

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2013

Commissioners Present (all)

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

Commissioners Absent/Excused - None

Staff Present

First 5 Staff: Susan Hughes, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer
Commission Counsel: Patricia Gomez

Staff Excused - None

Call to Order

Chairperson Crocker called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Chairperson Comments & Update

Announcement: Chairperson Crocker announced that Edith Puga, First 5 School Readiness Family Advocate at Georgia Brown, was honored as a 20 under 40 winner by the Tribune.

Introductions: The Chairperson welcomed and introduced Misty Livengood, First 5 SLO's new Communication and Outreach Officer, and gave her an opportunity to say a

few words regarding her new position. Additionally, he introduced Nina Nasre and Andrea Reider, Cal Poly interns who are assisting staff during the winter quarter.

Meeting Location: Chairperson Crocker also asked the Commission to consider moving the location of Commission meetings to a room that works better for the set-up and seating needs of the Commission. He proposed the SLO County Office of Education Board Room, and asked Commissioners to contemplate the change and provide feedback to him on the idea.

Election of Officers for 2013

Commissioner Gibson nominated and moved that Julian Crocker serve as Chairperson and Don Dennison serve as Vice Chairperson for 2013. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Consent Agenda

- 1) Approval of the December 5, 2012 minutes
- 2) Approval of the 2012 Outcome Evaluation Report
- 3) Review and Approval of the Q2 - 2012-13 Financial Report

Public Comment: None

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

The Commission will approve and adopt the Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County

Susan Hughes, First 5 Executive Director, provided background regarding the creation of the Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County. She began by thanking all of the individuals, over 190 adults and 60 youth, who participated in the effort.

The project was identified by the Commission in the 2011-15 Strategic Plan and is part of the Commission's policy platform. Community conversations occurred last fall and included representatives from education, health, parent advocacy, social services, housing and youth. A steering committee came together to provide direction regarding the input from the community conversations and to craft the Rights themselves. Commissioners Kern and Murphy participated on the steering committee as representatives of the Commission. One of the committee's goals was to honor the input from youth.

Ms. Hughes indicated that once the Commission approved and adopted the Rights, other agencies including the Health Commission, County Board of Education, United Way Youth Board, Children Services Network and the Board of Supervisors, were scheduled to endorse the Rights prior to the April 19, 2013 Children's Summit when the Rights will be unveiled to the larger community.

Public Comment:

Debbie Arnold; Supervisor, District 5; spoke favorably about the Rights. Armando Corella, Paso Robles Housing Authority Executive Director, spoke on behalf of the six teens in attendance at the meeting from Youth Works. Two of the teens who participated in the original steering committee meeting were in the audience. Wendy Wendt, consultant who guided the process to create the Rights, thanked the youth for their participation. Barbara Harris, 24th District PTA, spoke in favor of the Rights and said the Rights are scheduled for endorsement in March by that group. Kayla Plourde, Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission, spoke in support the Rights and thanked the Commission for their development.

Commissioners Kern and Murphy reported on their participation in the process, saying it had been rewarding and the end result was a document of which the Commission could be proud.

Commissioner Gibson thanked and expressed his appreciation to everyone for their participation in the process. Commission Collins told the youth in the audience to continue to participate in the effort, specifically as to whether or not the Rights were being used to guide policy decisions that are in alignment with the concepts. Finally, Chairperson Crocker expressed his thanks to all participants.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve and adopt the Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kern and passed unanimously.

The Rights are an attachment to these minutes.

Presentation: Conflict of Interest Review

As a follow-up from the December 5th Commission meeting, Patricia Gomez, Commission Counsel, provided an overview of the conflict of interest laws that affect a Commissioner's participation in decision-making and approval of contracts. Ms. Gomez answered specific questions from various Commissioners. It was acknowledged that some members who are required by Proposition 10 to be on the Commission will always have potential conflicts. (e.g. health, education). Commissioner Dennison and others said that it would be unfortunate to lose the benefit of a member's knowledge and expertise because of a potential conflict of interest. Other comments included: 1) using common sense judgment when it comes to determining whether or not to recuse from participation and 2) how far removed from the program the Commissioner was (e.g. overall responsibility for an entire department).

Commissioner Gibson suggested that First 5 CA may have additional legal opinions regarding the topic and asked Ms. Gomez to conduct some research into any additional information that may be available.

Public Comment: None

Contract Approval for the period of January 23, 2013 to June 30, 2014

Approval of a contract in the amount of \$90,000 with Magda Williams to provide bi-lingual family counseling services at the First 5 San Luis Obispo School Readiness sites in Oceano and Paso Robles

Jason Wells, First 5 Program Officer, provided a brief update with regard to the item. Staff solicited bids and one response was received from Magda Williams. In the past, Ms. Williams contracted with the Commission to provide similar services. The funding to support the contract utilizes unexpended funds from June 2011.

Public Comment: Marilu Gomez First 5 School Readiness Coordinator in Paso Robles thanked the Commission for this funding and expressed how helpful this will be for families in the area.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve a contract in the amount of \$90,000 with Magda Williams to provide family counseling services to First 5 School Readiness sites in Paso Robles and Oceano. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borenstein and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

1) Executive Director Evaluation Committee: Commissioner Dennison reported the committee had met once and had plans for one or two future meetings. Members of the committee also include Commissioners Sokolowski and Collins. They have received assistance from Kristin Newlon, Chief HR Officer, at the County Office of Education. Ms. Newlon provided the committee with various evaluation tools. Commissioner Dennison said that even though the committee discussed establishing a standing committee, he indicated the committee wasn't convened to address that question (although that question could be addressed separately and at a later date if the Commission desires).

2) Programs Evaluation Committee: Commissioner Borenstein reported the committee (Commissioners Gibson and Kern) had one meeting with staff (Ms. Hughes, Mr. Wells, and Mr. Keifer). During the meeting they reviewed the current year's report, including vocabulary and format. They are working to distill down the information into an "executive summary" and/or a more user friendly format and design that would be used to create the report in the future.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Commissioner Collins welcomed Misty Livengood and reiterated his inquiry from December with respect to staffing and the administrative/business needs of staff. Ms. Hughes replied that no decisions have been made since the December meeting, and she continues to analyze staffing needs and structure.

Commissioner Murphy reiterated her support for the Children's Bill of Rights (CBOR) and feels it will make a difference. She views it as a personal accomplishment.

Commissioner Borenstein spoke about the impending Health Care Reform, including grant opportunities. She also said the Oral Health Coalition had sent a letter to Secretary Dooley expressing its concern about the lack of dentists in the County who will take Denti-Cal, which greatly affects care for families who no longer will have coverage from Healthy Families.

Commissioner Kern expressed her support and excitement about moving toward implementing the concepts in the Children's Bill of Rights.

Commissioner Dennison inquired about a plan for additional outreach regarding the CBOR. Chairperson Crocker indicated he would organize the effort to have the CBOR endorsed by all District School Boards before the final endorsement by the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Dennison said he would assist with that effort in the Lucia Mar District.

Commissioner Dennison indicated that achieving some level of uniformity with respect to school safety was being discussed at various levels of county government, and he intended to bring up that topic during the CSN meeting scheduled on January 30th.

Commissioner Crocker announced the Asset Development Network's conference on February 1st will focus on bullying. A film on bullying was also presented at Cal Poly (Commissioner Murphy owns the movie).

Commissioner Dennison commented that the National Association of School Psychologists reports that 70% of bullies have been victims themselves.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 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:** March 27 2013, from 4:00 to 6:30 PM at the SLO County Dept. of Social Services, 3433 South Higuera St., Room 115, San Luis Obispo.*

The Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County

As the adults of San Luis Obispo County....

One of our greatest hopes as a community is that our children grow up with healthy minds, bodies and spirits that enable them to maximize their potential. As endorsers of the Children's Bill of Rights, we collectively pledge to work together toward this vision. May we, together, demonstrate daily that **our youth are our highest priority**, as evidenced by collective commitment of time, money, sustained effort and unified support. May we cultivate our understanding of child development and use it to nurture, guide, challenge, and encourage them along their many paths.

As the children and youth of San Luis Obispo County, may we each....

1. Live in a stable, comfortable home surrounded by parents, family and other caring adults who nurture us throughout childhood.
2. Eat healthy and plentiful meals every day.
3. Have the basics for our daily life - clothing, transportation, and supplies for school, outside interests, and activities.
4. Be and feel safe everywhere we go.
5. Enjoy daily physical activity and time outdoors.
6. Visit a doctor, dentist or counselor when needed to help us stay physically and mentally healthy.
7. Learn and master ideas and skills in and out of school that inspire us, help us understand and be ready for our place in the world.
8. Explore a variety of experiences that illuminate the world's natural beauty, richness and human creativity – arts, nature, culture, music.
9. Make and keep healthy relationships with friends.
10. Know that adults and peers listen, respect and support us as individuals while we grow – our diverse cultures, backgrounds, circumstances, talents, sparks, and passions.
11. Have opportunities to contribute in meaningful ways to our community by voicing our ideas, sharing in decisions and offering service to others.
12. Be encouraged to dream big, to grow through challenge and mistakes, and to always live with hope and aspiration.