

FIRST 5 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

San Luis Obispo County

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 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 4:07 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the Public.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Approval of the January 28, 2009 minutes.
- 2) Approval of corrected data, 2007-08 Evaluation Report.
- 3) Approval of a Budget Adjustment Request in the amount of \$225,000 for the two-year oral health grant from The California Endowment.

There were no comments or questions from the Commissioners or the Public.

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

FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA 2007-08 ANNUAL REPORT AND STATE AUDIT

Jason Wells gave a presentation on the *First 5 California 2007-08 Annual Report*. Susan Hughes gave a presentation on the *Results of the Audit Oversight of Local Commissions (2006-07)* from the State Controller's Office.

There were no comments or questions from the Commissioners or the Public.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to approve the *Annual Report*. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennison and passed unanimously.

FISCAL YEAR 2009-10 COMMISSION ADMINISTRATION

1) COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO AGREEMENT AMENDMENT.

Susan Hughes explained that an amendment to the agreement with the County (to provide professional and staffing services to the Commission) was needed due to the delay in making the transition to Commission employment, pending the CalPERS actuarial study. She noted the amendment would 1) eliminate fiscal and accounting services covered under a separate contract with the Auditor-Controller's Office, 2) extend the current agreement one year, to June 30, 2010, and 3) could be cancelled at any time.

Ms. Hughes also gave an update on the CalPERS actuarial study, which was completed very recently. She explained the final steps required to contract with CalPERS for pension benefits, which include 1) adoption of a resolution at the June 3 Commission meeting, declaring an intent to contract with CalPERS, 2) an in-house employee election, 3) adoption of the final resolution at the June 24 Commission meeting, and 4) an effective date in Sept. or Oct. 2009.

There were no comments or questions from the Commissioners or the Public.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the amendment to the County agreement. It was seconded by Commissioner Capito and passed unanimously.

2) ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2009-10, initial discussion.

Susan Hughes gave a presentation on the Administrative Budget for FY 2009-10, noting the Program budget cannot be determined until after the May 19 ballot.

She explained the budget was based on historical spending as well as HR decisions made in April 2008. She noted that the FY 2009/10 budget represents a decrease of 10% from FY 2008-09, due to the elimination of the .50 FTE Accountant position (with shifting of financial duties to the Executive Director and Admin. Officer), as well as reduced amounts for Auditor-Controller's services, travel, and in other areas.

Commissioner Collins asked about the impact of Prop 1D [if it passes] on the Administrative cap of 15%. Ms. Hughes explained that a decline in revenues would increase the percentage of Administrative costs, especially further out, when it could reach 20%. She noted that Admin caps can be a challenge for smaller Commissions because of the need for a baseline number of staff. She added that the 15% cap is a local First 5 decision, and the policy can be modified in the future if necessary.

There were no comments or questions from the Public.

PROPOSITION 1D, IMPACT AND FUNDING OPTIONS

1) *PROPOSITION 1D OVERVIEW*

Susan Hughes provided an overview of Proposition 1D, which would divert \$268M annually from First 5 to the State general fund for five years (FY 2009-10 through FY 2013-14). She explained that Prop 1D also would change the way First 5 will be able to conduct business, including restricting funding to direct services.

There was brief discussion about Proposition 1D.

2) *FUNDING OPTIONS IF PROP 1D PASSES*

Ms. Hughes then presented three program funding examples, which take into account the possibility of Prop 1D passing, and which are based on the adopted 2006 Financial Plan:

- Status quo, no change to 12/08 approved funding recommendations
- A 30% immediate reduction to 12/08 recommendations
- A 50% immediate reduction to 12/08 recommendations

Ms. Hughes also explained projected revenue changes (including reductions in tax revenue) as well as recommended changes to the Dec. 3, 2008 approved amounts. She also provided graphs showing program expenditures and remaining balances, projected through 2018-19, for all three funding examples.

Mr. Wells provided summaries of the impacts of each of the funding examples:

- *Status Quo funding:* All reserve funds would be used by FY 2013-14 and there would be no sustainability for funded programs after that.
- *30% reduction:* Three major funding reductions would be required by FY 2013-14, requiring continual adaption by program partners, but reserve funds would be available to maintain the financial plan through 2018.
- *50% reduction:* One major funding reduction would be required, but funding could then remain stable and reserve funds would be available to maintain the financial plan through 2018.

Chairperson Achadjian stated he would like see information on specific program cuts for the reduction examples.

Susan Hughes explained that Staff would need to speak to program partners to get their input on how 30% or 50% reductions would impact them, before presenting more specific information to the Commission. Jason Wells explained that, with initial direction from the Commission on the desired percentage of funding reduction, Staff could come to the June 3 meeting with options specific to that level of reduction.

There was discussion and clarification about funding and budget amounts.

Commissioner Crocker stated he would opt to direct staff to look at a 30% reduction in funding and would not support a 50% reduction.

Commissioner Bravo stated he would support a 50% cut because it gives a worse case scenario to work upwards from and would give people some security, rather than going further and further down.

The discussion was opened to the Public.

Roberta Alderete, Arroyo Grande Community Hospital, stated they would like to see if they can help, in the event of program cuts, but she was disappointed there was talk of cutting anything. She also asked if there would be administration cuts to match program cuts. Chairperson Achadjian stated that First 5 SLO County already has a skeleton administration, and noted that staff had just presented a plan for a 10% cut in administrative costs.

Rita Rodriguez, Oceano First 5 preschool, noted that with possible elementary school teacher cuts and increased class sizes, there is an even greater need for getting kids ready for kindergarten. She suggested that fewer teacher workdays (similar to the furloughs imposed for state employees) might be an option.

With no other requests to speak from the Public, the discussion was closed to Public comment.

There was additional discussion about Prop 1D and its possible impacts.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to ask staff to prepare a proposal that reflects a 30% cut in program expenditures effective July 1, 2009, and to inform program partners of that. Commissioner Crocker seconded the motion.

Commissioner Dennison stated he preferred a 50% cut, because a 30% cut [with two additional future cuts] creates a climate of difficulty in those served and supported by the Commission, creating an environment that is constantly sinking. He suggested a 50% cut would have a deeper impact at the beginning, but the gain from having financial stability over the longer period of time might outweigh that.

The motion passed on an 8-1 vote.

PROPOSITION 1D, CONSIDERATION OF FORMAL POSITION

In regards to the Commission formally adopting a position in favor of, or opposed to, Proposition 1-D, the diversion and reprogramming of Proposition 10 funds, there were no comments or questions from the Commissioners or the Public.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to officially oppose Proposition 1D on the May 19, 2009 special election ballot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and passed on an 8-0 vote, with Commissioner Borenstein abstaining.

HEALTHY FAMILIES PROPOSAL

Susan Hughes reintroduced the First 5 CA proposal (tabled from the January 2009 Commission meeting) requesting funding to support MRMIB/Healthy Families. She noted 41 county commissions have approved the State's proposal, and 14 have either approved it with conditions, not approved it, or tabled it.

There were no comments or questions from the Public.

Commissioner Collins asked if the proposal required action, and Susan Hoffman, County Counsel, stated no. She noted one county commission took no action.

Commissioner Bravo stated that participating would seem to be a matter of good community citizenship and asked why we wouldn't do it.

Ms. Hughes explained that some counties worried initially about supplantation issues. Mr. Wells also noted there was a concern that if counties collectively could give up that much money, it might appear they didn't need it in the first place; so by not participating, we might convey that we need it more here.

Commissioner Bravo asked about having put out a press release that gave the impression that First 5 SLO County would support this. Ms. Hughes stated it was a Viewpoint article, and it mentioned we were considering the funding.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated she had understood the Commission had delayed a decision due to the possibility our funds were going to be tapped by the legislators. She stated that since they now might be [through Prop 1D], it doesn't make sense to lose this additional funding.

Commissioner Borenstein stated the Commission committed only to a consideration of participation. Commissioner Dennison suggested that in the wake of recent events, other commissions might wish they had delayed action as well.

Commissioner Collins made a motion not to appropriate the money to the State Commission for the purpose of participating in their MRMIB/Healthy Families funding proposal. Commissioner Borenstein seconded the motion and it passed on an 8-1 vote.

CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE UPDATES

1) *CHDP ORAL HEALTH OUTREACH PROJECT*

Mary Gallegos, Public Health nurse and Manager of the Children's Medical Services Program, reported on the Surgery Case Management program, which has been funded by First 5 since July 1, 2008. She explained the project involves working with pediatric dental specialists to arrange surgery for children who have severe dental decay.

She reported that Cecilia Merrill has been the patient services representative for the program, and in the first six months, she has assisted 73 children. Ms. Gallegos noted they are receiving

about 30 referrals per month, with a current wait list of 8 (down from 122 last March). She explained they have shifted away from surgery screening clinics, and children are now being seen by Drs. Smith and Walker on an as-needed basis. She also handed out sample brochures, letters, and lists used in outreach.

Chairperson Achadjian asked if First 5 funding would continue to be needed after the contract ends this year. Ms. Gallegos said it was hoped Drs. Smith and Walker could establish a point of service internet checking of eligibility for Denti-Cal, since they are willing to continue providing surgery if someone can help confirm patients have insurance. She noted that Clinica de Tolosa will continue to do insurance confirmations in-house. She reported it is also hoped Dr. Pedersen will launch the CHDP gateway program that pays for dental surgeries.

There was brief additional discussion about the program and statistics.

There were no comments or questions from the Public.

2) *CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH COORDINATION PROJECT*

Dr. Kathy Phipps, Oral Health Coordination Team lead, gave a presentation on the First 5 SLO County Oral Health Coordination Project.

Dr. Phipps provided a brief overview of dental caries, noting it's a complex multi-factorial disease process. Because of this, she stated it's not possible to prevent all children from having tooth decay, but their goal is to reduce the level of decay so no child is in pain or has advanced disease.

Dr. Phipps explained how an ideal Public Health dental program should include primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention, as well as advocacy/policy development and explained each. She also reported on accomplishments in each of the areas: creation of the County Oral Health Coalition and three regional Dental Access Resource Teams (DARTs), The California Endowment grant, *Give Kids a Smile* clinics, preschool screenings and fluoride varnish treatments, and education for low-income parents.

In regards to the local *Give Kids a Smile* project, Dr. Phipps explained that – thanks to First 5, the Central Coast Dental Society, CHCC, and volunteer dentists – there will be two Saturday clinics a month throughout the school year. The initial clinic in April, in Nipomo, will be staffed by dentists Doug Harrington, Theron Stout, Mark Romanelli, and Perry Patel, and will serve 50 children.

Chairperson Achadjian asked that a clinic in Oceano be considered, because transportation can be a problem for parents. Dr. Phipps reported that the Dental Society opted to begin with a Nipomo clinic, and determine the next location later. She thanked CHCC for providing the facility, supplies, and dental assistants. She also noted the American Dental Association would be writing about this local collaborative effort in an upcoming newsletter.

Dr. Phipps also provided statistics on the Head Start and State Preschool screenings of 597 children, noting that north county children appear to have the worst oral health, and south county children appear to have the best. She noted that Arroyo Grande dentist Greg Howser deserves kudos for providing pro bono treatment to Head Start children, and that Perry Patel

and Don Tran also deserve recognition for taking children who have coverage through DentiCal, Healthy Families, and Healthy Kids.

Chairperson Achadjian noted the importance of recognizing these dentists publicly and suggested that perhaps one of them can be nominated by First 5 for a CHI Hero award. Dr. Phipps said she would provide a list of names. Ms. Hughes stated dentists also could be recognized at the next Children's Oral Health Summit in February 2010.

Commissioner Collins asked about the significant difference between the oral health of the north and south county children, and asked if it could be connected to naturally occurring fluoride. Dr. Phipps responded that neither area has naturally occurring fluoride.

Commissioner Bravo suggested that perhaps there aren't enough cases to apply a statistical interpretation, and perhaps having more dental care results in more diagnoses of dental disease. Dr. Phipps noted she does have additional data on the children screened, and as she gets more information in, she can run analyses on the data.

Commissioner Murphy asked about the possibility of finding additional Denti-Cal providers who will serve children at age one, since currently there is only one. Dr. Phipps noted that the *Give Kids a Smile* clinics will serve children that young. She also noted they are working at finding other providers, and hopefully CHCC will be able to hire a pediatric dentist.

The discussion was opened to the Public. Michele Vanderlinde, from the USC School of Dentistry, said they are here to network, communicate and help in any way they can.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that, having seen First 5s throughout state, she believes First 5 SLO County is one of the leanest and most proactive in terms of putting money into the community, rather than hiring staff to do programs. Chairperson Achadjian agreed, saying that he couldn't see asking staff for more than the 10% admin cut they were already recommending.

Commissioner Bravo noted that this meeting is the last one before the May 19 election, and suggested a continued focus on the positives. Chairperson Achadjian reminded everyone of the need to continue to speak about First 5 to others.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other announcements or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 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, June 3, 2009, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Dept. of Social Services, 3433 So. Higuera St., Room 115, San Luis Obispo***