

FIRST 5 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

San Luis Obispo County

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2009

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED

Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health
Julian Crocker	SLO County Office of Education

STAFF PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Achadjian called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dean Walker, a San Luis Obispo pediatric dentist, expressed appreciation to First 5 SLO County for providing funding for the dental surgery case management being performed by Cecilia Merrill of the Public Health Dept.

There were no other comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Approval of the March 25, 2009 minutes.
- 2) Approval of the 2009-10 Commission meeting schedule.
- 3) Approval of Commission financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2009.
- 4) Approval of the Commission administrative budget in the amount of \$440,550 for fiscal year 2009-10.
- 5) Final approval of the 4th (2008) revision to the Commission Strategic Plan with respect to the organizational structure changes, the oral health initiative, and home visiting planning decisions made during calendar year 2008. (This revision contains no changes to Commission funded programs.)
- 6) Adoption of the Resolution of Intention declaring the Commission's intent to enter into a contract with the CalPERS retirement system (annual employer cost of \$23,972; annual employee cost of \$14,384).

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

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE OF SLO COUNTY (CHISLO), AGE-BANDING OF PREMIUMS

Kena Burke, Executive Director, CHISLO; and Bob Freeman, Deputy CEO, CenCal Health, presented a proposal to age-band insurance premiums paid by CHISLO. Ms. Burke explained the actual cost of insurance for children ages 0-5 is higher, because utilization rates are higher for that age group.

Ms. Burke provided background information, explaining the differences in Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and Healthy Kids eligibility. She also explained that CHISLO now has utilization data from CenCal, which had not been available when CHISLO last proposed age-banding [Dec. 2006]. Ms. Burke also provided Healthy Kids enrollment and disenrollment statistics, and compared application numbers over the past three years. Mr. Freeman explained CenCal's 2007-2008 Healthy Families and Healthy Kids utilization data, which was used to determine age-banded premium rates.

Jason Wells reported that 238 children ages 0-5 could be covered with CHI's current level of funding; with age-banding (and its resultant increase in premiums from \$106.08 to \$188.53 for the 0-5 population), 134 children could be covered. Ms. Hughes noted that the utilization data provided by CenCal showed blended data from Santa Barbara and SLO Counties, but Santa Barbara is not currently age-banding premiums. Ms. Hughes also added that CHI is currently averaging 160 children in the 0-5 age group.

Ms. Hughes stated that age-banding could be included in the new CHISLO contract if directed by the Commission, but it probably would be best to delay increasing funding, due to possible changes in Healthy Families eligibility levels, as a result of the state budget crisis. She added that the contract could be amended later.

There was additional discussion about the Governor's proposal to reduce eligibility for Healthy Families, as well as possible funding scenarios involving federal matching of funds.

Noting that this agenda item is for information only, Chairperson Achadjian asked First 5 staff to research the issue and provide a recommendation to the Commission at a future meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2009 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Jason Wells gave a presentation on program funding for 2009-2011, which included a general overview of scopes of work and funding levels.

Mr. Wells and Ms. Hughes both expressed appreciation to program Partners and Tom Keifer [First 5 evaluator] for their assistance in planning for funding reductions had Proposition 1D passed. Because 1D did not pass, Mr. Wells noted that First 5 staff were going forward with funding recommendations approved in Dec. 2008, with some minor changes. He noted the WIC/Oral Health program is on hold for approximately six months at the request of the project director due to pending changes. He noted the Baby's First Breath contract is also on hold due to Tobacco Control Program (TCP) staff turnover and possible operational changes, and that TCP will be providing a new proposal/scope of work. Mr. Wells noted he would be bringing full contracts and scopes of work for approval at the next Commission meeting.

During public comment, Dr. Stephen Hansen, former First 5 Commissioner, noted he would be involved in working on the Baby's First Breath proposal.

Chairperson Achadjian noted that if any Commissioners have a conflict of interest in regards to the contracts, they should state so now. Commissioner Collins stated that he serves on the board of CHISLO, but receives no financial benefit. Chairperson Achadjian noted that he and Commissioner Bravo also serve on the CHI board, but likewise receive no financial benefit. Commissioner Bravo recused himself (as a provider of services for CHI as a pediatrician) from a vote on CHI funding. Commissioner Dennison stated that Lucia Mar Unified School District participates in the State Preschool Expanded Day program run by the County Office of Education, but he receives no financial benefit.

In regards to all contracts, except for CHI, Commissioner Bravo moved to approve program funding as outlined. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and passed unanimously. In regards to CHI funding, Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the contract amount. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez and passed on a 6-0 vote, with Commissioner Bravo abstaining.

Ms. Hughes noted that final approval of the program funding recommendations at the next Commission meeting also requires amendments to the financial plan. She detailed the amendments to the financial plan, including revisions in both projected revenue and estimated expenses, and an increased allocation for emerging needs. She thanked Commissioner Rodriguez for information about First 5 San Bernardino's Emerging Needs 2009 Investment Initiative. Ms. Hughes proposed using the same approach for First 5 SLO County, in order to better and more quickly address unknown future needs resulting from the current economic turmoil.

Commissioner Collins asked about the impact of the new federal tax on tobacco, and when it might show up in reduced revenue for First 5. Ms. Hughes stated she would check into how much of a time lag there is between the collection of taxes (from the tobacco purchaser) and the distribution of tax funds to local First 5 Commissions.

Chairperson Achadjian asked whether continued support of the oral surgery case management program might be possible under the amended financial plan, and Ms. Hughes stated it could be, under the Emerging Needs Investment Initiative.

There were no additional comments or questions from the public.

STAFF REPORT

Susan Hughes thanked all Partners, community members, supporters, and commissioners for educating voters about Prop 1D. She reported on a post Prop 1D conference call with Rob Reiner and campaign staff, and on the benefits and consequences of the Prop 1D education effort. She also reported that the First 5 State Association is asking for input on possible local impacts of the state budget crisis, in order to coordinate common strategies. She also asked Commissioners to provide her with input specific to each one's particular area of expertise.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Collins reported that the homeless enumeration study will be released shortly, and it shows a significant increase over the last count, and a high percentage of children. He noted that the Governor has proposed eliminating CalWORKs, and although that is unlikely, there may be significant cuts which could increase homelessness and poverty. In regards to the possible creation of a joint coordinator position to address the homeless issue, he suggested that First 5 should consider supporting the effort, to the extent that children 0-5 are represented in the homeless population.

Dr. Stephen Hansen, speaking as a member of the public and as a former First 5 Commissioner, encouraged everyone to be in touch with Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee (as the newest member of California's "Big Five") to encourage him to be open-minded, flexible, pragmatic, and not too rigid or partisan about tax increases during budget negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other announcements or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 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 24, 2009, 4:00–6:30 p.m.
Dept. of Social Services, 3433 So. Higuera St., Room 115, San Luis Obispo