

FIRST 5 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

San Luis Obispo County

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 22, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

Katcho Achadjian	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO Co Public Health
René Bravo, M.D.	SLO County Medical Association
Julian Crocker	SLO County Office of Education
Don Dennison	Children's Services Network
Janet Murphy	Community at Large

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Carol Capito	Child Care Planning Council
Lee Collins	SLO County Social Services
Rosalinda Rodriguez	Community at Large

STAFF PRESENT

Susan Hughes, Jason Wells, Anne Tognazzini

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Achadjian called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alese Miller, spoke about her daughter, and how they've benefited from services provided by Julie Loe, of BEST PALS, a program funded by First 5. She expressed appreciation for the difference the program has made in their lives.

Linda McGregor, Executive Director of 2-1-1/SLO Hotline, provided some statistics (as promised at the May meeting) on calls received from households with children under 5 years of age. She also mentioned partnering with First 5 in supplying 2-1-1 information to be included in First 5's Kits for New Parents. Chairperson Achadjian suggested that a presentation by Ms. McGregor could be an agenda item at a future meeting.

There were no additional comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no comments or questions from the public regarding the Sept. 24, 2008 Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Crocker moved to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

There were no other items on the Consent Agenda.

FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY 2007-08 ANNUAL REPORT

Jason Wells, First 5 Program Officer, reported that the 2007-08 Annual Report is still in process. He noted it is due to First 5 CA by November 1, 2008, and is scheduled for approval at the Dec. 3, 2008 Commission meeting.

He explained the report is web-based and there were some reporting enhancements and form changes this year. He then reviewed the sections of the report, noting that the State would use the results to create the First 5 CA Community report. He also reviewed the four result areas: Improved Family Functioning, Improved Child Development, Improved Health, and Improved Systems of Care. He noted there are 22 service categories, and gave examples of the service categories. Mr. Wells then provided some PEDS (Proposition 10 Evaluation Data System) statistics, including total participants, ages of children, and primary languages.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

2007-08 INDEPENDENT AUDIT, REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE

Susan Hughes, First 5 Executive Director, provided an overview of the 2007-08 independent Audit. She noted that as a result of a bid process, First 5 SLO County contracted with a local accounting firm, Crosby and Cindrich, at a significant cost savings. She also reported that a Management Discussion and Analysis section was included in the Audit for the first time. She noted that no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses were identified.

Ms. Hughes then reviewed and compared 2006-07 to 2007-08 revenue and expenditures. She then reviewed funds 1) reserved for encumbrances, 2) reserved for obligations, 3) reserved, but not yet obligated, and 4) reserved for First 5 CA initiatives. She reported a total fund balance at the end of the fiscal year of \$7,315,058, with total reserved funds of \$7,011,073, and unreserved funds of \$303,985. She also compared year-end fund balances for 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Chairperson Achadjian suggested that the contracted CPA be available at the Commission meeting next year when reviewing the Audit for approval.

Commissioner Crocker asked about the amount listed as reserved but not obligated. Ms. Hughes explained that those amounts were related to money set aside for Home Visitation (in the adopted financial plan in 2006) and more recently, Oral Health. She summarized that the funds had been set aside for programs not yet determined, so the funds were reserved but not yet obligated by contracts.

Commissioner Borenstein asked for clarification on whether there was a cushion in the figures, and Ms. Hughes explained that the financial plan was actually based on projections of revenues.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to accept the 2007-08 independent Audit. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2007-08 EVALUATION UPDATE

Tom Keifer, First 5 Consultant, provided an evaluation update. He provided an overview of the Direct Service Programs: BABES (Babes at Breast Education and Support), Baby's First Breath,

BEST PALS, Head Start Summer Enrichment Program, Parents Helping Parents, Postpartum Depression Screening Program, State Preschool Expanded Day Program, and Vision Screening Program.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

2009-2011 PROGRAM FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Susan Hughes, First 5 Executive Director, noted that as part of the strategic plan minor revision currently underway, the Commission is scheduled to review funding recommendations for 2009-2011 at this meeting.

Ms. Hughes noted that First 5 CA changed their strategic plan recently, and it now includes a Project Legacy Process. She explained they intend to fund 2-3 signature programs and a few pilot projects which will be determined by a Project Legacy workgroup. She noted this means there will be no guarantees that First 5 CA matching fund programs (which include School Readiness and Children's Health Initiative) will continue. Because of this uncertainty, she stated that it's good that First 5 SLO County is only doing a minor strategic plan revision at this time.

Ms. Hughes explained that the strategic planning process for 2009-11 has included a review of program progress, consideration of the Commission direction, consideration of the link between the Direct Service programs and the Commission's initiatives, and a review of the 6-year financial plan.

She then presented funding recommendations for 2009-11, which include contracting with most programs at level funding, eliminating one program (Expanded Day), and working with three programs (Beginnings, Baby's First Breath, and BABES) to determine what services could be provided with reduced funding

Commissioner Crocker stated he is not in support of reductions and suggested that any decision regarding funding programs be delayed until the next meeting. He also noted he did not understand that to fund the Oral Health initiative would require a reduction to existing programs. He stated that generally he is not in favor of reducing programs which are effective in order to start new programs, and he is a strong proponent of spending current public tax money on current programs/children.

Additional discussion ensued, with several other Commissioners expressing agreement with Dr. Crocker about delaying any decision about funding until the next meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to table action on this item until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bravo and passed unanimously.

CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE UPDATE

Jason Wells provided an update on the grant proposal with The California Endowment. He noted there would be a conference call with Cal Endow on November 12th, followed by a site visit on the 18th.

Commissioner Borenstein asked whether there would be much flexibility in the grant; she suggested it seemed very heavily geared toward assessment rather than direct service. Mr. Wells explained that Cal Endow has been very firm about what they will and will not fund, and

that's why the grant was written the way it was. Susan Hughes noted that Cal Endow's goal is community norm change, not direct service or direct treatment; they want to see systems change over time and the components of the grant are meant to do that. Kathy Phipps, a member of the Oral Health Coordination Team, noted it's also important to first understand the infrastructure of dental care, to determine how to best address needs.

Commissioner Borenstein stated she believes that Public Health dentistry is needed. She also stated that fluoridation of water is the best and easiest thing to do. Kathy Phipps stated that community fluoridation does benefit older children and adults, but it actually does little to change caries rates in the 0-5 population because they are not drinking water.

There were no additional questions or comments from the public.

Commissioner Bravo noted that what needs to be done is already known, and First 5 just must decide whether to be involved. Chairperson Achadjian stated that First 5 should be involved.

Ms. Hughes noted that First 5 had to put out an RFQ for the coordination project because that's good business and is also required by First 5's purchasing policy. She also noted that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the contract with the Oral Health Coordination Team.

The discussion was opened to the public.

Kena Burke, Executive Director of the Children's Health Initiative, suggested that perhaps something effective could be done now while the long-term project is underway.

Marty Craven, president of the Clinica de Tolosa board, provided an update on Tolosa. He noted they are now operating in the black, with two full-time dentists. He added that they received a grant from the Wellness Foundation to fund one position. They plan to set aside money to be in South County in approximately one year. He noted the hardest part will be in finding a pedodontist, and that they hope the county will help find a building.

Maureen Titus, also a member of the Tolosa board and a member of the Oral Health Coordination Team, noted it took 10 years to get Tolosa off the ground. She added that the Coordination Team won't be just sitting around talking about it. She also noted the importance of a dental home for children.

CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH COORDINATION PROJECT CONTRACT

Jason Wells reviewed changes to the Children's Oral Health Coordination contract:

- Date in header
- Exhibit D, page 1, wording added with help of County Counsel regarding assignment of contract
- Exhibit D, page 2, address corrections
- Exhibit E, page1, date change

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Commissioner Bravo made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Crocker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

Susan Hughes reviewed First 5's status, in terms of its contract with the County and its separation from the County. She also noted First 5 is only purchasing those items from the County which are in its best interest to purchase.

She added that changing to Commission employment from County employment is the last big step, pending determination of retirement benefits. Ms. Hughes noted she has consulted with CalPERS, and if approved by the Commission, would like to submit the necessary CalPERS paperwork for an actuarial study, which would take a minimum of 6 months. She reviewed research she conducted on CalPERS rates, which indicated that their rates seemed likely to be in line with County Pension Trust rates.

Ms. Hughes also reviewed challenges related to her continuing to be assigned to manage two programs (Tobacco Control and First 5) in two locations. She also noted that First 5 is having to pay overhead to the County for services it is no longer getting from the County.

Chairperson Achadjian noted that, if necessary, he would call a meeting with County officials to work out appropriate adjustments.

Susan Hoffman, County Counsel, was asked for input, and noted it is perfectly legal for Staff to pursue retirement options with CalPERS.

Commissioner Crocker suggested it was in the Commission's best interest to go with a defined benefits program, to be able to attract and retain quality staff.

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve pursuing a CalPERS pension contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Commissioner comments or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other announcements or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM

**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 (805) 781-4058.**

**The next regular Commission meeting will be:
December 3, 2008, 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
2975 McMillan Ave., Room MM1, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**