



Solano County

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Minutes - Approved Board of Supervisors

*John M. Vasquez (Dist. 4), Chair
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*Skip Thomson (Dist. 5)
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Tuesday, January 9, 2018

2:00 PM

Solano County Event Center
Conference Room A

Special Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The Solano County Board of Supervisors and the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission met on the 9th day of January 2018 in special session in the County Events Center, Room A, 601 Texas Street, Fairfield, California at 2:00 P.M. Present for the Board of Supervisors were Supervisors Hannigan, Brown, Spering, Thomson and Supervisor Vasquez. Present for the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission were Commissioners Gerald Huber, Dan Ayala, Marisela Barbosa, Jennifer Barton, Aaron Crutison, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, and Nicole Neff. Also present were County Administrator Birgitta E. Corsello, County Counsel Dennis Bunting, First 5 Solano Executive Director Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Deputy Director Megan Richards, Assistant Director of Health and Social Services Tonya Nowakowski, Superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Facility Dean Farrah, Probation Services Manager Amy Potter, Applied Survey Research President Susan Brutschy and Applied Survey Research Vice-President of Evaluation Lisa Nicolai.

ROLL CALL

As noted above, all members of the Board of Supervisors and First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission were present.

JOINT WORKSHOPBoard of Supervisors/First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

- 1 [18-16](#) Receive a presentation on the status of children and youth in Solano County and discuss the future direction of services across multiple agencies to achieve the best outcomes for children and youth

Attachments: [A - Presentation](#)

Supervisor Hannigan provided an introduction of the board members, commissioners and staff in attendance. She then provided an overview of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission (Commission).

Applied Survey Research Vice-President of Evaluation Lisa Niclai facilitated the meeting and presented an overview of the goals of the meeting, partners in the community that support children, research about pathways to children's development, critical milestones in a child's development, supporting data, milestones that matter for later outcomes, struggles that families go through in getting needed support, county population projections for 2018-2023, demographics of children in the county relating to ethnicity, reading/math proficiency rates and poverty, and a map of compounding factors equating to cumulative risk.

First 5 Solano Executive Director Michele Harris presented an overview of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, including what First 5 Solano does, the services it provides and strategies for the future.

Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson presented an overview of student enrollment, what the Solano County Office of Education does, student demographics relating to reading, math, graduation rates and social emotional well-being and strategies for the future.

Supervisor Hannigan asked if there were any questions.

In response to a question from Commissioner Neff and Commissioner Barton, Ms. Estrella-Henderson provided information regarding how multiple diagnosis of disabilities were accounted for in the demographics.

In response to questions from Supervisor Vasquez, Ms. Estrella-Henderson advised that career interest surveys were being conducted at high schools and would be used to build a career inventory list.

In response to a question from County Counsel Dennis Bunting, Ms. Estrella-Henderson provided information on the California Health Kids Survey noting that it did not ask why kids felt sad and advised that early contributors and factors could contribute to chronic sadness.

In response to questions from Supervisor Thomson, Ms. Niclai advised that they were not sure why children in poverty rates spiked in 2015. Ms. Harris advised that the target population for First 5 Solano was families with children 0-5 years old and noted that while they generally served the low-income, the programs were open to all. Ms. Richards noted that the data reported concerning the number of children on Medi-Cal that attended well-child visits was a requirement of the state. Ms. Harris provided information on how children were selected to attend the pre-kindergarten academies provided by First 5 Solano.

Solano County Superintendent of Juvenile Detention Dean Farrah and Probation Services Manager Amy Potter presented an overview of juvenile services, rates of youth in diversion, formal and informal programs, probation services, programs conducted by probation and the juvenile detention facility, youth booking rates, Challenge Academy program completion and post-graduation data, future strategies and initiatives, and results from collaborative efforts working with multiple agencies.

Solano County Health and Social Services (H&SS) Assistant Director Tonya Nowakowski presented an overview of county childhood obesity rates, youth asthma rates, rates of suicidal ideation and suicides in county children, percentage of children in food insecure households, percentage children having health insurance, substantiated child maltreatment rates and percentage of children without recurrence of substantiated maltreatment. She then presented an overview of the Health and Social Services divisions and programs, percentage of kindergarten children with all required immunizations, how H&SS is doing currently and where H&SS is headed in the future.

Solano County Director of H&SS Gerald Huber presented information on looking ahead for Solano County's children, including upstream vs. downstream investments, strengths, gaps, opportunities, and examples of system integration.

Ms. Niclai provided a review of critical milestones and factors in child development for early childhood through high school.

Supervisor Vasquez commented on continuous collaboration efforts to solve problems and the need to continue to progress.

Mr. Huber commented on a summit he had attended regarding leadership and the importance of constantly looking at doing things better from the consumer's view.

Commissioner Barbosa commented on her life experiences with speech delays and the importance of having support programs in place.

County Administrator Birgitta Corsello commented on collaboration efforts between County departments and community agencies to overcome challenges and work together. She noted that many groups and systems in place were mandated.

Supervisor Brown commented on the need to look at 10-15 year outcomes when crafting legislation, lost recesses and industrial arts in schools, and the need to look at whether children were being provided adequate food when they were not in school.

Commissioner Barbosa commented on the need to look at how technology played a role in youth development, on promotion of vocational schools and the status of youth that graduated from the Challenge Academy.

Mr. Farrah provided information on the Challenge Academy and noted that 49 youths had graduated from high school in the last few years.

Commissioner Barbosa commented on the need for resources and provision of a vision for Solano County's children.

Supervisor Hannigan noted that high school diploma programs were offered in a variety of programs.

Mr. Huber noted that research was showing that children and young adults are scoring the lowest for emotional intelligence ever, commenting that virtually every interaction has an electronic aspect and that there was a need to watch this.

Ms. Niclai noted that a kindergarten readiness survey indicated that more screen time equated to lower school readiness scores.

Ms. Estrella-Henderson noted that many large technology companies were being asked to address youth addiction to technology and commented on the need to advocate for large technologies companies to be involved in efforts.

Supervisor Hannigan commented on technology noting that it kept kids busy and that adults were not interacting with kids as much.

Commissioner Crutison commented on the number of families moving into the county due to economic hardship, a direct correlation between poverty and maltreatment and the need to look at strategies to address this and prepare for likely increases in the number of families in poverty.

*Supervisor Hannigan commented on a documentary called *The Tale of Two Zip Codes* and the need for a multi-agency response to work with children and families in communities.*

Supervisor Sperring commented on poverty, the need to address the breakdown of family structures, separation of schools from communities, lack of community synergy, third generations of families in need of services. He commented on families moving into the county to improve their environment and advised that he would like to see a "Solano Families Thrive" focus be taken to encourage families and change the culture.

Supervisor Thomson commented on the need to give a hand up and not a hand out. He then commented on the need for an accounting of all the services and programs and advised that tough funding decisions would have to be made as state and federal funding started going away. He also commented on missing early indicators in a child's development that led to probation and prison later and the need to improve expectations of those that we serve.

Mr. Farrah commented on how life experiences of children influenced their thinking, social skills and decisions.

Supervisor Hannigan commented on the need to give children a chance to correct mistakes they make.

Mr. Farrah noted his mantra of challenging children to succeed rather than daring them to fail.

Supervisor Hannigan commented on a recent exercise by First 5 Solano to look at funding and on the need to look at how to address funding together as a county.

Supervisor Hannigan invited the public to speak. The following comments were received:

- A) Jane Johnson, Executive Director of Child Haven, commented on work being done by nonprofits and various agencies to help kids be successful, expansion of efforts because of support and out-of-the-box thinking, and the need to look at successes as well.*

Supervisor Hannigan advised that the event was the beginning of ongoing conversation of how to help address issues and thanked staff for their work on the event.

ADJOURN

This special meeting of the Solano County Board of Supervisors and the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

JOHN M. VASQUEZ, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By _____
Jeanette Neiger, Chief Deputy Clerk