

ELECTION 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Call to Action</i> | 1 |
| <i>Non-partisan Resources</i> | 2 |
| <i>Ballot Initiatives</i> | 3 |
| <i>CARES</i> | 6 |
| <i>Dr. Bruce Perry</i> | 7 |
| <i>CHIPS</i> | 8 |
| <i>Gayla Reiter</i> | 9 |
| <i>Transitions</i> | 9 |

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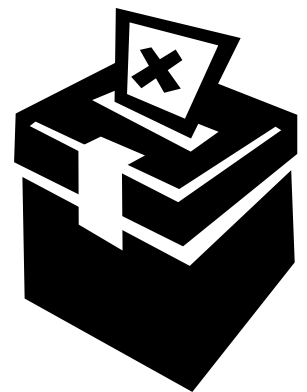
CALL TO ACTION: MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT FOR CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN

This year there are several measures on the November Ballot that impact children's health and well being. The Children's Network has not taken an official position on any of the initiatives, but basic information on several of the proposals is highlighted inside this special edition of our newsletter, along with references on where to obtain additional information.

In pulling information together for this summary, we relied heavily on the work of the Children's Advocate newsletter (www.4children.org). We thank them for their generosity in making this information available to us and to the public.

As always, we encourage you to vote on Election Day, keeping the needs of children in mind. This year you must be sure you are registered to vote by October 20th, and the election itself is on November 4th.

PLEASE NOTE: *Due to a new law, you must provide your drivers license or other identification information in order to register to vote. Additionally, voters are asked to remove any hats, buttons, etc. which support or oppose specific candidates or measures when they are at their polling place.*



Upcoming Events

Child Abuse Prevention Council

Solano County Government Center
675 Texas Street, Fairfield

October 20 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
November 17 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
December 15 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Integrated Family Support Initiative

Solano County Government Center
675 Texas Street, Fairfield

November 10 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Solano Children's Alliance

Joe Nelson Community Center
611 Village Drive, Suisun

October 1 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
November 5 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
December 3 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Family Resource Center Network

Children's Network
2320 Courage Dr. Ste 107, Fairfield

October 6 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 3 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
December 1 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Child Care Planning Council

Children's Network
2320 Courage Dr. Ste 107, Fairfield

October 27 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
November 24 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
December 22 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Parenting Partnership

Solano Children & Family Services
420 F Executive Ct. North, Fairfield

October 22 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ELECTION 2008 NON-PARTISAN RESOURCES

GET INFORMATION ON CANDIDATES AND BALLOT MEASURES

- **California Easy Voter Guide** will offer an easy-to-read election guide with summaries of ballot measures and information on how elections work. Available Sept.5 in multiple languages at www.easyvoter.org
- **Smart Voter**, from the California League of Women Voters, offers information on candidates and summaries offer ballot measures with pro and con arguments, www.smartvoter.org
- **Children's Defense Fund** offers a scorecard on how members of Congress voted on 2007 child-related legislation, 202-628-8787,
- www.childrensdefense.org/site/Page_Server?pagename=act_learn_scorecard2008
- **Children's Advocacy Institute** offers a report card about how members of the California legislature voted on 2007 child-related legislation, www.calchildlaw.org/Misc/2007ReportCard.pdf

BRING CHILDREN'S ISSUES INTO THE CAMPAIGNS

- **Tips from the Children's Advocate:** www.children.org/news/902aae.htm (English), www.children.org/news/902aas.htm (Spanish)
- **Candidate forums:** Find or organize forums by contacting your local League of Women Voters, 916-442-7215, <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/aboutlwv/lldir.html>
- **Election-Year Lobbying for Nonprofits**, from the California Association of Nonprofits, offers election-related guidelines for nonprofits, www.canonprofits.org/current/ELECTION-RELATED.pdf

GET OUT THE VOTE (from the Children's Advocate)

- **10 Steps to voting power** offers tips for children's organizations to encourage parents and others to vote, www.4children.org/news/904stepe.htm (English), www.4children.org/news/904steps.htm (Spanish)
- **Getting out the vote for kids** describes 2004 "get out the vote" campaigns by childrens organizations, www.4children.org/news/904votee.htm (English), www.4children.org/news/904steps.htm (Spanish)

BALLOT INITIATIVES

Proposition 3 Children's Hospital Bond

This measure would sell \$980 million in bonds to modernize and expand California's children's hospitals. 80% of the funds would go to hospitals that focus on children with illnesses such as leukemia, heart defects, and diabetes. 20% would go to University of California hospitals.

Supporters say: “(The measure would) help children's hospitals meet the current and growing needs of California's children (with) serious diseases,” says Diana Dooley of the California Children's Hospital Association.

- Children's hospitals need the latest technology to effectively treat seriously ill children.
- The number of children in California is expected to grow by 35% in the next 20 years.
- A 2004 children's hospital bond measure wasn't enough—“need far exceeds the funding available,” says John Gailbraith of the Children's Hospital Association.

Supporters: California Children's Hospital Association, 916-552-7111, www.ccha.org; Children Now, Children's Defense Fund

Opponents say: “(This is) a self-serving measure by the children's hospitals in California. Any hospital that deals with children qualifies itself as a children's hospital. We think most of the money is set to go to the UC system, which really doesn't need the money,” says Jim Uhler, communications director with the National Tax Limitation Committee. He adds:

- It is not wise to add bond debt for anything that is not essential.
- The funds can be used for anything, even construction.

Opponents: National Tax Limitation Committee,

916-786-9400, www.limittaxes.org/site/PageServer?pagename=home; Libertarian Party

Proposition 5 California Nonviolent Offenders Initiative

This measure would build on Prop 36—which sends nonviolent drug offenders to drug treatment rather than prison—by increasing funding for these programs. Would shorten parole time for most drug offenses and limit imprisonment for people who violate probation or parole. **Cost:** More than \$1 billion a year—but lower prison costs would save the state more than that, according to the Secretary of State's ballot measure summary.

Supporters say: “The overwhelming need is for people to get treatment, (not) more punishment. (This measure would) save parents from getting locked up by dealing with the real problem—the addiction,” says Maisha Quint with Legal Services for Prison-ers with Children. This measure would

- Expand the “wildly successful approach” of Prop 36—which allowed 36,000 people to enter treatment and saved California at least \$1.5 billion (because fewer nonviolent drug offenders went to prison), says Margaret Dooley-Sammuli of the Yes on 5 campaign.
- Invest in treatment programs for at-risk youth.

Supporters: Drug Policy Alliance Network—CA office, 916-444-3751, www.prop5yes.com; League of Women Voters, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Opponents say: “Prop 36 has been a failure”—according to a 2007 UCLA study, 75% of people sent to a Prop 36 program have either not gone or have failed treatment, and many have then committed other crimes, says John Lovell, of the California Police Chiefs Association. “This measure would be even worse,” he adds. This measure would

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BALLOT INITIATIVES continued

Proposition 5 continued

- “Wipe out” the elements that make drug courts successful, he says.
- Let most drug dealers get off parole in six months.
- (Let a judge permit) someone accused of multiple offenses—for example, child abuse and drug use—go into treatment without first being held accountable for the other offenses.

Opponents: California Police Chiefs Association, 916-481-8000, www.noonproposition5.com; MADD, DARE America, California District Attorneys' Association

**Proposition 7
Solar and Clean Energy Act**

This measure would require all power plants to generate 20% of power from renewable energy by 2010, 40% by 2020, and 50% by 2025. Would penalize power plants that don't comply. Would “fast-track” approval for new renewable energy plants and require utilities to sign 20-year-minimum contracts to produce renewable energy. **Cost:** \$3 million a year for oversight, no more than a 3% increase in consumer's electricity bills.

Supporters say: “California is experiencing increased impacts from global warming: wildfires, droughts, pollution-related diseases. (This measure would) provide our children a clean, safe, and cheaper way to get electricity,” says Californians for Solar and Clean Energy. The measure would

- Replace half of the fossil fuels used to create electricity with clean energy.
- Create high-tech jobs and grow the state's economy.

Supporters: Californians for Solar and Clean Energy www.solarandcleanenergy.org, 916-444-2425; former senators Martha Escutia and John Vasconcellos

Opponents say: “It seems unwise to increase the price of energy when the economy is on the brink of recession and the state is facing a \$15 billion deficit,” says the California Taxpayer's Association.

- The measure is poorly written—the legislature would need a 2/3 vote even if they wanted to increase utilities' renewable energy, says the California League of Conservation Voters.
- Energy policy is too complex to decide by ballot initiative.

Opponents: California League of Conservation Voters, 510-271-0900, www.ecovote.org; Natural Resources Defense Council, PG&E, Southern California Edison, California Taxpayers Association

**Proposition 8
Limit on Marriage Initiative (*Constitutional Amendment*)**

This measure would add a new amendment to California's constitution, stating that California will only recognize a marriage if it is between a man and a woman.

Supporters say: "For the well-being of children and of society, we must not allow the creation of government-imposed counterfeit marriage," says the Family Research Council.

- Research shows that children do best when raised by their biological mother and father and when their parents are in a lifelong marriage.
- Children should not be guinea pigs for social experiments in redefining marriage.

Supporters: National Organization for Marriage, www.nomcalifornia.org/site/c.htJSJaMQluE/b.3958623; Focus on the Family, Family Research Council

Opponents say: "(This measure would) put many families (headed by same-sex couples) at risk for emotional and financial harm, and present them as second-class citizens," says Lambda Legal.

- Parents and their children should not be discriminated against.
- Same-sex couples should have legal protections and rights like any other couples.

- This measure would harm children by making it more likely that same-sex parents would lose custody, visitation rights, and the ability adopt children.

Opponents: Lambda Legal, 213-382-7600, www.lambdalegal.org; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Human Rights Campaign

**Proposition 9
Victims' Rights and Parole (*Constitutional Amendment*)**

This measure

- Requires that victims receive written notice of their rights
- Requires that victims be notified of and allowed to participate in criminal proceedings including bail, pleas, sentencing, and parole
- Makes the victim's safety a consideration in determining bail or release on parole
- Changes rules on parole hearings

Supporters Say: "No pain is worse than losing a child or loved one to murder...except when the pain is magnified by a system that puts criminals' rights ahead of the rights of innocent victims," says Harriet Salarno, chair of Crime Victims United and mother of murdered child.

Supporters say Prop 9 would

- Allow the parole board to increase the time between parole hearings
- Provide enforceable constitutional rights to crime victims
- Eliminate wasteful parole hearings, which are painful for victims of crime. Many of these hearings are for dangerous criminals who have little chance of being released

CARES RETENTION STIPEND PROGRAM 08-09

Through a commitment from First 5 Solano and the California Department of Education, Children's Network will utilize grant funds to continue the CARES Retention Stipend Program. The program is designed to provide cash stipends to all eligible licensed center-based and licensed child care providers. The goal is to encourage early care and education providers to apply for, renew, and increase the level of their child development permit issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentials. The permit requires a combination of professional development hours in the field and educational units in early childhood and general education courses.

The 2008-2009 program requirements are:

- Currently work at a licensed child care program in Solano County for pay at least 30 hours per week with at least one child, not your own, under the age of 5.
- Earn less than \$60,000 annually (gross income for center base; adjusted gross income for FCC), working as a child care provider/early childhood educator.
- Must have worked 9 consecutive months at current site at the time of submitting stipend application.
- Complete all course work with a "C" or better at an accredited college/university.

Through participation in this program, all participants will have access to further career development and other resources to improve the quality of childcare. Upcoming free informational CARES Workshops on how to apply for a child development permit, develop a professional development plan, and access educational opportunities will be held:

Tuesday, Oct. 14th at Children's Network 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. Saturday, Oct. 18th at Children's Network 9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
Monday, October 20th at Dixon Migrant Center 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

Proposition 9 continued

Supporters: Crime Victims United, 916-928-4797; www.crimevictimsunited.com; National Victims Constitutional Amendment Passage

Opponents Say: "Prop 9 is not what it seems," says Rose Braz, Critical Resistance campaign director. She predicts it would increase the number of people in prison, so "when we vote for this, (it's) a detriment not to just the parolees (but also) their families. We (would be) increasing money for prisons when it should instead go to education, health care and keeping our communities safe."

Opponents say Prop 9 would

- Increase prison spending
- Allow the parole board to delay parole hearings for up to 15 years
- Change rules for parole hearings—allow hearsay evidence and limit defense challenges to that evidence
- Require everyone convicted of a crime to pay restitution, in addition to their prison sentence, regardless of ability to pay

Opponents: Californians United for a Responsible Budget; Critical Resistance, 510-444-0484, www.criticalresistance.org; Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, www.prisonerswithchildren.org

DR. BRUCE PERRY COMES TO SOLANO COUNTY



Dr. Bruce Perry, the popular speaker and author, provided an evening training to approximately 100 Solano early child care and education teachers, professors, legislators, and others committed to quality child care, on June 18, 2008, in Fairfield. Perry, perhaps best known for his work with the Safe From the Start Initiative and as co-author of the bestseller *The*

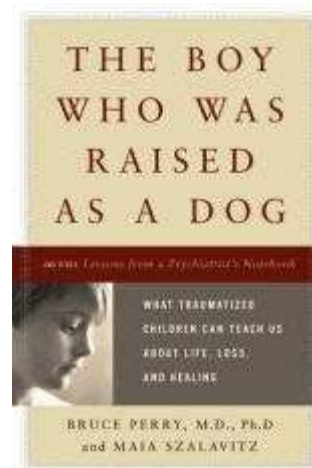
Boy Who Was Raised As A Dog, is the Senior Fellow of the ChildTrauma Academy in Houston, Texas.

The training, sponsored by The Children's Network, was funded through California Department of Education AB212 one-time augmentation funds. Participants attended at no charge, and stipends and continuing education units were provided to eligible attendees through Solano Community College.

The topic of the training was, "Childhood Trauma, and Its Impact in the Child Care Setting." Participants received an invigorating, heart warming, and educational presentation in a learning environment filled with intellectual talk about children's brains and simple activities to help teachers deal with children who display challenging behavior in loving, rhythmic, patterned, ways that will change the brain stem to elicit cognitive maturation. He assured the persons present that the community has reasons for optimism in the case of childhood trauma which includes children who are often labled, "at risk children" because more people know about this area of study.

Dr. Perry ended his session with a question and answer period, and stayed for a short time to allow participants to ask individual questions. He repeatedly informed the participants that all the things they teach the children are changing the brain. More importantly, the BIG THING is children need is physical tough from parents and teachers. It causes positive changes to the brain stem. According to Perry, children need to be safe, they are dependent upon their environment, and a caring mother needs a safe place to nurture her children.

A provider asked, "How can we support our colleagues in understanding what you have taught us today?" Dr. Perry responded, "One of the ways to act on the knowledge you have received is to share the information in a pleasurable way with your colleagues—take extra time to share with your supervisors. Children need to witness opportunities to learn how to maintain and formulate healthy relationships." Truer words were never spoken.



CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS



The Child Abuse Prevention Council's Children of Incarcerated Parents sub-committee, in conjunction with the Solano County Foster and Kinship Care Education, recently hosted a workshop with Project WHAT! We're Here and Talking.

Project WHAT! (PW) raises awareness about the impacts of parental incarceration on children, with the long-term goal of improving services and policies which affect these children. WHAT! stands for We're Here And Talking, which is exactly what the team is doing. Over 7 million children have a parent under supervision of the criminal justice system - on parole, probation, or incarcerated. The program employs young people who have experienced parental incarceration or those who have a parent under the supervision of the criminal justice system as the primary curriculum content developers and facilitators for trainings. The perspectives of the youth are central to this project. PW was launched in 2006 with a generous grant from the Zellerbach Foundation by Community Works in Berkeley, California. In year one, the youth were instrumental in researching, creating, and piloting a training curriculum for teachers and social workers. The interactive training provides participants with tools to effectively serve children with parents under the supervision of the criminal justice system.

The PW team also developed the Resource Guide for Teens with a Parent in Prison or Jail. The eighty-page guide, originally released in May 2007 and updated in May 2008, answers common questions that children have when a parent is incarcerated. It has an entire section that explains complex jail and prison visiting procedures in plain language. It also includes compelling stories written by youth, along with a CD of the stories read aloud. Youth who want a free copy should contact the Community Works office.

The incarceration rate for women has increased by more than 800% in the ten years between the mid 1980s and the mid 1990s. They remain a population behind bars who are predominantly incarcerated for non-violent offenses. The vast majority of these women experienced childhood physical and sexual abuse and often experienced abuse as adults by "those that are supposed to love them." Eighty percent of them are mothers. Their children and the children of incarcerated fathers number over a million nationally and an estimated 10,000—12,000 in Solano County whose parents are presently, or have been, incarcerated.

This workshop focused on the needs of children of incarcerated parents and was attended by over 60 participants including representatives from local jail-based services: The California Prison at Vacaville, Probation, Child Protective Services, Public Health, Mental Health, parents and caregivers of children with incarcerated parents, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), foster parents, United Way of the Bay Area, the Children's Network and Youth & Family Services.

Project WHAT! <http://www.community-works-ca.org/programs/projectwhat.html>

FORMER ALLIANCE MEMBER RECEIVES STATE LEVEL ROGNITION



Former Children's Alliance Member Gayla Reiter has been awarded the 2008 Daniel E. Boatwright Award for her dedication in raising awareness and improving education and research funding for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. The recognition is names for former state Sen. Boatwright to authored legislation cerning SIDS. The award comes at the start of October, declared as SIDS Awareness Month, a federal designation Reiter helped achieve.

Gayla currently works with several SIDS organizations conducting workshops and training, and assists with grief counseling for parents. Congratulations Gayla!



As we say goodbye to Becky Billing, we thank her for 5+ years of dedicated service to children in Solano County and wish her well on her next adventure as the Child Care Planning Council Coordinator for Napa County..

We have some new faces to welcome as well: Shelia Hanney is the new CARES/Professional Development Program Coordinator. Shelia has a Masters in Education, specializing in Early Childhood Education and has eased into her position seamlessly. Welcome Tessa Rawlinson in her new position as Executive Assistant. Tessa has a passion for children issue's and brings that passion to the Children's Network. Also new to the agency is Julie Pilgrim, Computer Support Specialist. We welcome Julie's experience and support to our IT Department.

DONATE TO
CHILDREN'S NETWORK

Please accept my tax deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____ to support the Children's Network's mission of improving the lives of children in Solano County.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to the Children's Network
or make contributions by Visa or MasterCard:

Card#: _____ Exp: _____



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Kim Thomas
Executive Director

DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

The county is making free prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage. The cards can be used at participating pharmacies in Solano County as well as at a national network of more than 57,000 participating pharmacies. Participating pharmacies include Costco, Longs, Raley's, Rite Aid, Safeway, Sam's Club, SaveMart, Target, Walgreens, and Walmart. The discount card program is administered by Caremark Rx, Inc.

County officials stress that the NACo Prescription Discount Card offers a significant savings that will greatly benefit the uninsured and underinsured residents of the county. In addition, residents do not have to be Medicare beneficiaries to be eligible for this program. Cards are available at the various locations across the county, including Health and Social Services buildings, libraries and family resource centers. Residents can call Solano311 to find a location nearest to them. Once residents have obtained a discount card, they can call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit www.caremark.com/naco for assistance with the program. Using the NACo Prescription Discount Card is easy. Simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.

Meeting notices and other informational updates are available via email. If you wish to be informed on local issues concerning children and families, we invite you to subscribe to one of our email distribution lists. To do this, please visit <http://www.childnet.org/listserve>. Enter your name and email to receive monthly notices from our secure and restricted list serve. Your address will be used only for this purpose, and you may unsubscribe at any time. If you would like to be added to our postal mailing list instead, please call the Children's Network at 707-421-7229 to subscribe.