

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

June 25, 2014

**Commissioners Present**

Julian Crocker	SLO County Office of Education
Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health Department
Mary Kern	Community at Large
Lee Collins	Department of Social Services
Michael Mc Nerney, M.D.	American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP)
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Tracy Schiro	Children's Services Network

**Commissioners Absent/Excused** - Janet Murphy, Community at Large

**Staff Present**

First 5 staff: Susan Hughes, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood  
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer  
Commission Counsel: Ray Biering

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Crocker called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

**ITEM 1 - Adoption of Agenda**

Commissioner Schiro made a motion to adopt the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and passed unanimously.

**Chairperson Comments & Update**

Chairperson Crocker provided a brief update regarding the 2015 budget just signed by Governor Brown. He indicated the budget provided for 1) expanding California State Preschool by committing 43,000 full-day, new preschool opportunities for low-income children, phased in over multiple years; 2) the repeal of the existing fee for the part-day California State preschool program; 3) improving Transitional Kindergarten (FY 2014-15) within existing resources); 4) utilizing Transitional Kindergarten as an important source of pre-kindergarten opportunity for low-income 4-year olds; and 5) enhancing Preschool Quality & Infrastructure and preparing

preschool providers to deliver higher standard services by funding professional development, state preschool quality projects, and preschool facility loans.

## **ITEM 2 - Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

## **ITEM 3 - Consent Agenda**

- 1) Approval of the May 28, 2014 minutes
- 2) Contract Approval – Tolosa Children’s Dental Center (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016)
- 3) Approval of a third amendment to the contract between the County of San Luis Obispo and the Children and Families Commission for the benefit of the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) program (ending June 30, 2015)

*Public Comment: None*

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

## **ITEM 4 – Commission Policy: The Commission will review the revisions made to the personal electronic communications policy, originally submitted for approval on May 28, 2014. Following approval, the policy will be added to the Employee Personnel Policies and Handbook.**

Ray Biering, Commission Counsel, updated the Commission with respect to the amended policy. He indicated that Commissioner Collins had submitted his suggested changes to the policy. Staff then reviewed the changes and made additional changes after researching current model policies. Commissioner Schiro asked about the added language regarding driving and phone/electronic media usage. She said it was illegal in California and then asked because it was against the law, if it needed to be included. Mr. Biering responded that it’s not illegal in every state, and he saw no problem with including it. Commissioner Collins said he appreciated the additional time to review and provide changes to the policy.

*Public Comment: None*

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the personal electronic communications policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borenstein and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 5 - Childcare in SLO County Study Session**

Commissioner Sokolowski introduced the topic and welcomed the following representatives: Raechelle Bowlay-Sutton, Coordinator, Child Care Planning Council; Terri Kurczewski, Child Development Resource Center; Eileen Monahan, First 5 Santa Barbara; and Mika Buchanan, Council Chair and CCRC Family Resource Manager.

Ms. Bowlay-Sutton provided the following information (graphic) about Child Care Planning Councils:



Ms. Bowlay-Sutton explained the various types of child care available in the county.

1. Publicly Funded Child Care Centers - 31% of child care centers have one or more federal/ state/ local contracts, but that percentage does not include providers that accept vouchers or family child care homes
  - CA State Preschool Programs (State Funded)
  - Head Start/ Early Head Start/ Migrant Head Start (Federally Funded)
  - Alternative Payment/Voucher Programs
2. Privately Funded Child Care Centers and Preschools
3. Family Child Care Homes
4. Family, Friends & Neighbor
5. School Age Care

She reported there are approximately 109 licensed child care centers in San Luis Obispo County able to care for 4,674 children (214 Infant Slots - under 2 years old, 3,354 Preschool Slots - 2-5 years old, and 1,106 School-age Slots - 6 years and older). Licensed child care is available for only 36% of children 0-12 with parents in the labor force. She went on to say there is an estimated number of 251 family child care homes in San Luis Obispo County able to care for approximately 2,586 children of varied ages 0-12.

She reviewed the work between the California Department of Education & First 5 California aimed at ensuring positive outcomes for the state's infants, toddlers and preschoolers in 5 key areas of reform: 1) Coordinated State Systems, 2) High-Quality, Accountable Programs (Quality Rating and Improvement System or QRIS), 3) Promoting Early Learning and Development Outcomes for Children, 4) Ensuring a Great Early Education Workforce, and 5) Measuring Outcomes and Progress. She spoke about Race to the Top and other First 5 county efforts associated with that effort, including new funding that will allow the SLO Child Care Planning Council to work with First 5 Santa Barbara County in establishing a Local QRIS Consortium.

Suggested partners for the local consortium are: First 5 SLO County, SLO County Child Care Planning Council, Early Learning For All (ELFA), California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN), Child Development Resource Center (Child Signature Program), CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection, CAPSLO Head Start, SLO County Office of Education, California State Preschool Programs, Cuesta College Children's Center, Child Development Training Consortium, Pacific Coast Association for Education of Young Children, and Partnership for Excellence in Family Support of SLO County.

Identified outcomes for the local project include: 1) defines and raises the bar on quality child care, 2) reinforces a mixed delivery system of child care, 3) strengthens the connection between local advocates, 4) creates a coordinated effort to leverage funding into the County to promote economic stimulation and 5) utilizes current funding for more comprehensive services.

Commissioners asked several questions including 1) Borenstein - does the data include after school programs (e.g. YMCA and Parks and Rec.), 2) Crocker - do we have age-specific data, and 3) Schiro - what's the age range for family child care? Ms. Buchanan responded that the

reported available “slots” were not age specific. Also, Commissioner Collins clarified that the county DSS office is not responsible for licensing providers and indicated that Community Care Licensing is overseen by the State Department of Social Services.

*Public Comment:*

*Martha Chivens, Director, United Methodist Children’s Center-San Luis Obispo: Commented on the high cost of accreditation. She commented that there are 3 schools in SLO County. She stated that she doesn’t want this to be something that only higher income schools can do.*

*Maddy Quaglino, Director, United Methodist Children’s Center-Arroyo Grande: Commented that accreditation is long hard journey and as a private center it is the only mark they have for quality. She stated that the QRIS would be a great tool for quality because it is not so high cost.*

**ITEM 6 - Commission Discussion:** The Commission will discuss/approve a process to fill the Executive Director position.

Chairperson Crocker presented the item with Tom Alvarez, Chief HR Officer of the SLO County Office of Education (SLOCOE), assisting. Mr. Alvarez reviewed the proposal from SLOCOE to conduct the Executive Director search. The only hard costs associated with the proposal would be for advertising and any approved reimbursable travel required by potential candidates. He also indicated there were several small proposed amendments to the Executive Director job description.

Chairperson Crocker indicated a sub-committee was needed for the paper screening and he would entertain volunteers. Commissioners agreed the Chair should be on that committee. A meeting “doodle” will be sent to the committee members to schedule days/times for future meetings since they will need to occur over the summer.

*Public Comment: None*

Commissioner Gibson made a motion to approve the proposal from the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education to conduct the Executive Director search and to amend the Executive Director job description as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sokolowski and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 7 - Staff Report – What a Year it’s Been!**

Susan Hughes, Executive Director, reported that Camille Maben, First 5 California Executive Director, would be in SLO County for a site visit in August. She announced there would be a small “meet and greet” in the late afternoon on August 5<sup>th</sup> specifically for Commissioners, funded partners and other invited dignitaries. Additional specifics were being planned and a save the date will go out soon.

Ms. Hughes then told the Commission that staff had prepared a special year-end report, which provided an overview of the last 12-13 months regarding Commission accomplishments, advocacy efforts and outreach activities.

#### **ITEM 8 - Commissioner Comments and Announcements**

There were no comments from Commissioners.

#### **ITEM 9 - The Commission will adjourn to closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 to consider: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9 (one (1) potential case)**

The Commission adjourned to closed session at 6:00 PM and reconvened at 6:30 PM. Commission Counsel Biering reported that counsel had met with the Commission (as per Government Code section 54956.9) to conduct a routine review of various matters regarding potential liability to the Commission. There was nothing further to report.

#### **ITEM 10 - Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

---

*All materials referred to in these minutes, as well as an audio recording of the meeting, are available at the First 5 SLO County office. Call (805) 781-4058 for information. **The next Commission meeting will be:** September 24, 2014, from 4:00 to 6:30 PM at the County Office of Education Board Room, 3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405*