

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 5:30 PM Solano County Health and Social Services Center 2101 Courage Drive, Multi-Purpose Room, Fairfield, CA

Attendance

Commissioners: Norma Thigpen, Chair; Debbie Gossell, Vice-Chair; Dee Alarcón; Dan Ayala; Stephan Betz; Sheryl Fairchild; Dr. Elaine Norinsky; Linda Seifert; Dr. Sharon Tucker.

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:40 PM by Chairperson Thigpen.

I. Greetings, Introductions, Public Comment

Commissioner Thigpen welcomed Commissioner Seifert, who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors in January 2009 to be its representative on the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission (Supervisor Kondylis rotated off the Commission after 10 years of service). Commissioner Seifert gave a brief background on her experience and thanked Supervisor Kondylis for giving up her seat on the Commission.

Araminta Blackwelder from Rio Vista CARE thanked the Commission and staff for putting out the 2009 ARC/Parenting Calendar. Ms. Blackwelder commented that it is beautifully written, professional and illuminating.

II. Consent Items

A. Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for February 3, 2009.

Discussion: Staff requested deferring item I.A (Resolution Honoring Supervisor Barbara Kondylis) until Supervisor Kondylis arrived. Staff also requested moving the Executive Director's Report up to item IV.

Commissioner Alarcón moved to approve this motion as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Motion: Approve Minutes of the January 6, 2009 Commission Meeting.

Discussion: Commissioner Betz requested the following changes to the minutes: 1. adding the text "and that are supported by other First 5 funds" on item VI, second paragraph; 2. adding the text "has already received funds from this funding agency in the past" on item VI, fifth paragraph, second to the last line.

Commissioner Betz moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Rescheduled Consent Items

There were no rescheduled consent items.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director of First 5 Solano, gave a brief summary of the state proposals to eliminate and/or redirect First 5 funds. Changing the amount of funding going to First 5s would require a statewide ballot initiative. If 50% (as has been proposed) of annual First 5 Solano revenues were diverted to the state government, it would shorten the length of time the Commission could fund at its current "stable and predictable" level (in the Long Term Financial Plan) by approximately two years. If the state Commission were to be eliminated, First 5 Solano would lose its matching School Readiness funds.

Commissioner Ayala, the new liaison to the First 5 Association, commented that he believes the legislators need to be educated regarding how much good First 5 funds do in the state.

Currently, 27 small counties in the state are augmented by state Commission funds. Due to the fact that their birth rate is low, they were not receiving enough funding each year to fund any programs. The state Commission stepped in and now augments their funding on a yearly basis. If the state Commission were eliminated, the small counties would lose most of their funding.

V. Resolution Honoring Supervisor Barbara Kondylis

Ms. Arrostuto presented Carmen Ward, board aide to Supervisor Kondylis, with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for all of the hard work Ms. Ward does behind the scenes, for the community and the county.

Motion: Adopt Resolution #2009-01 honoring Supervisor Barbara Kondylis for her 10 years of service on the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission.

Commissioner Betz moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thigpen thanked Supervisor Kondylis for the dedication and excellence she has shown in all the positions she fills in the community. She then read the resolution aloud and presented it to Supervisor Kondylis.

Supervisor Kondylis commented that it has been a pleasure serving on the First 5 Solano Commission.

Commissioners, staff and members of the public individually thanked Supervisor Kondylis for her vision, support and advocacy throughout the ten years she served on the Commission.

The Commission took a short break.

VI. Awards of Funding for First 5 Solano and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Early Childhood Mental/Developmental Health Initiative

Motion: Approve award of up to \$3,086,967 to the Partners for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) Joint Agency Proposal (\$230,997 for FY 2008/09; \$923,993 for FY 2009/10; \$951,713 for FY 2010/11 and \$980,264 for FY2011/12) as recommended by the First 5 Solano Review Panel for RFP #2008-01. Approve awards of funding to individual partner agencies as set forth in the staff report. Source of funding: First 5 Solano Program Investment Plan, Early Childhood Mental Health Allocation, and Health and Social Services Mental Health Service Act – Prevention and Early Intervention (MHSA-PEI) funds.

Discussion: Commissioners Thigpen and Betz recused themselves from the discussion and vote for this agenda item due to a possible conflict of interest.

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

Commissioners Thigpen and Betz returned to the meeting.

VII. Committee Meetings

A. Program Committee

1. Motion: Consider approval of the allocation of expanded funding to the Family Support Services Initiative as follows:

a) Up to \$70,343 to Dixon Family Services (\$6,667 FY08/09, \$20,601 FY2009/10, \$21,219 FY2010/11, and \$21,856 FY2011/12) to increase the 0.3 FTE Substance Abuse Specialist to 0.5 FTE and add 0.4 FTE for clerical services;

b) Up to \$133,633 to Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (\$12,655 FY2008/09, \$39,140 FY2009/10, \$40,314 FY2010/11, and \$41,524 FY2011/12) to incorporate the Family Resource Center at Cleo Gordon into the Initiative;

c) Up to \$94,950 to Fighting Back Partnership (\$8,992 FY2008/09, \$27,810 FY2009/10, \$28,644 FY2010/11, and \$29,504 FY2011/12) to increase the 0.3 FTE Information and Referral Specialist to 1.0 FTE;

d) Up to 34,367 to Rio Vista CARE (\$3,255 FY2008/09, \$10,067 FY2009/10, \$10,367 FY2010/11, and \$10,678 FY2011/12) to add 0.3 FTE Outreach Worker;

e) Up to \$35,166 to Interfaith Council of Solano County (Heather House) (\$3,330 FY2008/09, \$10,300 FY2009/10, \$10,609 FY2010/11, and \$10,927 FY2011/12) to increase the current 0.03 FTE Shelter Attendant to 0.5 FTE;

f) Up to \$22,934 to California Hispanic Commission (\$7,420 for FY2009/10, \$7,673 FY2010/11, and \$7,872 FY2011/12) for increase in benefit costs and rent/utilities as the program moved to co-locate in the BabyFirst Solano Vacaville office to increase outreach and collaboration;

g) Up to \$22,934 to Youth and Family Services (\$7,420 for FY2009/10, \$7,673 FY2010/11, and \$7,872 FY2011/12) to increase Clinical Supervisor from 0.025 FTE to 0.13 FTE; and

h) Up to \$21,232 to the Children's Network of Solano County (\$7,420 for FY2009/10, \$7,673 FY2010/11, and \$7,872 FY2011/12) to participate in the coordination of the Family Resource Center Network.

Source of Funding: \$102,000 annually (adjusted for inflation) through FY2011/12 previously allocated in the 2008 Program Investment Plan Update and \$24,643 annually (adjusted for inflation) from FY2009/10 through FY2011/12 from the Discretionary Fund.

Commissioner Tucker arrived at the meeting.

Commissioner Norinsky departed the meeting.

Commissioner Alarcón moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Gossell informed the Commission that the last grantee training was wonderful. She got a lot of information out of Dr. Ross Thompson's brain development presentation.


Commissioner Thigpen commented that in spite of the current economic crises, both locally and nationally, she encourages the Commission to remain committed and continue to do the work at

hand.

IX. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

The next First 5 Solano Commission meeting will be on March 3, 2009 at 5:30 PM, Multi-Purpose Room at 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533. Future agenda items include: FY2009/10 Budget.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.


Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary
Approved: *March 3, 2009*