

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2010

Commissioners Present

Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health
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
Michael McNerney, M.D.	San Luis Obispo Medical Association

Commissioners Absent

Katcho Achadjian	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Rosalinda Rodriguez	Community at Large

Staff Present

First 5 Staff: Susan Hughes, Jason Wells, Anne Tognazzini; Counsel: Patricia Gomez.

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Dennison called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Strategic Planning Update

Lacking a quorum (Commissioners Collins and Borenstein were delayed due to an Alert at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant), Item # 6, the Strategic Planning Update was moved up, because it was not an action item.

Jason Wells, First 5 Program Officer, reviewed the planning timeline as well as changes to the Vision and Mission statements. He then reported on recent strategic planning activities related to Commission Advocacy, Oral Health, the Perinatal Substance Abuse Initiative, and the Children's Health Care Initiative.

In regards to the Children's Health Care Initiative, Tom Keifer, First 5 Evaluator, reviewed data from a parent survey (completed by 149 parents) done countywide at Head Starts and School Readiness sites.

Mr. Wells noted the next step will be Planning Groups, which will meet in July.

There were no questions from the Commissioners.

Anne Marshall, Martha's Place, noted that the Parent Survey statistics regarding check-ups might be low because of parents taking advantage of various Head Start screenings.

Kena Burke, Executive Director for Children's Health Initiative (CHI), asked why a distinction has been made between CHI and CHCI (Children's Health Care Initiative) in Strategic Planning. Jason Wells explained that CHIC is used to distinguish the First 5 SLO County initiative from the non-profit program known as CHI.

Consent Agenda

- 1) Approval of the May 26, 2010 minutes.
- 2) Approval of a contract for legal services with Patricia Gomez for the period of August 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.
- 3) Approval of the 2010-11 Commission meeting schedule.

There were no questions or comments.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-3. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and passed unanimously.

- 4) Approval of a contract in the amount of \$250,000 for the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 with the County of San Luis Obispo to provide services at Martha's Place, Children's Assessment Center.
- 5) Approval of a contract in the amount of \$74,635 for the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012 with Partnership for the Children to provide children's oral health services at La Clinica de Tolosa.
- 6) Approval of a contract in the amount of \$80,000 for the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012 with the County of San Luis Obispo to provide countywide coordination of children's oral health services.

With regard to Consent Agenda items 4-6, Jason Wells reviewed slight changes made to the contracts since the Agenda Packets were mailed.

There were no questions or comments.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 4-6. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crocker and passed unanimously.

*******PUBLIC HEARING*******

2010 Annual Review of the 2009 Strategic Plan

Susan Hughes, First 5 Executive Director, reviewed small changes to the 2009 Update to the Strategic Plan:

1. Commissioner terms were updated and commission membership was updated to include new member, Michael McNerney, M.D.
2. Section IX – Evaluation – was updated and corrections were made in the Evaluation Matrix
 - a. corrected various general errors
 - b. updated the Oral Health Initiative and Martha's Place sections
 - c. made all sections consistent with the 2010 Evaluation Plan

3. Section X – The Sixth Strategic Planning Process – was added, including both an outline of the current major Strategic Plan revision and the timeline.

There were no questions or comments from the Commission or the public.

Commissioner Capito made a motion to approve the 2010 revision to the Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McNerney and passed unanimously.

Commission Advocacy

As part of Strategic Planning efforts, Wendy Wendt and Patricia Gomez facilitated a discussion of the Commission's options in regard to advocacy activities.

Ms. Wendt explained how First 5 SLO County has a stated commitment to advocacy in its Mission statement and Guiding principles, and Ms. Gomez reviewed the legal basis for First 5 advocacy as well as the three types of advocacy.

Commissioner Crocker asked about hosting a candidates forum. Ms. Gomez stated that inviting ALL candidates to a forum, to explore issues of interest to First 5, would be permissible.

During Public comment, Dawn Williams suggested having the League of Women Voters sponsor a forum, and Kena Burke, CHI Executive Director, noted that funders sometimes prohibit advocacy.

Ms. Wendt noted there has been a diminishing reference to advocacy in First 5 SLO County strategic plans since 2002. Ms. Wendt and Ms. Gomez then reviewed what some other First 5's are doing. Ms. Hughes also spoke about a recent First 5 Central Region meeting, at which Executive Directors spoke about doing more advocacy, including together as a region.

Commissioner Collins, using the example of homelessness, suggested that an advocacy policy should not limit First 5's ability to talk about all that's good and bad for young children. Ms. Wendt suggested that perhaps the concept of a Bill of Rights for children might provide the broadest advocacy umbrella possible. Commissioner Capito also supported the idea of a Bill of Rights for children.

During public comment, Tom Keifer, First 5 Evaluator, spoke about the Strategic Plan's four result areas; Kena Burke, CHI Executive Director, spoke about health care reform; and Dawn Williams spoke about the value of educational advocacy.

Ms. Hughes noted that this initial step is to determine the level of interest of the Commissioners and to get direction. Ms. Wendt suggested that Commissioners think of areas of interest and to identify emerging issues in order to have some specificity that would allow a more timely response to issues.

Vice-Chair Dennison summarized the discussion as supporting an advocacy policy that is not limited to established funding priorities, but rather would have a more broad-based approach to advocating for the health and welfare of children. He also suggested that it be proactive, rather than reactive, but with some policies and procedures in place for reactive responses when time is of the essence.

Commissioner Collins asked to be involved in the development of an advocacy policy.

In regards to the upcoming State Senate District 15 election, both Commissioners Collins and Crocker noted the need to inform the candidates about First 5 and its priorities, to solicit their views of those priorities, and to share those views with the Commission and the community in a public way. Commissioner Crocker asked Staff to develop four or five questions on issues related to children (including not taking First 5 funding to solve state budget woes), to send to the candidates, and to share their responses via our website and emails.

Commissioner Crocker also asked Staff to alert Commissioners about candidate forums, so that Commissioners or Staff can be present, to bring up issues of importance to children. Commissioners McNerney and Borenstein suggested working with other First 5's to see if they might have developed questions or might be interested in working with us in approaching the candidates from a regional perspective.

Ms. Gomez noted it's clear that an advocacy policy would need to include a component which would address how the Commission could engage itself in an election process, and that the current Senate election will provide a pilot test of how that might look.

Commissioner Collins noted a potential conflict of interest, in regards to the Senate election, as he is a friend of one of the candidates, John Laird.

Children's Oral Health RFP

Jason Wells provided an update on the revised scope of work and budget with Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHC) to provide children's oral health services in the SLO County. He noted that the previously recommended contract was changed due to concerns about limited treatment, double dipping, and older children attending the clinic. He explained that the current staff recommendation will fund equipment in the amount of \$21,090, but delays funding of services until a clear funding plan emerges which addresses all concerns.

Joe Mercardante, CHC Dental Director, noted that their newly hired pediatric dentist has just requested additional equipment costing around \$20K.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to accept staff's recommendation to fund the more narrowly focused CHC contract, and that any request for additional funding for equipment or services is to be brought back at a later date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and passed unanimously.

There was brief discussion about concerns which staff has run into regarding possible funding of CHC services.

Kena Burke, CHI Executive Director, spoke briefly regarding dental insurance utilization, noting that some parents don't realize they have dental coverage.

There were no additional comments or questions from the Commissioners or the public.

Emerging Needs Initiative Funds

Jason Wells spoke about funds allocated to the Emerging Needs 2009 Investment Initiative. Due to a number of considerations, including a significant reduction in

revenue in upcoming years, he explained that the staff recommendation is to move the Emerging Needs Funds into program funding, to be available in the current strategic planning process.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve staff recommendations in regard to the Emerging Needs funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crocker and passed unanimously.

2-1-1 Funding

Susan Hughes reviewed a one-year \$3,750 sponsorship of United Way, to support 2-1-1 services in SLO County, and to be paid out of the Administrative Budget.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to approve the agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Capito and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Commissioner Crocker reported that progress is continuing at the First 5 Early Education Center in Paso Robles, and the Early Head Start building is done.

Commissioner Borenstein reported that the SLO County Board of Supervisors approved the Oral Health Coordinator position at its meeting yesterday.

There were no other Commissioner comments or announcements.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

All materials referred to in these minutes are available at the First 5 SLO County 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, August 25, 2010, 4:00-6:30 p.m.
Dept. of Social Services, 3433 So. Higuera St., Room 115, San Luis Obispo