



Date: March 1, 2013

Contact: Ellen Vieira
394-7016
frst5plumasev@psln.com

Press Release: For immediate release in all 4 community newspapers

“Commission that funds early childhood programs has new members”

The First 5 Plumas County Children and Families Commission is pleased to announce that the Plumas County Board of Supervisors appointed two new parent members to the commission, Colleen Kroll and Joanne Burgueno.

Colleen is a stay-at-home mom with two children under the age of 5 and lives in Quincy. As a certificated elementary school teacher, “I believe that a positive experience in early childhood can significantly increase the chances for a child’s success in school and beyond. I am excited to be given the opportunity to join First 5 Plumas and contribute to the commission whose programs are making such a valuable impact on the futures of the youngest children in our community.”

Joanne is a mother of two children aged 21 months and 6 years and lives in Quincy. She was interested in becoming a commission member because, “I believe that it is important for a parent’s voice to be heard especially because a parent knows what is best for their child. As your child’s first teacher, being an involved parent is very crucial for a child’s optimal development.” She is looking forward to her time on the board and all that she can contribute to it.

Research shows that a child’s brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child’s growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children from prenatal to five years of age. First 5 Plumas County distributes approximately \$350,000 per year in Proposition 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

For information on the First 5 Plumas Home Visiting Initiative and other funded programs and services, call or email the commission’s director, Ellen Vieira at (530) [394-7016](tel:394-7016)/frst5plumasev@psln.com or visit www.first5plumas.com.