coverage is essential to avoiding disruptions in care, especially during these critical phases in life when medical visits are so frequent and when care is especially important. Over 90% of a child's brain development occurs before a child turns age 5. One-third of all maternal deaths occur one week to one year after a pregnancy ends, and one in seven women experience symptoms of postpartum depression in the year after giving birth.

COVID-19 has underscored the need for extended coverage: Increased isolation and stress has taken a toll on maternal and child physical and mental wellbeing. In addition, children's

preventive care, like well-child visits and immunizations, have plummeted below the already low preventive care rates in Medi-Cal.

Communities of color are experiencing the impacts of the pandemic disproportionately. Medi-Cal covers a greater share of families of color, and nearly half of all births annually in California; thus, by removing barriers to accessing care, Medi-Cal can play a unique role in addressing the structural racism that health disparities reveal and that COVID has exacerbated.

To mitigate unnecessary disruptions in care during the post-pandemic redetermination period, California will need to prepare now, and adopt any necessary TBL for the budget year. By continuing coverage for postpartum individuals and the youngest Medi-Cal children during this PHE wind down period and beyond, Medi-Cal would:

- mitigate disruptions in the continuity of coverage for two of the most vulnerable populations;
- improve low Medi-Cal preventive care rates for children and maternal health outcomes; and
- contribute to an orderly and smooth redetermination process for all Medi-Cal enrollees.

We urge your inclusion of this continuous coverage proposal in the state budget for 2021-22 so that the Administration can secure a smooth plan for transition when the PHE ends.

Thank you for consideration of this request and for your commitment to improving the health of all women, infants, and children.

Respectfully,

American Academy of Pediatrics, California
American College of OB/GYN's District IX
BANANAS, Inc
Bright Beginnings Initiative
California Children's Hospital Association
California Dental Association
California Health Professional Student Alliance
California Labor Federation
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)
California Physicians Alliance
Central Coast Early Childhood Advocacy Network
Children Now
Children's Behavioral Health
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
Courage California

Desiree Carter
First 5 Alameda
First 5 Association of CA
First 5 California
First 5 Fresno County
First 5 Glenn County
First 5 Kern
First 5 LA
First 5 Lake County
First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission
First 5 Mono
First 5 Monterey County
First 5 Napa County
First 5 Nevada County
First 5 Riverside
First 5 San Benito
First 5 San Francisco
First 5 San Luis Obispo County
First 5 San Mateo County
First 5 Santa Cruz County
First 5 Shasta
First 5 Siskiyou Children and Families Commission
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
First 5 Tulare County
First 5 Yolo Children and Families Commission
Growing Minds
Health Access California
Lotus Bloom
March of Dimes
Maternal and Child Health Access
Roxana Munoz
National Association of Social Workers (NASW) California Chapter
National Health Law Program
Oakland Starting Smart and Strong
Optimal Solutions Consulting
Orange County United Way
Retired teacher and President Friends of the San Benito County Free Library
Scott Waite
Sutter County Children & Families Commission
The Children's Partnership
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Women's Global Leadership Initiative

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget Committee

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Members, Senate Budget Committee
Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Scott Ogus, Senate Budget Committee
Andrea Margolis, Assembly Budget Committee
Senate Republican Caucus
Assembly Republican Caucus
Tam Ma, Office of the Governor
Richard Figueroa, Office of the Governor
Department of Health Care Services

Letter to Governor Newsom from Children Now urging Governor Newsom to prioritize funding for key supports for kids in his upcoming May Revise budget proposal.

(First 5 Solano signed on to this advocacy letter on March 22, 2021)

Dear Governor,

The undersigned organizations urge you to prioritize kids in your upcoming May Revise budget proposal. We appreciate that you are being inundated by numerous interests. We also recognize that even with a budget surplus, the state can't sufficiently meet every need and supplement federal investments in every area. As you make tough choices and determine your priorities, we urge you to put kids at the top of the list. The learning loss, isolation, serious mental health issues, and lack of preventive health care because of the pandemic threatens a generation of kids. These outcomes are especially dire for Black and brown children, kids in poverty, students who are English Learners, youth in foster care, and children who are in unsafe situations, all of whom face significant systemic barriers to accessing the services and support they need.

Even before COVID-19, California was not prioritizing kids, especially kids that face systemic barriers to their well-being. Our investments lagged far behind most other states, as did most measures of educational attainment and overall children's well-being. Now the situation is mission critical.

The undersigned call on you to prioritize dollars for supports for kids, across the early childhood, family and economic support, health, K-12 and higher ed, housing, and child welfare domains. Priority items for the May Revise include:

Child care: Invest a minimum of \$5 billion (\$1.25 billion in new state funding on top of the \$3.75 billion in federal funding California expects to receive) to stabilize, strengthen and scale child care, including: \$1.5 billion for stipends, hold harmless measures, elimination of family fees, restoring swept workforce and facility block grants, and rebuild ECE capacity with reopening assistance; \$1.5 billion which would update provider reimbursement rates to 2018 levels and create a dedicated multi-year set-aside to implement comprehensive rate reform in 2021-22 and beyond; and \$2 billion to expand child care subsidies for families with low incomes, with at least \$1 billion dedicated to infants and toddlers.

TK-14 Education: Ensure there are effective student supports in place and school budgets are stabilized by using one-time federal funds provided for state-level education activities (\$1.4 billion) to recruit and retain teachers and provide high-quality professional learning for educators; paying off debts to TK-12 schools and community colleges (\$3.7 billion); and providing the funding to expand and ensure educationally appropriate practices (group sizes and curriculum) are in place for transitional kindergarten.

School based mental health: Provide \$80.5 million to fund turn-key school-county partnerships ready for implementation. These partnerships will help prevent student mental health concerns from becoming severe and disabling; increase timely access to services; participate in outreach to recognize early signs; reduce stigma; reduce discrimination; and prevent negative outcomes.

Medi-Cal: Permanently extend Medi-Cal coverage for children up to age 5 and for women 12-months postpartum with \$55 million (matched with \$55 million in federal funds).

Children in foster care: Support children and youth in foster care living with emergency caregivers or resource families with \$73.2 million in desperately needed pandemic stipends to address significant additional responsibilities and activities and \$37 million to increase access to the Emergency Child Care Bridge program to prevent placement instability resulting from reduced child care options.

We recognize the strain you are experiencing as you try to grapple with the enormity of this crisis and keep the Golden State intact. We urge you to ensure that our most precious constituency, our kids, are your top priority.

Sincerely,
The Children's Movement