

# Children and Families Commission

## Meeting Minutes March 28, 2007

**Members Present:** Katcho Achadjian, Dr. Rene´ Bravo, Lee Collins, Julian Crocker, Don Dennison, Joel Diringer, 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 4:05 p.m.

Commissioner Steinberg moved to have an emergency item placed on the agenda regarding SB 893. Commissioner Collins seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

### Public Comment

Lisa Fraser, Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo County Child Abuse Prevention Council, informed the Commission of a seminar dealing with post-partum depression funded by Community Health Centers of the Central Coast and First 5 SLO County. It will be held on May 4, 2007. The Commission thanked Ms. Fraser for her comments.

### Consent Agenda

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

- 1) January 24, 2007 minutes
- 2) Contract approval for July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009
  - a) San Luis Obispo County Health Agency, Public Health, WIC Program (BABES): Total amount \$416,666 for two years.
  - b) San Luis Obispo County Health Agency, Public Health, Tobacco Control Program (Baby's First Breath): Total amount \$293,244 for two years.
  - c) San Luis Obispo County Health Agency, Public Health, WIC Program (Oral Health Education): Total amount \$60,000 for two years.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **SB 893 Discussion**

Ms. Hughes reviewed the details of SB 893 that would abolish County commissions and redirect Prop.10 funding to the California State First 5 Commission for health related programs. The Commissioners briefly discussed the proposed bill. Commissioner Crocker moved to oppose SB 893 and to encourage the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors to oppose it also. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Bravo abstaining.

Chairperson Achadjian asked First 5 staff to draft a letter opposing SB 893 and send it to the commissioners for review.

## **2005-2006 First 5 California Annual Report**

Ms. Hughes gave a power point presentation on the First 5 California Annual Report covering various issues at the state and county level.

Commissioner Collins moved to accept the 2005-2006 First 5 California Annual Report, seconded by Commissioner Dennison. The motion passed unanimously.

## **First 5 SLO County Designated Representatives for the period of July 20, 2007 to July 19, 2011**

Ms. Hughes reported on the nominations of the three designated representatives to the Commission. They were Carol Capito from the Child Care Planning Council, Don Dennison from the Children Services Network and Dr. Rene' Bravo from the SLO County Medical Society.

Commissioner Long moved to accept the three designated representatives to the First 5 SLO County Commission for 2007-2011. Commissioner Steinberg seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Applicant presentations for the two Representatives, Community at Large Positions for the period for July 20, 2007 to July 19, 2011**

The following applicants gave a brief oral presentation and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Sandy Baiz	Margaret Collier
Janice Kelsey	Janet Murphy
Rosalinda Rodriguez	Lisa Terhorst

Meeting recessed at 5:15 p.m. to tabulate the votes. The meeting reconvened at 5:25 p.m.

The successful applicants were: Janet Murphy and Rosalinda Rodriguez whose names will be recommended to the Board of Supervisors for final appointment.

The Commissioners thanked all the applicants and stated they were very impressed by the large number of applicants, including their quality, caliber, and diversity.

## **Agreement with the County of San Luis Obispo to provide staffing and professional services to the Commission from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009**

Ms. Hughes gave an update on the agreement with SLO County for staffing and professional services from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009. Commissioner Thomas provided insight to the challenges SLO County has had with the agreement. They were:

- 1) Operating a public benefit program within the Civil Service system
- 2) The title of Program Manager given to the Executive Director
- 3) Administrative Services Office (ASO) II duties compared to ASO I duties

While there is an appeal to the Civil Service Commission regarding the ASO II position, Commissioner Thomas said one of the options was to organize First 5 SLO County Staff into a hybrid entity.

Two examples of hybrid entities are the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and the Air Pollution Control District (APCD). APCD is a model in which the Executive Director is not a county employee but the staff are county employees. With this model, the director would be unable to give direction to the staff or conduct evaluations.

In the LAFCO model employees are not county employees but have access to county services and benefits, such as County Auditor services and County Retirement benefits. If the Commission chose to become a hybrid entity, First 5 Commissioners would be able to set staff salaries as appropriate.

Chairperson Achadjian asked if vested county employees would be able to receive retirement benefits. Ms. Hughes answered if that happened there would be an agreement made with Pension Trust for retirement benefits.

Commissioner Collins added if First 5 staff did become a hybrid entity, how much would the Commission want to rely on the County infrastructure. Commissioner Thomas said a hybrid model does have the potential to provide staff essentially all the County support and benefits they receive now with the exception of Civil Service protection. The Commission would buy the services from the County as they do now, the rates would have to be determined.

Chairperson Achadjian polled First 5 staff and asked their opinion on becoming a hybrid entity. Ms. Hughes stated until she had more information about becoming a hybrid entity and the consequences of doing so, she didn't have a preference at this time. She would like to look into it further and come back to the Commission with a preference. Vanessa DeBrum said she was a new employee to the County and would support what is best for the Commission. Armando Corella said he has stated in the past it is a privilege to work for the Commission and still feels that way. It has also been a challenge working within the Civil Service process, but he would also support whatever is best for the Commission. Amanda Wilson said she needed more information on the subject, but whatever was best for the Commission she would support. Chairperson Achadjian thanked staff for their comments and asked Ms. Hughes to look into this matter further, consult with staff and bring back a recommendation.

Commissioner Thomas reminded the Commission would need to decide if the hybrid entity being discussed would employ either a part time or full time Executive Director. Chairperson Achadjian said the Commission has expressed in past discussions the need for a full time Executive Director. Commissioner Thomas stated an action of forming a hybrid entity implies the need for a full time Executive Director position. Chairperson Achadjian said when Ms. Hughes brings back her recommendation, it will state if she would be willing to be a full time Executive Director. Commissioner Thomas stated that First 5 budgets for an Executive Director at 60%, up from 50% last year. Chairperson Achadjian said in dealing with Ms. Hughes she devotes 100% of her time to the First 5 Commission and would like her to become full-time. Commissioner Steinberg agreed and said one of the topics at the First 5 Retreat in June was that because of all of her efforts the Commissioners wanted a full time Executive Director.

Chairperson Achadjian polled the Commissioners for their opinions. Commissioner Long stated she was concerned the First 5 staff would have no Civil Service Commission protection and would like more information on the subject. Commissioner Steinberg agreed and appreciated all the staff's work, but couldn't see any other way for the flexibility the Commission needs if they didn't become a hybrid entity. Chairperson Achadjian said Ms. Hughes would contact LAFCO and APCD and get the information she needs to make a recommendation. Commissioner Dennison said he also needed more information to make a decision.

Some concerns that Commissioner Crocker had were:

- 1) What is not working with the County system?
- 2) The options need to be more explicit.
- 3) Something that looks like or re-creating clear structures can be risky.
- 4) There needs to be clarity in the Pension Trust options that are available with the County. The issue of retirement is huge and needs to be clarified.

Commissioner Collins stated he didn't have concerns and was willing to work with staff to help them make a recommendation.

## **Proposed Commission Administrative Budget for FY 2007-2008**

Susan Hughes and Vanessa DeBrum gave a brief presentation on the administrative budget for FY 2007-2008. Ms. DeBrum reviewed areas of the budget and briefly dialoged with Commissioners. Commissioner Thomas asked about Medical Administrative Activities/Target Case Management funding (MAA/TCM). Ms. Hughes said it was hopeful that First 5 could leverage MAA/TCM funding. Jim De Alba from HealthReach Associates is assessing First 5 staffing, Martha's Place, Children's Health Initiative and the direct service contracts for possible MAA leveraging.

## **San Luis Obispo P16 Council Update**

Commissioner Crocker gave an update on the SLO P16 Council. The council is comprised of local education, business, and community leaders who come together, committed to dramatically increase the academic success rates among all students from preschool to college with a particular focus on low-income and minority students. The goals of the P16 Council are:

- 1) Improve student achievement at all levels and eliminate the achievement gap.
- 2) Link all education levels, preschool, elementary, middle, high school and higher education, to create a comprehensive, seamless system of student learning.
- 3) Ensure that all students have access to caring and qualified teachers.
- 4) Increase public awareness of the link between an educated citizenry and a healthy economy.

The Council's 2006-2007 Initiative is Early Childhood Education, with the goal being that all children in SLO County will have access to quality preschool to prepare them for entering kindergarten. The three objective areas are preschool program quality, parent education and integration of care and education.

Commissioner Crocker added the API scores for both School Readiness sites; Oceano Elementary and Georgia Brown Elementary are up this year compared to last year.

Chairperson Achadjian congratulated Commissioner Crocker on the improvement and thanked him for the update.

## **Staff Update**

Ms. Hughes reported on various items at the State Commission and the State Association level. Ms. Hughes reminded the Commission of the State Conference at the end of May in Orange County. The Commissioners were shown the revised New Parent Kits and the 2005-2006 First 5 SLO County Community Report. With no comments from the Commissioners, Chairperson Achadjian thanked Ms. Hughes for her update.

## **Commissioner Comments and Announcements**

Chairperson Achadjian asked that an item be placed on the May 23, 2007 agenda regarding the lack of access/services/facilities associated with pediatric oral health surgery. Commissioner Bravo agreed there is a definite problem and First 5 can help. He went on to say in the past there only has been a verbal agreement with the hospitals regarding oral surgery and there needs to be a written agreement with them to provide pediatric oral health surgery.

With no further discussion, Chairperson Achadjian adjourned the meeting at 7:00 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 June 27, 2007  
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Business Meeting  
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. End of Year Awards Celebration  
Steamers of Pismo Beach**