

# **The Children and Families Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes January 24, 2007**

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

**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**

Dawn Williams, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) representative, spoke briefly to the Commission regarding Assemblywoman Sally Lieber's plan to introduce a bill to make it illegal for parents to strike children as a form of discipline under the age of four. Ms. Williams supports the proposed bill but also supports the offending parent receives parenting education rather than jail time.

### **Election of First 5 Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

Commissioner Collins moved, seconded by Commissioner Long, to nominate Commissioner Achadjian for Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Collins moved, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to nominate Commissioner Dennison for Vice-Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- 1) December 6, 2006 Minutes
- 2) December 21, 2006 Special Meeting Minutes
- 4) A contract with SLOCOE to administer activities required by the Orfalea Fund \$250,000 grant.

As per the Commission Conflict of Interest Policy, Item 3 required a roll call vote to determine if any of the Commissioners had a conflict of interest with approving a contract amendment with Children's Health Initiative of San Luis Obispo (CHISLO). Item 3 proposed an increase to the original contract of \$50,000, from a total of \$625,000 to a total of \$675,000.

## Roll Call Vote:

- Chairperson Achadjian declared he was a member of the CHISLO board, but he was exempt and had no conflict of interest.
- Commissioner Bravo declared he was a member of the CHISLO board, but he was exempt and had no conflict of interest.
- Commissioner Crocker declared he was a member of the CHISLO board, but he was exempt and had no conflict of interest.
- Commissioner Dennison declared he was not a member of the CHISLO board.
- Commissioner Diringier declared he was a member of the CHISLO board, but he was exempt and had no conflict of interest.
- Commissioner Long declared she was not a member of the CHISLO board.
- Commissioner Thomas declared he was a member of the CHISLO board, but he was exempt and had no conflict of interest.

The motion was passed unanimously.

## **Family Resource Center in San Luis Obispo County**

Lisa Fraser, Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo County Child Abuse Prevention Council, updated the Commission on the ongoing study to bring Family Resource Centers (FRC) to SLO County. Ms. Fraser is collaborating with consultant Dale Magee, along with representatives from Department of Social Services, SAFE and EOC, to study the landscape of the FRC concept and how it is functioning in other counties around California and in other states. Ms. Magee will be developing a business plan to continue to bring self-identified FRC's together in a coordinated manner.

Commissioner Dennison asked if there was involvement with the Children's Services Network (CSN) on this project? Ms. Fraser said CSN is involved in discussions with the different entities, and Ms. Magee is working on a report that will have common language so that all agencies involved will understand it.

Commissioner Diringier commented he has been involved with Kern, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara Counties and understands the challenges Ms. Fraser is facing in establishing an FRC network in SLO County.

With no other comments from Commissioners, Chairperson Achadjian thanked Ms. Fraser for her update.

## **Paso Robles First 5 Family Center Update**

Commissioner Crocker gave an update on the Paso Robles First 5 Family Center, including the Early Care and Education Building project. Commissioner Crocker reviewed a timeline and preliminary architectural plans for the center. The Early Care and Education Building is projected to open in October 2008 and the Family Resource Center (FRC) is expected to open six months later depending on financing.

Commissioner Thomas asked if there has been any discussion with Community Health Centers regarding their current interest in the FRC? Commissioner Crocker replied the architect of the project has been in contact with CHC regarding the layout of the FRC, but there hasn't been a recent discussion with CHC concerning financing options for the FRC.

Commissioner Dennison asked if the surrounding neighborhood was aware of the project? Commissioner Crocker replied the School Readiness Neighborhood Team has been involved in the planning process and there has been no objection.

Carol Capito and Angela Hollander, members of the School Readiness Steering Committee, commented regarding consistent contract language and room designations in the architectural renderings..

Lisa Fraser, Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo County Child Abuse Prevention Council, thanked Commissioner Crocker for allowing everyone to participate in the planning process of the project and reiterated how important it was that the FRC be accessible to the public.

## **Paso Robles School Readiness Re-application**

Tom Keifer made a brief presentation on the Paso Robles School Readiness (Cycle 2) Re-application to First 5 California for State matching funds. Mr. Keifer reviewed the four different results areas, Improved Family Functioning, Improved Child Development, Improved Health and Improved Systems of Care in the re-application plan. There were no program changes in the Cycle 2 plan. The one administrative change in the plan is that First 5 SLO County will assume the administrative duties for contract management. The San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (COE) will continue in a leadership role relative to promoting the concept of School Readiness at the district level.

Commissioner Bravo asked about the cost of the Cultural Field Trips. Mr. Corella answered it was \$10,000 over 4 years. Commissioner Bravo expressed some concern regarding the outcomes of the field trips and public scrutiny. Commissioner Long commented there is evidence to support the cultural field trips. Mr. Corella replied the concept is the same as AVID in which the children involved are from very poor environments and these types of trips are part of the enrichment process to get them out of their neighborhoods and provide new experiences.

Commissioner Collins asked if there had been a change in test scores regarding which schools are eligible as School Readiness (SR) areas? Commissioner Crocker replied that while test scores in both SR areas have improved, they haven't improved enough to be ineligible. Commissioner Steinberg commented the P-16 Council is looking to expand SR in other areas of the county, and First 5 needs to reach out to other groups for matching funds so that SR is not dependent only on First 5 for funding. Commissioner Thomas asked for the minutes from the last P-16 Council meeting, so that the Commission could review them.

Commissioner Collins moved, seconded by Commissioner Bravo, to approve the four-year Paso Robles Re-application plan for First 5 California Matching Funds. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2006-07 Budget Report**

Susan Hughes and Vanessa DeBrum, First 5 Accountant, proposed a quarterly financial reporting process and presented the January to December 2006 Administrative Budget report and Operating Statement, for Commission approval.

Commissioner Crocker moved, seconded by Commissioner Steinberg, to approve the quarterly reporting financial process and the January to December 2006 Administrative Budget report and Operating Statement. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Agreement with San Luis Obispo County for administrative staff and professional support services to June 30, 2009**

At the Strategic Planning retreat in June 2006, the Commission discussed three specific concerns to be addressed during the renewal process of the First 5 agreement with the County for administrative services. The agreement expires on June 30, 2007.

- 1) Re-classification of the Administrative Services Officer from I to II
- 2) County recruitment process – concerns regarding the complexity and length of time for recruitment.
- 3) Compensation of the Executive Director position as it relates to other counties and assigned responsibilities.

At this meeting the Commission affirmed its interest in reviewing these concerns with regards to the new contract. A Sub-Committee consisting of Chairperson Achadjian, Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Thomas was formed to discuss the topics with County Personnel.

### **MAA/TCM Update**

First 5 staff presented an agreement, not to exceed \$10,000, with HealthReach Associates Inc. to provide consulting services regarding MAA/TCM funding. First 5 staff has been in discussion with Jim De Alba, a consultant with HealthReach. It appears many of the First 5 programs may be able to leverage MAA funding. Mr. De Alba will determine if it is cost effective for each First 5 program to participate. Commissioner Thomas expressed his approval of Mr. De Alba's work with Public Health.

Commissioner Diringier moved, seconded by Commissioner Bravo, to approve an agreement with HealthReach Associates Inc., not to exceed \$10,000. The motion passed unanimously.

## **State Commission, State Association and General Staff Updates**

Susan Hughes reviewed activities at the State Commission and Association level. Ms. Hughes also reviewed First 5 activities in SLO County. Commissioner Diringer asked about the status of the State Evaluation? Ms. Hughes replied the State Evaluation has had many challenges. The replacement of the previous contractor is still in the planning stages and as a result no State Evaluation Contractor has been retained.

Mr. Corella informed the Commission First 5 staff has met with First 5 funded programs and reviewed their scopes of work and various program modifications. The County contracts will be coming to the Commission for approval at the March 28<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting and the rest of the funded program contracts will be presented for approval at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Commission meeting.

## **Commissioner Comments and Announcements**

Commissioner Collins commented on the "Spanking Bill". He was a member of a team twenty years ago that agreed on the language in the Welfare and Institutions Code on spanking a child. Reasonable and age appropriate spanking on the buttocks that does not result in deep bruising or lacerations does not constitute as abuse. Use of a stick or any kind of instrument constitutes as abuse.

Commissioner Steinberg distributed flyers regarding workshops helping people with Earned Income Tax Credit and asked the Commissioners to distribute them to interested parties.

Commissioner Thomas said he attended the Santa Barbara Regional Health Authority (SBRHA) board meeting and Commissioner Bravo was there to inform them of SLO County issues. Progress is moving forward with the implementation of Medi-Cal Managed Care with SBRHA in January 2008.

Commissioner Steinberg commented that Dr. Larry Bacus would be meeting with Paulette Pahler and Leonore Rodriguez regarding mental health services that could be offered to families living in the Georgia Brown School Readiness area in Paso Robles.

With no further discussion, Chairperson Achadjian adjourned the meeting at 5:45 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, March 28, 2007  
Extended Time 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
McMillan Complex Conference Room  
2995 McMillan Ave.  
San Luis Obispo, CA**