

AGENDA
Solano Children's Alliance Meeting
May 6, 2020
12:00pm-2:00pm

Please Note: This is a Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87520575286>

Meeting ID: 875 2057 5286
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Members

Aaron Crutison
Juan Cisneros
Candy Pierce
Gloria Diaz
Lisette Estrella-
Henderson
Zoe
Bartholomew
Pam Posehn
Stacey Burke
Sharon Henry
Jennifer
MacKinnon
Guadalupe Lopez
Monica Brown
Robert Tobin
Candice Floyd
Maria Guevara
Joshua Mallory
Julie Musto
Dr. Shandi Fuller

**Top Four priority areas: Child and Youth Safety, Quality Early Care and Education,
Homeless Youth and Mental and Behavioral Health**

- | | | | |
|--------------|--|----------------------|--------------|
| I. | Introductions, Public Comment | | 12:00 |
| II. | Approval of May 2020 Agenda | (Action Item) | 12:10 |
| III. | Approval of March 2020 Minutes | (Action Item) | 12:15 |
| | Approval of February 2020 Minutes | (Action Item) | |
| IV. | Alliance President Report | | 12:20 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• Membership Update• Executive Committee Report | | |
| V. | Alliance Staff Report | | 12:25 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Abuse Prevention Council Update | | |
| VI. | Review and Approve Bylaws | (Action Item) | 12:30 |
| VIII. | Review and Approve CTF Recommendation | (Action Item) | 12:45 |
| VIII. | Presentation: Child Welfare Services Intake and Overview | | 1:00 |
| | Aaron Crutison, Deputy Director, and Kim McDowell, Manager, CWS | | |
| IX. | Adjournment | | 2:00 |

Next Alliance Meeting: June 3, 2020

Materials given to members less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting can be obtained at 827 Missouri Street, Suite 5 Fairfield, CA 94533, or by contacting staff at 707-421-7229.

Children's Alliance

A partner of the Children's Network of Solano County

SOLANO CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

General Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Solano County Office of Education

5100 Business Center

Fairfield, CA 94534

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam Posehn, Gloria Diaz, Rafael Hernandez (alternate for Guadalupe Lopez), Aaron Crutison, Cindy Watson (alternate for Dr. Shandi Fuller), Candy Pierce, Julie Musto, Rachel Rico, Kathy Lago (alternate for Zoe Bartholomew), Nicola Parr, Lisette Estella-Henderson, and Cheryl Countee (alternate for Stacy Burke)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Candice Floyd, Robert Tobin, Sharon Henry, Joshua Mallory, Jennifer MacKinnon, Michalle Shown-Rodriguez, Maria Guevara, Juan Cisneros and Supervisor Monica Brown

GUESTS ATTENDING: Liat Meitzenheimer, Lisa Hooks, Rose Laugtag, Dee Dee Barrett, and Rianna Damsten

STAFF: Ronda Kogler, Susan Ferdinandi, Ericka Erickson, Veda Florez and Jessica Gabbart

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm	
I. Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathy Lago announced the LPC Community Meeting will be on March 19th ; flyers will be available. • Aaron Crutison announced that CWS hosted a Continuum of Care Reform meeting this morning to discuss the opportunity provided by AB2083 to discuss expansion of a countywide MOU beyond kids in foster care to include all children. While AB 2083 focuses on children and youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma, it reflects a priority to build a locally governed interagency or interdepartmental model on behalf of all children and youth. It is likely that this committee will be expanded to ensure it is inclusive of providers serving children across the county. • Nicola Parr wanted to thank everyone who helped to support the School Wellness Center Resource Fair a couple of Fridays ago. 25 organizations and 31 schools were represented. SCOE also received an additional 6 applications for school sites in Vallejo and they are projecting they will have reached the goal of 42 schools by June. • Lisette Estrella-Henderson reported that SCOE has been busy with communications regarding the COVID-19. • Lisa Hooks announced that the State Council will be putting out a \$20,000 grant and the top 2 priority areas are employment and housing. There will be a conference call on April 1st from 1-2:30 pm. • Gloria Diaz from Vacaville PD is partnering with Foster Kinship Care Education 	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
	<p>Program and NorthBay Healthcare to deliver the LIKE conference. Last weekend they hosted the teen summit, with 72 youth from middle and high schools participating. This is one of the programs that will be impacted by a cut in funding to the Family Resource Centers. These types of prevention events will be impacted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ericka Erickson announced that there are a couple of Census events coming up. Jessica will send out an email with information about them. In addition, there will be a Census canvassing event this Saturday in Vallejo, March 14th at 10am. 	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
II. Approval of (March Agenda) (Action Item)	No quorum	
III. Approval of (February Minutes) (Action Item)	No quorum	
IV. Alliance President Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pam welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. • Membership Update/Executive Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pam announced that four membership changes have gone to the Board of Supervisors for approval; they include addition/change of alternate members for members Jennifer MacKinnon and Supervisor Monica Brown, and the addition of a new member, Hayley Armstrong, along with her alternate. All have been sent to First 5 and are waiting for an agenda date ○ We currently have 2 openings under the category of Community Based Organization that Provides Services for Children and Families and one opening in the category of Community Based Organization with ties to an Ethnic Community. ○ The Executive Committee met on February 18th and went over the attendance sheet that everyone has a copy of. The committee also discussed a need to update our membership application and will include the Bylaws to it to ensure people understand the responsibility they are taking on becoming a member. ○ At the upcoming meeting in April there will be a panel of speakers from Child Welfare that will talk about their Risk Assessment Tool. In addition, the membership will be accepting nominations for officers. If a member is interested in holding a position, please submit your name for consideration 	
V. Alliance Staff Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Forum – Ronda Kogler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This year the Policy Forum will be a breakfast on May 14th, Thursday. The planning committee is hoping to get more engagement from local policymakers, including city officials. The focus will be on racial equity. • Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) Update – Susan Ferdinandi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The GBACAPCC met on the 4th Wednesday in February. Most of the meeting was discussion about materials needed for Child Abuse Prevention Month. A sign-up sheet was passed around for events that different organizations would/are doing for the month of April. Also, Susan announced that if members needed blue ribbon pins they should contact her and let her know. ○ The GBACAPCC heard a presentation from Safe and Sound; they worked with 	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
	<p>an animator from Pixar to develop a Safe and Sound app. While the app is not available yet, the animator is willing to pilot it within the GBACAPCC and customize it for each county. The app would be free to children, free to agencies and available for a charge to schools and insurance companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Susan will ensure that a link is sent out to everyone for the ACEs aware webinar. ○ Save the Date flyers were passed out to everyone for Children’s Memorial Flag on April 24th. ○ Work is being done on updating the Economics of Child Abuse. The data for this report is usually ready in April, so look for the update to be out then. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Legislative Update – Ericka Erickson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ericka reminded all that on March 12th there will be a training at Solano Family Children Services from 12-2pm. We have 10 organizations who will receive mini grants to help promote the Census 2020. Beginning March 12th people will begin to receive postcards regarding filling out the Census. On March 15th everyone will be able to complete the Census online and April 1st is Census day. ○ Ericka passed around a sheet of bills that are being highlighted and will be discussed in the workgroup. ○ Related to the bills that the membership was tracking last year there is only one that is now active: AB 1001. The other bill that was being supported last year, AB 324, is not on the list because this bill will not move forward. AB 2500 is an ECE bill that complements and builds upon the existing Transitional Kindergarten law and the CSPP to provide universal access to Early Learning by offering TK to all 4 year olds. ○ Pam reminded members that if anyone is aware of legislation that this body should consider taking a position to please bring that forward. 	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
VI. Bylaws discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam presented the Bylaws as a second draft by the Executive Committee for review and discussion. There was a great deal of discussion on the bylaws and the document was reviewed but there was not a quorum so a vote on revisions could not take place. Members suggested additional research into the bylaws of other Board appointed advisory bodies and how they address attendance. The revised bylaws will be brought back to the membership in April for a vote. 	
VII. Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was discussion and everyone agreed that the strategic planning process would take longer than the 2-hour regular meeting. Discussion included the possibility of having two 4-hour meetings. There was also discussion about looking for a facilitator for strategic planning. It was suggested to send out a doodle poll for possible meeting dates, possibly in June or July. 	
VIII. CAPC, Advocacy & Legislation Workgroups	Workgroups met for about 25-30 minutes	
IX. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm	

Children's Alliance

A partner of the Children's Network of Solano County

SOLANO CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

General Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Solano County Office of Education

5100 Business Center

Fairfield, CA 94534

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pam Posehn, Juan Cisneros, Gloria Diaz, Guadalupe Lopez, Neely McElroy (alternate for Aaron Crutison), Dr. Shandi Fuller, Candy Pierce, Francie MacMillan (alternate for Maria Guevara), Julie Musto, Michalle Shown-Rodriguez, Rachel Rico, Jennifer MacKinnon, Kathy Lago (alternate for Zoe Bartholomew), Nicola Parr (alternate for Lisette Estella-Henderson,) and Cheryl Countee (alternate for Stacy Burke)
- MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Candice Floyd, Robert Tobin, Maurilio Leon, Sharon Henry, Joshua Mallory, and Supervisor Monica Brown
- GUESTS ATTENDING:** Hayley Armstrong, Liat Meitzenheimer, Lisa Hooks, Rose Laugtag, Jennifer Redman, Dee Dee Barrett, Tonya Burns, Jameelah Hanif and Rianna Damsten
- STAFF:** Ronda Kogler, Susan Ferdinandi, and Jessica Gabbart

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm	
I. Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicola Parr announced that on February 21st from 9am-2pm they will be having a School Wellness Center Resource Fair at Joe Nelson. If anyone is interested in participating, please complete the registration form that was distributed to members. • Francie Macmillan announced that on Monday they have their mobile shower unit up and running. • Kathy Lago announced the LPC Community Meeting will be on March 19th and that there are flyers on the back table. • Pam Posehn mentioned that if you are part of the Alliance Legislative Committee that they will be meeting right after this meeting. • Jameelah Hanif announced that on February 20th they will be having a Family Child Care Association meeting at 6:30pm in Vallejo at Hakeem Brown's office • Isabel Montano announced that they will be having a Teen Leadership Summit on February 29th from 9:30am-2:30pm. Youth from 7th grade and up are invited. Flyers were distributed at the meeting and will be sent out digitally as well. • Isabel also discussed Public Charge and a family that is concerned about receiving services because they don't want to be at risk. • Jennifer Redman with Drug Safe Solano announced that they are looking to broaden their membership and looking to partner with people who have use for their services. 	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
	<p>Drug Safe Solano’s next meeting is February 28th at the NorthBay Admin Building from 12-2pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Hooks announced that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities grant cycle is getting ready to take place and the top 2 priorities for this area are employment and housing. Please look out for the RFPs. Lisa announced that when the RFPs are released, they will be distributed to the Children’s Alliance. 	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
II. Approval of (February Agenda) (Action Item)	No changes requested	Candy Pierce moved to approve the February agenda. Pam Posehn seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the February agenda was approved as written.
III. Approval of (January Minutes) (Action Item)	No changes requested	Kathy Lago moved to approve the January minutes. Candy Pierce seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the January minutes were approved.
IV. Alliance President Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Juan welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. • Membership Update/Executive Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Juan announced that the Executive Committee is working on finalizing the list of membership changes that need to go for board approval. In addition, he reminded all that we will be adding an attendance sheet every month with the packet. ○ The Executive Committee did another round of edits to the Bylaws that we will go over later in the meeting. 	
V. Alliance Staff Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) Update – Susan Ferdinandi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you to everyone who responded to the Survey Monkey that went out. I will share the results with the workgroup and the results will probably go out with the March packet. The Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition is in the process applying for one of the ACEs awareness grants. It will be submitted on February 11th. • Census 2020 Update – Ronda Kogler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Solano Kids Count is offering a training for staff on February 11th from 12-2pm. If your agency signed up to be a Census Ambassador, you should have already received information from Ericka, along with a way to register. 	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
VI. Special Presentation	<p>Special Presentation: Census 2020 – Guadalupe R. Ramos, Census Regional Coordinator, First 5 California</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lupe presented information about the upcoming census via a powerpoint presentation and took questions afterwards. 	
VII. Bylaws discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juan presented the By-laws as a first draft by the Executive Committee for review and discussion. There was a great deal of discussion on the by-laws and the time allotted did not allow for review of the entire document. The members were asked to provide any suggested edits to Ronda Kogler by no later than end of business on 2/14/20. The revised by-laws will be brought back to the membership in March for a vote. • 	
VIII. CAPC, Advocacy & Legislation Workgroups	Workgroups did not meet	
IX. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm	

BYLAWS
OF
SOLANO CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Solano Children’s Alliance (ALLIANCE), supported by the Children’s Network of Solano County (CHILDREN’S NETWORK) and acting as the Solano County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC).

ARTICLE II. AUTHORITY

The Solano County Board of Supervisors designated the Alliance as the statutorily required “local volunteer commission” to complete all tasks required of the Commission for AB2994 (CAPIT) and AB1733 (Children’s Trust Fund), the County’s Interagency Children’s Services Coordinating Council, and the Child Abuse Prevention Council.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

The purpose of the ALLIANCE is to join representatives from city and county agencies, private and community-based organizations, and concerned citizens in an effort to sustain and improve the quality, quantity and integration of services and programs available to Solano County children and their families.

Inherent to this purpose is:

- A. Increasing communication, coordination, collaboration and cooperation among public, private, and community service providers.
- B. Identifying and supporting strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- C. Minimizing service duplication.
- D. Identifying gaps between needs and services provided.
- E. Enriching existing services.
- F. Prioritizing needed services.
- G. Researching the development of new services.

- H. Recommending funding for services and programs.
- I. Researching, monitoring and advocating for legislation relating to children, youths and families.
- J. Researching, monitoring and advocating for legislation to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- K. Consulting on and reviewing County-wide protocols on child abuse and neglect and other protocols that effect children, youths and families.

ARTICLE IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ALLIANCE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The ALLIANCE is responsible to the Board of Supervisors in carrying out its assigned tasks, including duties related to CAPIT and the Children’s Trust Fund. Recommendations for funding, services and programs and legislation shall be reviewed by the ALLIANCE and submitted by the Executive Committee directly to the Board of Supervisors, who shall have the final approving authority.

ALLIANCE/CHILDREN’S NETWORK

The CHILDREN’S NETWORK is a separate, incorporated non-profit agency whose responsibilities include, but are not limited to, providing staff support to the function of the ALLIANCE through a contractual agreement between the CHILDREN’S NETWORK and the Solano County Board of Supervisors.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

The ALLIANCE shall consist of twenty voting members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The membership shall include:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Health and Social Services, with at least one representative from Child Welfare Services | Two |
| 2. Probation, Juvenile Division | One |
| 3. Local child serving public agency | One |
| 4. Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, Designee, or representative of juvenile justice services | One |
| 5. Superintendent of County Office Of Education or designee | One |

6. Superintendent of a local school district or designee	One
7. Representative from the District Attorney's Office	One
8. Representative of community based organizations that provide services, that may include child abuse prevention, to children and/or families	Five
9. Board of Supervisors Member or designee	One
10. Representative of law enforcement	One
11. Representative of the Regional Center	One
12. Representative of the Child Care Resource and Referral or Child Care Planning Council	One
13. Representative of community based organizations with ties to marginalized communities	One
14. Members at large (individuals not paid to work on children's service programs in Solano County, community representatives, parents, grandparents and/or consumers	Two

The Executive Committee shall receive and review applications as vacancies occur and make recommendations for appointments to the Board of Supervisors. All members shall be appointed for four years. Terms are renewable at the request of the Alliance and with the approval of the Board, however Alliance members must apply for reappointment. A member whose appointment has expired may continue to serve in that capacity until a new appointment is made or until the Board declares the position vacant.

Each Alliance member may designate one alternate to be recommended to the Executive Committee and appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Alternates may attend, participate, and vote on the member's behalf in the regularly scheduled Alliance meetings. The termination date of the alternate's term of service will coincide with the termination date of the primary Alliance member for whom they serve as the alternate

Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the Executive Committee. A thirty-day advance notice shall be submitted whenever possible.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

The Ralph M. Brown act shall govern the ALLIANCE meetings, but not the meetings of the Executive Committee. The Alliance shall hold a minimum of ten meetings per year. Unless otherwise determined by a vote of the membership, the meeting shall be held on the first Wednesday of the month at a site identified in writing in advance of the meeting.

Members of the ALLIANCE shall receive by mail or email the minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda for the next meeting at least seventy-two hours prior to the next meeting date.

Robert's Rule of Order shall guide the ALLIANCE in its proceedings.

Public notice shall be made available through email, and posted at the Children's Network and at designated meeting locations.

Special meetings may be called by the ALLIANCE President at any time. Each member of the Alliance shall be given a minimum of 24 hours notice of such meetings.

Items that qualify as an emergency can be added to the agenda at the meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Attendance at all meetings is recorded on a sign-in sheet. Members are responsible for signing the attendance sheet.

ATTENDANCE

It shall be the duty of each ALLIANCE member to attend all meetings. In case of illness or other compelling commitments, the Executive Committee may excuse a member's absence. Such absences will be recorded in the minutes.

Should a member fail to attend two meetings in one calendar year without being excused by the Executive Committee, regardless of the alternate's attendance, that member may lose its membership by a vote of the Executive Committee.

QUORUM

A majority of the members of the ALLIANCE shall constitute a quorum. In computing the quorum, the member appointed by the Board of Supervisors or, in the members absence, that member's Board of Supervisor's approved alternate, counts as one member towards the quorum. A quorum shall be necessary to conduct ALLIANCE business meetings.

VOTING RIGHTS

Each member of the ALLIANCE shall have one vote in all actions and decisions of the ALLIANCE. All actions and decisions shall require a majority vote of the established quorum for approval.

ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Officers of the ALLIANCE shall be the Executive Committee which shall include the President, the Vice President, the immediate past President. Additionally, the Chairpersons of each standing committee of the ALLIANCE shall be made members of the Executive Committee upon the request of the standing committee chair.

The Executive Committee shall:

- A. Set overall procedures and policies for conducting meetings
- B. Set agendas
- C. Review proposals of funding for new programs
- D. Make reports to the Solano County Board of Supervisors
- E. Review member applications and make recommendations for approval to the membership and the Solano County Board of Supervisors.
- F. Review ALLIANCE Bylaws and recommend changes for approval to the membership and the Solano County Board of Supervisors.
- G. Review County-wide protocols that effect children, youth, and families and recommend for approval to the membership and the Solano County Board of Supervisors.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

The President shall be the principal executive officer of the ALLIANCE and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the ALLIANCE. He/she shall preside at all meetings of the members and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be assigned by the ALLIANCE from time to time.

VICE PRESIDENTS

The Vice President shall in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and subject to all restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall routinely chair the Executive Committee meetings to gain experience in leadership and in managing the meeting agenda.

If the Vice-President position becomes vacant the Executive Committee may fill the office by appointment of an Executive Committee member subject to ratification by the general membership.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

The ALLIANCE, by Resolution adopted by a majority, may designate and appoint one or more committees each of which may consist of two or more ALLIANCE members. Such committees will make recommendations to the Alliance and cannot independently exercise the authority of the Alliance except when specifically authorized to do so. Possible categories for committees include:

- A. Preventing child abuse and neglect through education, awareness, and other activities.
- B. Gathering data to develop and maintain information on programs.
- C. Researching new services and programs.
- D. Reviewing and monitoring legislation.
- E. Advocating for effective children's services.
- F. Providing a slate of officers at the time of the election of the Executive Committee.

Each committee may include non-ALLIANCE members. Each committee shall have a Chairperson who shall be an ALLIANCE member.

ARTICLE X. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of ALLIANCE Officers and Committee Chairpersons. The Nominating Committee shall solicit from the voting membership names of candidates to be proposed for office.

The Nominating Committee shall present the recommended slate of officers to the full membership at the April meeting each year.

ELECTIONS

The election of officers will be scheduled for the May meeting. The President shall also accept nominations from the floor. Voting rights are limited to those appointed members of the ALLIANCE. Voting is conducted by means of a secret ballot. Newly elected officers shall begin their responsibilities at the June or the next scheduled ALLIANCE meeting.

TERM OF OFFICE

Each elected officer shall serve for a term of two years and may be re-elected for no more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

ARTICLE XI. BYLAWS

These by-laws shall be approved, and may be amended by a majority vote of those members of the ALLIANCE constituting a quorum, provided that the recommended amendments shall have been submitted in writing with a minimum of one month's notice to the ALLIANCE total membership for review. These by-laws shall become effective immediately upon the approval of the ALLIANCE.

Review of County Advisory Body Bylaws with respect to attendance

- **County Parks & Rec:**
<https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/countypark/parksnrec/bylaws.asp>
 - “SECTION 3 – A Commission member may be replaced by the Board of Supervisors when two unexcused absences occur from Regular meetings in each calendar year.”

- **Solano County Child Care and Development Planning Council:**
 - Council members are expected to attend all regular meetings. Members shall notify the Chair or Coordinator of any expected absence by 5 p.m. of the day prior to the meeting.
 - If a member is absent from three (3) general meetings in a fiscal year it is cause for dismissal. The Executive Committee shall report these absences to the Board and the Superintendent.”

- **Mental Health Advisory Board:**
Any member of the Mental Health Advisory Board who is absent three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled Mental Health Advisory Board meetings will be dismissed by Mental Health Advisory Board action, barring extenuating health or other personal circumstances as determined by the Mental Health Advisory Board member who is a member of the Board of Supervisors, who also shall have the final decision for termination of a member due to absences.

- **Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board:**
<https://admin.solanocounty.com:4433/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=26472>
 - “All Advisory Board members must inform the Secretary of the Advisory Board if they will not be attending an Advisory Board meeting, otherwise it will be construed as an unexcused absence. The Advisory Board shall entertain a motion to recommend termination by the Board of Supervisors for unexcused absence from three (3) consecutive board meetings. The determination of what constitutes an excused absence shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.”

Solano Children's Alliance
Recommendation for Allocation of Children's Trust Fund
for Fiscal Year 2020-21

The Solano Children's Alliance Executive Committee has reviewed revenue projections for the coming year and expects the balance and revenues for Fiscal Year 2020-21 to support an allocation of up to \$130,000, while maintaining a reserve of 25%. The Committee is recommending continued funding of the Solano Children's Alliance's administrative role for CTF, and continued funding of the Child Abuse Prevention Council Activities currently under contract. In addition, the Committee is recommending the distribution of \$118,000 in Children's Trust Fund to not for profit agencies currently engaging in family strengthening efforts for the purpose of primary prevention.

Recommended Children's Trust Fund Allocation:		
	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Children's Network		
CTF Administration	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Child Abuse Prevention	\$ 7,472.00	\$ 7,500.00
FRC Network Coordination*	\$ 29,872.00	
Subtotal	\$ 41,844.00	\$ 12,000.00
Family Resource Centers*	\$ 88,156.00	
Primary Prevention - Competitive Process		\$ 118,000.00
Total Allocation	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00

Should the Solano Children's Alliance members agree with this recommendation, draft language for a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors is as follows:

The Solano Children's Alliance recommends that \$130,000 in Children's Trust Fund be allocated to the Child Abuse Prevention Activities, Children's Trust Fund and to not for profit agencies engaged in family strengthening for child abuse prevention activities, as follows:

Primary Prevention (by City)	
Benicia	\$ 8,530.00
Dixon	\$ 6,540.00
Fairfield	\$ 31,360.00
Rio Vista	\$ 3,900.00
Suisun	\$ 9,010.00
Vacaville	\$ 26,690.00
Vallejo	\$ 31,970.00
Total for Primary Prevention	\$ 118,000.00
Children's Network	
Children's Trust Fund Administration	\$ 4,500.00
Child Abuse Prevention Council	\$ 7,500.00
Total Allocation of CTF	\$ 130,000.00



Solano County Health & Social Services

Child Welfare Services Intake and Overview

Children's Alliance May 6, 2020
Aaron Crutison, Deputy Director and Kim McDowell, Manager

CWS Overview

Agenda:

- **Child Welfare Services in Solano County**
 - Aaron Crutison MPA, Deputy Director, CWS
- **CWS Overview and Intake process**
 - Kim McDowell, MSW, Manager, CWS
- **Community Partnership**
 - Aaron Crutison MPA, Deputy Director, CWS
- **Q&A**

Definitions of Child Abuse in CA

California Welfare & Institutions Code § 300

Physical Abuse

- “The child has suffered, or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer, serious physical harm inflicted non-accidentally upon the child by the child’s parent or guardian”
 - “Does not include reasonable and age appropriate spanking to the buttocks where there is no evidence of serious physical injury”

Failure To Protect

- Failure or inability of the parent to adequately supervise the child, or protect the child from person in whose care they have left the child
- Willful or negligent failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical treatment
- Inability to care for child due to mental illness, developmental delay or substance abuse
- Categorized as “Neglect”

Definitions of Child Abuse in CA

California Welfare & Institutions Code § 300

Neglect

- Negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child **by a person responsible for child's welfare.**
- Includes- Acts and Omissions
- The neglect either causes harm or threatens to harm the child's health or welfare.

Emotional Abuse

- willfully causing or permitting any child to suffer unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or endangering the child's person or health
- child is suffering or is at risk of suffering serious emotional damage
- **Witnessing domestic violence may be reported as emotional abuse**

Definitions of Child Abuse in CA

California Welfare & Institutions Code § 300

Sexual Abuse

- “The child has been sexually abused, or there is substantial risk that the child will be sexually abused, as defined in Section 11165.1 of the Penal Code, by his or her parent or guardian or member of his or her household, or the parent or guardian has failed to adequately protect the child from sexual abuse when the parent or guardian knew or reasonably should have known that the child was in danger of sexual abuse”
- WIC code includes known sexual exploitation or failure to protect from Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)
- Even non-contact offenses (verbal, exposing, taking or showing photos) are reportable

Definitions of Child Abuse in CA

California Welfare & Institutions Code § 300

No provision for support

- Child has been left without any provision for support
- Parent incarcerated and unable to make arrangements for care of child
- Left with friend or relative who can't care for child
- Whereabouts of parent unknown

Cruelty

- The child has been subjected to an act of cruelty by the parent or guardian or member of his or her household –OR- the parent or guardian has failed to adequately protect the child.

Abuse of a Sibling

- CWS and the courts can intervene on behalf of all children in the sibling group when appropriate and needed to protect non-abused siblings from risk of harm

Intake/Hotline

Emergency Response

State Law requires all county CWS agencies to operate a 24 hour-7 day per week response system to accept reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

In Solano County, we answer phones directly during business hours, and afterhours contract to relay calls to staff 24/7.

2 Social Workers and a Supervisor are on call at any time.

Intake/Hotline

Incoming calls

- Screened using a standardized tool (Structured Decision Making)
- Information entered into a Hotline Screener Narrative
 - Additional county-specific questions added to remind Initial Investigators to gather necessary information
- During business hours, call information entered “live” into database CWS/CMS

Intake/Hotline

- Screening questions include:
 - Alleged abuse
 - Allowing the reporting party(RP) to speak freely, using Safety Organized Practice (SOP) methods to determine areas of harm and danger vs. complicating factors
 - Family history of abuse or neglect
 - Family strengths known to the RP
 - Family connection to tribal groups
 - Other family members involved/other supports
 - What does RP believe is needed for family
 - Current addition- **Exposure to COVID-19**

Intake/Hotline

Assessment at Hotline

- Staff use the Hotline tool within Structured Decision Making (SDM) as a guide to determine
 - Do allegations meet criteria for an in-person response?
 - If yes, what timeframe is that response?
 - 24 hours/2 hours- immediate safety needs
 - 10 days- meets criteria but no immediate safety needs identified

Intake/Hotline

Assessment at Hotline (cont'd)

- If No in-person response required, referral is “Evaluated Out”
- Either way, cross-reports to appropriate agencies will be made if needed
 - Law Enforcement
 - Community Care Licensing
 - Community services information provide to reporting party

Emergency Response Investigations

- The referral is assigned to a social worker Emergency Response investigator who conducts investigative interviews with the child alleged to be abused, siblings and parents or caretakers.
- The social worker consults with collateral sources who have information about the child and family and gathers other information to determine if the allegations are unfounded, inconclusive, or substantiated.

Emergency Response Investigations

Use of Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools

- Social Workers use the information they obtained during their investigation to guide their completion of the SDM Safety and Risk assessment tools.
- Using a series of questions regarding both the current family situation as well as family history, the tools support professional assessment of immediate and future impact on the children.

Emergency Response Investigations

- If there are **safety** issues, the social worker will consider various interventions to mitigate the safety issues and allow the child to remain in the home.
- If this is not possible, then protective custody is considered in order to keep children safe.
- The social worker will also assess for **RISK** factors. If there is risk to the children in the home, the social worker will consider services for the family to reduce the level of risk, i.e., the likelihood of future maltreatment of the children.

Emergency Response Investigations

- If the investigation finds that there are no **safety** threats at the time,
 - and the **risk** of future maltreatment is low, the referral will likely be closed with community referrals to stabilize the family.
- If the family has **safety** issues or high or very high likelihood that future abuse will occur (**risk**), they will be assessed for whether ongoing services from CWS is needed to ensure the wellbeing of the children.

CWS Cases

Voluntary and Court Intervention

- These can be provided either on a voluntary or court-ordered basis.
- Some families can receive services (**FAMILY MAINTENANCE**) while the children remain in the home.
- If there are safety concerns that cannot be addressed in the home, some families may receive services (**FAMILY REUNIFICATION**) while the children are out of the home.

Family Reunification

- Most children who are placed in out of home care have a goal to return to their parents or guardian (Family Reunification).
- At the same time that social workers are working with the parents to get the child home safely, the social worker is working with relatives or other care providers to establish an alternative permanent plan (Concurrent Planning).

Court

- Children whose cases go to court are ordered services, and decisions are made by the judge about visitation and where they live.
 - The Judge makes their decisions based on input from reports written by the social worker and CASA, as well as testimony and information presented in court.
- These decisions are implemented by the social worker for the child and family.
- The social worker submits reports to the court for most hearings, and the CASA also submits a written report and can attend hearings.

Court (2)

- Families with children under 3 usually receive services for a period of six months.
- Families with children over 3 usually receive services for a period of 12 months.
- Depending on the family circumstances, some families can receive additional services- to 18 months. The maximum time period is 24 months of reunification services.
- If reunification is not successful, or services are not ordered for the parents, CWS will move toward the concurrent plan developed, including **ADOPTION, GUARDIANSHIP,** or other **PERMANENT PLANNED LIVING ARRANGEMENT.**

Out of home placement

- Removal from the home of parents may be traumatic for children/youth, and first consideration is that children be placed with relatives or non-relative extended family members (NREFM).
- Other placement possibilities considered are based on the services/treatment needs of the youth:
 - Resource Family Home (RFA)
 - Foster Family Agency (FFA)
 - Group Home / Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP)

Why Do We Do What We Do?

- Child Welfare Services (CWS) is mandated by federal law to insure the following goals for children:
 - Safety
 - Permanency
 - Well-being

Federal, State and County oversight

- The Administration for Children And Families (ACF) is responsible for federal oversight of all state Child Welfare Programs. This includes:
 - Child and Family Services Review, Performance Improvement Plan
 - CFSR case reviews
- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provides oversight of county Child Welfare programs, including:
 - Every 5 years- County Self Assessment report; System Improvement report
 - Annual System Improvement report update
 - County CFSR case reviews oversight and implementation
- Continuous Quality Improvement supports federal efforts to evaluate each state's performance on key federal outcome measures. This is achieved, in part, through Solano County's CQI unit, case reviews that take an in-depth look at how we are serving children and families, and through oversight at the supervisor and management levels.

California efforts to improve CWS outcomes for youth

AB 403 – Continuum of Care Reform

Comprehensive reform effort to improve the outcomes for youth in foster care.

- Strengthens training and qualifications for resource families providing care to foster youth.
- Transforms group homes into a new category of congregate care facility defined as Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs)
- Home-based Family Care
- Residential Treatment
- Providing Core Services

Child and Family Teams

Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings began with the implementation of Intensive Services Mental Health (Katie A). With the implementation of CCR, CFT meetings are required to be held within 60 days of placement into out of home care and at least every 6 months thereafter.

The team consists of (at minimum):

- The child/youth/Non-minor Dependent
- The parent(s)
- The social worker
- The current care provider
- FFA Social Worker/STRTP staff (if applicable)
- Mental health provider (if applicable)
- CASA
- Indian Custodian (if applicable)

Others who may be included: youth or parent partners, public health providers, school personnel, Regional Center, Clergy, Other Community Support, etc.

Child and Family Teams (cont)

In Solano, the CFT's may be held for many reasons:

- **Assessment and Services Team Meetings**
 - To provide resources to a family or caregivers to address the needs of children.
 - To coordinate services to families who are working with a number of service providers
- **Permanency Team Meetings**
 - To discuss alternate permanency plans for children whose parents are unable to reunify.
- **Mental Health**
 - CWS staff participate in meetings facilitated by Mental Health Staff to coordinate mental health services for children and their families.
- **Family Team Meetings**
 - Additional meetings can be held with families to ameliorate problems or develop family plans to ensure that families have resources and information to be successful.

California Core Practice Model

- Provides a framework to support child welfare practice across the state. The goal is to ensure greater consistency in CWS practice and to allow CWS professionals to be more effective in their roles by:
 - Guides practice, service delivery and decision-making.
 - Allows all emerging initiatives to fit into a structure so that they are working together. The practices and themes that support each initiative are clearly identifiable.
 - Improves outcomes for children and families.
 - Creates transparency with CWS professionals, internal partners, and external partners.

California Core Practice Model

- **What will we do to achieve this?**
 - Prevention
 - Engagement
 - Assessment
 - Planning and Service Delivery
 - Monitoring and Adapting
 - Transition
- **What will our practice look like?**
 - Engagement
 - Inquiry/Exploration
 - Advocacy
 - Teaming
 - Accountability
 - Workforce Development and Support



Safety Organized Practice (SOP)

- SOP is an engagement and assessment practice model that is designed to keep safety at the forefront of child welfare casework with all parties to the case/referral.
- The overarching objectives of the model:
 - Development of good working relationships.
 - Use of critical thinking and Decision-Support tools.
 - Creation of detailed plans for enhancing daily safety of children.

Safety Organized Practice (SOP) (2)

- These objectives are achieved through the use of:
 - Solution-focused interviewing
 - Strategies for meaningful child participation
 - A common language and operational definitions
 - Safety mapping
 - Harm/Danger statements
 - Clear agency and family goals
 - Building safety networks
 - Behaviorally based case and safety plans

CWS Tools

Structured Decision Making (SDM)

- Research shows that understanding these factors produces the most accurate decisions about child safety and potential for future maltreatment.
 - Model Objectives
 - Identify and structure critical decision points
 - Increase consistency in decision making
 - Increase accuracy of decision making
 - Target resources to families most at risk
 - Assessments
 - Hotline
 - Safety
 - Risk
 - Family/Child Strengths and Needs Assessments
 - Reunification and Risk Reassessments

CWS/CMS

- The Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) is an easy-to-use database management system that enables California's Child Welfare Services workers to electronically record, retrieve, and present information in documents.
- Child Welfare Services - California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS CARES) is a system in development to replace the CWS/CMS system.

CWS services

How does CWS do what they do?

CWS services are directed towards:

- **Prevention** – to reduce or eliminate the family problems and stresses that may lead to child abuse and neglect. This can include community education, educational, medical, and psychological services.
- **Intervention** – to connect families with needed services in order to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect of children. Families with higher risk are exhibiting the symptoms of potentially abusive or neglectful behavior or are under types of stress associated with abuse or neglect.
- **Treatment** – to assist a family in which abuse or neglect has already occurred in order to prevent further abuse or neglect. Intervention can range from “early intervention” in the initial stages of abuse or neglect to “late stage” intervention in severe cases or after services have failed to stop the abusive or neglectful behavior.

“It takes a village...”

...to keep children safe and stable

- In addition to CWS, there is a network of state and locally funded child abuse prevention and intervention services in most communities throughout California; local child care agencies and providers; resource and referral networks, and numerous other community services provided by public and private agencies, private practitioners; and community volunteers that support families, assist families in trouble, and provide services to abusive or neglectful families.

CWS partnerships

CWS is establishing partnerships that promote permanency for children and youth:

- First Place for Youth– provides independent living skills case management for youth who are emancipating from the foster care system.
- TAY– Transitional Youth Services – services that are directed towards supporting young adults who are emancipating from foster care into adulthood.
- Family Finding and Engagement(Seneca)- working to build existing relationships and create new ones for youth in out of home placement.

CWS partnerships

- Kinship Support Services Program – provides supportive services to relative caregivers who are caring for children in the foster care system
- REACH Solano – provides for supportive services to families who adopt children pre-, during, and post-adoption.
- Family Resource Centers – at least one office is located in each city in the county.
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Family Unification Program- Section 8 certificates to assist with housing support towards reunification.
- Bridge Emergency Childcare program- Emergency daycare funding for children 0-10 placed with relatives

CWS Program Organization

- **Aaron Crutison, CWS Deputy Director**

- Neely McElroy, CWS Administrator
 - Administration
 - Records
 - Foster Care Eligibility
 - (CQI) Continuous Quality Improvement

- Rhonda Smith, Program Manager (**Support Services Section**)
 - Resource Family Approval
 - Court Supervisor
 - Visitation Services
 - Reception/Legal Procedures
 - Staff Training

CWS Program Organization

- Kim McDowell, Program Manager (**Pre-Dispo Section**)
 - Initial Investigations (Hotline 1-800-544-8696)
 - Emergency Response
 - Dependency Investigation

- Christopher Cassels, Program Manager (**Post-Dispo Section**)
 - Intensive Family Services
 - Voluntary Family Maintenance
 - Court-Ordered Family Maintenance
 - Family Reunification
 - Transitions to Permanency
 - Permanency Planning
 - Non-minor Dependents
 - Adoption & Guardianship Programs

Websites

- California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
 - www.cdss.ca.gov
- Child Welfare Information Gateway
 - www.childwelfare.gov
- US Department of Health & Human Services
 - www.hhs.gov
- California Courts
 - www.courts.ca.gov
- Children's Network
 - www.childnet.org
- Solano Foster Kinship Care Education Program
 - www.fosterluv.com

CWS websites

■ Current Legislation & Resources:

■ Continuum of Care Reform

- <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Resource-Families/Continuum-of-Care-Reform>

■ CSEC – Commercially Exploited Youth

- <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Child-Welfare-Protection/CSEC>

■ Core Practice Model

- <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/CorePracticeModelGuide.pdf>

■ Child Abuse Prevention Handbook

- http://partnershipforsafefamilies.org/section/trainings_events/documents/CA_Child_Abuse_Prevention_Handbook_2007_ADA.pdf