

Children and Families Commission

Meeting Minutes March 23, 2006

Members Present: Katcho Achadjian, Dr. Rene Bravo, Lee Collins, Don Dennison, Dr. Greg Thomas, Dr. Julian Crocker

Members Absent: Biz Steinberg (excused), Joel Diringer (excused)
Kathy Long (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.

Presentation: First 5 funded Postpartum Depression Support Line Project.

Lisa Fraser, Executive Director SLOCAP, updated the Commission on the Postpartum Depression Support line and the *Beginnings* collaborative. A \$20,000 mini-grant in 2002 from First 5 SLO County helped create and sustain a non-emergency postpartum depression support line. The support line provided call back services with trained paraprofessionals within 24 hours. Materials regarding the support line were created and distributed to women of childbearing age throughout San Luis Obispo County.

Ms. Fraser discussed the *Beginnings* collaborative with the Commissioners. *Beginnings* is a forum for public agencies, community-based groups and health providers to convene and support:

- The Children's Leadership Team – to identify best practices in preventing alcohol, tobacco and other drug use before, during and after pregnancy.
- An early intervention center for children exposed to alcohol and/or drugs prenatally.

Beginnings has been the collective body of experts that review and evaluate the 4Ps+© data collected from 17 of the 19 OB offices in SLO County.

SLOCAP with First 5 SLO County's support has completed the Home Visiting Services Directory and distributed the directory throughout San Luis Obispo County. The Commissioners briefly dialoged with Ms. Fraser and thanked her for all the work SLOCAP has done.

Policy Review: Policies AB 109 and SB 35

Warren Jensen from the County Counsel's office updated the Commission on various items regarding new legislation passed in Sacramento. Mr. Jensen informed the Commissioners he reviewed the contract with E.O.C. regarding the Children's Assessment Center and has approved it. Mr. Jensen reviewed new Commission policies required with the passing of AB 109 and SB 35. Since First 5 of SLO County is a county agency, it already follows the County guidelines and policies regarding reimbursement and compensation. Mr. Jensen recommends First 5 continue to incorporate the County's policies within its structure. The County is developing an Ethics Training course that all county employees will need to complete by January 2007. First 5 can follow the county guidelines regarding the training.

Mr. Jensen will have more information at the May 3rd Commission meeting regarding the different policies that will be incorporated into the First 5 Strategic Plan.

Public Hearing

Susan Hughes gave an overview on the First 5 California Annual Report 2004-05, as mandated by the California Children and Families First Act. Commissioner Collins moved, seconded by Commissioner Bravo, to approve the First 5 California Annual Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Collins moved, seconded by Commissioner Bravo to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

- 1) January 18, 2006 minutes
- 2) Expanded Day and Vision Site Visit and Program Reports.

The motion passed unanimously.

MAA/TCM/Title 4E Matching Funds:

Commissioner Collins reviewed a contract with Benton and Associates for leveraging federal matching funds. Commissioner Collins proposed First 5 SLO County contribute an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to partially fund the \$99,337.68 proposed contract. Commissioner Achadjian asked from where in the First 5 budget the proposed funding would be provided? Ms. Hughes said the funding could come from the Advocacy and Collaboration accounts and not affect any other funding. Commissioner Collins said the rest of the funding would be coming from existing programs in Department of Social Services. Commissioner Bravo moved, seconded by Commissioner Crocker, to fund an amount not to exceed \$20,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Children's Assessment Center

Ms. Hughes presented the start-up work plan, budget and contract in the amount of \$99,844. Ms. Hughes told the Commission First 5 staff will come back at a future Commission meeting with an amended contract that will increase the scope of work and evaluation plan to coincide with the \$250,000 in available funding this year. Mr. Corella addressed some of the concerns the Commissioners had regarding an internal evaluator. Mr. Corella reported data will be collected at the Children's Assessment Center and sent to the Research Triangle in Chicago. The data will be entered into a computer. Dr. Chasnoff will then evaluate the data and send back the results to the Children's Assessment Center. Commissioner Dennison asked who owns the data collected at the Children's Assessment Center. Jan Campbell stated that SLO County will own the data and would have access to the data. Dr. Chasnoff would be evaluating the data to make sure the Center is meeting their goals and outcomes.

Commissioner Bravo moved, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to accept the start-up contract with the Children's Assessment Center. The motion passed unanimously.

Preschool for All Initiative

Commissioner Crocker reviewed the Preschool for All Initiative. The Commissioners discussed the various details of the initiative thoroughly. Commissioner Bravo stated with the controversy and developments surrounding the Initiative, it might be in First 5 SLO County's best interest to stand back and observe for the time being. Commissioner Bravo also said the Commissioners as private citizens could support the Initiative but reiterated that as a Commissioner, due to all the controversy, the Commission as a whole should stand back and observe.

Commissioner Crocker moved, seconded by Commissioner Dennison to go on record in support of the Preschool for All Initiative on the June 6th ballot. The motion passed with vote of 5-1, Commissioner Bravo voting against the motion.

School Readiness Outcomes and Indicators

Tom Keifer gave a power point presentation on the School Readiness Evaluation Plan. Mr. Keifer discussed the Evaluation outcomes and indicators for the Georgia Brown School Readiness Plan. After a brief discussion with Commissioners, Commissioner Collins moved, seconded by Commissioner Bravo to accept the School Readiness Evaluation Plan (State Logic Model). The motion passed unanimously.

First 5 Updates

Susan Hughes updated the Commissioners on the Prop.10 Briefings, March Association meeting, upcoming State Conference and the First 5 Commissioner Retreat. Due to conflicting schedules, the retreat's time and location will be announced at a later date.

With no other comments from the Commissioners, Chairperson Achadjian adjourned the meeting at 6:05 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, May 3, 2006
From 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
McMillan Complex Conference Room
(Downstairs – Opposite end of building from First 5)
2995 McMillan
San Luis Obispo, CA**