

## First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

### Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 5:30 PM Solano County Health and Social Services Center 2101 Courage Drive, Multi-Purpose Room, Fairfield, CA

#### Attendance

Commissioners: Dr. Sharon Tucker, Chair; Norma Thigpen, Vice-chair; Dan Ayala; Stephan Betz; Sheryl Fairchild, Barbara Kondylis, Dr. Elaine Norinsky.

Staff/Public: Commission staff and approximately ten members of the public were present.

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:37 PM by Chairperson Tucker.

#### I. Greetings, Introductions, Public Comment

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Cherelyn Ellington, the new Community Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, introduced herself and gave a brief explanation of her background and experience.

There was no public comment.

#### II. Consent Items

***Commissioner Betz moved to approve the October 7, 2008 agenda and August 5, 2008 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.***

#### III. Rescheduled Consent Items

There were no rescheduled consent items.

Christina Arrostituto, Executive Director of First 5 Solano, presented the Commission with the CSAC Challenge Award First 5 Solano won for 2008. The name of the program that won the award is "First 5 Solano Prevention Services Help Alleviate Budget Crisis". Commissioner Tucker accepted the award on behalf of the Commission and thanked the staff and Commissioners for all their hard work.

#### IV. Public Hearing: First 5 Solano FY2007/08 Annual Audit

Simona Padilla-Scholtens, Solano County Auditor-Controller, reviewed the audit process and reports. She informed the Commission that based on their audit for FY2007/08, First 5 Solano received an unqualified opinion, which is the highest opinion possible to achieve on the audit. No instances of non-compliance were found in any of the audit reports. Ms. Padilla-Scholtens thanked First 5 Solano management and staff for their cooperation throughout the audit process.

Commissioner Betz commented that this is the fifth year in a row with an unqualified opinion on the annual audit for First 5 Solano.

## **V. Public Hearing: First 5 Solano Annual Report**

***Motion: Consider approval of the First 5 Solano submission to First 5 California for its FY2007/08 Annual Report.***

Discussion: Michele Harris, Deputy Director for First 5 Solano, reviewed the statistics of families and children served and the fiscal portion of the PowerPoint for the Annual Report. The administration costs for FY2007/08 were about nine percent, which is well below the policy limit of fifteen percent. Evaluation costs were about five percent, which is on par with the rest of the state commissions.

Chris Shipman, Health Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, highlighted the major accomplishments of the Health and Well-Being contractors, including the BabyFirst Solano collaborative, FamiliesFirst Inc., Children's Nurturing Project, Child Start, Inc., Solano Coalition for Better Health and the Solano County Health & Social Services (H&SS) Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

Lynn Guest, School Readiness Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, presented the Commission with the major successes for the School Readiness contractors, including the sites at Loma Vista, Anna Kyle, Markham and Silveyville elementary schools.

Venis Jones Boyd, Family Support and Child Care Program Manager, emphasized the key achievements of the Family Support and Child Care contractors, including Children's Network, Child Start, Inc. and the Integrated Family Support Initiative (IFSI) partners. The agencies contracted with as part of the IFSI program are Children's Network (coordination), Dixon Family Services, Fairfield-Suisun Healthy Start Family Resource Centers, Rio Vista CARE, Vacaville Police Department, Fighting Back Partnership, H&SS, Interfaith Council of Solano County (Heather House homeless shelter), Children's Nurturing Project, California Hispanic Commission and Youth and Family Services.

Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the Systems Change portion of the Annual Report presentation, including information on the Organizational Support Fund and Community Engagement activities.

India Alarcon of LaFrance Associates, Project Manager for First 5 Solano evaluation, informed the Commission of the FY2007/08 evaluation activities and results, including the Most Compelling Outcomes featured in the annual report.

***Commissioner Kondylis moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

## **VI. Committee Meetings**

### **A. Program Committee**

1. Item: Report on discussion item proposing that the First 5 Solano Commission consider increasing its matching fund commitment for the First 5 EPSDT program from 5% to 15%, and the recommendation to refer this discussion to the full Commission as part of the updating of the Long-Term Financial Plan.

Discussion: Commissioner Kondylis, Chair of the Program Committee, reviewed this item and informed the Commission that the match was underestimated for both services and administrative costs of the program. The Committee recommended this item come to the full Commission for a discussion in more detail at the Retreat.

## B. Internal Systems Committee

**1. Motion: Consider approval of the utilization of up to \$6,000 for a First 5 Solano Grantee Executive Director's tuition for the Stanford University Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders (March, 2009). Source of Funds: Organizational Support fund.**

**Commissioner Thigpen moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**2. Motion: Consider approval of the utilization of up to \$4,500 to provide a Public Affairs Training Session for up to 15 Executive Directors/Leaders of grantee organizations. Source of Funds: Organizational Support fund.**

Discussion: Ms. Harris informed the Commission that with the difficult financial times, First 5 Solano grantees are finding it harder to receive donations. Solano County recently did a media training that Ms. Harris attended, and it was a very valuable training. A private consulting firm put on this training, and staff would be asking those same consultants to do this training. Directors would learn how to get their key messages across and develop relationships with the media.

**Commissioner Thigpen moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Item: Review Draft Annual Retreat Agenda

Discussion: Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the draft agenda for the October 18 First 5 Solano Commission Retreat with Commissioners. Commissioner Tucker requested more information on how the number of clients served is selected and the current/future capacity of providers. Commissioner Fairchild commented that she would like to see a comprehensive look at the mental health items as a whole, like EPSDT, Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) and the upcoming Prevention and Early Intervention/Mental Health Services Act (PEI/MHSA) joint funding opportunity. Commissioner Betz requested keeping the presentations at the retreat short, to allow for more discussion by the Commission.

The Commission discussed the possible impact on providers due to the wording in the federal bailout plan with regard to "mental health parity." The federal plan includes wording instructing providers to provide mental health services the same way they would provide physical health services, such as not limiting the number of appointments available each year.

## C. Community Engagement Committee

1. Item: Receive the FY2007/08 Family Survey Report

Discussion: Commissioner Betz, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, informed the Commission that one of the recommendations is partnering with public agencies and neighborhood groups to address neighborhood safety, which is a big concern of Solano County parents. The Committee would like to bring this to the Commission at a future date to look into finding partners to address this issue. Another recommendation is expanding the efforts to bring Hispanic and Latina women into early prenatal care.

Steven LaFrance, Principal of LaFrance Associates, reviewed the PowerPoint presentation for the FY2007/08 First 5 Solano Family Survey. The survey was sent out to 5,000 families in the county, with a deliberate oversampling of Latino and low-income families. This survey showed that 49% of families surveyed have heard of First 5 Solano, compared with about 12% of families surveyed in 2005. Other key findings included: 1. the biggest barrier to families

participating in activities with their children is cost (40%); 2. the two largest concerns for families right now are their child's education (60%) and having money to pay bills (56%); the two highest topics of interest to parents were how to discipline their child (37%) and available services/resources for their family (35%).

## **VII. Chair Appoints Nominating Committee for 2009 Officers**

Commissioners Norinsky and Ayala were appointed as the nominating committee for 2009 First 5 Solano Commission Officers.

## **VIII. Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner Betz informed the Committee that in July, Ms. Arrostuto participated in a planning meeting with H&SS for a federal child welfare grant to implement the Nurse Family Partnership program in Solano County. The five year grant is for \$4.5 million. H&SS was just notified that they have been awarded this grant.

Commissioner Ayala informed the Commission that he did a Community Partner Visit with the Child Abuse Prevention Council recently, and it was a wonderful meeting. The Council is doing a lot of great work in Solano County.

Commissioner Thigpen commented that she wanted to bring special attention to October as Child Health Month. The First 5 Solano Grantee Training/Technical Assistance meeting this month will have a special focus on early childhood health, fitness and nutrition.

Commissioner Betz announced that Solano County has launched a prescription discount card program for county residents. The cards are available by calling 3-1-1 (for calls from inside Solano County) or 707-784-8500 (for calls from outside of the county). The cards will provide a 20% discount on many different prescriptions. All Solano County residents are eligible for this program, regardless of income level.

## **IX. Executive Director's Report**

- A. ***Motion: Consider an extension from October 2008 through December 2008 of the authority for the First 5 Solano Commission Chair/designee to sign letters (concerning FY2008/09 State Budget issues and other legislation) which are consistent with the Solano County Board of Supervisors 2008 Legislative Platform.***

***Commissioner Ayala moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

- B. 1. ***Motion: Consider authorizing the Executive Director, in partnership with Health and Social Services Department/Mental Health Services Division, to develop a joint solicitation for funding for early childhood mental/developmental health services for the period from (starting date in FY2008/09 to be determined) to June 20, 2012, in the amounts set forth in the 5-year Program Investment Plan, approximately, as follows: FY2009/10: 488,000; FY2010/11: \$504,000; FY2011/12: \$520,000. Source of funding: funds allocated to the Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative for the FY2007/12 Funding Cycle. Source of H&SS Funding: Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention Funds.***

Discussion: Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the staff report behind this motion. This solicitation for funding is historic in the aspect that it is believed this is the first time a First 5 Commission has partnered with a county mental health services department to do a joint solicitation for funding for MHSA PEI dollars.

Lynn de Lapp, a consultant working on this project with H&SS, informed the Commission that the state agency overseeing MHSA approved Solano County's MHSA/PEI funding plan with no revisions. This is the first time a MHSA plan has been approved by the state with no revisions. She thanked the community members and collaborators for all of their hard work and input on developing this plan.

**Commissioner Fairchild moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**2. Motion: Consider authorizing the Program Committee to oversee the approval of the solicitation, receive updates on the process, and approve changes as needed, with recommendations for funding to be forwarded to the full Commission for its consideration of awards of funding by April 2009.**

**Commissioner Norinsky moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Arrostuto attended the 100 Best Communities for Young People celebration/symposium recently. She informed the Commission that the America's Promise Alliance announced that three-time winners, such as Solano County, will no longer be eligible for this award; but that these "alumni" will be asked to serve as a mentors and resources for the 100 Best Communities effort in future years.

The Community Engagement Committee has moved forward with purchasing public service announcements on KUIC with information on First 5 Solano grantees. The spots will run during the prime radio time for one week each month. The themes each month will tie in with other Commission and community activities. The grantees mentioned on the radio have been asked to keep track numbers of people inquiring to their service lines before and after the spots to help determine the effectiveness of these messages.

#### **X. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location**

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on December 2, 2008 at 5:30 PM, Multi-Purpose Room at 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533. Future agenda items include: Public Hearing for Strategic Plan Review and Election of 2009 First 5 Solano Officers. Note: The annual First 5 Solano Commission Retreat will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 9:00am- 3:00pm at the Joe Nelson Community Center, 611 Village Dr., Suisun CA.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

  
Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary

Approved: *Dec. 2, 2008*