

# First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

## Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 5:30 PM Multi-Purpose Room 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA

### Attendance

Commissioners: Dr. Sharon Tucker, Chair; Norma Thigpen, Vice-chair; Dee Alarcón (joined by phone at 5:52 PM); Dan Ayala, Sheryl Fairchild, Debbie Gossell, 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: 5:33 PM by Chairperson Tucker.

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

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

There was no public comment.

#### II. Consent Items

Staff requested that agenda item VIII.D be removed from the agenda. This item will go through the Program Committee for further discussion, then be brought to the full Commission in January for action.

***Commissioner Gossell moved to approve the agenda as amended, with item VIII.D removed. The motion passed unanimously.***

***Commissioner Gossell moved to approve the remaining consent items, including the 10/7/08 minutes, 10/18/08 minutes, a revision to the Co-sponsorship of Conferences & Training/Grantwriting Fund which deletes the requirement that the event be held in Solano County, a revision to the Attendance Policy to change the review period from "any 12-month period" to "the calendar year" and a revision to the Letters of Support Policy to include delegated authority of the Commission Chair to sign general correspondence on behalf of the Commission. The motion passed unanimously.***

#### III. Rescheduled Consent Items

There were no rescheduled consent items.

#### IV. AmeriCorps Recognition

Lynn Guest, School Readiness Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, presented the 2007-08 AmeriCorps members (Gordon Battles III, Javier Gonzalez, Irene Khangab and Patsy Ott) with certificates of accomplishment and recognition for their dedicated service to the AmeriCorps program. Ms. Guest also welcomed the new AmeriCorps members for 2008-09 (Sandra Bennett, Rebecca Floyd, Mayra Montano and Natale Peterson).

## V. Annual Report to the Community and 2009 Calendar

**Motion: Adopt the First 5 Solano Annual Report to the Community and 2009 Parent Calendar.**

Discussion: India Alarcon from LFA Group, Project Manager for First 5 Solano evaluation, presented the Commission with the First 5 Solano Annual Report to the Community (ARC) for FY2007/08. Some major accomplishments from the ARC were:

- 88% of women enrolled in case management for substance abuse were substance-free at delivery
- Connected 314 infants/children with a primary care provider for ongoing care
- 34%-51% of 344 children fully or almost mastered all items in all four dimensions of a kindergarten readiness observation tool in FY2007/08 (highest percentage since information began being gathered in FY2004/05)
- 321 child care providers participating in CARES trainings increased their knowledge about topics such as the Effects of Child Trauma, Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale and Overcoming Stress in the Workplace
- Solano County's third consecutive win of the America's Promise 100 Best Communities Award
- All 199 children served by the Child Welfare Services Home Visitor program remained safely in their homes and out of the foster care system
- Organizational Support Fund was established to assist First 5 Solano grantees in weathering the economic downturn
- Documented an additional \$4,344,199 leveraged into Solano County for children and family services through dollars accessed at least in part because of First 5 Solano funding

Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary and Project Lead for the First 5 Solano portion of the 2009 Parent Calendar, reviewed the January through June portion of the calendar. Ms. Devaney highlighted the tie-ins each month between the tips, photos and monthly observances. She informed the Commission that for April, which is Month of the Military Child, First 5 was able to obtain a picture from Travis Air Force Base of a father who just returned from overseas being welcomed home by his wife and son. Ms. Devaney thanked LFA and Cherelyn Ellington, Community Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, for all the research, hard work and collaboration on bringing this community engagement tool together.

Ms. Alarcon presented the July through December portion of the calendar to the Commission. She highlighted October, which is Quality Child Care and Preschool month. The quote for this month is from Kathy Lago at Solano Family and Children's Services. The month offers tips for choosing the best child care setting and provider for your children. She also informed the Commission that this is the first year this tool is being translated into Spanish.

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

Commissioner Alarcón could not hear the presenters or Commissioners through the phone line and asked Commissioner Tucker if she could be excused from the meeting. Commissioner Tucker excused her at 6:10 PM.

## VI. Long Term Financial Plan Update

**Motion: Consider adoption of the First 5 Solano 2008 Long Term Financial Plan Update, including an increase to the annual program investment level from \$4,120,000 to \$4,757,500 for the period FY2008/09 – FY2015/16, with associated administrative and evaluation costs of up to \$112,500 (adjusted for inflation).**

Discussion: Michele Harris, Deputy Director for First 5 Solano, reviewed the updated plan and informed the Commission that there was a typographical error in the report. On page 1, under the section titled "First 5 Solano Financial Status", on the fourth bullet, the amount \$4.57 million should be changed to \$4.75 million. On page eight, fourth bullet from the top of the page, the amount \$4.6 million should be changed to \$4.75 million.

**Commissioner Gossell moved to approve this motion, with the plan amended to fix the incorrect amounts as listed above. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **VII. Program Investment Plan Update**

**Motion: Consider adoption of the First 5 Solano 2008 Program Investment Plan Update.**

Discussion: Commissioner Thigpen asked for more clarity on how the Discretionary Funds will be distributed.

Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director for First 5 Solano, informed the Commission that staff will be bringing a variety of proposals back to the Commission on how to distribute these funds.

Commissioner Fairchild requested discussing these items more in depth before voting on this agenda item.

This agenda item was tabled until after agenda item VIII could be discussed. After the discussion on item VIII, the Commission returned to voting on this agenda item.

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

## **VIII. Expanded Program Investment**

A. Consider approval of awards of funding for the Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative:

1. **Motion: Approve up to \$159,181 to Children's Nurturing Project (\$51,500 for FY2009/10; \$53,045 for FY2010/11; \$54,636 for FY2011/12) to continue the Early Childhood Developmental Health Collaborative. Source of funding: 2008 Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Update.**

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

2. **Motion: Approve up to \$713,180 to Solano County Health and Social Services (\$95,000 for FY2008/09; \$200,000 for FY2009/10; \$206,000 for FY2010/11; \$212,180 for FY2011/12) to provide a 15% local match to expand the EPSDT program to up to \$1,500,000 in services for FY2008/09 and up to \$2,000,000 in services annually thereafter. Source of funding: 2008 LTFP Update.**

Commissioner Thigpen recused herself from voting on this motion due to a possible conflict of interest.

**Commissioner Gossell moved to approve this motion. The motion passed with five ayes and one abstention.**

B. Consider approval of award of funding for the Children's Health Initiative:

1. **Motion: Approve up to \$103,636 to Solano Coalition for Better Health (\$20,000 for FY2009/10; \$41,200 for FY2010/11; \$42,436 for FY2011/12) to provide the First 5 California match portion of the program through the end of the 2007/2012 funding cycle. Source of funding: 2008 LTFP Update.**

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

C. Consider approval of the following awards for the Quality Child Care Initiative:

1. **Motion: Approve up to \$127,345 to The Children's Network of Solano County (\$41,200 for FY2009/10; \$42,636 for FY2010/11; \$43,709 for FY2011/12) to provide the First 5 California match portion of the program through the end of the 2007/2012 funding cycle. Authorize staff to work with The Children's Network of Solano to redesign the Quality Child Care grant funding as necessary to provide a more coordinated effort in Solano County. Source of funding: 2008 LTFP Update.**

Discussion: Commissioner Fairchild requested this redesign to go through the Program Committee for further vetting.

The term "Authorize staff" was changed to "Direct staff".

**Commissioner Gossell moved to approve this motion as amended, with the term "Authorize staff" changed to "Direct staff". The motion passed unanimously.**

2. **Motion: Approve up to \$159,181 to Solano County Office of Education (\$51,500 for FY2009/10; \$53,045 for FY2010/11; \$54,636 for FY2011/12) to continue the Preschool For All (PFA) Workgroup. Source of funding: 2008 LTFP Update.**

Discussion: Commissioner Fairchild commented that the PFA plan was developed with the hope that the ballot initiative was going to fund PFA, but that did not happen. She questions whether the PFA plan needs to be relooked at and possibly reworked to fit where we are at today in terms of preschool development. The current model is quite possibly out of date, due to the rapid changes in this area.

Commissioner Tucker informed the Commission that preschool standards are currently being looked at and possibly reworked in California. She does not feel universal preschool in California will be a possibility for at least three to five years, due to the current redevelopment process and economic crisis.

The Commission discussed the changes taking place in the PFA workgroup. The original plan for the group was to work on creating universal preschool in Solano County. However, once the ballot initiative for this failed, the group turned to the coordination/articulation work. The Commission recommended approving the funding, but reserving distribution until a plan of collaboration and action is brought back through the Program Committee.

**Commissioner Gossell moved to approve the motion as amended: designated amounts are approved, but no action will be taken to distribute the funds until a plan of collaboration and action is brought back to the Commission via referral to the Program Committee. The motion passed unanimously.**

- E. **Motion: Consider approval of increased amounts of discretionary funding for the remainder of the FY2007-2012 funding cycle (\$208,565 for FY2009/10; \$173,622 for FY2010/11; \$178,831 for FY2011/12). Source of funding: 2008 LTFP Update.**

**Commissioner Gossell moved to approve the item with the caveat that staff will bring back recommendations to the Commission on how these funds will be deployed.**

## **IX. Committee Meetings**

### **A. Program Committee**

1. **Motion: Consider approval of the addition of a special meeting of the First 5 Solano Commission on Tuesday, February 3 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM to consider award(s) of funding for the First 5 Solano/Mental Health Services Act – Prevention and Early Intervention Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative.**

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

### **B. Internal Systems Committee**

1. **Motion: Consider approval of the utilization of up to \$4,500 in currently allocated Organizational Support funds to provide up to 15 registrations (fee estimated at \$300 each) for grantee attendance at the First 5 California Annual Conference in San Francisco. Source of Funds: Organizational Support fund.**

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

2. **Motion: Consider approval of the utilization of up to \$85,000 in currently allocated Organizational Support Funds to award one-time grants (as approved) of up to \$3,500 for up to 25 First 5-funded organizations for equipment and materials that sustain or expand organizational capacity. Source of funds: Organizational Support fund.**

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

### **C. Community Engagement Committee**

1. **Motion: Consider allocation of up to \$19,000 for a Solano-specific sample of children 0-5 in the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health's 2008-09 Parent Poll. Source of funding: Discretionary Fund.**

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

## **X. Election of 2009 Officers**

**Motion: Consider approval of the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for election of 2009 First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission Officer: Chair – Commissioner Norma Thigpen.**

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

**Motion: Consider approval of the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for election of 2009 First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission Officer: Vice-Chair – Commissioner Debbie Gossell.**

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

## **XI. Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner Thigpen informed the Commission that a couple weeks ago, the Commission and staff worked with several grantees, including BabyFirst Solano, to bring KUIC coffee breaks to the

offices.

Commissioner Gossell requested the Community Resource page from the ARC be duplicated and distributed to community members like child care providers.

Commissioner Fairchild informed the Commission that she attended a pre-kindergarten articulation night at Markham Elementary in Vacaville recently, and found it very interesting. Commissioner Fairchild has recently begun a position as a Program Specialist in the Child Development Careers program at the Foundation for California Community Colleges in Sacramento.

Commissioner Tucker commented that the state announced today there are currently more children in grades K through 5 that are on the free/reduced fee school lunch program than ever before. The state has run out of money for this program and is requesting federal funding for this. About fifty percent of the children that participate in this program are at or below the poverty level.

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

***Motion: Consider approval of a request from the Executive Director to prepare and submit a Solano County application for a federal SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) "System of Care" grant with First 5 Solano as the lead agency for Solano County in partnership with Solano Health and Social Services Mental Health Division. Source of matching funds: First 5 Solano and Mental Health Services Act funds, other cash and in-kind matching funds to be determined as needed.***

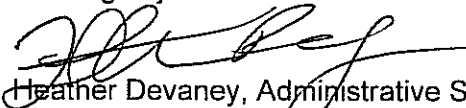
***Commissioner Gossell moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

Ms. Arrostuto reviewed her Executive Director's report, including updates on threats to First 5 structure and funding, a possible Healthy Families enrollment freeze, a Nurse Partnership Program grant recently won by Solano County H&SS Child Welfare Services, the recent Solano Student Summit, bringing "Parenting After the Split" curriculum to Solano County, her recent tour of Solano state prison and First 5 Solano staff activities.

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

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on January 6, 2009 at 5:30 PM, Multi-Purpose Room at 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533. Future agenda items include: Introduction of 2009 Officers, Appointment of Committee Chairs.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

  
Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary

Approved: *January 6, 2009*