

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2011

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Excused

Adam Hill	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Rosalinda Rodriguez	Community at Large

Staff and Consultants Present

First 5 Staff: Susan Hughes, Jason Wells, Anne Tognazzini; Commission Counsel: Patricia Gomez; Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer.

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

Mary Bianchi, chair of MoCPOC (Model of Care Partner Oversight Committee), spoke about the importance of Martha's Place Children's Assessment Center.

Consent Agenda

- 1) Approval of December 1, 2010 minutes
- 2) Approval of February 10, 2011 strategic planning retreat minutes
- 3) Approval of 2nd quarter 2010-11 Financial Report
- 4) Approval of the process for the recruitment of three designated members and two representatives at large for the terms beginning July 2011
- 5) Approval to accept the audit proposal with Crosby Company for the three years ending June 30, 2013

- 6) Adoption of a Resolution authorizing an amendment to the contract between CalPERS and the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County and approval of the amendment to the contract
- 7) Approval of amended contracts including: a) an amendment in the amount of \$10,400 to the contract with Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) for Infant Toddler Daycare Services at the Oceano Elementary School Readiness site, b) an amendment to reassign a portion of funding designated for dental and vision insurance premiums to dental and vision care to the contract with the Children's Health Initiative of San Luis Obispo County, and c) an amendment in the amount of \$20,075 to the contract with San Luis Obispo County Public Health Agency for Oral Health Coordination Services to organize and support a Children's Oral Health Summit in February 2012

Susan Hughes, First 5 Executive Director, reviewed Consent Agenda items 1-6.

Commissioner Murphy asked about the specific process of selecting Community at Large Commissioners at the 5/25/11 meeting (item 4). Patricia Gomez, Commission Counsel, noted she would clarify the process in advance of the meeting.

Jason Wells, First 5 Program Officer, reviewed Consent Agenda item 7 contract amendments.

Kena Burke, Children's Health Initiative (CHISLO) Executive Director, provided background about the CHI contract amendment, item 7b. She also announced that she would be leaving CHISLO in April.

Bill Castellanos, Community Action Partnership of SLO County (CAPSLO), spoke about the importance of the Oceano Infant-Toddler program.

Commissioner Dennison asked for a separate vote on items 7a, 7b, and 7c.

Commissioner Dennison made a motion to approve items 1-6. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

In regards to item 7a, Commissioners Dennison and Sokolowski recused themselves from the vote. Commissioner Buckingham made a motion to approved item 7a. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve item 7b. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sokolowski and passed unanimously.

In regards to item 7c, Commissioner Borenstein said that although she normally would recuse herself on a vote involving the Health Agency, she was able to vote on this item because the funding would merely pass through the Health Agency.

Commissioner McNerney made a motion to approve item 7c. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennison and passed unanimously.

First 5 California 2009-10 Annual Report Review and Approval

Jason Wells reviewed the First 5 California 2009-10 Annual Report, as required by the Children and Families First Act. His review included goals, expenditures, services, and statistics. He also noted that the full report is available at:

http://www.cafc.ca.gov/pdf/annual_report_pdfs/Annual_Report_09-10.pdf

Commissioner Borenstein asked if there was an element of providing oral health care to pregnant women. Mr. Wells said he would check into it.

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve the First 5 CA Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

Bylaws Amendments

Susan Hughes provided a review of recommended amendments to the First 5 SLO County bylaws, noting that there have been no amendments since they were written in 1999.

She also noted that in addition to changes outlined in agenda packets (which were specific to membership), two additional changes are being recommended. New wording is as follows (underlined portions).

Article VII: "These bylaws may be amended or revised by a majority of the Commissioners present."

Article II: "All voting members of the Commission [replacing the word "committee"] shall comply with the federal and state conflict of interest..."

Bill Castellanos, CAPSLO, and Biz Steinberg, CAPSLO Executive Director, expressed concern with making decisions based on a "majority of Commissioners present."

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve the amendments to the Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McNerney and passed unanimously.

2011-15 STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Commission reviewed and discussed the 2011-15 Draft Strategic Plan by sections, starting with the amended financial plan.

Susan Hughes thanked the ad hoc committee who reviewed the Administrative budget and made recommendations: Commissioners Buckingham, Borenstein, and Dennison.

Ms. Hughes then reviewed draft financial plan assumptions, revenue, program expenditures, and administrative expenditures. She also discussed variables and unknowns, including revenue projections, interest rates, current fiscal year expenditures, and the exact amount of the proposed sweep of First 5 reserves by the state legislature.

There were no questions from Commissioners or the public.

Ms. Hughes then reviewed proposed advocacy guidelines and efforts for 2011-2015, providing examples of staff advocacy and policy platform items, including a Young Children's Bill of Rights, and local policy objectives that support all five Commission Initiatives.

Commissioner Borenstein asked about bringing in advocacy partners. Mr. Wells noted that First 5 would endeavor to be a collaborator rather than an inventor, whenever possible.

Mr. Wells provided background and an overview of the Strategic Planning process. Commissioner Sokolowski asked whether families (recipients of services) were included in the Community Focus groups. Mr. Wells stated they were.

Health Initiative

Mr. Wells reviewed the Health Initiative, including proposed strategies and activities by strategy, and proposed funding.

Commissioner McNerney asked why the contract for breastfeeding support was with French Hospital only. Mr. Wells explained that French Hospital stepped up when Community Health Centers (CHC) decided to scale back breastfeeding support and noted that the consultant doesn't actually work at French.

Commissioner Borenstein and Kathleen Karle, both with SLO County Public Health, provided additional information about the history of breastfeeding support locally, explaining that the contract with French prevented a gap in services. Ms. Karle also explained that breastfeeding support is actually occurring at all WIC sites in the county as well as at a site on Los Osos Valley Road, and the women served are probably unaware that French is involved.

There was extended discussion, including whether access to lactation support was limited in any way by the fact that it's available in WIC offices, whether bidding out to other hospitals might be a good idea, and whether it might be an issue of marketing rather than service availability.

Commissioner Borenstein explained that the lactation consultant is available to any woman regardless of income, but as a WIC based education program it targets lower income women who might otherwise have a hard time accessing services.

Commissioner McNerney stated that handouts on lactation support mention French Hospital, and there needs to be awareness that First 5 funded lactation support is more broad-based. He also indicated there may not be sufficient capacity of support in the county.

Commissioner Borenstein suggested it might be helpful to set up a one-time meeting to discuss the matter, since it could be an issue of marketing rather than service availability.

Commissioners also supported the idea of having breastfeeding support services available to all women. Commissioner Borenstein confirmed that consultant services are available to all, but support is located where it is more easily accessed by low income women. Tom Keifer, First 5 Evaluator, confirmed that breast feeding rates are lower in that group.

Ms. Karle noted that First 5 funds one person; and that providing outreach to ALL pregnant mothers couldn't be done by one person.

Chairperson Crocker summarized the discussion as reflecting a desire to continue funding breastfeeding support for all women, and directed First 5 staff to consult the two physician Commissioners for clarity in language about the breastfeeding program. Staff was also directed to examine the specifics of access as well as the marketing of the program.

Commissioner Dennison noted that since this is just a draft of the Strategic Plan, there will be opportunities to make additional changes before final approval.

Commissioner Murphy also noted the Strategic Plan is still lacking language supporting advocacy and a media program to promote social-emotional health. She requested more explicit language in the Strategic Plan, to be sure it is included. Mr. Wells noted he would talk to Commissioner Murphy directly to make sure it is included to her satisfaction.

Oral Health Initiative

Mr. Wells reviewed the Oral Health Initiative, including proposed strategies and activities by strategy, and proposed funding.

Commissioner Borenstein asked for a measure of clarity in the wording on page 32, item 4, regarding oral health screenings. She suggested the following wording: "Conduct SLO County Smile Survey in 2012 and 2015 to assess oral health screenings," because the intent is that the screenings would be conducted annually, but the epidemiological assessment would only take place in 2012 and 2015. She agreed that another acceptable option would be to remove the word "screenings."

Biz Steinberg, CAPSLO, speaking as a CHC board member, suggested that perhaps there would be a chance of establishing a pediatric dentist in the central area if statistics show there is a void there. Ms. Hughes noted that was one of the advantages of receiving input from the Oral Health Coalition, because the involved parties would be part of related discussions.

Perinatal Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative (PSAP)

Mr. Wells reviewed the Perinatal Substance Abuse Initiative, including proposed strategies and activities by strategy, and proposed funding.

Marilyn McDermott, SLO County Public Health Dept., expressed concerns regarding the proposed additional support to the County for screening and intervention, stating she wasn't clear how it would facilitate the work she does.

There was agreement that there is value in media/social marketing, and not just to parents, but also to physicians (in regards to universal screening).

Commissioner Borenstein expressed concern that any PSAP effort clearly be a part of the screening program that already exists, working with and providing support to the Public Health Department's efforts toward universal screening.

Ms. McDermott also suggested the verbiage be more generic, referring to screening and brief intervention, rather than specifically mentioning "4 P's" and "I am Concerned" programs.

Chairperson Crocker summarized the suggestions to include 1) that the media/social marketing piece be more explicit, and directed not just to parents, but also to the medical community, and 2) rather than hiring a coordinator, additional resources should be provided to the existing program.

Special Needs Initiative

Mr. Wells reviewed the Special Needs Initiative, including proposed strategies and activities by strategy, and proposed funding.

Commissioner Murphy noted that she still wants to see the Strategic Plan include the education of parents about the social-emotional needs of children. She explained that the aim would be to give skills and information to families so that children would be raised respectfully. Mr. Wells noted that he had misheard Commissioner Murphy's comments at the Retreat, and thought she was referring to a Special Needs issue. Commissioner Murphy confirmed that she was referring to the social-emotional needs of ALL children. It was agreed that the idea could and would be interwoven in various places in the Strategic Plan.

Mary Bianchi, MoCPOC Chair, expressed concern about reductions to the Martha's Place budget. She wanted to know who would provide assessments if Martha's Place funding reductions occur.

Biz Steinberg, CAPSLO, stated that in regards to building capacity, she hoped money would not be spent on travel. She noted that Theraplay training has been hosted in the county twice and local providers need to commit to providing support to children 0-5 after being trained.

Ron Huxley, Director of the Kinship Center, noted they have been a specialty mental health provider to the Dept. of Mental Health for the last five years, providing services throughout the county. He added that Kinship Center has Theraplay certified therapists and also has a statewide Education Institute which has a parenting curriculum as well as training for professionals. He noted that in addition to doing assessments, they are also one of the main providers of treatment for children after assessment.

School Readiness (SR) Initiative

Mr. Wells reviewed the School Readiness Initiative, including proposed strategies and activities by strategy, and proposed funding.

Several Commissioners noted that the issue of social-emotional needs could fit nicely in school readiness (under parent education) as well as in other places in the strategic plan.

Bill Castellanos, CAPSLO, expressed concern about the end of funding for the Oceano Infant-Toddler program. It was noted that low numbers are served and the program is very expensive, but it is still serving a community need.

Cheryl Hayes, CAPSLO, spoke about the program's history and noted that the trend is toward families needing a full day program.

Alejandra, the parent of a daughter who started in the Infant-Toddler program, spoke in support of it.

Rita Rodriguez, First 5 Preschool teacher in Oceano, spoke in support of the Summer Pre-K camp, the Infant-Toddler program, and the overall value of school readiness.

Mr. Wells noted that during strategic planning, child care was not designated as a priority by the School Readiness Planning Group.

Mr. Castellanos asked to be able to continue the discussion about the Infant-Toddler Program, noting they also don't want to lose the facility. Mr. Wells noted that the discussion has already begun, with Debra Welch, from CAPSLO. In regards to the cost of the Infant-Toddler program, Mr. Wells noted that it cost \$102,000 year for 22 children, for a half-day model.

First 5 staff was directed to continue the dialogue about a possible change of model, or braiding of funding, or collaboration that might support a continuation of the program in some manner. At the same time, Commissioners also expressed concern that it was a very expensive program that supported a very small group of children. There was also concern about what other activities would be cut if funding for the Infant Toddler program continued.

Ms. Steinberg noted that CAPSLO wasn't really looking for full funding, but rather, for a willingness to partner/collaborate in some way.

Strategic Planning Wrap-Up (motion to approve)

Commissioner Dennison made a motion to approve the draft Strategic Plan (incorporating the feedback given during this meeting), to include the Financial Plan, the Commission Advocacy and Policy Activities, and Program Strategies and Activities (including program funding amounts for each initiative area). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buckingham and passed unanimously.

Governor's 2010-2011 budget proposals (and other announcements)

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve a letter in opposition to SB 486, an effort to abolish First 5. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennison and passed unanimously.

Ms. Hughes also provided information on the passage of AB 99, which would sweep a portion of all First 5's fund balances. She noted that some First 5's were joining together in lawsuits and said she would provide additional information on the lawsuits as it became available.

Ms. Hughes also announced that Liz Merson, a Cal Poly Masters in Public Policy intern, is working with First 5. She also spoke about upcoming Hands On Hero recognitions.

Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Commissioner Dennison asked for clarification on the matter of recusing oneself from voting on the Strategic Plan, due to conflicts. Patricia Gomez, Commission Counsel, stated she would research the matter and look specifically at the ordinance. Tom Keifer, Commission Evaluator, noted that the Strategic Plan does not include individual line items for programs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

All materials referred to in these minutes are available at the First 5 SLO County office. For a more detailed account, recordings of the meeting are available by calling (805) 781-4058.

The next Commission meeting will be:
Monday, May 2, 2011, 5:30 to 7:30 PM
Dept. of Social Services, 3433 Higuera Street, Room 115, San Luis Obispo, CA