

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

March 28, 2012

**Commissioners Present**

Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health Department
Julian Crocker	SLO County Office of Education
Don Dennison	Children's Services Network
Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Mary Kern	Community at Large
Michael Mc Nerney, M.D.	San Luis Obispo County Medical Association
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Tracy Schiro	SLO County Department of Social Services
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council

**Commissioners Excused**

None

**Staff and Consultants Present**

First 5 staff: Susan Hughes, Jason Wells, Anne Collins; Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer.

**Call to Order**

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

**Public Comment**

Dr. Stephen Hansen, President, SLO Medical Educational and Research Foundation (SLOMERF), explained they have funds for medical education and research, but are having difficulty getting doctors to come to trainings. He encouraged First 5 to submit proposals for training or research.

Dr. Hansen also spoke as a member of the Tobacco Control Coalition. He noted that due to more widespread smoke-free areas, tobacco companies are heavily promoting oral tobacco use. He asked that support letters, such as First 5's recent letter to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on smoke-free areas in Morro Bay, should address all forms of tobacco use, substituting the words "tobacco-free" for "smoke-free." Susan Hughes noted the letter was already submitted to the BOS, but perhaps she and Chairperson Crocker could do an addendum.

**Consent Agenda**

- 1) Approval of January 25, 2012 Minutes
- 2) Approval of 2012-13 Commission meeting calendar

Chairperson Crocker noted the next two Commission meetings would be in other cities, to have a wider exposure of the Commission and to focus on the School Readiness projects.

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

## **Prop 63 - Mental Health Services Act, Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)**

Darci Rourke, Early Intervention and Innovation Coordinator, SLO County Behavioral Health Department, provided an overview of Prevention and Early Intervention programs within five project areas: 1) Mental Health Awareness and Stigma Reduction Project, 2) School Based Wellness Project, 3) Family Education and Support, 4) Early Care and Support for Underserved Populations, and 5) Integrated Community Wellness. She noted that a byproduct of the programs was increased collaboration between PEI coordinators.

Shana Paulson, Community Action Partnership of SLO County (CAP-SLO), provided an overview of the Positive Development Project, one of the programs within the School Based Wellness Project. She also provided information on its curriculum, "I Can Problem Solve."

Commissioner Gibson stated he appreciated the Spanish outreach in both programs and he hoped it would continue. Commissioner Murphy stated she also appreciated the attention to an awareness of social and emotional growth. Commissioner Sokolowski noted she has seen what a difference the PEI programs make.

## **First 5 California 2010-11 Annual Report**

Jason Wells, First 5 staff, provided an overview of the First 5 California 2010-11 Annual Report as required by the Children and Families First Act. He noted First 5 CA received \$94 million in 2010-11, of which 80% was distributed to the counties. He noted First 5 CA's Signature Programs are aimed at serving children, parents and teachers.

He covered Result Areas, including 1) Child Development, 2) Child Health, 3) Family Functioning, and 4) Systems of Care. He noted the full report is available on the First 5 California home page at: <http://www.cafc.ca.gov/>

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve the First 5 California 2010-11 Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schiro and passed unanimously.

## **Proposition 29: California Cancer Research Act**

Susan Hughes, First 5 staff, provided an overview of Proposition 29. She stated it would be on the June ballot and would impose an additional tax of \$1 per cigarette pack to fund cancer research and other specified purposes. She noted that endorsement of Prop 29 by the Commission would align with First 5's mission, of decreasing children's exposure to tobacco.

Dr. Stephen Hansen reported that the tobacco industry spends \$27 million every day in promoting their products. He noted it is expected they will spend a great deal of money to defeat Proposition 29, so all support is appreciated. He offered to provide additional information if needed.

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to endorse Proposition 29. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gibson and passed unanimously.

## **Children's Bill of Rights**

Wendy Wendt, First 5 consultant, led an introduction and planning discussion in order to get input and direction for staff regarding the process which might be used to develop a SLO County Children's Bill of Rights. She noted the First 5 SLO County Strategic Plan included the development of a Young Children's Bill of Rights as a policy platform. She provided historical information on Children's Bills of Rights in the US, starting with the first Children's Bill of Rights

in the USA (Portland, 2007), and the first in California (San Mateo County, 2009). She reviewed decision points for First 5 SLO County to consider, as they decide how to proceed.

Regarding the age focus for a local Children's Bill of Rights, Commissioner McNerney suggested it should include all children, while including a sub-focus for the 0-5 age group. Commissioner Murphy agreed, noting that with collaboration, it would make sense to broaden the focus to all children. Commissioner Gibson also agreed, noting such a document should be viewed as covering all those who do not have legal standing, i.e., who cannot vote. He also suggested that since children's rights should be universal, SLO County could adopt one already in place, while also speaking to local issues.

Tom Keifer, First 5 consultant, explained that ages 0 to 5 were specified in the First 5 SLO County Strategic Plan because there is power in focusing specifically on that age group. He explained that the broader the focus, the more diluted the interests of children 0 to 5 become.

Commissioner Borenstein indicated it made sense to have a Children's Bill of Rights which covers all children, with First 5 focusing its efforts around the 0-5 age group. She spoke against creating new infrastructure, and suggested that perhaps the County Office of Education or Children's Services Network might cover the older age group.

Lee Collins, Director, SLO County Department of Social Services, spoke about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the California Assembly Concurrent Resolution 80. He suggested First 5's time could be better spent by promoting the endorsement (by cities, counties and Assembly members) of such existing statements.

Ms. Wendt stated she agreed that First 5's time would be best served to advocate on behalf of existing statements, such as ones already developed in California. She noted the UN Convention was a very robust and powerful set of international statements and she would suggest working off a more modest, manageable set of statements developed in California. Commissioner Gibson also noted that adopting the UN Convention might be difficult because there are some community members who have extremely negative views of the UN.

Commissioner McNerney noted the general consensus appears to be to adopt something already in place and then use an implementation framework for the age range of 0-5. Commissioner Schiro also supported a larger focus for a Children's Bill of Rights, so it would benefit all children. Commissioner Murphy asked whether First 5 is required to limit itself to the 0-5 age group, and Ms. Hughes explained that First 5 would collaborate with others, if the framework was expanded to include the 6-18 age group.

Commissioner Gibson noted that if First 5 endorsed a Children's Bill of Rights for ages 0-18, it could be followed with a statement of what it means to our particular focus of ages 0-5. Commissioner Kern noted the use of "children and youth" in the Portland's Bill of Rights makes it more inclusive. Ms. Wendt reviewed future steps, including identifying collaborative partners if the consensus is that a local Children's Bill of Rights should include ages 0-18.

Susan Hughes noted the Strategic Plan (due to be reviewed in June) may need to be modified if the older age group is included. She also noted Congresswoman Capps will be announcing the Children's Bill of Rights at the Hands-on Heroes Dinner in April. Commissioner Schiro suggested the Capps video shouldn't include language about "developing" our own Children's Bill of Rights, because we may adopt one already in existence.

Commissioner Dennison asked that a copy of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children be provided to Commissioners via email. Ms. Wendt noted the UNICEF website also provides a good digest of the UN Convention.

## Early Learning For All (ELFA)

Jason Wells, First 5 staff, reviewed the scope of work and budget for the proposed contract with the County Office of Education to support and advocate (through Early Learning For All, or ELFA) for quality pre-schools as designated in the Strategic Plan. He stated the budget was \$10,000 per year for two years to pay for part of the ELFA Coordinator position. He noted the full contract and budget would be brought back for consent.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve the scope of work and budget, with the full contract to be brought back for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sokolowski and passed unanimously, with Chairperson Crocker abstaining.

## Power of Preschool (PoP) RFA #2

Susan Hughes, First 5 staff, provided an overview on the Power of Preschool (PoP) RFA #2. She explained it is a First 5 California grant opportunity geared to Readiness Assessment and Quality Improvement, specifically to increase quality in early learning programs for children, prenatal to age 5. Funding from RFA #2 would provide quality improvement support to local centers not yet participating in PoP. She noted the funding would be \$30-90,000 per year and it would be for assessment of school sites, not for launching programs. She stated that participating doesn't have a downside, because First 5 SLO County can opt to not participate beyond RFA #2. She also reviewed the structure and timeline.

Commissioner Sokolowski urged that we apply, since our county doesn't participate in the CARES Plus program. Commissioner Murphy agreed.

Commissioner Schiro made a motion to approve applying for the PoP RFA #2 grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

## Staff Report

Susan Hughes and Jason Wells, First 5 staff, updated the Commission on various projects and information, including AB 99, the State Budget, letters of support, the possibility of funding IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) with a federal tobacco tax, First 5 CA news, the Water Cooler Conference, Healthy Teeth Kits, the Oral Health Summit, Hands-on Heroes, Car seat grant monies, and outreach events.

## Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Commissioner Murphy passed out postcards for the SLO Revealed fundraiser and also spoke about a "No Place for Heat" event tomorrow, which will deal with the issue of bullying. Commissioner Sokolowski handed out a "Month of the Child" April calendar of countywide activities which went home in all PTA folders. Commissioner Borenstein announced that the first week of April is National Public Health week, and stated there would be some associated local activities, including the launching of a new webpage: "Gateway to Health."

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

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*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:** May 30, 2012, from 5:00 to 7:30 PM., in the Multi-purpose room at Georgia Brown Elementary School in Paso Robles.*