

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – June, 2008

Child Abuse Prevention Council

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL:

The accomplishments of outstanding Solano citizens who have helped to protect our children were celebrated by the Solano County Child Abuse Prevention Council on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at The Marriot Hotel in Fairfield. This event celebrates individuals in our community who have gone 'above and beyond' to support and protect children from abuse and neglect. Two of the awards, the Mary Ellen and the Henry Bergh awards, are named after the victim and prosecutor in the first successful prosecution of a child abuse case in the United States. Henry Bergh, head of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York City of the 1860s, successfully pressed for a conviction in the case because there were laws protecting animals, but not children like the victim, Mary Ellen. Each award honoree received a beautiful plaque presented to him or her by the 30 member Council. The award recipients and honorees also received certificates of recognition from representatives of Federal and State legislators including Congressman George Miller, Congresswoman Ellen Taucher, Assembly woman Lois Wolk and Senator Michael Machado. Chris Erbe, chair of the Child Abuse Prevention Council welcomed participants and Karl Porter, Program Manager with Child Welfare Services served as emcee.

Child Abuse Prevention Council Awards went to the following honorees:

Mary Ellen Award to the Children's Protective Services Worker of the Year: Carl Fuller Jr., Solano County Child Welfare Services

Henry Bergh Award to the Practitioner of the Year: Dr. Majid Yasaie and Tracy Blunt, Therapy Associates of Solano County (TASC)

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year: Detective Patrick Cowan, Vacaville Police Department

Medical Practitioner of the Year: Stacy Souza, PHN, Solano County Health & Social Services

Educator of the Year: Candace Dandini, Vacaville Unified School District, Learning Support

Volunteer of the Year: Brady & Kyle Baldwin, My Own Book

Advocate of the Year: Christina Arrostuto, First Five Solano Children and Families Commission

Multicultural Achievement Award: Lorraine Hargrave, Children in Need of Hugs

Career Achievement Award: Gloria Flores LCSW, Dixon Family Services

More information about this event and the honorees is available at www.Childnet.org

Child Care Planning Council

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Child Care Needs Assessment

In the fall of this year, the Child Care Planning Council will be presenting to the Board of Supervisors a new, comprehensive Solano Community Child Care Needs Assessment. This assessment must be approved by the Board prior to submission to the State Department of Education. Some early highlights of the assessment to keep in mind are:

It is estimated there are only enough licensed child care slots for 67% of Solano's children needing child care. (An estimate of 22,868 children ages 0 to 12 are in need of some form of child care, and there 14,119 total slots.)

With similar numbers of children ages 0-12, Sonoma County has more than twice as many

child care centers and over 3,000 more spaces than Solano; San Francisco has more than three times as many centers and over 10,000 more spaces.

There is a shortage of subsidized child care to meet the needs of the working poor and low-income families. There are approximately 4,000 eligible children on the County's Central Eligibility List waiting for subsidized child care.

When compared to counties of similar size in terms of the number of families making less than 75% of state median income, Solano County is third to last in state support for subsidized child care at an average of \$272 per family compared to San Mateo at \$654 per family. It should be noted that the average subsidy per family among these similar-sized counties is \$388 per family and the state average is \$427 per family.

If Solano County was receiving the average amount of child care funding as similar-sized counties (33,660 families times \$388) it would mean an increase in child care subsidies of almost \$3,900,000 annually.

Many child care programs that do exist in the County are simply unaffordable for a large portion of the population. Child care costs between \$6,000 and over \$10,000 for one child^[1], depending on the type of care, while approximately 35% of the County's families earn less than \$50,000 a year

^[1] California County Data Book 2005

Children's Alliance

Children's Alliance Alliance Hosts Training with Dr Ira Chasnoff

The Solano Children's Alliance dedicated their June 4, 2008 meeting to a four hour training featuring Dr. Ira Chasnoff. An enthusiastic audience of more than 130, representing parents, health and mental health, Child Protective Services, law enforcement, the courts, child care, education and others, attended the training. While Chasnoff has given presentations in Solano County in the past, this was the first time this training has been available to the broader Solano community.

Chasnoff is one of the nation's leading researchers in the field of maternal drug use during pregnancy and the effects of prenatal exposure on the newborn infant and child. Chasnoff provides training and technical assistance to assist in identifying and treating prenatal substance use and establishing comprehensive family intervention programs for children in communities, nationally. The Alliance has been interested in Chasnoff's "Model of Care for High Risk Children" and has supported the concept of adopting the model in Solano County in their strategic plan.

The training was a collaborative effort of the Children's Alliance, BabyFirst Solano, and the Solano Early Childhood Developmental Health Collaborative; and was funded by Solano County, First 5 Solano, Solano County Public Health Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Bureau, The Children's Network of Solano County, and the Children's Nurturing Project.

Family Resource Center Network

Family Resource Centers 2008 Earn It! Keep It! Save It!

The Solano County Earn It! Keep It! Save It! Program brought in **\$1,602,585.00** in total revenues to Solano's families and communities through this year's county wide efforts. Earned Income Tax Credit is the largest and most effective federal aid program for low-to-moderate income workers. For many eligible families, EITC can increase their annual income by as much

as 15 percent. Recognizing EITC's potential economic benefit to both families and communities, The Children's Network has partnered with the United Way of the Bay Area and the Internal Revenue Service to conduct this campaign. The Children's Network coordinates marketing outreach, volunteer income tax assistance sites and provides on-going support services to the agencies that participate throughout Solano County. In addition, the participating Family Resource Centers (Dixon, Vallejo-Sereno Village and Fairfield) have worked diligently to increase family participation in this program.

The 2008 tax season for Solano County has come to a close and the final results were announced at the Volunteer Appreciation Recognition on June 6, 2008 at the Joe Nelson Center. This year efforts have resulted in an increase of sites from 11 in 2007 to 15 sites for 2008. New partnerships have been developed between Travis Credit Union and First 5 Solano. In addition, the Target store in Vallejo joined our efforts by inserting pay check stuffer information into their employees' pay checks. Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfield has joined the Solano County EITC Coalition to assist with working with unbanked clients and future financial education workshops.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
# of Sites	3	9	11	15
# of Volunteers	11	31	43	64
# of Returns Completed	107	550	736	2625
EITC \$ Captured	\$117,713	\$ 180,171.00	\$267,562.00	\$ 441,406.00
Total Refunds	\$443,435	\$ 583,842.00	\$890,420.00	\$ 1,602,585.00

Family Economic Success Strategies Moving Forward

The Walter S. Johnson Foundation's has recently recognized the work of the Children's Network and the Family Resource Center's Network efforts involving family economic success. The Network was invited to submit a planning proposal to further develop county-wide efforts which are already significantly increasing the income of Solano County families. Under the proposed partnership, AmeriCorps & the Children's Network will increase the staffing capacity of the Family Resource Centers which are providing the family-income improvement services in three distinctly different communities, allowing them to reach more families with our successful model. We will also enhance the Children's Network staffing infrastructure so that adequate technical and evaluation support is available to coordinate the overall system.

The resources to increase the Family Resource Centers staffing capacity will be provided through the federally-supported AmeriCorps Program. United Way of the Bay Area has championed this effort by providing the required local match for new AmeriCorps members.

The Children's Network has been awarded \$70,000.00 by the United Way of the Bay Area (UWBA) for funding to enhance the capacity of participating members of the Solano Family Resource Center Network in their Family Economic Success (FES) efforts. Specifically, this funding will be used to provide matching funds for three, 900 hr. AmeriCorps members in Family Resource Centers (FRCs) in Fairfield/Suisun, Vallejo, and Dixon for calendar year 2008.

In addition, UWBA has awarded the Children's Network a planning grant to expand the participating members of the EIKISI Coalition to include additional public/private agencies and local businesses that share a commitment to empower Solano's low to moderate income families and individuals. Children's Network will work to engage Coalition members in "learning visits" to two other models of collaborative FES planning/continuums of service. In collaboration with the leadership of the EIKISI Coalition, CN will develop an updated map of existing and potential FES resources. Based on the mapping results, the EIKISI Coalition will develop a plan which will articulate strategies to obtain resources for sustaining and expanding future FES effort. This will enable the Children's Network to present plan findings to local decision makers.

In addition this planning grant will identify and provide a paid internship to a college-level intern in the field of community development and facility planning, to develop agency specific facilities development plans for expansion of local Family Resource Centers. The intern will be supervised by current CN staff with expertise in this field.