

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2012

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
Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council

Commissioners Excused

Michael McNerney, M.D.	San Luis Obispo County Medical Association
Vacant position	Community at Large

Staff and Consultants Present

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

Call to Order

Chairperson Crocker called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Election of Officers for 2012

Commissioner Gibson nominated the current Chairperson, Julian Crocker, and Vice-Chairperson, Don Dennison, to continue as officers. There were no other nominations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- 1) Approval of December 7, 2011 Minutes
- 2) Approval of the 2011 Outcome Evaluation Report
- 3) Review and Approval of the Quarter 2, 2011-12 Financial Report

Commissioner Sokolowski noted the December Minutes listed her as present, and she was not.

Commissioner Dennison made a motion to approve the Minutes, with the correction noted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gibson and passed unanimously.

Brown Act Refresher

Patricia Gomez, Commission Counsel, provided a refresher on the California Brown Act.

Representative at Large, Community: Applicant presentations

Six of the eight applicants for Representative at Large, Community (term ending July 19, 2015), gave 3-minute presentations. Applicants present were Andrea Devitt, Anita Lutz, Cynthia Fogarty, Martin Craven, Mary Kern, and Vicki Meagher. Applicants Jac Pedersen and James Oates were not present.

Each Commissioner then privately ranked all applicants, including those not in attendance. The meeting was recessed for a vote count by Jason Wells (First 5 staff) and Patricia Gomez (First 5 Counsel). The meeting reconvened at 5:23 PM, with Chairperson Crocker announcing that the successful applicant was Mary Kern.

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to recommend Ms. Kern's application and nomination to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

Early Learning For All (ELFA)

As a follow-up to the ELFA presentation at the December Commission meeting, Jason Wells and Susan Hughes, First 5 staff, presented a proposal to fund ELFA to support and advocate for Quality Preschool services as designated in the strategic plan. They noted ELFA lost funding in December and will have to drastically reduce its services otherwise.

Mr. Wells explained the funding would be in collaboration with the SLO County Office of Education (SLOCOE), and the contract would be for two years, at \$10,000 for each year, to start July 1. Ms. Hughes said the ELFA funding proposal would use \$5,000 of the \$50,000 set aside for Advocacy, in addition to \$15,000 set aside in the Strategic Plan for Quality Preschool projects. Mr. Wells explained that a scope of work and budget would be provided at the next Commission meeting, with possible final approval of a contract in May.

Brad Schultz, SLOCOE Assistant Superintendent, noted ELFA has been critical in getting the Early Childhood Education (ECE) and K-12 community working together in a collaborative manner, and that financial support from First 5 would be greatly appreciated.

Commissioner Gibson asked how results would be tracked. Mr. Wells said that the scope of work has not yet been developed, so the outcomes have not yet been decided. Mr. Schultz added that SLOCOE has several markers for ELFA within their action plan. Commissioner Gibson explained he wanted to know the impact of EFLA's work at the child's level. Chairperson Crocker spoke to the benefit of universal preschool and Commissioner Sokolowski added that ELFA does contribute to professional development. Commissioner Murphy noted that ELFA brings those in ECE together, promoting interfacing which didn't exist before.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve the designation of \$20K for funding of ELFA, with the contract (including budget and scope of work) to be developed and brought back for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennison and passed unanimously, with a recusal by Chairperson Crocker.

Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHC)

The Commission heard a presentation from Community Health Centers of the Central Coast regarding current and future plans for pediatric dental services for children prenatal to age five.

Kena Burke, CHC Community and Government Relations Officer, introduced John Khan-Variba, CHC Medical Director, and Joseph Mercardante, CHC Dental Director. Dr. Mercardante provided statistics and noted that CHC's new model is that every child who receives a medical exam will also receive a dental exam. Seven CHC dentists were introduced, including CHC's pediatric dentist, Dr. Hendershot, who was hired in 2010.

Dr. Hendershot provided information about her background and about CHC's dental services. She explained that one of the ways CHC supports early childhood oral health is through coordinated referrals by CHC pediatricians. She explained that CHC's goals are that all children are seen by a dentist by their first birthday/first tooth and that all children have a dental home.

Dr. Johnson spoke about CHC's Women's Health Program, noting they encourage pregnant women to be seen by a dentist because periodontal disease in pregnant women can affect their babies. She noted pregnant women are also educated about oral care and are encouraged to bring their babies back for dental care as well as medical care.

Dr. Hendershot also spoke about co-location of medical/dental services, Saturday hours, and mobile dental units. She explained that some children are able to be seen by a general dentist, while the more challenging cases are referred to her as a pediatric dentist. She also noted that in April a general dentist with special training in pediatric dentistry will be joining CHC's staff. She also spoke about the expansion of the Nipomo clinic, after which she will move back there full time.

Commissioner Gibson asked how CHC assesses both need and capacity. Dr. Hendershot noted it's difficult to determine, but that should get better as the program develops and also as electronic health records begin to be utilized. Dr. Mercardante noted that Dr. Flores is seeing children four days per week in Templeton and one day in Nipomo, while Dr. Hendershot is in Templeton one day per week. He stated that Dr. Flores also sees children one Saturday per month in Templeton, and a second Saturday will be added when the new dentist arrives. He also noted that CHC is looking into establishing a new location in Paso Robles for pediatric medical and dental facilities. He added that of the 14 rooms in Nipomo (after expansion), 4 will be exclusively for children and 6 rooms will be under Dr. Hendershot's charge.

Commissioner Borenstein asked for clarification on the treatment of infants. Dr. Hendershot noted that CHC's goal is to have all children without a dental home be seen by a dentist, but that sometimes it is a pediatric dentist, and sometimes it is a general dentist. She noted that the general dentists are also very good at educating parents and building rapport.

Dr. Mercardante noted that Dr. Hendershot was relocated to Santa Maria when a medical and dental facility became available to CHC and confirmed she will return to Nipomo when the new dentist arrives. Dr. Hendershot also noted that because of space constraints in Nipomo, she is able to see many more patients in the Santa Maria office, and some SLO county residents do come to Santa Maria for dental appointments.

Commissioner Borenstein praised the many good, creative things being done, but noted that countywide dialogue within the entire dental community is still needed.

Commissioners were provided with information about the upcoming Oral Health Summit. Ms. Hughes also noted that First 5 intends to continue to act as a convener to facilitate better communication among all the parties. Commissioner Gibson suggested that perhaps a subcommittee of First 5 might be best for communicating with CHC.

2012-13 Governor's Proposed Budget

There was brief discussion regarding the 2012-13 Governor's proposed budget.

Ms. Hughes noted that First 5 funds are currently not in the budget, but could be later. She noted it is also possible that agencies adversely affected by the state budget will end up asking First 5 for help.

Commissioners agreed that exact impacts are not known yet, but health and human services are likely to be the most impacted. Chairperson Crocker noted there's a commitment to reinvest in schools, but added that schools would do very cautious budgeting in the next year in case the initiative does not pass in November. He noted they will also be watching what happens as a result of the elimination of California Redevelopment Agencies.

Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Commissioner Dennison suggested that as a follow-up to tonight's dental discussion, CHC should be encouraged to have the same level of participation at the Oral Health Summit as they had at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Gibson mentioned the pending development of a Children's Bill of Rights, noting that it had been suggested to him that an alternative approach might be to endorse the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 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:
Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 4:00-6:30 PM
Dept. of Social Services, 3433 Higuera Street, Room 115, San Luis Obispo, CA