

## **Children and Families Commission Meeting Minutes August 24, 2005**

**Members Present:** Katcho Achadjian, Dr. Rene Bravo, Lee Collins, Don Dennison, Joel Diringer, Kathy Long, Dr. Greg Thomas, Biz Steinberg

**Members Absent:** Julian Crocker (excused)

**Staff Present:** Susan Hughes, Armando Corella, Cheryl Christner and Amanda Wilson

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Katcho Achadjian called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

### **Public Comments:**

Vicki Book from T.A.P.P. (Teen Academic Parenting Program) read a letter to the Commission from a teenage parent who graduated from Cuesta College. The letter stated how much she appreciated the help and support she had while going to college and that she couldn't have succeeded without it. The graduate is now on her way to school in San Diego.

### **Presentation: Home Visiting Roundtables: Results from State funded TA meetings.**

Armando Corella presented results of five focus group meetings convened by First 5 with representatives of agencies providing "in home" services to families with children, ages 0-5 in San Luis Obispo County. The group identified 36 programs/agencies/organizations that provide services to families with children, ages 0-5. There will continue to be meetings between interested home visitation providers to explore avoiding duplication of services, coordination of referrals and service delivery.

A Home Visitation Conference was held in August and First 5 sent three representatives to the conference: Lisa Fraser, SLO Child Abuse Prevention Council, Connie Hanretty, Children's Hope Foundation, and Irene Vega, Public Health-First Time Mother's Program. The conference attendees commented the conference was helpful and informative and indicated they appreciated the opportunity to attend. Connie Hanretty will prepare a Power Point synopsis of the conference to be presented to the Commission at a future meeting.

The Commission was presented a rough draft of a "Home Visitation Directory" and a resource poster listing 36 programs that serve children 0-5 in the county. This resource directory will be updated on a yearly basis. It will be distributed to OB/Gyn's and health care providers throughout the county.

## Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda were approved with the following modifications to Items 5 and 6 by Commissioner Diringer.

- a) Item 5 was amended from, "a project with the Gold Coast Collaborative addressing childhood obesity", to "a First 5 planning project addressing childhood obesity."
- b) Item 6 was amended to include activities that First 5 San Luis Obispo County has funded locally concerning universal health coverage for children to the letters of support for AB772, SB437 and AB1199 to local government officials.

Commissioner Steinberg moved to accept the entire Consent Agenda as modified and Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## School Readiness - First 5 School Readiness/Family Resource Center

Susan Hughes presented two items for approval regarding the First 5 School Readiness/Family Resource Center in Paso Robles.

- 1) Accept a donation in the amount of \$20,000 from the seller of the Paso Robles land. Commissioner Bravo moved to accept the donation. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 2) To direct all or a portion of the donation toward supporting a grant writer with the goal of securing funding for the permanent structure to become the School Readiness/Family Resource Center.

The motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Diringer. The motion passed unanimously.

## Cal Poly Breastfeeding Report Follow-up

Dawn Wilt and Olga Morales from Public Health WIC Program gave a brief presentation in response to concerns expressed by the Commission following the Cal Poly Breastfeeding Duration study at the June Commission meeting.

- **Inadequate milk supply as a justification for weaning**  
Given that a woman has functional breast anatomy, she is able to breastfeed. When a mother has doubts about her ability to produce an adequate volume of milk, she is referred to lactation professionals for assessment and intervention.
- **Predictors of early weaning**  
Women who have short-term breastfeeding goals are more likely to introduce bottle-feeding at a young age in order for the infant to get used to bottle-feeding. The WIC program encourages mothers not to introduce a bottle until at least one month of age and usually breastfeeding is well established at this time.

The First 5 Commission was encouraged to provide additional benefit to the community through support of breastfeeding advocacy programs that emphasize education and referral to further support breastfeeding. In order to impact the overall breastfeeding duration rates in our county, it would be

essential for the medical community to provide mothers the same consistent message about breastfeeding.

## **Oceano Childcare Interim Plan**

Brad Schultz, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Lucia Mar Unified School District, and Ernie Gomez from the Adult Literacy Program presented an interim plan for non-licensed childcare to support the Adult Literacy Program in Oceano. The plan will provide childcare services starting on August 29<sup>th</sup>, which coincides with the first day of classes at Oceano Elementary. These services would be paid for by funds designated for child-care subsidies in the Oceano School Readiness plan. The proposal before the Commission would provide **interim** services to the community while planning is completed for a licensed childcare program. Mr. Gomez said most of his students in the Adult Literacy Program are young parents who, without daycare, would be unable to attend. Mr. Schultz urged the Commission continue the child-care program, as it is an important component of the collaborative with the community.

Commissioner Bravo asked why the program is unlicensed and Mr. Schultz replied that Even Start was a license-exempt program due to the parent participation component. If approved, the child-care would follow the same guidelines as Even Start. Commissioner Collins asked about what type of staff is going to be hired and Mr. Schultz replied the staff would be all LMUSD staff. Commissioner Long stated that she was unaware of the August 29<sup>th</sup> deadline and with that in mind, she was supportive of the proposed program. Commissioner Steinberg commented if the guidelines stayed the same as the Even Start model, the program should continue.

Commissioner Collins moved to authorize the implementation of the interim program, contingent upon the operation of the program under what were the Even Start standards and subject to the Adult Literacy Program's agreement to indemnify the First 5 Commission against any claims against the LMUSD licensed or unlicensed staff. Commissioner Diringier seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously with Commissioners Dennison and Steinberg abstaining.

## **Program Updates –**

First 5 staff provided a report and power point presentation justifying the local need for Children's Screening and Intervention Program (CSIP). The report gave a basis for:

- Discontinuation of the current model based on outcomes.
- Revision of the model to include First 5 contracting directly with Pediatric Physical Therapy and Services, Inc (PPTS) and Parents Helping Parents (PHP).

Commissioners dialogued with Julie Loe from PPTS and Sharlene Agrusa from PHP regarding their programs. First 5 staff relayed a public comment from Dr. Laura King in support of CSIP services. Commissioner Thomas moved to accept First 5 staff recommendations of the new model with the exception that PPTS and PHP provide services countywide instead of just within School Readiness zones. Commissioner Diringier seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

## Site Visits

Mr. Corella made a brief presentation on the site visit reports for the following programs:

- T.A.P.P. Although some fiscal discrepancies were identified and corrected by EOC, preliminary findings indicated that this program is successful in engaging teenage parents around the topic of Perinatal Substance Abuse.
- Dental T.E.N. has been an extremely well implemented program. Children with the highest needs, with no insurance were prioritized. The contract has been extended to September 30, 2005 to allow for completion of treatment services in progress by which time the Children's Health Initiative is anticipated to have begun universal health coverage for children countywide. All Dental T.E.N. activities will terminate by September 30, 2005. Dr. Thomas requested that various topics on Oral Health be put on the October meeting agenda for discussion.
- Post-Partum Depression Support Services has been a significant program in the community. The quality of referrals received has improved significantly, resulting in interventions in the more critical cases. The program is meeting all it's objectives.
- Perinatal Substance Abuse (PSA) Initiative– Strategic planning has continued with Dr. Chasnoff. PSA Screening has continued, and recent findings continue to support the initial findings of alarming rates of PSA in this County. Dr. Chasnoff will have an updated report at the December Commission meeting.
- Children's Health Initiative – This program is set to launch on September 1, 2005 with full coverage. All barriers have been eliminated. One hundred eighteen children have been identified to receive insurance. Susan Hughes showed a brief video of a program that aired in July 2005 on the Children and Families Monthly Update on the Public Access channel. Kena Burke, Executive Director of the Children's Health Initiative, informed the Commission she would be traveling to Sacramento the next day for an informational workshop on the MRMIB (Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board) Buy-In Program and will provide additional information at a later time.

Commissioner Bravo moved to direct Susan Hughes, Executive Director of First 5, to draft a letter to MRMIB expressing the County's interest in possibly participating in the Buy-In Program, with the understanding that the letter expresses the County's non-binding interest at this time. The Commission authorized Ms. Hughes, as a representative of a county agency, to submit the letter of interest by the deadline of September 6, 2005. Commissioner Steinberg seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Closed Session** - Chairperson Achadjian adjourned the meeting to a closed session to address the Executive Director's evaluation. Upon returning, Chairperson Achadjian reopened the meeting and announced the results of the closed session were that the Executives Director's performance evaluation is Above Satisfactory.

The updates of the State Commission, State Association and Staff Summit updates were tabled until October 26<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

There were no additional comments or announcements; Chairperson Achadjian adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**All materials referred to in these minutes are available at the First 5 Children & Families Commission office. For a more detailed account, tapes of the meeting are available by calling 781-4058.**

**The next regular Commission meeting will be:  
Wednesday, October 26, 2005  
From 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
Oceano Elementary School – (Tentative)  
1551 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oceano California**