

Children and Families Commission Meeting Minutes June 27, 2007

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

Members Absent Dr. Greg Thomas (excused)

Staff Present: Susan Hughes, Armando Corella and Amanda Wilson

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

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Consent Agenda

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

- 1) May 23, 2007 minutes
- 2) School Readiness 2007-11 contract with the city of Paso Robles in the amount of \$48,000. This replaces the previous contract with the Library Foundation approved on May 23, 2007 and represents no change to previously approved amount.
- 3) A proposal in the amount of \$6,000 from Susan McGraw to conduct a comparative study/analysis on the costs associated with various staffing and organizational structure options.

The motion passed unanimously.

2006 Strategic Plan

Susan Hughes, First 5 Executive Director, gave a brief overview of the updated Strategic Plan. Commissioner Diringer moved, seconded by Commissioner Dennison to approve the 2006 Strategic Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on the Oral Health Planning Project

Wendy Wendt, Planning Facilitator, updated the Commission on the activities of the Oral Health Planning Project. Access to pediatric oral health care has been identified as a major concern in the County. There are Pediatric dental services being provided to San Luis Obispo County residents in Monterey County and also Santa Barbara County. Commissioner Steinberg stated a concern about lack of transportation for low income families to these facilities. Ms. Wendt stated there has been discussion regarding providing a bus to transport families out of the county to access pediatric dental services.

Ms. Wendt said one of the ideas that have emerged is to have an oral health exam as part of the kindergarten entrance exam. Also, there was discussion of forming an oral health coalition to promote this project in a more formal way. Commissioner Diringer asked if there was a concern with the medical community regarding lack of prevention services. Ms. Wendt suggested the medical community needs to come together and discuss its individual role in local oral health prevention. Community Health Centers is planning to extend its oral health services. Chairperson Achadjian expressed interest in knowing how much the services will be extended and who will be covered.

Comments from the Commissioners included:

- Commissioner Steinberg said the Commission should look to find services in the County rather than go outside the county for oral health services.
- Commissioner Bravo agreed and said to make this project happen there needs to be a collaborative effort between the private and public sector.
- Commissioner Diringer added it was going to take a concerted effort on everyone's part to make this project a success.
- Chairperson Achadjian said he would like to see a second Clinica de Tolasa in the South County to serve children ages 0-5 in that area.

Ms. Wendt proposed a county wide planning discussion at two separate times on the topic of Early Childhood Oral Health. The first meeting would involve different entities coming together to discuss various concerns of early childhood oral health. The second meeting would be a planning discussion on how to implement those ideas to better serve the community. After facilitating these meetings, Ms. Wendt proposed coming back to the Commission at the end of the year with a formal proposal on how to address this issue in the community. The Commission directed First 5 staff to work with Ms. Wendt in organizing a oral health summit and looked forward to her proposal in December.

Chairperson Achadjian thanked Ms. Wendt for her comments and her good work.

Martha's Place Update

Dr. Joseph Holifield, Clinical Director of Martha's Place, updated the Commission on the progress of service delivery at Martha's Place. There have been a total of 84 children referred and 37 full assessment reports completed. The Clinic is still reviewing the assessments from the Mental Health Family Therapists which may increase the number of assessment reports completed. Dr. Holifield and the Commission briefly dialogued and Chairperson Achadjian thanked Dr. Holifield for his information.

Paso Robles First 5 Family Center

Commissioner Crocker informed the Commission of the progress of the Paso Robles First 5 Family Center. Commissioner Crocker proposed a letter of support be written to the Paso Robles City Council. The letter would ask the City Council to redirect funds from previously designated redevelopment funds for a new City Hall Facility to two projects also supported by First 5 SLO County:

- The Library Study Center (\$1,000,000)
- A Cuesta College Dental Hygiene Project (\$3,000,000)

Both projects are planned to be located at the Paso Robles First 5 Family Center.

Commissioner Crocker moved, seconded by Commissioner Dennison, to write a letter of support to the Paso Robles City Council for the re-direction of redevelopment funds of \$4,000,000.

With no other comments from the Commissioners, Chairman Achadjian adjourned the business portion of the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

At 5:45 p.m. Chairperson Achadjian called the awards presentation portion of the meeting to order.

The following recognition awards were presented:

- Neighborhood Team Members – Oceano and Georgia Brown
- First 5 Leadership Award – SLO County Office of Education - School Readiness
- First 5 SLO Sustainability Award - SLO County Public Health – First Time Mothers Program
- First 5 SLO Hero Award – Ernie Gomez, Principal, Lucia Mar Adult Education - Retired

Chairperson Achadjian introduced retiring Commissioners, Joel Diringer, Kathy Long and Biz Steinberg and presented an award to each retiring Commissioner. Chairperson Achadjian thanked them for all the dedication and hard work they have contributed to First 5 SLO during their terms as Commissioners.

Chairperson Achadjian introduced the new Commissioners for 2007-2011.
They are:

Carol Capito, Designated Representative from the Child Care Planning Council

Janet Murphy, Representative at Large and Child Care Specialist

Rosalinda Rodriguez, Representative at Large and District Administrator, Aspira Foster and Family Services

With no other announcements or comments, Chairperson Achadjian adjourned the meeting at 6:30 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, August 29, 2007
From 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
McMillan Complex Conference Room
2975 McMillan Ave. Room MM1
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**