

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

October 27, 2010

**Commissioners Present**

Katcho Achadjian	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health Department
Julian Crocker	SLO County Office of Education
Don Dennison	Children's Services Network
Michael McNerney, M.D.	San Luis Obispo County Medical Association
Rosalinda Rodriguez	Community at Large

**Commissioners Excused**

Lee Collins	SLO County Department of Social Services
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
(Vacant)	Child Care Planning Council

**Staff Present**

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

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Achadjian called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Staff Report**

Susan Hughes, First 5 Executive Director, presented a Staff Report. She provided a 2009-10 Audit update, noting a format change was required by the State Controller's Office. Amended audits have been provided to the State and to all Commissioners. She also reported on strategic planning projects and on community support activities, including staff attendance at the Obesity Summit and the Collaboration Forum. Ms. Hughes then provided highlights from the newly released *ACTION for Healthy Communities Report* (available at the United Way SLO website). She noted the data is from a wide variety of sources and has greater depth than in the past. She also previewed several December agenda items, including the honoring of retiring Commissioners Achadjian, Collins, and Capito.

**Consent Agenda**

- 1) Approval of the September 22, 2010, minutes
- 2) Fiscal Year 2010-11 Quarter 1 Financial Report

There were no comments or questions from Commissioners or the public.

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

## **2009-10 State Annual Report, Commission Review and Approval**

Jason Wells, First 5 Program Officer, reported on the 2009-10 State Annual Report. He noted First 5 San Luis Obispo County provides the raw data to First 5 CA via the web. First 5 CA then incorporates it into a comprehensive, statewide report. He also noted that Tom Keifer's upcoming Outcome Evaluation Report will give much more in-depth information on the First 5 SLO County outcomes.

He reviewed the Report Sections and noted the report includes data on Total Participants, Ethnicity, Number of Adults, Number of Children, Age of Children, and Children's Primary Language. The data is categorized according to the four Result Areas: Improved Family Functioning, Improved Child Development, Improved Health, and Improved Systems of Care. He also explained that the data does not represent 25,000 unique children, as some children utilize multiple services and thus appear more than once in the data.

There were no comments or questions from the Commissioners.

Kena Burke, Executive Director, Children's Health Initiative, noted that CHI reports on "preferred language" rather than the language spoken in the home.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to approve the 2009-10 State Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennison and passed unanimously.

## **2009-10 Evaluation Update**

Tom Keifer, First 5 evaluator, provided qualitative highlights from the Outcome Evaluation Report for the 2009-10 fiscal year. He also gave examples of children and families helped by First 5 SLO County's Direct Service Programs: BABES, Baby's First Breath, BEST PALS, Head Start School Readiness Enrichment, Parents Helping Parents, Postpartum Depression Screening, State Preschools Extended Day, and Vision Screening.

There were no comments or questions from the Commissioners or the public.

## **New Member Approval, Department of Social Services**

Susan Hughes reviewed the process of approving a new Commissioner as the designated representative from the Department of Social Services (DSS), due to the resignation of Commissioner Collins, DSS Director, effective December 2, 2010. She explained the representative would serve for the remainder of his current term, from December 2010 to July 2013. She noted that Commissioner Collins has been on the Commission since 2000 and has recommended DSS Assistant Director, Tracy Buckingham, as the new representative. Ms. Hughes also explained that final appointment would be made by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and is set for November 23.

There were no comments or questions from the Commissioners or the public.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to accept the resignation of Commissioner Collins, effective Dec. 2, 2010. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennison and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to accept and forward to the BOS the nomination of Ms. Buckingham as the new DSS representative on the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez and passed unanimously.

### **CalWORKs Stage 3, Funding Request**

Susan Hughes provided background information about the current crisis surrounding CalWORKs Stage 3 funding, due to the Governor's veto, which eliminates the program effective November 1. She noted 60,000 working parents statewide will lose childcare, and legislators Perez and Steinberg have asked First 5 Commissions to fund the program for a three-month period until funding can be restored at the state level.

She further explained that although the numbers fluctuate, today's current estimate is that 389 children will be impacted locally, approximately 183 (47%) of whom are ages 0-5. She added that based on an estimate of \$453 per child, plus \$14,494 in administrative costs, the total cost would be \$97,316 per month to cover the gap for children ages 0-5 only.

Ms. Hughes also noted that legislators are promising to introduce legislation in December to reinstate the funding and provide for retroactive reimbursement.

She also reviewed the various approaches of other Commissions currently considering the request, noting some counties don't have the resources necessary to forgive a loan, some don't have Stage 3 parents, some APPs haven't indicated a need, and some counties have decided that even a loan or repayable grant does not meet their Commission's non-supplantation policy. For those counties willing to provide the funding, they have indicated they are doing it with the expectation that families will transition to other child care arrangement during the 3-month period. They also are requiring that AAPs pay back the Commissions if legislation provides for retroactive payment, but if it doesn't, Commissions intend to forgive the loans.

Ms. Hughes explained that if First 5 SLO chooses to provide funding and the money is NOT paid back, it will result in reduced funding being available for other programs in the current strategic planning process. She also suggested Commissioners consider whether this might be the first of many requests to come from the State, and whether it is supplantation, as defined by our local policy.

She also spoke of possible partnerships with United Way, the SLO County Community Foundation, or CAPSLO, noting that more research was required.

Jason Wells summarized the questions before the Commission as: 1) does the Commission want to do it, and 2) is it legal to do so, based on our local supplantation policy? He noted that those county Commissions which are participating are approving up to a specific amount, and allowing their Executive Directors to negotiate the final terms of the contract.

Regarding whether our local policy would view our Commission's participation as supplantation, Patricia Gomez, First 5 legal counsel, said it's not clear, but did note that First 5 SLO has a broader supplantation policy than many Commissions. She further explained that one of the questions of supplantation involves whether the program has ceased to exist, and CalWORKs Stage 3 will have, as of November 1. She added that the matter is complicated by the possibility that the money might not be paid back. She noted that by funding it as a transitional program, and building in additional duties (i.e., requiring that families are assisted in securing other childcare), it could serve as a supplementing program rather than as a supplanting one.

In addition to discussion among Commissioners, five parents spoke during public comment about the negative impact of losing their childcare. In addition, Sheri Wilson (Director, CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection), Biz Steinberg (Executive Director, CAPSLO) and Haila Halfley-Kluver (Supervisor, Cuesta College Children's Center), also spoke, urging Commission funding. Melissa James, representing Senator Sam Blakeslee, noted he is currently in Sacramento, working with people regarding topics related to the Governor's vetoes and cuts.

Regarding whether someone might challenge the end of First 5 funding after the 3-month period, Patricia Gomez noted the agreement has to be very clear that this is for a defined period of time, and by so doing, it would not establish a precedent to continue.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to provide funding not to exceed \$300,000 and to authorize the Executive Director to initiate a contract with CAPSLO, incorporating the following elements: it will be for transitional childcare services for the 0-5 population currently served by Stage 3 CalWORKs, for which funding is set to end November 1; funding will be considered an interest-free forgivable loan, to be reimbursed to First 5 upon receipt of reimbursement to CAPSLO from the state; all surplus funds are to be returned to First 5; a report regarding results will be provided to the Commission in February; and funding is to cover the period of November 2010 through January 2011.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borenstein.

Commissioner Borenstein asked staff to monitor the situation, in order to be able to make changes, also noting that something must be built in so families won't be waiting until the end of January to make other arrangements, in case the funding is not restored by the State. Commissioner Rodriguez noted it was very important to try to get other community groups involved, in case funding is not restored.

There were no comments or questions from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Closed Session**

The Commission adjourned to a closed session to review the Executive Director's annual evaluation. Upon reconvening, Patricia Gomez, First 5 legal counsel, reported that no formal action was taken.

### **Commissioner Comments and Announcements**

There were no comments or announcements from the Commissioners.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM.

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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 regular Commission meeting will be:**  
Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 4:00-6:30 p.m.,  
Dept. of Social Services, 3433 So. Higuera St., Room 115, San Luis Obispo