

## Council Members

Kerry Ahearn  
Dennis Chapman  
Juan Cisneros  
Cheryl Countee  
Tammy DeWitt  
Dr. Shandi Fuller  
Gene Ibe  
Tara Knobbe  
Tracy Lacey  
Phil Lockwood  
Guadalupe Lopez  
Nora Macias  
Angelina Mackelvie  
Neely McElroy  
Isabel Montano  
Dr. Nicola Parr  
Candy Pierce

March 6, 2023

### **RE: \$75M Request to Stabilize & Strengthen Family Resource Centers (FRC)**

Dear Senator Dodd,

We are pleased to support the budget request sponsored by the Child Abuse Prevention Center, California Family Resource Association, and California Alliance of Child and Family Services to provide an allocation of \$75 million (\$25 million per year over three years) to family resource centers (FRC) in California. These FRCs provide comprehensive, cost effective and culturally responsive support some of the most marginalized children and families in our communities, particularly amid the impacts of the pandemic and the resulting economic crisis.

Family resource centers play a vital role in communities throughout California, serving as trusted partners connecting children and families to resources and services that help lessen the everyday stressors that can often be a precursor to child abuse and neglect. In Solano County, our Family Resource Center Network is comprised of a convening agency and 6 agencies that provide direct services to families in each of our county's cities. These agencies include:

- Benicia Police Department in Benicia
- Children's Network of Solano County
- Dixon Family Services in Dixon
- Fighting Back Partnership in Vallejo
- Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, with 3 Healthy Start FRCs (2 in Fairfield and 1 in Suisun City)
- Rio Vista C.A.R.E in Rio Vista and
- Vacaville Police Department's FIRST Office in Vacaville.

Our county's family resource centers are community-based, flexible, family-focused, and culturally sensitive hubs of support and resources that provide programs and targeted services based on the needs and interests of families. They support the development of strong communities of support for parents and caregivers. In addition to assistance with concrete needs like housing and utility assistance, childcare, and food, our family resource centers often provide parent education and skills training, mental health or family counseling, community events and resource fairs, among other things. For Solano County, this funding is especially crucial for the preservation and/or expansion of community strengthening programs given the historical and

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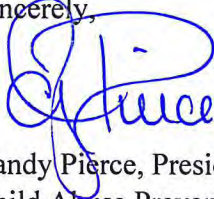
continuing lack of foundation funding that Solano County receives compared to other counties in the region.

We greatly appreciate the COVID-19 response funding provided by the Newsom Administration and Legislature over the past three years to help the children and families most impacted by the pandemic. However, as that funding drops off later this year, FRCs statewide will find it exceedingly difficult to continue providing services without ongoing funding, forcing many to the decrease service levels while needs continue to grow exponentially. This instability will hit at a critical time when the state and counties will need a reliable "community pathway" infrastructure to fully implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act and build alternatives to mandated reporting.

We urge you to support the request to stabilize and strengthen FRCs by providing \$75 million in the California State Budget. The Solano Child Abuse Prevention Council appreciates your consideration of this budget request and strongly encourages your support for it in the Assembly and Senate's budget packages.

If you have any questions regarding our position or the request itself. Please contact Dawn Koepke, advocate with McHugh Koepke & Associates for the Child Abuse Prevention Center and California Family Resource Association, at [dkoopke@mchughgr.com](mailto:dkoopke@mchughgr.com) or (916) 606-5309. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Candy Pierce, President  
Child Abuse Prevention Council of Solano County

Cc: Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Reyes  
Nancy Skinner, Senate Budget Committee Chair  
Caroline Menjivar, Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 Chair  
Phil Teng, Assembly Budget Committee Chair  
Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1 Chair

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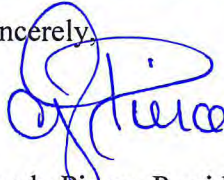
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Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1 Chair



**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL**

**General Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting held via Zoom Virtual and In-Person

Solano County Office of Education 5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield 94534

**PRESENT:**


Neely McElroy, Dr. Shandi Fuller, Gene Ibe, Tara Knobbe, Candy Pierce, Nicola Parr, Cheryl Countee, Juan Cisneros, Guadalupe Lopez, Kerry Hearn, Phil Lockwood, Nora Macias, Nicole Saltzman, Anita Lowery, Troy Nichols, Sonya Wright, Rhonda Smith, Martha Suarez, Luke Foster and Amber

**STAFF:**

Zoila Perez-Sanchez, Ronda Kogler, and Jessica Gabbart

**MINUTES:**

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
<b>Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm
<b>I. Introductions and Announcements</b>	○ No announcements
<b>II. CAPC Governance and Structure</b>	<p><b>Welcome</b> Candy Pierce welcomed everyone and thanked members for attending.</p> <p><b>CAPC Governance and Structure</b> – There is still a vacancy in the law enforcement arena; criminal justice, DEA, courts, or someone in that area. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please send the information over to Zoila.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
<b>III. CAP Month Activities</b>	<p><b>CAP Month Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Family Resource Center Support Letter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Juan moved to approve the letter of support for the Family Resource Centers. Nicola seconded the motion, the members voted, and the letter of support was approved.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  <p>DRAFT CAPC-FRC Support letter.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coordinate public awareness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Please share planned activities during Child Abuse Prevention month or send information to Zoila. If you would like to partner up with another agency to host an event let Zoila know and we can assist with the coordination. CASA has submitted request to the Fairfield courthouse to display pinwheels on the courthouse lawn this year. The Children'd Memorial Flag Day event will take place on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Child Welfare Social Services building at 275 Beck Avenue, FF from 12:00-1:00 PM. Juan Cisneros suggested council members that there is a toolkit with ideas for Child Abuse Prevention month if you are struggling for ideas on what do.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/ncapm-2023-outreach-toolkit.pdf">https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/ncapm-2023-outreach-toolkit.pdf</a></p>
<b>IV. Comprehensive Prevention Plan</b>	<p>Continue working on Theory of Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/s/b7mm4rqr0ffmttd1/TOC%20draft%203.1.2023.docx?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/s/b7mm4rqr0ffmttd1/TOC%20draft%203.1.2023.docx?dl=0</a></li> <li>○ Neely mentioned that she is considering creating a subcommittee for updating and reporting purposes to both groups the CAPC and the Solano County Children System of Care Partners (SCCSCP).</li> <li>○ Neely shared that she has been thinking about including those with lived experience as a long-term outcome for the TOC and having some sort of influence or having their voices heard about how the systems have been influenced by their lives.</li> <li>○ Rhonda said we are asking for the voice of people with lived experience to be a part of our Theory of Change. Do we really take what they say and their experience and have it reflected into our work?</li> <li>○ Phil said that the person you are most able to help is the person you have a likeness of lived experience/same lived experience. Where are we recruiting these people with lived experience at?</li> <li>○ Dr. Fuller mentioned in the chat “not what’s wrong with you but what’s happened to you.”</li> <li>○ Martha shared in the chat to set up a community advisory group</li> </ul>
<b>V. Suggestion for Future Meetings</b>	<p>Future Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>April</b>– Child Welfare Presentation/Child Abuse Prevention Month</li> <li>○ <b>May</b> – Healthy Families America/Family Nurse Partnership</li> </ul>
<b>VI. Adjournment</b>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM</p>