

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 30, 2012**

Commissioners Present

Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health Department
Julian Crocker	SLO County Office of Education
Commissioner Dennison	Children's Services Network
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

Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors
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Staff 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 5:21 PM.

Georgia Brown Elementary (Paso Robles) School Readiness Update

Marilu Gomez, School Readiness Coordinator, opened the meeting with performances by children and parents from the Georgia Brown School Readiness (SR) programs in Paso Robles. Salvador Echeverria, Oak Park Soccer coach, spoke about the soccer program and thanked the Commission for their support. Edith Puga, SR Family Advocate, spoke about the teen parenting program and introduced two of the teen parents who attend the program. One of the teen mothers spoke about the value of the program. Ms. Gomez then gave a presentation on the many SR programs at Georgia Brown Elementary.

Public Comment: Kathy McNamara, Paso Robles Joint Unified School District Superintendent, noted there is a difference in the ability and achievement levels of children who have gone through the School Readiness programs.

Paulette Pahler, who is retiring as Director of Student Services at PRJUSD, was recognized by the Commission for her many years of leadership and support for the Georgia Brown First 5 School Readiness programs.

Public Comment

Dr. Doug Major spoke about Healthy Kids [insurance] ending, and that he was concerned about local children losing vision treatment coverage. He asked First 5 to consider funding vision treatment for the 0-5 population, in addition to continuing to fund vision screenings.

Consent Agenda

- 1) Approval of March 28, 2012 Minutes
- 2) Approval of a contract with the SLO County Office of Education to support coordination of Early Learning For All (ELFA) from 7/1/2012 to 6/30/2014
- 3) Approval of 2011-12 financial statements, quarter ending March 31, 2012
- 4) Approval of Budget Adjustment Request in the amount of \$4,999 for a car seat grant and \$1,000 in sponsorship for Hands-on Heroes

The Consent Agenda items were split into two groups: Items 1, 3 and 4 were considered together and Item 2 by itself. Commissioner Schiro made a motion to accept Consent Items 1, 3, and 4. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McNerney and passed unanimously. Commissioner Murphy then made a motion to approve Item 2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borenstein and passed unanimously, with Chairperson Crocker abstaining.

Children's Bill of Rights Discussion

Wendy Wendt, Consultant, led a second planning discussion about developing a local Children's Bill of Rights. She shared the results of a Commissioner survey about decisions which will need to be made: targeted age range, the method of crafting core statements, possible organizations to co-lead, how to engage the community, and who should be engaged in the process.

Commissioners McNerney, Schiro, and Chairperson Crocker spoke in favor of crafting a Bill of Rights for all children, not just those aged 0-5. Commissioner Murphy suggested working with an existing Bill of Rights, but making it our own, while collaborating with partners to cover the entire 0-17 age range. Commissioner Schiro suggested involving youth organizations, such as the California Youth Connection. Commissioner Murphy noted there were some high school clubs which might also be interested.

Commissioner Borenstein noted that once the core themes or categories are selected, it might work to choose from existing statements such as those provided by Ms. Wendt in a handout.

Ms. Wendt spoke in support of simple, succinct language which even kids could understand.

Susan Hughes, First 5 Executive Director, noted that both ELFA and the Partnership for Excellence in Family Support might be good partners because they are collaboratives of many organizations. Commissioner Murphy also suggested the Anti-Defamation League might be interested.

Chairperson Crocker suggested the First 5 Commissioners and the groups they represent could provide the initial approval of a drafted Children's Bill of Rights.

Commissioner Murphy offered to be involved in identifying groups with which to work, and Ms. Hughes suggested another survey to drill down on specific collaborators.

Commissioner Kern also offered to survey parents at her school if that would be helpful.

Public comment: Shannon White Bond noted that Early Learning For All is very supportive of the idea of a local Children's Bill of Rights. She also mentioned the Asset Development Network as a possible partner.

2012-13 Administrative Budget Review

Part 1: New staff position

Susan Hughes, First 5 Executive Director, provided background information on her request to add a half-time "Communications and Outreach Officer" position to First 5 staff. Ms. Hughes explained the position would assist in advancing the Commission advocacy and policy platform in the 2011-15 Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Murphy stated she saw the value of having another staff member. Commissioner Borenstein stated that it seemed like a modest budget for a position which could provide good return.

Commissioner Schiro made a motion to approve the new position at the salary level proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. There were no public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

Part 2: 2012-13 Proposed Budget (informational only)

Ms. Hughes provided an initial review of the proposed 2012-13 administrative operating budget. She also discussed the revisions it would require in the Financial Plan. She noted the reviews were informational only, with action to be taken at the June meeting.

Commissioners Borenstein, Schiro, and Sokolowski expressed concern about the nearly \$2 million which was unspent from the contracts that ended on June 30, 2011. Ms. Hughes suggested that the unspent amounts be reviewed and discussed in a few months. She also noted that unfilled staff positions (such as in the School Readiness programs) can greatly impact billings by multi-year contracted programs.

Jason Wells, First 5 Program Officer, added that CHI's billing has never reached their budgeted amounts, but other than CHI, most currently contracted programs would likely end up billing close to their budgeted/contracted amounts.

Power of Preschool (PoP) RFA #2 - Readiness Assessment and Quality Improvement Update

Jason Wells provided an update on the PoP grant process. He acknowledged the great cooperation by the community planning group participants. Tom Keifer, Evaluation Consultant, agreed that the planning group members went out of their way to assist and be cooperative with one another during the planning process.

Mr. Wells stated they would find out the results of their application on June 8.

Health Navigator Program Update

Due to time constraints, the Health Navigator update was postponed to the next meeting.

Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Chairperson Crocker noted the news coverage about Prop 29 (which is on the June 5 ballot) was misleading in criticizing First 5 funding, stating that no First 5 money was being spent on prevention, when in fact, the money was not required to go toward prevention.

There was discussion regarding changing the start time for the next meeting to 4:30, unless that wouldn't work for Commissioner McNerney (who had to leave mid-meeting). Ms. Hughes stated she would contact Commissioner McNerney and report back to the Commission.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 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:** June 27, 2012, from 4:30 to 7:00 PM at Louise Elliston Conference Room (LEC), 602 Orchard Street, Arroyo Grande*