

**FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

August 26, 2009

**Commissioners Present**

Katcho Achadjian	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health
René Bravo, M.D.	SLO County Medical Association
Carol Capito	Child Care Planning Council
Lee Collins	SLO County Social Services
Julian Crocker	SLO County Office of Education
Don Dennison	Children's Services Network
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Rosalinda Rodriguez	Community at Large

**Staff Present**

Susan Hughes, Jason Wells, Anne Tognazzini.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Achadjian called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

**Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**Consent Agenda**

- 1) Approval of the June 24, 2009 minutes.
- 2) Approval of a contract between First 5 San Luis Obispo County and the County of San Luis Obispo for participation in the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) program.
- 3) Approval of amended employee benefits for transferring employees, incorporating changes to the retirement, health, vision and dental plan providers.
- 4) Approval of two resolutions with CalPERS to provide health benefits under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Act and to adopt a Deferred Compensation Plan, including approval to execute the Employer Adoption Agreement.
- 5) Approval of Commission offers of employment to County staff currently assigned to First 5 (available for review at First 5 office and at meeting).

There were no comments or questions from the public.

Commissioner Dennison made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and passed unanimously on a roll-call vote.

**School Readiness Preschool Facility Update – Georgia Brown**

Commissioner Crocker provided an update on the Paso Robles Preschool Facility. He noted the project had been scaled back due to finances and that plans currently include 4-5 portables for

classrooms, an office for First 5 SR coordination, and library space. He also reported on two recent developments: 1) The Redevelopment Agency for the city of Paso Robles has committed an income stream of approximately one million dollars to the project, and 2) Head Start has applied for money from the federal government through the stimulus plan, and may be a potential partner. He also reported that the original construction plans were approved by the office of the State Architect.

There were no comments or questions from the public.

### **Vision Screening – Program Update**

Dan Hile reported on the Vision Screening Program funded by First 5. He gave a history of vision screening in the county, noting that before First 5 began funding screenings in 2001, very limited preschool screening was being done. He explained what the screenings entailed, and reported that in FY 2008-09, 4443 children were screened countywide. Of those, 228 children were identified as borderline, 256 children were referred, and of those referred, 211 had been seen by a doctor by 6/30/09.

Yecenia Silvas, Family Advocate for Oceano School Readiness, asked about having Dr. Hile come for Kindergarten roundup, and he indicated he would be happy to participate.

### **School Readiness Program Update**

School Readiness Site Coordinators, Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia (Oceano Elem.) and Marilu Gomez (Georgia Brown Elem.), reported on the School Readiness programs, including the First 5 Preschools, literacy programs, field trips, Friday workshops, Transition to Kinder meetings, Kinder Camp, childcare for parent volunteers, school visitations, Raising a Reader, Neighborhood Team meetings, SAFE (Services Affirming Family Empowerment), family advocacy, and family support counseling.

Commissioner Crocker noted that both Ms. Gomez and Ms. Ruvalcaba-Heredia have taken on leadership roles, rather than relying on a coordinator at the SLO County Office of Education. He also noted that both SR schools have shown significant academic growth. (Commissioner Collins noted that Commissioner Crocker has been invited to speak at the California Symposium on Poverty in October, to discuss the success of School Readiness with distinguished national analysts.)

### **Approval of Commission Fourth Quarter Financial Statement ending June 30, 2009**

Susan Hughes, First 5 Executive Director, provided an overview of the Fourth Quarter Financial Statement (un-audited). She reported that 80% was spent, with salaries and budgets at 87% due to the accountant vacancy. She noted \$191,252 was expensed to program related expense, per GFOA guidelines. Additionally, total administrative expense for the year was at 8%. She also provided a comparison of FY07-08 and FY 08-09 operating statements.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Commissioner Bravo made a motion to approve the Financial Statement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crocker and passed unanimously.

### **Consideration of a proposed model for Strategic Planning**

Jason Wells, First 5 Program Officer, presented a proposed model for Strategic Planning to take place between August 2009 to December 2010. He noted that the California Children and Families

First Act requires strategic plans and public reviews. He provided the history of the First 5 SLO County strategic plan, noting the initial plan (from 2000) has received 2 major and 2 minor revisions. He stated that the outline and timeline for the next major revision was approved in August 2008, and will result in a new five-year plan (for 2011-2016).

Mr. Wells reviewed the steps of the planning process, noting it would focus on five areas, with five separate community based planning processes: Children's Health Initiative, Children's Oral Health Initiative, Perinatal Substance Abuse Initiative, School Readiness Initiative, and Direct Service Programs. He explained that the Initiative planning processes would include collecting and organizing related data, holding stakeholder focus groups, and creating initiative planning teams. He noted the Direct Services planning process would be determined by community needs, evaluation results and available funding.

Commissioner Crocker asked about connecting the financial plan to the strategic plan, not just at the beginning, but later on during the planning process. He said that due to likely changes in the financial situation as well as the need to consider the initiatives' results and competing needs/interests, he'd like the option of reallocating the money later during the process.

First 5 staff explained the initial funding amounts would be guidelines only and that all initiatives/programs would be able to submit plans both within and exceeding those guidelines. Mr. Wells noted the funding options would be reviewed throughout the process. Commissioner Crocker asked that the planning process more clearly reflect a time dedicated to revisiting the financials from a more holistic view.

There was additional discussion about the timeline, and about the possibility of a September 2010 meeting (tentative only at this time) or a special meeting, such as a ½ day retreat.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the proposed model for strategic planning, including the Commissioners' request for a specific time to revisit the financial plan as a whole later in the process. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borenstein and passed unanimously.

### **Breastfeeding Program – Update regarding the status of current service levels**

In regards to the challenges facing the local breastfeeding program (reported by Chairperson Achadjian at the June Commission meeting), Susan Hughes was pleased to report that a creative and collaborative solution has been developed in order to continue local breastfeeding support. She then introduced representatives from French Hospital, Debbie Nicklas and Linda Riggle; and SLO Public Health WIC staff, Linda McClure and Dawn Wilt.

Linda Riggle reported the services which had been previously provided by CHCCC would continue, including full-time staffing at a location on Los Osos Valley Road (in French Hospital's satellite lab), along with continuation of the WIC breastfeeding support services (funded by First 5). She reported that French Hospital has long been recognized as one of the top hospitals in the state with respect to its support for breastfeeding, and is pleased to partner with First 5. She also introduced a number of lactation consultants who were in attendance.

Linda McClure also expressed appreciation for the partnership with French Hospital and First 5, which will make it possible for a lactation consultant to spend 32 hours per week out in the communities. She also noted that CHCCC extended services through August 31 to give French time to get organized, so there has been no break in services to women.

Ms. Hughes noted this was a very good example of public/private/non-profit partnership, and creative thinking, in that the grant was restructured to leverage more funds

Chairperson Achadjian thanked everyone who was involved. In appreciation, several lactation consultants gave flowers to the key participants and noted a cake had been brought to celebrate World Breastfeeding Month.

Commissioner Crocker asked about the percentage of SLO County moms who breastfeed. French Hospital rates were given as 97%, and Commissioner Borenstein reported that countywide, at least 95% of mothers breastfeed some of the time. Dawn Wilt noted that a UC Davis study reported that French Hospital ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the state in breastfeeding rates.

### **Oral Health Initiative Presentation – Progress Update**

Joel Diring, Oral Health Coordination Team member, provided an update on the Children's Oral Health Initiative.

Mr. Diring provided an overview of the initiative's budget, noting that funding comes from both First 5 SLO County and The California Endowment. He also reported on significant progress made in each of the three components of the Initiative: 1) infrastructure development, 2) increased access to preventive services, and 3) increased access to dental care.

Mr. Diring then reviewed the results of a survey done to assess the oral health of low-income preschool children, and which screened 716 children countywide. He noted the statistics were broken down by North, Central, and South County, and showed that a significantly higher proportion of North County children have decay experience, untreated decay, and dental treatment needs. It also showed that Hispanic children have a significantly higher prevalence of decay, and that age three is too late for prevention of dental decay. He also provided statistics comparing SLO county to various US states. Mr. Diring concluded his presentation with a preview of the next steps, as well as observations about the entire process.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Some Commissioners expressed concern that not enough progress has been made in a number of areas, particularly in access to care, including access for middle class children. Mr. Diring noted that with the Central Coast Dental Society providing volunteer dental services, and CHCCC now willing to see children, the neediest children are in fact receiving services.

Some Commissioners commended the progress made. In response to Chairperson Achadjian's concern about the waiting list for surgery, Commissioner Borenstein noted there is now a zero waiting list for surgery, so the grant has been successfully building capacity. She noted there also have been strides on the prevention front.

During public comment, Cherie Fields, the health coordinator for Community Action Partnership of SLO County (CAPSLO), reported that 2 years ago, 40% of children needing dental treatment were getting it, but the most recent statistics show that all Head Start children needing treatment are receiving it. Additionally, she noted all Head Start children have been receiving preventive care, through fluoride varnish treatments, administered by Maureen Titus, member of the Oral Health Coordination Team.

Debra Welch, CAPSLO's Head Start director, noted that 1 ½ years ago their federal funding was at risk because their dental treatment numbers were so low; so they were very pleased to be able to report 100% dental treatment in today's report card to Congress.

Kena Burke, Children's Health Initiative's Executive Director, expressed concern about cuts to specialty care at CHCCC, and the difficulty of sustaining their services. She also stated that access for private insurance patients is an issue, plus she is concerned that coordination of dental services is being handled differently and some children may not be getting counted.

Jason Wells, First 5 staff, reminded Commissioners that the Coordination Team grant didn't start until last November. He also reported that there was a recent participant survey of the Oral Health Coalition and DARTs, in order to address any concerns related to them, and the survey results are currently being reviewed.

Susan Hughes noted this effort is aimed at sustainability, systems change, and capacity building and that such change is not always easy, especially during hard economic times. She noted the zero waiting list is the perfect example of systems change, because CHDP accessed more resources and people to be part of the solution.

DAVE THE DATE REMINDER: Children's Oral Health Summit, Feb. 5, 2010.

### **Consideration to provide financial assistance in FY 2009-10 to pay for health care premiums of children, ages 0-5, in the Healthy Families Program**

Susan Hughes provided an update on the State's Commission informal poll of county Commissions, to assess whether there was county-level interest in providing financial assistance to the Healthy Families, which is facing a significant deficit in FY 09-10, despite assistance in excess of \$80 million from First 5 CA. She noted that First 5 SLO County was one of 19 county Commissions uncertain about providing assistance, when previously polled.

There was brief discussion after the presentation by Ms. Hughes.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to inform the state that we are not going to transfer any money to Healthy Families, in light of the public having spoken loudly against such transfers by their vote on Prop 1D in the May election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borenstein and passed unanimously.

### **Commissioner Comments and Announcements**

There were no comments or announcements from the Commissioners.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned, at 6:53 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:**  
Wednesday, October 28, 2009, 4:00–6:30 p.m.  
Dept. of Social Services, 3433 So. Higuera St., Room 115, San Luis Obispo