

## **Children and Families Commission Meeting Minutes December 7, 2005**

**Members Present:** Katcho Achadjian, Dr. Rene Bravo, Don Dennison, Joel Diringier, Kathy Long, Dr. Greg Thomas, Julian Crocker

**Members Absent:** Lee Collins (excused) and Biz Steinberg (excused)

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

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Katcho Achadjian called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **Panel Presentation: Oral Health Efforts/Challenges in SLO County – Treatment and Prevention/Education Activities**

Kendra Davis, director of the C.H.D.P. program, Michele Vanderlinde, executive director of Clinica de Tolosa and Kathleen O'Neill, director of Community Health Services and former director of Dental T.E.N., gave a brief presentation to the Commission on the efforts and challenges of early childhood Oral Health activities in San Luis Obispo County.

- Ms. Davis explained one challenge is the children covered by Denti-Cal. Very few dentists accept patients with Denti-Cal because reimbursement rates are slow and the amount of paperwork is extensive. Children who have public or private insurance are more likely to have better oral health because they return back to the same dentist on a regular basis.
- Ms. Vanderlinde updated the Commission on the progress of Clinica de Tolosa. From June 2004 to June 2005 there were approximately 6,630 dental visits. From June 2005 to the present (approx. six months) there have been 2,860 dental visits. The clinic also has increased the scope of dental services, referral and education. They also provide in office IV sedation that is offered on a monthly basis for children needing more comprehensive and complex full mouth dental treatment.
- Ms. O'Neill said the Dental T.E.N. program recognized that one of the most crucial partners in oral disease prevention is the local primary care provider staff and office. Dental T.E.N. provided oral health materials to physicians for use in their facilities. The program assisted in setting up a network of partners who routinely deliver oral health education and information in venues throughout the county.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the different aspects of the programs and how best to fulfill the needs of the community since dental treatment through CHDP, and Dental T.E.N. are no longer funded. Commissioner Thomas commented on the need for emphasis on prevention and education with families regarding good oral health. Commissioner Diring agreed on the need for participation by the families regarding regular dental visits and good oral health practices. Commissioner Crocker suggested there be a discussion in the future regarding how to implement a program for prevention and education for families on good oral health.

Chairman Achadjian instructed staff to organize an oral health discussion about prevention and education for the January Commission meeting.

## **First 5 School Family Literacy Interim Oceano Program Update**

Brad Schultz, Asst. Superintendent of Instruction, Lucia Mar Unified School District, and Reyna Korman, Oceano School Readiness Site Coordinator, gave an update on the First 5 Family Literacy Program in Oceano. After receiving input from the Oceano Neighborhood Team and the School Readiness Steering Committee, the following recommendations were submitted to the Commission for approval:

- EOC will provide a.m. and p.m. programs at the First 5 SLO School Readiness Center in Oceano, beginning January 2006 through the end of the current funding cycle in June 2007.
- Funding to E.O.C. will be available from the Child Care Subsidy Funds budget line item in the amount of \$174,900 with \$17,000 for Materials and Supplies, for a total of \$191,900.
- Title 22 Community Care licensing regulations pertaining to child care ratios will be implemented in the morning program, and the "Gold Standard ratios" will be implemented in the afternoon program.
- Two caregivers will be assigned the morning program, and two caregivers will be assigned the afternoon program. A full-time lead caregiver will be assigned to support both the morning and afternoon programs. (Since August 2005, some lead caregiver duties were partially fulfilled by the Oceano SR Site Coordinator, and the new lead caregiver will now take over those duties.)
- Beginning in August 2006, the "Gold Standard for Quality Childcare" will be implemented both during the morning and afternoon sessions.

Commissioner Crocker moved to accept the modifications to the Family Literacy Program, with the recommendation from the School Readiness Steering Committee and Oceano Neighborhood Team. Commissioner Long seconded the motion with the comment from Commissioner Diring that the motion was approving the program as presented thru June 2007.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Dennison abstaining.

## **First 5 Preschool Paso Robles Update:**

Commissioner Crocker updated the Commission on the progress of the First 5 School Readiness Preschool in Paso Robles and also distributed a schematic of the Master Plan. The First 5 Preschool currently is scheduled to open on March 1, 2006. Commissioner Thomas said that Community Health Services is looking to locate their business at the Resource Center. Susan Hughes said that First 5 is starting to work with the community to determine what types of services are needed at the Resource Center. With no comment from the public on this subject, Chairman Achadjian excused Commissioner Crocker from the remainder of the meeting.

## **Update on Perinatal Outreach Initiative**

Jan Campbell, MCH Director San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department, introduced Dr. Ira Chasnoff who updated the Commission on the Perinatal Substance Abuse Initiative that First 5 funded a year and a half ago. Dr. Chasnoff gave a PowerPoint presentation on the results of the Pre-natal screening. Out of 25,000 pregnant women in California who participated in the 4 P's assessment,

18% were smoking cigarettes before they knew they were pregnant,  
22% were drinking alcohol before they knew they were pregnant,  
30% of pregnant women screened were drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes.

Dr. Chasnoff also said that after the 25,000 pregnant women found out they were pregnant, 9% continued to drink. The percentage of women who smoked before they knew they were pregnant remained unchanged after they found out they were pregnant. San Luis Obispo County rates among one of the highest counties in California regarding pregnant women drinking alcohol and using drugs during pregnancy. San Luis Obispo County rates the highest in alcohol use during pregnancy, and only 25% of the pregnant women screened quit drinking alcohol after they discovered they were pregnant.

Dr. Richard McGourty outlined a plan to establish a Children's Center in San Luis Obispo County. Screening will begin with foster care children and at Head Start centers. Eventually screening will be conducted in child care centers and physicians' offices. After the screening, children with significant social and emotional problems will be assigned a referral service to make sure they receive the required treatment. Dr. McGourty said a group of services needs to be networked so that all areas of screening, assessment and treatment are included.

A budget was established during a planning session held in July of this year. Different services in the county need to be coordinated properly at a central location. Chairman Achadjian suggested property behind General Hospital as an option for that location. Dr. McGourty stated the need for one person to be in charge of moving this project forward. Another challenge is the project being able to cover the costs with reliable revenue.

Dr. Chasnoff stated a concern about sustainable revenue. Other counties have built up sustainable revenue by focusing on EPSDT funding which is a federal program; for every five dollars a county pays, that funding is matched by ninety five dollars of federal money.

Commissioner Diringer asked how many children would be screened when the Children's Center is fully operational. Dr. Chasnoff said the center is capable of screening approximately 6 children a week. Children would be assessed and receive services at the center and also at the service providers in the community depending on the results of the screening test. Dr. Chasnoff estimates that when this model of care is fully operational, up to 450 children will be screened a year. Of these, an estimated 150 children will be eligible for services at Tri-County Regional Center. Of the remaining 300 children, almost all will require some sort of intervention.

Dr. McGourty closed the presentation with the comment that the leadership team needs to meet and work through all the organizational and financial challenges and then come back to the community with their proposed solutions. Commissioner Dennison asked if all children 0-5 who have a need for treatment will go the Children's Center first. Dr. Chasnoff replied that the Children's Center is the starting point and then referrals will be made based on the child's needs. Children will receive services not based on eligibility but on need.

Commissioner Bravo commented that the Commission needed to discuss how much of a role First 5 was going to play in pushing this project forward. Commissioner Diringer asked how much money it would take to start the project. Jan Campbell said that start up costs would be \$250,000. Chairman Achadjian directed staff put this topic on the agenda for discussion at the January Commission meeting.

## **2004/2005 Annual Report and Audit:**

Executive Director Susan Hughes gave a brief overview of the 2004/2005 Annual Report. Some of the topics included:

- Funding priorities such as School Readiness sites in Paso Robles and Oceano,
- Administrative and infrastructure costs and subsidies related to Children's Health Insurance Initiative for eligible children age 0-5
- Systems change relating to referral of women using alcohol, tobacco or other drugs in the Perinatal Substance Abuse Initiative.

Ms. Hughes presented the findings of the Annual Audit conducted by Bartig, Basler & Ray CPA's Inc. No material weaknesses were noted regarding financial reporting or operation. The financial model complies with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Total revenue is \$2,516,299, total expenditures are \$3,259,765 and the total fund balance is \$6,945,735. Ms. Hughes reported on the progress of the different funding strategies funded by First 5 San Luis Obispo County. They include Direct Service, Provider Capacity, Community Strengthening, Systems Change and Infrastructure Investments.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the Annual Report and the audit. Commissioner Dennison moved to approve the 2004/2005 report and audit and Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **2004/2005 Evaluation Report**

Tom Keifer gave a brief presentation to the Commission on the outcomes of the 2004/2005 Evaluation Report. The complete 59 page report is available for viewing on First 5 San Luis Obispo County website at [www.first5slo.org](http://www.first5slo.org).

## **Consent Agenda**

Armando Corella informed the Commission of a correction in the minutes from the August 24, 2005 meeting. The minutes stated the next Commission meeting was scheduled for December 7, 2005 when in fact it should have stated, the next Commission meeting was scheduled for October 26, 2005. (The October meeting was cancelled).

Mr. Corella made a clarifying comment on the First Time Mothers Program site visit report. On Page 4 under Exception 2, Telephone Communications:

Actual expenses for this line item are about \$3,000 a year. The amount of \$14,000 was budgeted and there is approximately \$11,000 unused each year in that line item. Over the course the contract there will be approximately \$30,000 of unused funds that will be available to the Commission for redistribution.

Commissioner Thomas moved to accept the Consent Agenda with the corrections made. Commission Diringer seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

## **MAA/TCM Title 4E Matching Funds:**

The item was tabled until the January 18, 2006 Commission meeting.

## **State Commission, State Association, and General Staff updates:**

Ms. Hughes updated the Commission on AB 109 and SB 35, which will take effect in January 2006. The new laws will implement new guidelines and reporting format for the annual report and audit, develop and define "administrative functions" and issue guidelines for local policy development.

Ms. Hughes asked the Commissioners to start thinking about the 2006 Retreat. Some of the proposed items of discussion for the retreat are to review and update the Commission's financial plan to include funding cycles beyond 2007. Commissioners were asked to email ideas and locations for the retreat to Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes played a six-minute promotional video produced by RS Productions that will be used to promote Commission activities.

With no other comments from the Commissioners, Chairman Achadjian adjourned the meeting at 7:15 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, January 18, 2006  
From 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
Oceano Elementary School  
1551 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oceano, CA**