

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2002

Celebrating our 20th anniversary



*The Children's Network is a nonprofit organization committed to improving the lives of children in Solano County through education, advocacy, coordination of community services and community-based collaboratives.*

## Solano County Board of Supervisor's Race

The Board of Supervisors is the legislative and executive body of Solano County's government and also serves as the governing body of the Solano County Housing Authority, the Solano Facilities Corporation, the East Vallejo Fire Protection District, and the Rural North Vacaville Water District.

lated to public needs, including: adopting the annual budget, adopting county ordinances, setting policies, confirming appointments of most non-elected officials, and assisting citizens in solving problems and addressing local concerns.



The Board consists of five supervisorial districts. Supervisors are elected by district to four-year terms. The terms are staggered; two Supervisors are elected in one general election, and three Supervisors in the next. The March 5, 2002 election is for District 3 and 4.

Given the importance of this part of our county's government, we felt compelled to ask the five candidates their views and experience related to children's issues. Each candidate was asked the same three questions, with a one hundred word per answer limit. Of the five candidates, only one did not participate.

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## FOURTH ANNUAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

By Tamsen Stevenson, Senior Research Analyst

Ross Thompson, Ph.D., will be the keynote speaker at the Solano County Child Abuse Prevention Council's 4th annual conference, Safe from the Start 2002, on April 19 at the Three Oaks Community Center in Vacaville.

Thompson, a native Californian from Palo Alto and professor of Psychology at the University of Nebraska, has gained national recognition with the Neurons to Neighborhoods initiative. He will build on the foundation established by Dr. Perry at last year's CAPC conference.

Many of last year's conference participants have asked, "How can we apply the insights we learned from Dr.

Perry?" "What can we do now that we know something about brain development, now that we understand how infants and children are at risk for being developmentally compromised by exposure to violence and chaotic environments?" Thompson will address these questions based on his experience with the Neurons to Neighborhoods project.

For information and conference registration, contact The Children's Network at (707) 421-7229 or visit [www.childnet.org](http://www.childnet.org).



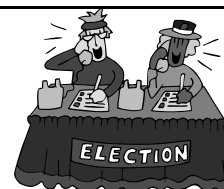
# Solano County Board of Supervisor's Race

*Continued from page 1*

We asked all five candidates these three questions:

1. The present Board of Supervisors has established children as their number one priority. Do you agree with this policy direction? Why or why not?
2. What steps would you be willing to take at the local level to protect children's programs from funding cuts

(i.e. utilize master settlement funds; advocate with the state to prevent cuts to county programs serving children; etc.)?



3. What efforts have you led, been a part of, or supported, on behalf of children?

## District 3

	<b>Chuck Hammond</b>	<b>Duanne Kromm (Incumbent)</b>
1.	I have been a youth advocate in this county for 25 years. Children have to be the Board's number one priority because they are our future. I'd like to see the Board stay the course and not change its priority. I'll gladly support this priority when I'm elected.	I crafted the final language of our Board goal; "Improving the lives of children". Children are our smartest investments. I am currently working on three particular issues: a) Quality health care for all children. I am working on this with the Partnership Health Plan and our Tobacco MSA strategists. b) More family focused services in neighborhoods, perhaps using school facilities. c) Children of the homeless. How and when do we intervene is the very difficult question. Our Health & Social Services Sub-committee will start to work on this in February.
2.	Board decisions should reflect their concerns for children and families are our most valuable resource.	I brought to our Board the lobbying effort to restore State pre & after school program funding of \$30m. I was a leader on our Board to build much stronger reserves, specifically to handle an economic downturn without cutting needed children's programs. While Solano County could possibly have to reduce some services in the next year or two, we have recommitted to not reducing children's programs. I think there is Board support to selectively increase children's services even in these tougher times.
3.	I was a member of the original board for The Children's Network in 1980. The mission was then as it is now: provide and protect the dignity and pride of our children. I was on the board for over two years and thoroughly enjoyed it.	My leadership helped lead to revamped Child Protective Services, with new management and over 20 new staff. Our CPS response is now top-notch, a dramatic improvement. I fought for MSA money for health and substance abuse treatment services. I have chaired the County's Health & Social Services Sub-committee for the last three years and have consistently worked with organizations like our school districts, The Children's Network, Child Haven, Planned Parenthood and Healthy Start to improve and better coordinate children's services. Prior volunteer activities included Girl Scouts Board 1st Vice-President, Community Treatment Center Board member, Library Foundation Founding Board member, girls softball coach and, most importantly, Dad.

Candidates: District 3		Candidates: District 4		
<p><b>Chuck Hammond</b> 2680 Mankas Blvd Fairfield, CA 94533 446-5425</p>	<p><b>Duane Kromm</b> 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533 421-7975</p>	<p><b>David Fleming</b> 429 La Cresta Drive Vacaville, CA 95688 448-7448</p>	<p><b>John Vasquez</b> 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533 448-0830</p>	<p><b>Dan Sharp</b> 437 Woodcrest Drive Vacaville, CA 95688 453-1049</p>
<p>Note: John Vasquez did not respond to the questions.</p>				

### District 4

	David Fleming	Dan Sharp
1.	<p>Yes, I agree with this policy direction. Children, especially "at-risk" children, are the potential for good or bad in the next generation. In so far as possible, the health, including mental health, safety, education and economic security of our children should be the concern of both government and private organizations. The children are our future; as our children go, so goes our society, culture and nation.</p>	<p>As the father of two young children, I am committed to working toward a future that is bright for all children. All elected bodies should make children their first priority - they are the future, and they are the most vulnerable. All children deserve safe streets and quality schools that educate them well. Their parents deserve to have good paying jobs with good benefits in the communities in which they live. I'll work for a new fiscal relationship with the state that allows us to address local needs for our children that we identify here at home - not in Sacramento.</p>
2.	<p>I am willing to actively lobby the state and federal governments for maintenance and increases in funding. I am in favor of using the Tobacco Settlement funds for children's programs. I read the Children's Network Council minutes each month and am aware of the presentation on 3-year funding on pages 2 and 3 of the minutes of the December 5 meeting. If elected supervisor, I will be your advocate and available to you on a continual basis.</p>	<p>Our first priority should be to make sure that all programs that serve children are doing the job they are charged with doing, that administrative costs are kept at a minimum so more money goes directly to helping kids. I believe that a critical part of the job of county supervisor is to be an advocate for the county and its identified priority programs. Local elected officials must demand from our state representatives that local funding is not sacrificed in this budget crisis. I will bring this position new leadership and fresh ideas for tackling the problems we face.</p>
3.	<p>A member of the Vacaville City Council for 24 years, I have instituted various innovative and successful city "at-risk" youth programs. I have delivered five statewide seminar presentations discussing Vacaville's proactive approach for children at risk. I am on the Board of the Cities/ Counties/ Schools Partnership, consisting of officers of the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties and California Association of School Boards. We focus on partnerships involving children and sponsor programs and seminars statewide. I have been Scoutmaster of a Boy Scout Troop and on the Executive Board of the Scout Council for 28 years.</p>	<p>My parents were both public school teachers in this county for four decades. I was raised with a strong belief in public service, especially as it relates to children. As an advisor to several legislators, I've advocated for programs that improve the lives of all children. I've worked to help good people get elected to school boards. I served as editor of a legislative bulletin to school board members across the state, helping school trustees get active in legislative budget issues that impact children.</p>

## Victory for Advocates, California's Families

By Kim Johnson, Child Care Planning Coordinator

The Governor proposed to eliminate child care funding for any new Stage 3 CalWORKs families, effective January 2002. In response to this proposal and the Governor's Administrative Review, the Legislative Women's Caucus held public hearings in Northern and Southern California in October. Several representatives from Solano County were present at the Northern California Hearing and two parents testified on behalf of the working families of the county. Their comments represented many of the other heartfelt testimonies that asked the Legislature to consider the effects that this cut in funding would result in. Many families would be forced between paying for child care and paying their rent, for example, and would likely return to Welfare for assistance.

Spearheaded by Coleman Advocates of San Francisco, parents and other advocates marched to the Governor's office on December 5, 2001 to further express their concerns. The Governor's administration is said to have told

them that the State was in a time of economic downturn and that there was just no way the funding could be restored. Still not defeated, advocates marched to Senate and Assembly leaders and later that day advocates were told that the Governor had changed his mind. The funding has been restored until June 30, 2002. Congratulations advocates and community organizers!!



Advocates are likely to have to pull together again prior to June to seek continued funding for Stage 3 child care. You may call Kim Johnson and request a post card with pre-paid postage to send to the Governor at the State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814 or call (916) 445-2841 to voice your concerns directly.

## First Year of CAP Initiative Shows Positive Results For Kids

By Jenny Ocón, Community Programs Coordinator

The Children's Network and seven of Solano's Family Resource Centers have begun a second year of the California Alliance for Prevention (CAP) Initiative, aimed at providing child abuse prevention and family support services to families in local communities. Solano is one of 19 counties in California implementing the program, and currently has 14 AmeriCorps members dedicated to the effort.

In January of 2002, the statewide lead agencies for the CAP Initiative released the results of a report on the first year of the project. The California Health and Human Services Agency, The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento (CAPC Sac), and the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) announced a 24 percent decrease in incidents of child abuse where AmeriCorps members provided in-home services to families with a history of child abuse or neglect.

"This significant decrease proves that education and nur-

ture family relationships play a key role in ensuring that California children are being raised in safe environments," said Chuck Supple, Executive Director for GO SERV. In October of 2000, GO SERV funded the CAP Initiative with nearly \$3.5 million annually for three years, and the Office of Child Abuse Prevention added \$1 million to the pot, spread over the three years. Local partners were required to match the funds.



"We are proud to be a part of the CAP Initiative and leading the effort here in Solano County," said Kim Thomas, Executive Director for The Children's Network. "We thank the S.H. Cowell Foundation for providing the local match required for this effort, and we commend our AmeriCorps members and the FRCs for their tireless efforts to make a difference for kids in our community."

# FRCs Launch Collaborative Home-Visiting Effort

By Jenny Ocón, Community Programs Coordinator

Solano's Family Resource Centers (FRCs) have been providing family support and child abuse prevention services in the county since 1994. As neighborhood-based centers open to all families, the FRCs are skilled at building trusting relationships and understanding the barriers to service many families face. Staff are adept at navigating social service systems on behalf of families, as well as linking families with local resources they would like to access.

Nevertheless, there are isolated and at-risk families that never make it into an FRC and do not access services available to them, for a host of reasons. Of particular concern are families with infants and young children - given research which has shown that brain development in the early years has a direct correlation with positive caregiver interaction and healthy living environments. It is these families the FRCs are now targeting, through a new home-visiting outreach effort called the "Integrated Family Support Initiative" (IFSI).

IFSI, funded by the Solano County Children and Families Commission for three years, is a countywide, multi-agency effort. The Children's Network and Child Haven, Inc. are lead agencies, bringing together a host of partners to ensure seamless services are provided for at-risk families with children ages 0-5. The FRCs use outreach staff to conduct initial home visits with families, and draw upon the clinical and assessment expertise of Child Haven as needed. In addition, there is a countywide multi-disciplinary team that meets weekly and is comprised of a number of specialists, including a Public Health Nurse, CPS worker, psychologist and developmental specialist, who serve families with more intensive needs, as appropriate.



For more information on IFSI or Solano's FRCs, please contact Jenny Ocón at The Children's Network.

## SOLANO C.A.R.E.S. UPDATE

By Kim Johnson, Child Care Planning Coordinator

The first SolanoCARES (Compensation And Retention Encourage Stability) Forum held on December 1st at Jesse Bethel High School in Vallejo was well received by over 175 child care providers who attended. The theme was "Quality Child Care Through Communication." The Forum included speakers from the Greater Association for the Education of Young Children, Solano Family and Children's Services, the Center for the Child Care Workforce, Licensed Family Child Care Association, local child care centers, and West Ed, the Program

for Infant/Toddler Caregivers. Exhibitors serving the needs of children and families all over Solano County were also present to disseminate information about their programs. Many participants commented on how important it was for them to interact with others in the field and to be acknowledged for their dedication to the children they serve. Other com-

**Congratulations to all CARES stipend recipients!**  
The first three rounds of the SolanoCARES Initiative is complete and \$252,020 was distributed to 48 family child care providers and 169 center based child care providers. SolanoCARES is in it's fourth round. Applications are due by March 1, 2002.

ments included the valuable resources and new information that providers obtained from the Forum.

The SolanoCARES Initiative supports and retains highly qualified early care and education professionals by providing an annual stipend, access to training, and professional development.

The next forum will take place at Three Oaks Community Center in Vacaville on February 23, 2002. The theme will center around children's every day needs. Registration forms have been mailed to all child care providers in the County and can also be accessed at [www.childnet.org](http://www.childnet.org) or by calling The Children's Network office at 421-7229. Participation in the forum is free to providers serving children in Solano County.



Made possible by a grant from the Solano County Children and Families Commission, the California Children and Families Commission, and AB 212 funds from the State Department of Education.

## CHILDREN'S NETWORK COUNCIL ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN

By EnJunaya Canton, Children's Network Council Coordinator

**T**he sudden downturn in California's economy threatens to reduce services to Solano County children. With various budget cuts proposed to children's programs, we, as children's advocates need to prioritize our efforts to ensure that children continue to get their needs met. How do we do this you ask? TOGETHER.

The Children's Network Council is one mechanism children's advocates can use. This Board of Supervisors appointed council meets every month to discuss issues affecting children in Solano County. The Council has the goal of developing priorities and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of children. As the Council continues to examine the best practices to advocate for children, we continue to encourage child advocates to come to our meetings. To include a greater breadth of participation, we are in the process of changing to a Children's Roundtable. We want the Children's Roundtable to include all of the committees and groups working on the behalf of children in this county. If you are interested in being a part of this advocating body, please join us every first Wednesday of the month from 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. at 2101 Courage Drive in the Multipurpose Room. The Legislative, Homelessness and Poverty, and Substance Abuse Committees meet from 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. and the Council meeting is from 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.



Though we did not meet in January, the Children's Network Council has not stopped its advocacy tasks, nor its planning and coordination efforts. At the February 6, 2002 meeting, the Council will consider: 1) approval of a TANF Reauthorization paper that was presented to the Administration for Children and Families in November; 2) supporting or opposing several pieces of federal and state legislation affecting children; 3) recommendations developed by the Homelessness and Poverty subcommittee on the behalf of homeless children; and 4) next steps for the three year council directed funds. The RFP for Child Abuse Prevention Programs and the RFA for Family Resource Center Network is expected to be available mid February. In March we will have a presentation on the financial outlook for children's services; and in April we will have two presentations: one by our Local Child Care Planning Council and a second on changes in the Child Support Collection System.

To obtain more information about the Children's Network Council, the re-organization to a Children's Roundtable, the Legislative, Homelessness and Poverty or Substance Abuse Subcommittees, or to assist in the planning of a Youth Summit, please contact EnJunaya Canton at [cnc@childnet.org](mailto:cnc@childnet.org) or call 421-7229.

## CN Sponsors Blended Funding Workshop

By Tamsen Stevenson, Senior Research Analyst

**H**ow can we make the most of available resources for children and families in times of financial crisis? That was the question Hansine Fisher addressed in a workshop attended by Solano County policy makers, program leaders, and advocates at The Children's Network on January 30, 2002.

Fisher is a nationally recognized expert on "Blended Funding", the concept of combining fiscal resources from federal, state, county, and private funding streams to fund projects, especially for children and families. Fisher is also a consultant with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) through a project that provides technical assistance and training for Family Resource Centers throughout California.

In response to questions from participants, Fisher sug-

gested concrete ways to enhance funding streams for programs including Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), Targeted Case Management (TCM), and the Children's Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP), a program serving 6000 low income and undocumented children a year in Solano County that is in jeopardy in the state budget.



According to Fisher, "The creative and flexible use of these funds can support and enhance the effective delivery of comprehensive, integrated services for children and families."

The Blended Funding Workshop was sponsored by The Children's Network and partially funded by a grant from The California Endowment.

## Mandated Reporter Training: Child Abuse Is Everybody's Business

Everyone who works with children is a mandated reporter. This means that if you work with children, you are legally responsible for reporting all incidents of suspected child abuse and neglect. When you filled out the forms for your job, you probably signed a form agreeing to this responsibility, but you may not fully understand your responsibilities and legal obligations as a mandated reporter.

The Solano County Child Abuse Prevention Council can

assist you in understanding your obligations and schedule a training for the group you represent....call 421-7229.

The Mandated Reporter Training Project is a project of the Solano County Child Abuse Prevention Council, under the sponsorship of The Children's Network, and is partially funded by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Children's Network Council Meeting

- ◆ March 6, 2002
- ◆ April 3, 2002
- ◆ May 1, 2002

### Child Abuse Prevention Council Meeting

- ◆ March 18, 2002
- ◆ April 15, 2002
- ◆ May 20, 2002

### Local Child Care Planning Council Meeting

- ◆ March 28, 2002
- ◆ April 25, 2002
- ◆ May 23, 2002

### FRC Network Meeting

- ◆ March 25, 2002
- ◆ April 22, 2002

### Second Solano CARES Forum

February 23, 2002 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
Three Oaks Community Center  
1100 Alamo Dr., Vacaville

### Homeless/Housing Summit

March 27 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
Fairfield Civic Center  
Call PJ Davis for info, 435-2353

### CAPC Conference - Safe From The Start

April 19, 2002 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
Three Oaks Community Center  
1100 Alamo Dr., Vacaville

### Solano Family & Children's Services

#### Day of the Child Celebration

April 27, 2002 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
Suisun Marina  
Please call Kay Parkham for detail, 863-3950

## CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

- ◆ CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COORDINATOR
- ◆ C.A.R.E.S. PROGRAM COORDINATOR
- ◆ FAMILY SUPPORT HOME VISITING COORDINATOR
- ◆ PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

Visit [www.childnet.org](http://www.childnet.org) for job descriptions or call (707) 421-7229





**The Children's Network of Solano County**  
**(707) 421-7229**    [www.childnet.org](http://www.childnet.org)



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