

**First 5 SLO County  
Children and Families Commission  
Meeting Minutes, October 24, 2007**

<b>Members Present</b>	Katcho Achadjian René Bravo, M.D. Carol Capito Lee Collins Julian Crocker Don Dennison Janet Murphy Rosalinda Rodriguez Greg Thomas, M.D.	SLO County Board of Supervisors SLO County Medical Association Child Care Planning Council SLO County Dept. of Social Services SLO County Office of Education Children’s Services Network Community at Large Community at Large SLO County Dept. of Public Health
<b>Members Absent</b>	None	
<b>Staff Present</b>	Susan Hughes, Armando Corella, Anne Tognazzini	
<b>Call to Order</b>	Chairperson Katcho Achadjian called the meeting to order at 4 PM.	
<b>Public Comment</b>	There were no comments from the public.	

**Consent Agenda**

Susan Hughes gave a brief overview of the items on the Consent Agenda.

1. Approval of August 29, 2007 minutes
2. Approval of a Commission policy on funds leveraged with First 5 funding (e.g. MAA/School Readiness/CHI, etc.)
3. Approval of a contract in the amount of \$120,000 for the period of October 2007 to June 30, 2011 with Joan Fusco, L.M.F.T, to provide Family Support and Counseling Services for the Georgia Brown School Readiness Project.
4. Approval of an amended scope of work with Martha’s Place
5. First Quarter Administrative Budget Report and Operating Statement for FY 2007-08

Chairperson Achadjian asked for comments, and Commissioner Capito stated she had a question on the leveraged funds policy and a slight correction on the Minutes of 8/29/2007.

The Minutes were corrected from “the website would be targeting young men” to “interviews would be conducted with men” (last paragraph, first page).

Her question re: the MAA funding concerned having different policies for school districts and for others rather than ONE policy, as well as the possibility that some programs might not be able to claim other funds if they claim MAA funds.

In regards to Commissioner Capito's MAA concerns, discussion followed, with input from Armando Corella and Susan Hughes, as well as Commissioners Capito, Dennison, and Thomas.

Chairperson Achadjian asked if there were any other comments or questions from the Commissioners or the Public, and there were none. Discussion was brought back to Commissioners for a motion.

Commissioner Crocker moved, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to approve the Consent Agenda items. Commissioner Capito requested more MAA discussion during which Mr. Corella explained the intent of the policy is to be as broad as possible and allow the Commission to make an independent decision in each situation regarding the distribution of leveraged funds.

After additional discussion and upon determining that a decision did not have to be made at this meeting, Chairperson Achadjian suggested bringing the matter back for discussion at a future meeting. The motion to do so passed unanimously. Chairperson Achadjian also asked that Commissioners and staff review the leveraged funds policy prior to the next request for approval.

Because of the length of the meeting, Chairperson Achadjian explained the order of the Agenda items was going to change, in case any Commissioners were unable to stay for the entire meeting.

### **Update on First 5 SLO County Oral Health Planning Project**

Wendy Wendt provided an update on the Oral Health Planning Project.

Ms. Wendt reviewed recent activities, including a Children's Dental conference in Sacramento, out of which follow-up contacts have proved valuable. Ms. Wendt also noted that it appeared that SLO county has been absent from state level and state coordinated activities for the last several years. Results from other information gathering meetings and focus groups were reviewed, including discussing the idea of an Oral Health Summit with a small group of local professionals, as proposed by the Commission at its June 2007 meeting.

Ms. Wendt also revealed that lessons learned include 1) Medi-Cal access to dental homes is a universal challenge, but 2) many counties are doing a lot to address the issues surrounding children's oral health, despite this barrier. A number of examples were given.

Ms. Wendt reviewed four suggested goal areas: 1) creating a visible system for addressing Pediatric Oral Health issues, 2) increasing oral health education, 3) mobilizing preventive care services, and 3) increasing access to permanent dental homes for all children, beginning at age 3. She noted there have been lots of "Lone Ranger" activities that are not coordinated or organized.

Ms. Wendt also reviewed several recommendations including 1) coalition building, 2) one or two countywide pilot efforts, and 3) targeting low-income children who are zero to elementary

school aged. Related to item #3, the 2006 Oral Health Needs Assessment statistics were reviewed as well as county statistics related to free/reduced lunches.

Ms. Wendt re-introduced the idea of a Children's Oral Health Summit in order to launch a Children's Oral Health Coalition for SLO County. She suggested First 5 as the formal convener and that it be held in February 2008, National Children's Dental Health Month. She also reviewed those who have a role to play in Children's Oral Health.

In opening the presentation for questions, Chairperson Achadjian asked what it would take to get involved at the state level. Ms. Wendt mentioned the state's dental disease prevention program, which is in the middle of the contract season (ending in 2010), and the possibility of applying to be in that state network. She also mentioned setting up a local coalition. Additionally, private funders are a possibility, but they are looking for coordinated efforts from communities.

Commissioner Collins initiated a discussion regarding the transition to Medi-Cal managed care and its impacts, with Commissioner Thomas providing input. Chairperson Achadjian asked about CSN's role, and Commissioner Crocker detailed there are significant changes going on in CSN, but they are not completed yet. He also cautioned against devolving into separate task forces that might overload people who already have full time jobs. He suggested that a Summit would achieve a goal of public awareness and networking, but that it has to be purposeful in planning so that it produces a result.

Chairperson Achadjian indicated a desire to take advantage of February being Dental Health Month. He also noted that few realize how bad it the situation is.

Chairperson Achadjian also asked about Clinica de Tolosa. Clinica de Tolosa director, Suzanne Russell, stated it is doing well and now has a full-time pediatric dentist on staff. He also asked if there would be a south county location. Ms. Russell indicated that they have been primarily focused on keeping the one location sustainable but that it might be a long term goal. Challenges to a south county location were identified as funding, finding a site, equipment, and staffing, all basic components to establishing a program.

Commissioner Thomas stated that if CHCC could recruit a pediatric dentist then they can leverage federal money. First 5 could weigh in to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) about how important an issue it is. Chairperson Achadjian would like to put Ms. Wendt's final presentation on the BOS agenda. He also suggested that perhaps in next contract with CHCC, conditions of dental services could be included. Commissioner Crocker reminded that one of the core programs at the Family Center in Paso Robles is a combination of a Cuesta College dental hygiene program with a pediatric dentist brought on by CHCC.

Commissioner Murphy asked if creating the summit and bringing people together would allow attendees to interface and brainstorm possible solutions. Ms. Wendt enthusiastically answered "yes," and Chairperson Achadjian stated he would like to have a sub-committee made up of Commissioners to spend time with staff and Ms. Wendt in order to develop a recommendation for the Commission.

Chairperson Achadjian opened up the discussion for Public comment. Dr. Holifield, clinical director of Martha's Place, mentioned that in looking at at-risk populations, one needs to

include other professionals as role players, such as mental health professionals. In response, Chairperson Achadjian noted that in regards to committee membership, he sees a need to reach out beyond those on the Commission. Commissioner Rodriguez also mentioned the need to keep in mind social service providers, in addition to mental health providers. She also believes it's important to keep the avenues open about potential providers.

Commissioners Thomas, Crocker, and Bravo volunteered to work with staff and Ms. Wendt regarding an Oral Health Summit. Commissioner Collins volunteered a member of his staff and Commissioner Dennison said he would talk to Linda Hogoboom. Ms. Wendt added the Committee would also include Janice Babos, Kathy Phipps, and Maureen Titus. It was agreed the Committee should target February 2008 for the summit.

Commissioner Bravo talked about this issue's history (1997-1998), and his fears that this effort may replicate that process, when the winning model is already implemented (Tolosa). He stated that this is an economic issue, and we already know needs to be done. He does not want to spend too much time and reach the same conclusions, but rather, a Tolosa type model should be implemented in SLO or south county.

Chairperson Achadjian thanked Ms. Wendt for her efforts.

### **Universal Home Visitation and First 5 Program and Organizational Study**

Ms. Hughes introduced Susan McGraw, who has been working on two projects: Universal Home Visitation and an analysis of the Commission's organizational structure. Ms. McGraw provided handouts to accompany the PowerPoint presentation.

#### **Topic One: Universal Home Visitation.**

The Commission has supported this concept for last 7 years: First Time Mothers (2000-2007), Mentor Mom's Services Planning Project (2003), and the Home Visitation Task Force (2005). She also detailed the findings of the Home Visitation Task Force including: 1) existing in-home services, 2) gaps in service delivery, 3) barriers to universal service delivery and 4) recommendations to enhance services.

Ms. McGraw also reviewed statistics from the Maternal, Child, Adolescent Home (MCAH) visiting report, which surveyed 66 programs in 33 jurisdictions. The biggest barrier to the Universal approach is that it is costly; only 26% of programs are visiting all pregnant women/newborns. Each county is handling home visitation differently, few use a universal approach, and most are targeted in some manner. For example, Los Angeles is "universal" for assessment only. Ms. McGraw provided detailed information about Santa Barbara's WEB program.

Service Integration by existing home visitation services in the county was discussed, including programs receiving First 5 funding, and the limited numbers of families being reached. Ms. McGraw suggested the Commission's role might be to shift away from grant making and more towards policy change, systems integration, service delivery coordination, and coalition building.

Commissioner Bravo questioned the assertion that every single mother needs a home visit and that he would like to see data that it makes a difference if everyone gets a home visit. Ms. McGraw did agree that research shows that greatest impact occurs with high risk families and first time moms, and that may be why some model programs are targeting certain groups. She noted that even the WEB program in Santa Barbara moves to graduated levels of support after one visit, depending on the assessment of risk or need.

Commissioner Thomas stated he believes that in-home visits will reveal more than what a medical professional might see. Commissioner Murphy expressed an interest in finding out why clients decline services after the first visit. Is it because their needs were met or because of other reasons? Ms. McGraw indicated she would follow up on the question.

Ms. McGraw then detailed SLO County's demographics, the costs of replicating the WEB program in this county, reimbursement options (MAA, TCM, EPSDT), and implementation options including a universal approach.

Ms. McGraw noted how the home visiting model being presented supports a strategic emphasis of the Commission for the next 10 years: moving away from being a grant maker/administrator, toward a community leadership role, building coalitions, enhancing collaborations and integrating service delivery; which would involve advocacy and would require long range financial planning and fund development.

Ms. McGraw indicated her next steps would be to research funding strategies and options and to talk to stakeholders regarding integration of service delivery and networking.

Commissioner Collins expressed an interest in how Santa Barbara County's baseline compares to ours. Is it an actuarial approach based on certain issues and outcomes? Commissioner Bravo reminded that at birth, nurses do an assessment in the hospital, and he doesn't want people to think that is not already occurring in the community. He also is concerned this might expand in directions that are not effective. Commissioner Collins expressed concern about how the families would be targeted. Commissioner Thomas expressed an interest in knowing what other models are out there besides Brazelton's Touchpoint program. Commissioner Dennison wanted to know if the outcomes are represented in referrals or in hard services.

There were no other comments or questions.

## **Topic Two: Organizational Alignment.**

In addition to a PowerPoint presentation handout, Ms. McGraw provided an Organization Study draft report.

Ms. McGraw reviewed past history including that the legal status of First 5 Commissions was unclear from 1998-2000. As part of the study, Patricia Gomez, Deputy County Counsel, researched Commission status during that time and found that in 2000, it was determined there were two options for First 5 Commissions: to be a free-standing public entity or to be a county agency. Ms. McGraw then outlined the difference between the two options and reported that the structures of First 5 Commissions in CA are approximately half independent

public entities and half county agencies. She then explained that Ms. Gomez has determined that First 5 SLO is legally an independent public entity.

Ms. McGraw then provided examples of five other local agencies that are also independent public entities: LAFCO, APCD, IWM, SLORTA, and SLOCOG. She also stated that LAFCO is the best example for comparison because it is most similar to First 5. Each of these agencies pick and choose only those services which are most cost effective and in their best interest to buy from the county.

Ms. McGraw then detailed which services LAFCO purchases from the county and which are purchased from other sources, as well as the benefits of LAFCO's independent status. She also reviewed the organizational structure of IWM and SLORTA, with additional information provided in the PowerPoint slides for APCD and SLORTA.

Ms. McGraw then discussed the First 5 SLO 2004 Organizational Assessment and four key areas that were identified: 1) alignment of organizational roles with job descriptions, 2) Executive Director duties, 3) part-time versus full-time Executive Director, and 4) staff size. She also covered the disadvantages of being in the county, as well as past assumptions, which led to the Commission's decision to stay in the County.

Ms. McGraw then outlined the current structure of First 5 SLO County in terms of staffing and salary ranges. She provided statistics from comparable counties and detailed staff turnover.

Ms. McGraw summarized by saying the goal of today's discussion was to stimulate thought, to get the Commission to start thinking about what it wants to do. She then gave some possibilities for choosing services if the Commission wanted to change the agreement with the county, which the Commission can do at any time. Chairperson Achadjian asked whether First 5 CA offers insurance. Ms. Hughes explained about SLIP insurance and that general liability and malpractice insurance for the department is an additional county overhead cost. He then asked for a comparison on what other commissions are paying for liability insurance, and Ms. McGraw said she would get that information.

Ms. McGraw showed areas of possible savings for an approximate total of \$55-60,000 a year.

Ms. McGraw and Ms. Hughes were directed by Chairperson Achadjian to come to the January meeting with budget and specifics related to the Commission as an independent entity.

### **2006-07 State Annual Report and Audit**

Ms. Hughes pointed out that everyone received the First 5 CA Annual Report in their packet. Chairperson Achadjian noted that since everyone has read it, they could act on it at this time.

Chairperson Achadjian asked for comments from the Board. Commissioner Capito was concerned that the Annual Report didn't mention the two infant-toddler programs. Mr. Corella explained they are part of the School Readiness (SR) portion of the report, not the direct service portion of the report. Commissioner Capito also said the Annual Report reads as if 42 slots would stay at Georgia Brown, but they actually will be moving over to the new SR site. Mr. Corella explained that the Report is for 2006-07, not for the future.

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve, with a second from Commissioner Bravo. It was passed unanimously.

Chairperson Achadjian asked for and received a consensus of Commissioners to send a letter of support to the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation regarding the Preventative Health grant process. The letter will urge the Foundation to continue to grant those funds to Martha's Place.

With no other announcements or comments, Chairperson Achadjian adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

All materials referred to in these minutes are available at the First 5 Children & Families Commission office. For a more detailed account, recordings of the meeting are available by calling 781-4058.

**The next regular Commission meeting will be:**

**December 5, 2007**

**4:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**McMillan Complex Conference Room**

**2975 McMillan Ave. Room MMI**

**San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**