

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2012**

Commissioners Present (all)

Don Dennison	Children's Services Network
Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Mary Kern	Community at Large
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council

Commissioners Absent/Excused

Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health Department
Julian Crocker	SLO County Office of Education
Michael McNerney, M.D.	San Luis Obispo County Medical Association

Staff Present

First 5 staff: Susan Hughes, Jason Wells; Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer; Commission Counsel: Patricia Gomez

Call to Order

Vice-Chairperson Dennison called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Consent Agenda

- 1) Approval of August 22, 2012 Minutes

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

Children Bill of Rights

Wendy Wendt, consultant for First 5 SLO County, gave an update presentation on the progress of the Children's Bill of Rights (CBOR). Ms. Wendt presented a timeline for completing the CBOR, introduced members of the CBOR Steering Committee in attendance, and recognized those members not present, including youth and parent leaders. Ms. Wendt explained the themes that emerged from the meeting: Be, Relate, Explore, Act, and Dream. Ms. Wendt and Susan Hughes announced that initial planning had begun for a Children's Summit tentatively

planned for April 18, 2013, during the Month of the Child. The summit would be used to publicly unveil the CBOR and engage attendees in discussions on ways they can be involved in its implementation.

On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner Dennison stated his appreciation to the steering committee and community groups that have spent time both in providing leadership to the effort and in developing and planning the CBOR.

Commissioner Gibson expressed his concerns with respect to the tension that exists between Child Rights and Adult Responsibilities. He stated the more the group can deal with this tension head-on, the more successful the document will be. He said the document must have a protective element with regards to children. Ms. Wendt replied that she agreed. She indicated this presentation was the short version and that the details from the CBOR Steering Committee meeting included more language related to safety and basic needs. Commissioner Gibson suggested that maybe the document should have sections of Children's Rights and another section of Adult Responsibilities.

Public Comment

Shannon White Bond (ELFA-SLOCOE, CBOR Steering Committee)

Ms. White Bond expressed kudos to First 5 Staff and Ms. Wendt. She also said this is a very rich experience and was very pleased to see so many different groups represented, particularly youth.

Yolanda Porras (Parent Volunteer-Together We Will, CBOR Steering Committee)

Ms. Porras thanked the Commission for the CBOR planning meeting and process. She stated how important the process was in highlighting the needs of children. She also feels there is a responsibility in raising a child, and that it takes support from an entire community to raise a child.

Commissioner Dennison stated this was not an action item; however, having an acknowledgement of consensus from the members showing approval of the process would be helpful. The Commissioners expressed their consensus approval of the process. Commissioner Dennison asked for clarification of where Hands-on Heroes would fit within the Children's Summit. Ms. Hughes stated that it might fit as a lunch-time or dinner-time award ceremony embedded within the larger summit. She also outlined some of the pros and cons of having a day summit versus an evening summit.

Commissioner Kern stated her preference for an evening summit so that teachers and other school staff could attend.

Commissioner Dennison expressed his support for a large public platform for the CBOR. He questioned the timeline of events leading up to summit. Ms. Wendt commented that the Commission approval and public agency endorsements will be scheduled in advance of the summit.

Commissioner Murphy stated that the summit was a wonderful idea and that a lot of good could come from it.

Commissioner Gibson stated that elected officials will be "at your service" that week with respect to the timeframe of the summit.

Commissioner Dennison asked the planning groups to look to the future to know the mission of the summit on an ongoing basis.

Public Comment

Lisa Fraser (Director SLOCAP, CBOR Steering Committee)

Ms. Fraser said she is excited to work with First 5 to build a summit during the Month of the Child and alongside the 35th Annual Children's Day in the Plaza on April 13, 2013.

Ms. Fraser added that this summit will add to the culture of care of children in San Luis Obispo County. She also thanked Yolanda Porras for attending and representing parent leaders.

New Member

Don Dennison, Vice-chairperson, presented the request to recommend Lee Collins; Director, Department of Social Services; as the new designated representative from the Department of Social Services, term ending July 20, 2013. The appointment will fill the seat vacated by Tracy Schiro on August 23, 2012.

Commissioner Gibson noted the recommendation has to go to the Board of Supervisors for appointment.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve the recommendation of Mr. Collins. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gibson and passed unanimously.

Susan Hughes said the information required for the Board of Supervisor's appointment has already been submitted to the County, and it is tentatively scheduled for approval on October 16, 2012.

Program Planning Review

Jason Wells gave a presentation on the results of the program prioritization survey given to the Commission with respect to allocating unexpended funds from the contracts that ended on June 30, 2011. Mr. Wells explained the results of the survey did not give a clear indication of what programs should be funded. Mr. Wells reviewed each prioritized program and commented on the approximate cost and need in the community. Questions remain with respect to many programs regarding cost, need, program activities, and what currently exists in the community.

Commissioner Dennison indicated that it would be beneficial to look at the total cost of programs over the remaining time in the 5 year strategic plan rather than just one year.

Commissioner Murphy stated she was not ready to make a decision on what programs to fund. She expressed that she needed more information and stated the new information that had just been presented would have changed how she answered the survey questions.

Commissioner Gibson asked what the funding needs of the programs are in comparison to the amounts that have already been allocated to them. Mr. Wells responded that staff reviewed current program spending as an indicator of need but did not specifically ask the programs if they needed more funding.

Commissioner Gibson stated that because we will be reviewing currently funded programs in 18 months, we should hold off making major decisions on new projects. We should instead look at

our current programs to understand what needs they have and use the next 18 months to work on what new activities we want to support.

Mr. Wells explained that while the contracts are 3 years, the strategic plan is 5 years and that a major review of the current programs or overhaul of activities is not planned.

Commissioner Gibson added that we need to look very critically at each program and draw a line at what is least important. He said he is not advocating a huge shift.

Commissioner Dennison stated that this is a concept we should revisit when the full Commission is present. He added that we need to have some containment on the process, so we don't delay putting these funds to work toward the betterment of our target population.

Commissioner Murphy commented that it would be helpful to review the strategic plan and related prioritized activities and programs from 2011.

Commissioner Kern stated she believed staff knows best with respect to what is happening in the trenches, and that she does not know all the needs.

Public Comment

Kathleen Karle (Public Health Division Manager representing three programs on the planning list; WIC Oral Health, WIC Breast Feeding Support (BABES), and the Oral Health Coordinator)

Ms. Karle explained there had been an expectation that WIC Federal funding would continue to support the BABES program which is why they did not ask for more First 5 money during strategic planning. Subsequently the federal funding has been cut and the peer educators in the BABES program have been laid off. Future cuts may also impact the oral health program. She also explained that the County budget includes \$40,000 from First 5 for the Oral Health Coordinator. One of the ways this program is funded is through MCH matching funds. They have said to the Board of Supervisors they will not use County General Funds for the match, so they need a local match, like the First 5 grant.

Commissioner Murphy stated she would like to hear staff's recommendation for funding at the next meeting.

Thomas Keifer, First 5 evaluation consultant, suggested staff could come back with a strategic plan review and options for funding programs now.

Mr. Wells stated that staff will bring back options for the Commission to review and adjust as necessary during the October Commission meeting.

Staff Report

Susan Hughes presented various information, projects and events that First 5 California, the First 5 Association, the Central Region and First SLO County have been working on since the last staff report on March 23, 2012. Staff participated in several meetings with respect to a "buy local" policy in the County and smoke-free outdoors policies countywide, in Morro Bay and Grover Beach. Letters to the editor included tobacco retail licensing, the early education budget, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Day.

With the funding from the Department of Public Health, the car seat grant was completed in the short timeframe available (March-June 2012). One event was held at the Oceano Family Resource Center.

Three funding opportunities were released during the week of September 24, 2012 to support health navigators and a health access trainer funded by First 5 SLO and an early learning systems specialist funded by the PoP grant from First 5 California.

Staff conducted several site visits to First 5 funded programs and others (e.g. Child Development Resource Center). First 5 SLO County attended 3 outreach events from April to June in locations throughout the county.

Currently staff is focused on the hiring of the Communications and Outreach Officer, the state annual report, and the outside audit.

First 5 SLO County is also sponsoring the Giddy-up Round Up Family Day in Santa Margarita in October. Last year the event attendance was approximately 4000. Staff designed "photo-frame" magnets to distribute during the event.

Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Vice-Chairperson Dennison reported back on the completion of the executive director's annual performance review. He said that he and Chairperson Crocker had a meeting to review the results and then met with Ms. Hughes. The meeting was positive.

He also reported that during the closed session there had been interest in reviewing the overall review process. He called for volunteers to form a short-term committee to review and provide recommendations regarding how the process and/or review materials might be changed. No Commissioners in attendance volunteered, so the request will return to the October meeting when more Commissioners are present.

Vice-Chairperson Dennison also called for the formation of an evaluation committee to meet with staff regarding ways/methods that could be used to enhance the First 5 SLO evaluation efforts. Commissioner Gibson volunteered to be a part of the committee. This request will also return to the October meeting when more Commissioners are present.

Commissioner Sokolowski announced the Domestic Violence Task Force is sponsoring a training for service providers on Domestic Violence and its effects on Children on October 11th at the Vet's Hall.

There were no other comments from Commissioners.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 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: October 24, 2012, from 4:00 to 6:30 PM at the SLO County Dept. of Social Services, 3433 South Higuera St., Room 115, San Luis Obispo.***