

Children and Families Commission

Meeting Minutes August 23, 2006

Members Present: Katcho Achadjian, Julian Crocker, Don Dennison, Kathy Long, Biz Steinberg and Dr. Greg Thomas.
Dr. Rene Bravo, Lee Collins, and Joel Diringer arrived later in the meeting.

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

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

Public Comment

Connie Hanretty, Director of the Children's Hope Foundation, spoke to the Commission in support of a funding request from the San Luis Obispo County Child Abuse Prevention Program to design a (pilot) universal newborn home visiting services model. This project would align SLO County with other home visiting projects around California. Chairperson Achadjian thanked Ms. Hanretty for her comments.

Kena Burke, Executive Director for the Children's Health Initiative, updated the Commission on progress during the first year. The total number of children enrolled in the Healthy Kids program during the first year was 217. Current enrollment of children ages 0 to 5 is 174. Chairperson Achadjian thanked Ms. Burke for all her hard work.

Proposition 86 – The Tobacco Tax of 2006

Susan Hughes reviewed the details of Prop. 86, the Tobacco Tax of 2006. The Proposition is expected to raise \$2.1 billion dollars and provides back-fill money for Prop.10. Commissioner Crocker asked if there was an estimate of how much the local CHI would benefit from the tobacco tax? Ms. Burke stated it would be enough to insure all of the children eligible for Healthy Kids and enroll them in Healthy Families. CHI would concentrate on outreach rather than administering the insurance plan. The Commissioners briefly dialoged with Ms. Burke and Ms. Hughes on different details about the Proposition.

Commissioner Thomas moved, seconded by Commissioner Dennison to create a resolution to endorse the Proposition. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Crocker moved, seconded by Commissioner Dennison to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

- 1) Approval of June 12, 2006 Minutes
- 2) Approval of amended 1) Administrative Cost Policy, 2) Contract and Procurement Policy
- 3) Approval of final 2005/06 Treasurer's Report
- 4) Approval of a staff recommendation to give a 30-day notice and terminate a contract with the Economic Opportunity Commission for the TAPP program originally scheduled to end June 30, 2007.

The vote was unanimous with Commissioner Steinberg abstaining.

Strategic Planning

During the Strategic Planning part of the meeting the Commissioners and First 5 staff reviewed the following items:

- Staff recommendation for the 2006-2013 financial plan
- Staff recommendation to establish a contingency fund for emerging needs from unspent funds for the period of 2004/07, amount to be determined after the close of fiscal year 2006/07.
- Staff recommendations for funding after June 30, 2007 based on the proposed 2006-13 Financial Plan

Commission Discussion:

- Commissioner Crocker asked if the Commission was to adopt the proposed 2006-13 Financial Plan would the staff recommendations affect the Financial Plan? Ms. Hughes said the Financial Plan is only a guideline for future funding and is flexible depending on the Commissioner's decisions.
- Commissioner Steinberg asked if the First Time Mothers Program would receive money from other sources if the program were eliminated? Mr. Corella replied the Commission funds are only used for training costs for the program and SLO County Public Health could continue to offer the Olds model with TCM matching funds.
- Commissioner Thomas asked if any of the programs have been asked about the impact of First 5 staff recommendations? Mr. Corella said staff has not discussed the recommendations with the programs. Mr. Corella also said there was a First 5 Partners meeting where all the partners were advised the Commission was in a position to reconsider funding.

- Commissioner Steinberg also expressed a concern about notifying the programs individually regarding staff recommendations. Chairperson Achadjian asked if the partners were aware of the Commission meeting? Ms. Hughes replied each partner receives an email with the agenda a week before each meeting. Commissioner Thomas asked if the partners received copies of staff recommendations and Mr. Corella replied no, but staff has discussed the recommendations with some of the partners.
- Commissioner Dennison noted that beyond 2008 there is no additional funding shown in the staff recommendations for Martha's Place. He asked if there was speculation on additional requests for funding? Ms. Hughes said the *Beginnings* proposal, is supportive of the 4P's Plus© and supports Martha's Place. The First 5 staff recommendation continues to support the prevention aspect of perinatal substance abuse in addition to treatment efforts at Martha's Place.
- Commissioner Crocker also stated he would like to expand the School Readiness Initiative to include a third site in the county. Chairperson Achadjian asked where the greatest need **was** for a third School Readiness site. Commissioner Crocker stated Shandon was next on the list of low API scores but he isn't convinced there aren't enough programs there already.
- **Commissioner Crocker said he would support expanding the funding for an Oral Health project in the county.** Commissioner Crocker also stated he felt uncomfortable with a large ending fund balance. Commissioner Crocker asked how many children would be covered with the funding for CHI? Mr. Corella stated **the recommendation supported** 242 premiums at the current premium rate of \$1252.32 each. Ms. Hughes said in discussions with CHI staff, originally the premiums were funded at \$1100 but have increased to \$1252. The premiums will increase by .82 cents for 06/07 and by 07/08 the premiums will be \$1668 per year.
- Commissioner Diringier said he felt the funding of an Oral Health project was too low. If the Commission funded a preventive and outreach project, \$50,000 is one Full Time Equivalent and the amount wouldn't be much of a project. Commissioner Diringier also stated after reading all the reports given by staff, Baby's First Breath (BFB) is recommended at the current level of funding, yet the referrals are down. There seems to be a reduced need for service with a continued level of funding.

Mr. Corella replied Public Health asked BFB to stop its outreach when the 4P's© was initially being implemented with the OB providers, believing the 4P's© would generate tobacco referrals. In compliance with the request, the number of referrals dropped from 18 a month to 4 referrals a month. Referrals had been increasing prior to the 4P's. As a result of BFB cooperating with 4P's© implementation, the referrals decreased. Also, when Community Health Centers took over the Public Health clinics referrals decreased. Since BFB has resumed direct outreach with providers, referrals have begun to increase.

Mr. Corella also stated prior to the drop in referrals, the program design had proved effective. The drop in referrals was not a result of faulty program design. With the First 5 investment in Martha's Place, there will be pregnant mothers identified by the 4P's© as having smoked while pregnant. Martha's Place will require cessation services for them and First 5 already has an effective program in place.

- Commissioner Steinberg said she appreciated the funding for the *Beginnings* proposal, because she recognizes the education part and there are a lot of collaborative entities working on it. If the Commission did fund the program at \$50,000, the return on the investment would be four or five times that amount in what would be accomplished. Commissioner Steinberg also stated, she has no idea how much the Commission should commit for Oral Health for children ages 0-5. At the Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHCCC) meeting the night before, Pediatric Oral Health was recognized as a big issue and challenge. There is a willingness to work on access to pediatric care. The whole Dental Department at CHCCC is growing, and there is a move toward collaboration with existing providers. A local orthodontist is going to be working thru CHCCC and scholarships are going to be set up for children to receive orthodontic work. Commissioner Steinberg felt positive about this development and had not heard that kind of response before. She also said collaboration between CHCCC, First 5 and other entities might be an excellent way to establish an oral health program.
- Commissioner Steinberg commented on future funding for Martha's Place. She stated she has no idea where the project will be financially in two years and acknowledged getting a major project like Martha's Place started might require additional funding from First 5. Chairperson Achadjian asked Commissioner Steinberg for any updates regarding Martha's Place. Commissioner Steinberg announced the sub-committee had hired a clinical director, Dr. Joseph Holifield, and he will be going to Chicago to Dr. Chasnoff's Center for intensive training. The sub-committee is also working to secure a location for the center.
- Commissioner Bravo expressed his frustration with the funding process and the lack of public knowledge about the First 5 organization. He also said First 5 SLO County should concentrate on its successful programs because he felt a lot of the programs would not be missed. Commissioner Bravo went on to say he felt more outreach and letting the public know what First 5 SLO is about would be helpful in decision making during the funding process.

In discussing the most efficient way to maximize First 5 funds, Mr. Corella said Santa Barbara County has higher breastfeeding rates, which are supported by their home visitation program because that was a part of the overall strategy of that program. It also identifies post-partum depression and provides developmental screenings. First 5 SLO has taken a linear approach by separately funding breastfeeding support, postpartum depression and developmental screenings.

Mr. Corella also informed the Commission the School Readiness Plan approved by the State Commission depends on some of the direct service funded programs to fulfill the health component of the School Readiness Plan. First 5 staff would have to find ways to insert health activities in the School Readiness Plan to receive state matching funds for the SR site at Georgia Brown. Mr. Corella agreed the decision making process is complicated but doesn't need to be as linear. Ms. Hughes added **the State focus areas of** improved child development, improved child health, improved family functioning and improved systems of care are areas that need to be addressed by local First 5 funding.

Chairperson Achadjian polled each Commissioner about what information they would need to make a decision at the September meeting regarding funding.

- Commissioner Thomas said that before the next meeting, First 5 staff would need to go to each program and find out the impact of the staff's recommendations.
- Commissioner Bravo had nothing further to add.
- Commissioner Steinberg reminded staff to talk with the Model of Care Committee - Martha's Place regarding funding. She would like staff to touch base with the partners to inform them of the recommendation. Commissioner Steinberg also added she would like the Commission to find some way to fund a program like Project REWARD.
- Commissioner Dennison stated he was happy with the financial plan and it is fiscally responsible and appreciated staff's work on the plan. He felt the plan is like a road map and the Commission will be able to modify it as issues come up.
- Commissioner Crocker said he would like Health Care coverage for all children 0-5 in San Luis Obispo County and access to quality childcare. He also would like to continue to expand the School Readiness program. Commissioner Crocker added he would like to see funding towards educating the public about First 5 and to fund some sort of dental project.
- Commissioner Long said she had all the information she needed. Regarding oral health, she would like the emphasis to be on prevention. She also stated she would want to refine the Perinatal Substance Abuse Initiative as time goes on to make sure it is meeting the needs of the public.
- Commissioner Collins said regarding Home Visitation, he was intrigued with the idea of a more comprehensive approach to combining the programs for more efficiency. He would be interested in hearing how that could be accomplished. Commissioner Collins encouraged staff to bring forward any ideas that would create efficiency for the public. Mr. Corella replied First 5 has hosted the Home Visitation Roundtables, has researched this area and has information on how to accomplish the redesign but needs direction on how the Commission wants to take it to the next level.

- Commissioner Diringer said he is okay with the balance of the financial plan in all the areas. He has a concern with the process of how the Commission determines the direct service programs. Commissioner Diringer said the same direct service programs have been funded for as long as he has been on the Commission. He hasn't seen any sort of open process for allocating funds. He would feel more comfortable starting from the beginning with everyone reapplying for funding.
- Chairperson Achadjian agreed with Commissioner Steinberg and said he would like staff to contact the partners regarding the recommendations as a courtesy. He added he would like staff to give the Commission some flexibility to re-visit the financial plan in the future for modifications if needed. Commissioner Achadjian said he was supportive of having the reserve account because if there was a decline in smokers First 5 had the ability to sustain the programs. He will be interested to see if Prop. 86 will pass and put more money towards the programs. He would like to revisit the reserve account balance and adjust the amount if needed. If a special project or program were brought to the Commission, the Commissioners would have the flexibility to fund the program.
- Commissioner Diringer said he had a concern that if a program came to the Commission and asked how they would get funded, there is no process and the Commission hasn't had a process in years. Chairperson Achadjian stated with the flexibility the Commission would have regarding the financial plan, the Commission would be able to address a new cause or concern that came before the Commission.
- Commissioner Bravo agreed with Commissioner Diringer's comments regarding the frustration with the funding process. He stated he thought it was a good idea to go back to the beginning and create a better method for programs to be funded. Chairperson Achadjian said maybe the Commission should have a meeting and invite the public to come before the Commission with their concerns or ideas. Mr. Corella replied when this topic comes before the First 5 Partners, staff has to remind them that First 5 is about systems change and not necessarily funding programs. Commissioner Bravo asked for clarification. Mr. Corella referred to CHI as an example. If First 5 could convince the State of California it is cheaper to insure every child than to have them go to the emergency room when they need care, the State would pay for it because it would be in its best interest. The target of First 5 is to create systems change. That is why program evaluation is so important in capturing program effectiveness.

Update on the status of a proposed agreement with DSS to provide funding to First 5

Commissioner Collins updated the Commission on the status of a proposed contract between Department of Social Services and First 5 SLO County. The contract would provide \$329,000 of available D.S.S. administered funding from the Child Welfare Department for First 5 activities. Commissioner Collins had no new information to provide to the Commission and will come back to the Commission at a later date for further discussion.

Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Commissioner Bravo, Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Diringer commented on the Commission's earlier vote in support of Prop 86 at the beginning meeting and expressed their support of the proposition.

With no further discussion, Chairperson Achadjian adjourned the meeting at 6:35 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 Sept. 27, 2006
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
McMillan Complex Conference Room
2995 McMillan Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA**