

Children and Families Commission Meeting Minutes September 27, 2006

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

Members Absent: Biz Steinberg (excused), and Dr. Rene Bravo (excused)

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 request for funding from San Luis Obispo County Child Abuse Prevention Program regarding the designing of a pilot Universal Newborn Home Visiting Services Model. Ms. Hanretty informed the Commission of state funds that potentially may be available for this project if the Commission approved it. Chairperson Achadjian thanked Ms. Hanretty for her comments.

Commissioner Comments and Announcements

(Due to lack of a quorum, Chairperson Achadjian moved Commissioner Comments and Announcements to the front of the agenda.)

Commissioner Thomas informed the Commission of a resolution by the Board of Supervisors to approve the Regional Health Authority's expansion regarding managed Medi-Cal in order to include San Luis Obispo County. The resolution proposed a board composition for the combined counties consisting of eight members from Santa Barbara County and five members from San Luis Obispo County. The combined Medi-Cal population would be 30% Medi-Cal in SLO County and 70% Medi-Cal in Santa Barbara County. The SLO County members would be a Board of Supervisor member, a government appointee, a hospital administrator, a physician and a Medi-Cal recipient. The resolution was passed by the Board of Supervisors 5-0. The five members from SLO County represent 38% of the proposed board.

Commissioner Thomas also stated the challenges regarding access to dental services. French Hospital is unable to continue to offer the 48-hour per month dental surgical operating room. The hospital is paid \$137.00 per case by Medi-Cal, but they bill \$14,000 per case. Under managed Medi-Cal through the Santa Barbara Regional Health Authority, a dental operation on a child will be reimbursed at \$1,100 per case. Implementation of an expanded Medi-Cal Managed Care Program would decrease the cost of dental access to an operating room due to improved reimbursement.

Commissioner Crocker updated the Commission regarding an application for funding for the First 5 Family Resource Center to the Orfalea Foundation in Santa Barbara.

Commissioner Diring informed the Commission of an oral health presentation on October 24th. Chairperson Achadjian asked staff to e-mail the Commissioners a reminder of the presentation.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Diring moved, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- 1) August 23, 2006 minutes

The motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning

Financial Plan:

Ms. Hughes reviewed the changes to the Financial Plan that were made at the request of the Commissioners at the August Commission meeting. Historical information was added regarding the performance of the original 10-year plan assumptions. The Commission's intention to seek other funding to sustain its endeavors was also added. Additionally, verbiage was added regarding the flexibility of the plan to allow for emerging community needs. Commissioner Crocker commented he appreciated staff's efforts with regards to the changes in the financial plan. He also stated that he views the plan as a road map for future funding issues as they emerge.

Funding Recommendations:

Ms. Hughes discussed the various concerns Commissioners expressed at the August meeting regarding the impact of staff recommendations on individual programs. After the August meeting, First 5 staff contacted all funded partners and the response was favorable regarding the level of funding recommended, with no anticipated reductions in scopes of work. Over time First 5 has de-funded under-performing programs. Programs that continue to receive funding, support Commission initiatives and the strategic plan. All the direct service programs are a part of the School Readiness Initiative. First 5 staff recommended funding the direct service programs as stated at the August Commission meeting.

First 5 staff recommended the Commission direct staff to notify each of the direct service programs that over the next two years the Commission would be reassessing each program's alignment with Commission Initiatives and the Strategic Plan. Staff researched other county commissions with similar birth rates and found that other commissions had a more direct approach to funding rather than an open RFA process. Staff recommends a targeted approach to funding in the future. This approach would require the Commission to select outcomes based on a community needs assessment and input prior to funding programs.

Staff recommended the Commission fund the perinatal substance abuse prevention activities proposed by *Beginnings, in the amount of \$50,000 a year for two years. (July 2007 to June 2009) Beginnings*, which will support Martha's Place interventions, consists of members of the Perinatal Substance Abuse Task Force, Postpartum Depression Task Force and the Home Visitation Roundtables.

Ms. Hughes addressed the Commission's inquiry regarding future funding for Martha's Place. The project is funded through 2008, and it is premature to project how much funding will be needed after 2008. Dr. Holifield, Clinical Director of Martha's Place, is scheduled to make a presentation at the October Commission meeting and will have more information at that time.

Mr. Corella reviewed the recommendation to fund a (pilot) universal model of home visitation services. Prior to implementation of a universal model, staff recommends an up to 12-month planning process to include contracting with a facilitator to implement the planning process, guide the discussions in a productive and efficient manner and prepare reports on key findings for the Commission.

The proposal recommends convening home visitation providers in the county who have already been identified through the round table discussions to discuss, design and submit a proposal to implement a coordinated universal model of home visitation. Staff recommended the Commission provide \$25,000 for up to 12 months with full implementation of the program projected no later than July 2009.

Mr. Corella reviewed elements of the Oral Health proposal. The updated New Parent Kits will include an oral health DVD. Ms. Hughes stated there was activity around the county regarding children's Oral Health with various organizations and staff has recommended two options for an Oral Health project:

- **Immediate Implementation:** A contract with WIC to implement oral health activities as early as July 1, 2007, with a funding amount not to exceed \$25,000 a year for two years.
- **Long –Term Planning:** An amount of \$25,000 for up to 12 months to convene stakeholders to determine the most effective utilization of First 5 funding to support children's oral health in SLO County.

Commissioner Diring commented that collaboration is the key to success in establishing an Oral Health project. He also stated there are many different groups around the county that are interested in Oral Health. The value of First 5 taking a leadership role is that it won't only be First 5 funding. Commissioner Diring stressed that prevention was the appropriate strategy to prevent costly dental surgeries in the future.

Chairperson Achadjian said he would like all the interested groups to come together and discuss preventative oral health.

(Chairperson Achadjian excused himself from the meeting and turned the meeting over to Commissioner Thomas.)

Commissioner Crocker commented since both proposals for Oral Health and Home Visitation are complex, he is very happy with First 5 as a convener and funder of the planning process. He also stated he hoped prevention would be a big part of both projects. Commissioner Crocker also asked staff if the Home Visitation proposal would consist of collaboration between existing programs? Mr. Corella said the planning process would search out existing programs already implemented in the county to avoid duplication. Commissioner Crocker added he supported the idea of First 5 designating a strategic process with targeted areas in the community.

Comments from the public included Rita Casabianca who voiced her support for the Home Visitation proposal in order to identify abuse and neglect in children ages 0-5.

Chairperson Thomas asked if funding for certain Commission funded programs would be eliminated due to the creation of a Universal Model of Home Visitation? Mr. Corella replied the goals of programs like BABES, Postpartum Depression and New Parent Kits would be a part of the Home Visitation program. Programs such as Pediatric Physical Therapy Services might potentially be a part of Martha's Place and also provide developmental screenings in a universal home visitation model.

Strategic Planning – Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Diringler said he liked First 5 Staff's approach on the recommendations. He agreed with developing a targeted approach to the RFA process over the next two years. He also thought the Commission needs to be focused on what outcomes and programs it wants.

Commissioner Collins said he also approved of the recommendations and liked the idea of a more comprehensive community needs assessment over the next two years.

Commissioner Long also said she approved of staff recommendations. She asked how staff would notify the programs? Mr. Corella replied notification would be by formal letter, and the First 5 partners had already been notified of staff recommendations at a recent Partner's meeting. Commissioner Long also asked how long the assessment process would be? Mr. Corella said once staff knows what outcomes the Commission wants, staff can begin assessing programs to find out which programs are supporting those outcomes or not.

Chairperson Thomas said the approach over the next two years fits nicely with United Way's Community Impact Model as well as the Children Services Network planning. He supported staff's recommendations for funding.

Commissioner Crocker also supported staff recommendations regarding the financial plan and program recommendations.

Commissioner Dennison said he was unclear what kind of role WIC would play in the Oral Health proposal. Ms. Hughes said First 5 staff wanted to give the Commissioners two options. Option one would implement a program as soon as possible and option two would involve a facilitator in a planning process with stakeholders to develop a wider vision in the community. Commissioner Dennison stated he felt more comfortable with the long-term option that would yield a more coordinated course of action in the community.

Commissioner Dennison also said he supported the other recommendations, and he is starting see the emergence of a theme and a convergence of directions relative to the zero to five population. He went on to say the planning process of Universal Home Visitation, *Beginnings* and Martha's Place needs to include comprehensive planning so the programs interface with each other to maximize the opportunities available. As a convener, First 5 needs to evaluate how each component fits and consider the best use of the Commission's resources.

Commissioner Crocker said he was unclear as to why there was no support for the short-term option of Oral Health education with WIC. Commissioner Long said she would like to know if there was outcome research on WIC oral health activities, and (if so) did it prove to be effective? Mr. Corella recommended WIC staff attend the next Commission meeting and explain how the oral health piece would occur in a comprehensive WIC interview.

Commissioner Diringier said he felt more comfortable with combining the two oral health options together in the planning process. That way the Commission could examine the WIC oral health piece and find out what the best practices are. Commissioner Diringier informed the Commission of technical assistance that is available through the Dental Health Foundation and the California Dental Foundation directly for First 5 projects. Commissioner Thomas agreed the Commission needed more information, but he would prefer to implement a project in the next year.

Motions Regarding Staff Recommendations:

Commissioner Diringier moved, seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve:

Adoption of the 6 year 2006/2013 Financial Plan, and establishing 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

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Diringer moved, seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve funding from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009 for Direct Services Programs as follows:

Program	Funding	Notes
BABES	\$208,333	No change in annual budget.
Babies First Breath	\$146,622	No change in annual budget.
Expanded Day	\$152,221	No change in annual budget.
First Time Mothers	\$0	No funding recommended.
Head Start	\$95,000	Reduces Annual Budget by \$13,550. Annual cost has been \$94,337.
Pediatric Physical Therapy	\$40,000	Reduces Annual Budget by \$23,800. Reduced funding not expected to result in reduced rate of services being delivered.
Parents Helping Parents	\$39,656	No change in annual budget
Postpartum Depression Support Services	\$8,000	No change in annual budget
TAPP	\$0	No funding recommended.
Vision Screening	\$25,075	No change in annual budget
Kits For New Parents	\$6,144	Reduces budget by \$1856 and re-locates distribution activities from Public Health to First 5 office. Can be distributed with interns (mileage) and First 5 staff support.
Children and Families Monthly Update and Healthy Kids Now DVD's for Kits	\$18,000	No change in annual budget. Scope of Work may be revised to include additional special features (i.e. CHI, Perinatal Substance Abuse with emphasis on tobacco and learning disabilities)

Initiative and Emerging Issues Funding Recommendations as follows:

Initiative	Funding	Notes
CHI Admin. & Additional Premiums July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009	\$124,555	\$390,755 in total annual funding is recommended , which includes \$53,240 in State Commission matching funds. 242 Premiums @ \$1252.32 each. \$266,200 already provided for (0-5) premiums in 2007-2009. \$124,555 additional funding required from \$1,425,000 available.
Georgia Brown School Readiness July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2011	\$61,394	\$300,000 in total annual funding is recommended. \$238,606 already provided from 2007-2011 (\$119,303 local, \$119,303 State Commission match). \$238,606 + \$61,394 = \$300,000. Provides baseline funding for similar components at each site. <u>Final components TBD by Neighborhood Team.</u>
Oceano School Readiness July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2011	\$300,000	\$300,000 in total annual funding is recommended. Provides baseline funding for similar components at each site. <u>Final components TBD by Neighborhood Team.</u>
Martha's Place	\$0	No additional funding for Martha's Place in this calculation. \$500,000 dedicated from 2006-2008.

Emerging Issues Funding Detail	TOTAL ALLOCATION: \$200,000 annually 2007-09	
Beginnings July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009	\$50,000 a year for two years: 2007-09	promotes prevention of Perinatal Substance Abuse
Planning for a Universal Home Visitation Model January 2007 – December 2007	\$25,000 for the planning effort (2007-08 only)	
Planning for a Children's Oral Health Initiative January 2007 – June 2008	\$25,000 for the planning effort (2007-08 only)	
Unallocated Funding	\$100,000 available to allocate in 2007-08	
Unallocated Funding	\$150,000 available to allocate in 2008-09	

The motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Diring moved, seconded by Commissioner Collins to direct First 5 staff to have WIC attend a future Commission meeting with more information on oral health implementation and any outcome research that has been done.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Collins stated he wanted the Commission to be aware of Social Services potentially being able to fund First 5 activities from available funding from the Child Welfare division of D.S.S.

With no further discussion, Chairperson Thomas adjourned the meeting at 5:35 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 October 25, 2006
 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
 McMillan Complex Conference Room
 2995 McMillan Ave.
 San Luis Obispo, CA**