

Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission Hearing

July 11, 2018

Presenter Biographies

Reba Morris and Meris Swett, Parents

Reba Morris and Meris Swett are parents involved in the Fresno chapter of Parent Voices, a partnership of parents throughout California. A Statewide Organizer works out of the CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network, and local chapters are housed at child care resource and referral agencies (CCR&R's). Parent Voices combines leadership development, advocacy, and community organizing in its efforts to increase funding, improve quality, and provide better access to child care. Their mission states "We are a parent-run, parent-led grassroots organization fighting to make quality child care accessible and affordable to all families."

Parent Voices believes in working toward social change by developing new community leaders to advocate for child care and respond to emerging issues, having parents and child care consumers identify our issues, solutions, and courses of action; acting with passion and resolve, using a variety of strategies and having strong, articulate parents govern the policies of the organization

Marco Jimenez, Subsidized Program Manager, Central Valley Children's Services Network

In 1984, Marco obtained his Elementary Teaching Credentials in Mexico and taught 2nd and 8th grades. In 1989, he moved to the United States and worked for Little Caesars Corp. managing two stores. In 2001, he started working for Community Action Partnership of Kern County as a Case Worker for the Migrant Alternative Payment Program (CMAP) providing services to migrant families in Fresno County. In 2004, Marco joined the Central Valley Children's Services Network as the Alternative Payment Program Specialist and oversaw the Family Child Care Education Network. He was promoted to the Subsidized Child Care Program Manager position in 2010 and currently works for Central Valley Children's Services Network as the Child Care Subsidies Director overseeing Cal-Works Stages 1 & 2, California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA), Family Child Care Education Network, Center-Based Child Care, Migrant Child Care (Center-Based) and California State Preschool Programs. He was also part of the Alternative Payment Program Stakeholder Group (AB 104). Marco is a member of that the California Alternative Payment Program Association's board of directors and sits on the policy committee.

Dr. Manuel Pastor, Professor, Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity, University of Southern California

Dr. Manuel Pastor is Professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. He currently directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) at USC and USC's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII). Pastor holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is the inaugural holder of the Turpanjian Chair in Civil Society and Social Change at USC.

Dr. Pastor's research has generally focused on issues of the economic, environmental and social conditions facing low-income urban communities – and the social movements seeking to change those realities. His recent book *Equity, Growth, and Community: What the Nation Can Learn from America's Metro Areas*, co-

authored with Chris Benner (UC Press 2015), argues how inequality stunts economic growth and how bringing together equity and growth requires concerted local action. Combining data, case studies, and narratives on multi-sector collaborations in 11 metro regions, the book offers a powerful prescription not just for metros but for our national challenges of slow job growth, rising economic inequality, and sharp political polarization. He has also recently co-edited the book, *Unsettled Americans: Metropolitan Context and Civic Leadership for Immigrant Integration* with John Mollenkopf (Cornell University Press 2016), which offers a comparative study and detailed analyses of immigrant incorporation efforts across seven different U.S. metro regions.

Dr. Pastor speaks frequently on issues of demographic change, economic inequality, and community empowerment and has contributed opinion pieces to such outlets as the Los Angeles Times, the San Jose Mercury News, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Sacramento Bee, the Huffington Post, and many others. Pastor currently serves as a Public Member of the Strategic Growth Council in California, and has previously served as a member of the Commission on Regions appointed by California's Speaker of the State Assembly, and as a member of the Regional Targets Advisory Committee for the California Air Resources Board. His current research looks at the last several decades of economic, social, and environmental transformations in California – and what they can tell us about the road ahead for the U.S.

Emilia Reyes, Executive Director, First 5 Fresno County

Emilia Reyes has been with First 5 Fresno County since 2003, and has been honored to serve the community's young children and their families through her work at the agency. Under her leadership, First 5 Fresno County opened the Lighthouse for Children, a community space in downtown Fresno where young children and their families are supported and prioritized so they can reach their full potential. As First 5 Fresno County's Executive Director, Emilia is highly involved in community efforts to combat the area's preterm birth and black infant mortality rates. She also is a passionate advocate for the early years, and encourages all parents to trust their instincts when it comes to the development of their children. Emilia comes from a migrant farm working family and was born and raised in Mendota. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Master of Business Administration degree from the California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Kristin Schumacher, Policy Analyst, California Budget & Policy Center

Kristin Schumacher joined the Budget Center as a policy analyst in 2013. Prior to joining the Budget Center, she taught public policy and public administration courses in the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver and held research positions with the University and the Feminist Majority Foundation. She also worked in fundraising and development with the Colorado AIDS Project in Denver. She received a Ph.D. in public affairs from the University of Colorado Denver and a master's degree in social work with an emphasis in policy and administration from the University of Texas, Austin.

Dr. Matilda Soria, Early Care & Education Coordinator, Office of Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Matilda Soria was born and raised in Fresno, CA. Matilda has earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology and a Minor degree in Ethnic Studies from California State University, Fresno; a Master's degree in Human Development and Psychology, with a specialization in Risk and Prevention from Harvard University; and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from California State University, Fresno. Matilda serves as an Early Care and Education Coordinator of Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, wherein she leads the Fresno County Child Care & Development Local Planning Council (LPC). She also serves as an Adjunct Professor at California State University-Fresno in the Kremen School of Education. Matilda has extensive experience conducting scientific and behavioral research among ethnic and at-risk populations, as well as in the

development, management, and evaluation of educational and social service programs for children and families. She serves on the Fresno City College Child Development Department Advisory Committee; the California State University-Fresno Institutional Research Review Board; the Events Committee of the California Child Development Administrators Association (CCDAA); and the Data Committee of the California Child Care Coordinators Association (CCCCA). She also serves as Associate Editor of the Journal of Expanded Learning Opportunities (JELO) and as a Board Member for non-profit, Fresno Metro Ministries. In her spare time, Matilda enjoys mentoring young people and travelling.

Rose Vang, Case Manager, The Fresno Center

Rose Vang is a Hmong-American and also an immigrant to the United States. She started working at The Fresno Center in August of 2012 as a Case Manager and Medical Claims biller servicing, educating, and advocating for our community in need. Rose works to address many barriers that our immigrant community faces such as transportation to get services, language barriers, and accessing informational resources. Working for and with immigrant families is a passion for Rose, who feels there is still more work to be done on educating and providing accessible services to all in need. She is currently transitioning to Community Outreach Coordinator at The Fresno Center.

Jim Yovino, Superintendent, Fresno County Office of Education

Jim has devoted 24 years to working in education. He has held positions from classroom teacher/coach through principal in Fresno, Dinuba and Central Unified School Districts. During his tenure at Central, he was the Assistant Superintendent of the Human Resources Department, where his duties included collective bargaining, labor relations and oversight of the district's 1,400 employees. He directly supervised all middle, secondary, adult and continuations schools.

In 2006, Jim was appointed Deputy Superintendent for the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools. This move brought challenges along with opportunities and Jim seized both, collaborating with more than 100 stakeholders to create the Fresno County Volunteer Preschool Plan, allowing every 4-year-old in Fresno County to have the opportunity to attend a high-quality preschool program.

On July 1, 2013, Jim began serving as the 21st Superintendent of Schools for Fresno County, where he is a champion for all children by advocating for career technical education and the arts, as well as addressing issues of poverty, intervention, civility, homelessness and the importance of early education. On Jan. 8, 2015, Jim took his Oath of Office to continue serving as Superintendent for the next four years.

Along with his commitment to education, Jim and his wife, Jennifer, founded a nonprofit Fresno County pet food pantry called Halo Cafe. Jim has two children – Noelle, who graduated from Fresno State with a master's degree and is teaching at an elementary school in Kerman; and Vincent, also a graduate of Fresno State with a bachelor's degree, who works in the agriculture industry. Jim is the proud grandfather of Merrell and Clint.