

Children and Families Commission

Meeting Minutes October 25, 2006

Members Present: Katcho Achadjian, Julian Crocker, Don Dennison, Kathy Long, Dr. Greg Thomas, Dr. Rene Bravo, Lee Collins, and Joel Diringer

Members Absent: Biz Steinberg (excused)

Staff Present: Susan Hughes, Armando Corella, Vanessa DeBrum and Amanda Wilson

Call to Order: Chairperson Katcho Achadjian called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Diringer moved, seconded by Commissioner Dennison, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- 1) September 27, 2006 minutes

The motion passed unanimously.

WIC Program Dental Health Education Proposal

Linda McClure, WIC Program Director, presented a proposed children's oral health program. Ms. McClure explained specific program components that would take place during the comprehensive WIC interview. The proposal requesting funding of \$25,000 per year for two years would provide brief dental health education and screening for approximately 250 WIC infants, 300 children ages 1-5 and 72 prenatal women per month. In this proposal, when conducting the interview, the Public Health Aide or WIC Dietician would refer children with dental concerns or who have not had a dental screening in the last six months to the CHDP Dental Program for dental treatment/screening.

Chairperson Achadjian asked if pregnant woman on Medi-Cal were receiving dental care? Ms. McClure replied local dentists were not seeing pregnant women on Medi-Cal for fear of birth outcome difficulties due to oral health care. Commissioner Diring asked if all pregnant women weren't getting dental care or just Medi-Cal women? Ms. McClure replied Medi-Cal women receive dental coverage when they receive insurance. Some women already have pre-existing oral health concerns and the dentists are hesitant to provide services that might increase birth outcome difficulties. Chairperson Achadjian asked staff to provide more information on this subject at a future Commission meeting.

Commissioner Collins asked how all aspects of Oral Health Education would be covered in a two-minute interview? Ms. McClure stated WIC staff has already been covering some of the oral health areas in the interview with the emphasis on nutrition. With this proposed program, WIC would increase preventative oral health education during the interview.

Commissioner Diring asked who performs the dental screening during the interview? Ms. McClure replied the WIC nutritionist or Public Health Aide perform the very brief assessment. Commissioner Diring stated he would prefer that after assessment, the child be referred to a dentist to establish a dental "home" for the child. Ms. McClure agreed. Commissioner Diring asked if CHDP is the only referral program WIC refers patients to. Ms. McClure replied that CHDP sets up clinics to mass screen the children and works with the parents of these children to make sure the child receives a dental screening.

Commissioner Diring also asked why staff proposed funding at \$25,000 and the proposal itself had an amount of \$30,000? Mr. Corella replied staff proposed the \$25,000 amount before staff had reviewed the WIC proposal. Staff is now recommending funding the WIC proposal not to exceed \$30,000 per year for two years (2007-2009) because of program evaluation activities.

Commissioner Dennison asked from where in the financial plan would the funding for this proposal come? Ms. Hughes said the first year funding would come from the Emerging Issues 2007/08 unallocated funds section of the financial plan and the second year of funding would come from the Emerging Issues 2008/09 unallocated funds section.

Commissioner Crocker stated he shared Commissioner Collins concerns on WIC being able to cover all aspects of oral health education in the two-minute interview. Commissioner Collins said it would be helpful to see the total number of children that were referred and kept the appointment during the evaluation process. Chairperson Achadjian asked staff if when the program is evaluated, the evaluator addresses all of the Commissioners concerns with this program. Staff agreed and said it would be included in the evaluation.

Commissioner Thomas said that CHDP does follow a percentage of referrals to make sure they have been referred to a dentist and if they have completed the treatment. Commissioner Thomas went on to ask if in the evaluation process, could a dental assessment and the severity of the dental disease of one-year old children be included? Staff said it would be part of the evaluation.

Commissioner Diring moved, seconded by Commissioner Bravo to fund the WIC proposal at an amount not to exceed \$30,000 per year for two years (2007-2009).

The motion was passed by a vote of 6 to 1 with Commissioner Thomas abstaining.

Martha's Place Presentation:

A staff recommendation was presented to the Commission to approve a line item budget in the amount of \$400,156 for Martha's Place. This amount represents the remaining funding initially allocated to the project at the January 2006 Commission meeting.

Dr. Joseph Holifield, Ph.D., Clinical Director, Martha's Place updated the Commission on the progress of Martha's Place The Center, which will be located in the McMillan Complex, is scheduled to open in January 2007. A clinical team consisting of two pediatricians, two county Mental Health employees and a school psychologist has been developed and received training in Chicago at the National Training Institute.

Dr. Holifield informed the Commissioners of future plans and focus areas of the Center. Commissioners expressed some concerns about the Center not focusing on children that have been prenatally exposed to drugs and alcohol. Commissioner Bravo stated when Dr. Chasnoff came before the Commissioner with stunning statistics regarding pregnant women and alcohol consumption, it was apparent the county needed a program to focus on children prenatally exposed to drugs and alcohol. Pregnant mothers are very unwilling to state they have used alcohol or drugs while pregnant, and the referring practitioner needs be given some flexibility in the referral process.

Commissioner Thomas said when the project first started out, the Center was known as the Children's Assessment Center. Then it was renamed as Martha's Place and has gotten away from being an assessment center. The Center should start with children in foster care first and develop an assessment and treatment plan as it expands.

Commissioner Dennison said there might be a need for another level of in-depth screening to properly assess a child with perinatal exposure. Commissioner Dennison also said the Center should not become the place where every child with an abnormal ASQ is referred. The Center does not have the capacity to handle every child. The Center should focus on prenatally exposed children and refer them to the very best available treatment.

Commissioner Diringler said this started as a small focused program that would do assessments and arrange for treatment and now is sounding like a very large project. He went on to say he had concerns about approving the budget, when there wasn't a scope of work attached. Ms. Hughes said Dr. Holifield and staff will present the scope of work at the December 6th Commission meeting.

Commissioner Long asked if it was still a goal of the Center to assess a child and refer them to different specialized agencies depending on the need of the child's treatment. Dr. Holifield stated the Center and the specialized agencies have been discussing the best way to obtain that goal.

Commissioner Bravo moved, seconded by Chairperson Achadjian to approve the budget in the amount of \$400,156 contingent on the scope of work being completed and presented at the December 6th Commission meeting. The motion was passed with a vote of 4 to 3.

2005-2006 Annual Report and Audit

Ms. Hughes reviewed the 2005-2006 Annual Report and Audit with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bravo moved, seconded by Commissioner Crocker to accept the 2005-2006 Annual Report and Audit.

The motion passed unanimously.

School Readiness

Armando Corella gave an update on the School Readiness re-application for matching funds. The Neighborhood Teams at Georgia Brown and Oceano Elementary Schools met to review their respective budgets and discussed various anticipated needs and concerns.

Commissioner Crocker moved, seconded by Commissioner Dennison, to approve the Georgia Brown and Oceano School Readiness plans for the time frame of July 2007- June 2011.

The motion was passed unanimously.

MAA/TCM and Title 4E Activities Update

Ms. Hughes discussed with the Commissioners the progress of the contract with Bill Benton and Associates. A meeting was held between staff and Mr. Benton and there has been some progress regarding funding for some of First 5 activities.

First 5 Staff Report

Ms. Hughes gave a PowerPoint presentation of First 5 activities at the state and local level. Ms. Hughes also introduced Vanessa DeBrum, the new accountant on First 5 SLO staff. Ms. Hughes informed the Commissioners of state mandated ethics training that must be completed by all Commissioners by January 1, 2007.

Ms. Hughes said the 2007 First 5 Statewide Conference would be held in Orange County from May 30th thru June 1st. She also informed the Commission of a meeting with the Orfalea Foundation regarding funding for the Paso Robles Family Resource Center.

Ms. Hughes said First 5 SLO County will begin the new member recruitment process in January 2007, as the terms for five Commissioners will expire on July 20, 2007.

With no further discussion, 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 Dec. 6, 2006
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
SLO City/County Library – Conference Room
995 Palm Street
First Floor
San Luis Obispo, CA**