

FIRST 5 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

San Luis Obispo County

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2009

MEMBERS 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

First 5: Susan Hughes, Jason Wells, Anne Tognazzini; County Counsel: Susan Hoffman

CALL TO ORDER

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

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to re-elect the current First 5 San Luis Obispo County Chair and Vice Chair for the period January 2009 to December 2009. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins, and Chairperson Achadjian requested a roll-call vote. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote: Borenstein, aye; Bravo, absent for vote; Capito, aye; Collins, aye; Crocker, aye; Dennison, aye; Murphy, absent for vote; Rodriguez, absent for vote; Achadjian, aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the Public.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Approval of the December 3, 2008 minutes.
- 2) Approval of the 2007-08 Annual Evaluation Report.

There were no comments or questions from the Commission, nor from Public.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennison and passed unanimously.

BROWN ACT

Susan Hoffman, County Counsel, gave a presentation on the Brown Act, including the new requirements relative to electronic communications, which became effective January 1, 2009.

There were no comments or questions from the Public.

HEALTHY FAMILIES PROPOSAL

Susan Hughes gave a presentation on a proposal by First 5 CA for County First 5 Commissions to assist in funding Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) in order to prevent placing a cap on enrollments in Healthy Families from December 2008 to June 2009. She reported that First 5 CA received 53 letters of intent from County Commissions, with 37 counties approving the plan, and 2 tabling it, for a total of over 13 million dollars of the 16.75 million needed. She noted the amount pledged was about 80% of the total needed, and First 5 CA would make up the difference. She also noted the funds would cover new enrollees only, for the period December to June, and SLO County's amount would be \$103,900.

Susan Hoffman, County Counsel, spoke about the issue of supplantation, noting that First 5 funds can only be used to supplement existing levels of service; they can't be used to fund existing levels of service or to supplant state or local general fund monies. She also noted that County Commissions have varying levels of stringency regarding supplantation. She noted that First 5 SLO County's policy is not that stringent and she concluded it would be legally permissible to participate in this action, since it would be supplementing the Healthy Families program, covering children who would otherwise not be served.

Commissioner Borenstein asked what would happen if First 5 SLO County doesn't contribute. Ms. Hughes explained that the total amount of money would be available because of the First 5 California pledge, so there would be no waiting list and local children would be served.

There was a discussion regarding the MRMIB enrollment budget, supplantation, SCHIP, federal matching dollars, and the impact of not participating.

The discussion was opened to the Public.

Kena Burke, Executive Director of the Children's Health Initiative, thanked the Commission for considering the matter. She noted that with Healthy Kids continuing to enroll children 0-5 due to funding by First 5, undocumented children would continue to get coverage through Healthy Kids, while citizens might not be able to get coverage if there were a Healthy Families enrollment cap. She also spoke about SCHIP, and the reasons for the MRMIB shortfall.

Commissioner Borenstein mentioned the Governor's budget proposal to divert funds from First 5, and also pointed out that the MRMIB proposal only provides coverage through June. She stated it could be a significant slippery slope, to keep bailing out the state.

There were no other comments from the Public.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked whether this proposal causes First 5 to lose anything at the local level. Ms. Hughes stated that some of the contracts ending this fiscal year won't be completely spent, so those unspent funds could be used for this proposal. However, she also noted that would leave less money to roll over into other contracts locally.

Commissioner Collins noted that his department could gain from the Governor's proposal to divert funds from First 5 to the State Dept of Social Services, but still he is opposed to it. He noted that rather than getting good credit or good grace for giving money, it could actually be used against First 5, with opponents claiming the money wasn't needed to begin with. He stated he is opposed to the proposal or would like to table it until there is more news regarding the state budget and SCHIP.

Commissioner Bravo asked to speak as a member of the public, noting he could not vote on the matter because he is a Healthy Families provider. He suggested that a "no" vote today might be

detrimental or misinterpreted and might be misused. He suggested tabling it, since the urgency has diminished.

Commissioner Crocker stated he is in a dilemma because he isn't comfortable having other counties carry us if we don't participate, but he also understands the points made against participating. He also noted there's nothing that can be done about the state budget at this point, and agreed that the urgency to impact the current budget discussions had passed.

Commissioner Collins moved to table discussion of this item until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy, and passed with eight ayes and one abstention (by Commissioner Bravo).

FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FINANCIAL REPORT, FY 2008-09 SECOND QUARTER

Susan Hughes reported on the second quarter Financial Report, ending December 31, 2008. She provided Administrative Budget and Operating Statement facts and figures and reviewed the Balance Sheet figures.

There were no comments or questions from Public.

Commissioner Crocker moved to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and passed unanimously.

COMMISSION ADVOCACY

Noting that the local commission needs a mechanism for responding to issues as they develop, Ms. Hughes reported on the State Association meeting yesterday, and specifically on the proposal to redirect funds from First 5 due to the state budget crisis.

Commissioner Collins noted that what distinguishes the county commissions from the state commission is that we are responsive to local issues. He also stated that if the local Commission agrees upon a basic legislative platform, the Chair and Commissioners would be empowered to represent the Commission when issues arise.

Commissioner Bravo says it's an error for the state commission to think the county commissions don't have any influence with local legislators. He also stated it's not a partisan issue. He suggested empowering the Commission Chair to respond for the Commission, to the press or to public opinion makers.

The discussion was opened to the Public.

Kena Burke, Executive Director of Children's Health Initiative, noted that people at the state level don't understand what's happening at the local level. She noted the value of the Annual Evaluation Report, and suggested using parts of it to educate local legislators. Susan Hughes noted that materials were in fact being gathered for the purpose of educating the legislators.

Commissioner Bravo noted having spoken with Assembly Member Blakeslee's office, educating them about the consequences of losing the First 5 programs. He noted we need to continue doing that.

Chairperson Achadjian thanked Rick London for the support of First 5 by United Way at the Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday. He also suggested that presenters at yesterday's meeting assist in putting together a packet of materials to present to local legislators.

Commissioner Collins moved that the commission authorize the Chair and Executive Director (in consultation with one another) to represent the Commission on matters of importance to the Commission with guidelines that include the continuation of local Commission autonomy and the continuation of existing funding streams to the Commission.

Jason Wells asked whether the motion would limit other Commissioners from advocating on the behalf of the Commission. Chairperson Achadjian stated that individual Commissioners could speak individually, representing themselves, but not on behalf of the Commission.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bravo and passed unanimously.

SCHOOL READINESS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2007-08 EVALUATION REPORT

Tom Keifer, First 5 Consultant, gave a presentation on the school readiness sites at Oceano Elementary (in Oceano) and Georgia Brown Elementary (in Paso Robles), reporting on the four result areas: Improved Family Functioning, Improved Early Care and Education, Improved Health, and Improved Systems of Care.

There were no comments or questions from the Public.

STAFF REPORT

Susan Hughes provided an update on organizational changes, a Grand Jury follow-up on Audits, the upcoming Partners' meeting, community outreach efforts, and local efforts to protect Prop 10. She noted that contingency plans (if funding is reduced) will be discussed at the March meeting. She also reminded Commissioners about the state conference in April.

CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

Jason Wells gave a brief update on the Oral Health initiative, noting that the second set of meetings for the First 5 Children's Oral Health Coalition and the Dental Access Resource Teams (DARTs) will be held the first week of February. He reported that Maureen Titus and Kathy Phipps are doing screening and fluoride varnishes in Head Starts as well, and Kathy Phipps will have a full report at the next meeting.

There were no comments or questions from the Public.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no comments or announcements from the Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other announcements or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 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:
March 25, 2009, 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
2975 McMillan Ave., Room MM1, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401***