

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Saturday, November 6, 2010, 9:00 AM 601 Texas Street, Conference Room A, Fairfield, CA

Attendance

Commissioners: Debbee Gossell, Chair; Dan Ayala, Vice-Chair; Stephan Betz, Dana Dean, Sheryl Fairchild, Elaine Norinsky, Linda Seifert, Norma Thigpen.

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 9:15 AM by Chairperson Gossell.

I. Welcome and Public Comment

The Commissioners introduced themselves.

There was no public comment.

II. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for November 6, 2010

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for November 6, 2010

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

III. Opening Remarks

Commissioner Gossell commented that the Commission will be facing some difficult decisions ahead. Given the current economic times, the Commission will not be able to fund all the programs they would like. She thanked the public and the grantees for coming to the retreat.

Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director for First 5 Solano, commented that the Commission had been out in front of the recession. In 2008, the Commission increased support to Family Resource Centers (FRCs), providing strategic and badly needed support to the children and families in Solano County. She also commented on the current and planned efforts to expand Commission capacity to bring in revenues to replace declining tobacco tax funding.

Commissioners Dean and Norinsky arrived at the meeting.

Jacque McLaughlin, facilitator for the retreat, reviewed the schedule for the day.

Commissioner Thigpen arrived at the meeting.

IV. Public Hearing: Annual Review of the First 5 Solano Strategic Plan

Steven LaFrance, Principal of LFA Group (First 5 Solano's evaluator), led the statutorily-required annual review of the County Commission strategic plan. He reviewed the strategic framework, which was presented in summary format and overlaid with the current funded initiatives. He then reviewed the priorities, goals and results of these initiatives as well as the key accomplishments. He presented an updated community indicators table.

Ms. Arrostuto commented that initiative-level is not comparable to county- or state-level data, as most programs served limited numbers or targeted populations. Program performance indicators

are only used to evaluate the success of the programs, and community indicators are used to help the Commission understand community trends and needs.

Mr. LaFrance noted that another data source, the Family Survey, would be available moving into the strategic planning process. This survey will provide current data on families in the county.

V. FY2009/10 Results: Grantee Presentations

Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative

Chris Shipman, Health and Well-Being Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, gave a brief explanation of the Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Initiative and introduced the presenters.

Debbi Davis, Executive Director for Children's Network, and Jim Diel, Associate Director for FamiliesFirst, Inc., reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) program.

Commissioner Seifert commented that it would be helpful to find out how many dollars are being spent on the currently funded programs, and how many dollars each program is leveraging.

Commissioner Gossell commented it would be helpful to know the cost effectiveness of each program. How much money is the program saving other organizations?

Prenatal Initiative

Ms. Shipman gave a brief explanation of the Prenatal Initiative and the BabyFirst Solano program and introduced the presenters.

Nancy Calvo, Health Services Administrator for the Solano County Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Bureau, introduced the BabyFirst Solano funded partners. She then reviewed the leveraged funds brought in by the program, which has increased in each of the last three fiscal years. The Nurse Family Partnership program also helped provide more services for pregnant women and new mothers.

Shelli Cannon-DeKreek, Health Services Manager for BabyFirst Solano, informed the Commission that some future goals of the program are to link the children to PEAK and implement a community awareness campaign to reduce substance use during pregnancy. A video was shown on the impacts the BabyFirst program has had on individual lives in the county.

Children's Health Initiative

Ms. Shipman gave a brief explanation of the Children's Health Initiative and introduced the presenter.

Doug Hayward, Executive Director for Solano Coalition for Better Health (SCBH), explained the program and the services it provided in the county. Community partners include public schools, social service agencies, day care centers, community health centers, county health centers and hospitals.

Quality Child Care Initiative

Venis Jones Boyd, Family Support and Quality Child Care Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, gave a brief explanation of the initiative and introduced the presenters.

Debbie Peralez, Deputy Director for Child Start, Inc., reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the agency and the services it provided in Solano County. She informed the Commission that the waitlist for centers in Fairfield and Vacaville have had a 44 percent increase in the last three years.

Kim Thomas, Executive Director for Children's Network, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the network and the services provided in Solano County. She commented that quality child care kept children learning and parents earning.

School Readiness Initiative

Lynn Hoffman, School Readiness Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, gave a brief explanation of the initiative and introduced the presenter.

Maria Rosa Serrano, School Readiness Coordinator for the Vacaville Unified School District at Markham Elementary, reviewed the school readiness activities going on in the county and the services being provided. The successful Pre-Kindergarten Academies were expanded this year, reaching hundreds more children needing a quality early learning experience to enhance kindergarten readiness. She noted that evidence-based early literacy and math curriculums have been launched at all four School Readiness sites.

Integrated Family Support Initiative

Ms. Boyd gave a brief explanation of the initiative and informed the Commission that there were more than thirty partners in the collaborative. She introduced the presenters.

A PowerPoint presentation on the collaborative and the services provided in Solano County was presented by Rosemary Kennedy (Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator for Children's Network), Olga Duran (Social Worker III for Solano County Child Protective Services), Gloria Diaz (Senior Master Social Worker for the Vacaville FRC), Adriana Bejarano (Administrative Assistant for Rio Vista CARE), Patty Ayala (Substance Abuse Specialist for CA Hispanic Commission) and Kay Bosick (Executive Director for Youth and Family Services).

VI. FY2010/11 Strategic Plan Update Process: Introduction

Dr. Lori Allio, Senior Associate for HTA (First 5 Solano's 2011 Strategic Plan Update consultant), reviewed the proposed process for the coming year.

The Commission discussed the timeline in the report and directed staff to add an additional full-day retreat for strategic planning. The retreat in October will be a mini-retreat. Staff will bring an updated strategic planning process timeline to the next Commission meeting.

Regarding the process for gathering community input, Ms. Arrostuto commented the Community Input report format and process would be the same as in the last strategic planning cycle. Staff will identify parent and community groups, ask to be added to agendas and Commissioners will attend the meetings and listen to the community needs the group discussed. That information will then be put into the Community Input report. This process will be overseen by the Community Engagement Committee.

Commissioner Fairchild commented that she thought it was important to base any future or creative thinking on the strategic plan that was currently in place.

Michele Harris, Deputy Director for First 5 Solano, commented that the Long Term Financial Plan update would be coming through the Internal Systems Committee. She anticipated a change in the interest projection, which had decreased. The Commission would be looking at the level of spending and the length of the next funding cycle, which would then drive the conversations around the program investment plan. This could happen anytime in the strategic planning process.

Commissioner Seifert commented that she wanted staff to continue to pursue planning for items that were put on hold at the October special meeting in favor of funding the Stage 3 Child Care.

VII. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Seifert commented that she felt there are two things she thought were important for strategic planning: 1) Grantee sustainability - as they looked at reduced resources in the long term, the Commission needed to have a sense from our partners about what plans they had for becoming sustainable in the future; and 2) Commission sustainability - First 5 Futures needed to have a large piece in the strategic planning process.

Commissioner Dean commented that it was much more difficult to recreate programs than to reduce current funding, and then raise funding levels in the future. A priority in her view was the Commission's role in maintaining the infrastructure in which our community partners work.

Commissioner Fairchild commented that in terms of the grantee presentations, she was always amazed and honored to hear about all the work that's happening in the community. Regarding strategic planning, she was thinking about the evolution of the Commission. She thought that as part of the planning, we needed to be evaluating and looking at the mechanisms that had been established, and how they served the Commission and community. She also wanted to ensure other Commission initiatives, like Preschool for All and the BEST Approach were included in the strategic planning discussion.

Commissioner Gossell commented that, over the years, some partners may have changed, but that didn't necessarily mean the infrastructure had to change. She was looking forward to the Community Input Report to help the Commission look at where they need to go.

Commissioner Seifert thanked grantees, community partners and staff for coming out on a Saturday.

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

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on December 7, 2010 at 5:30 PM, 601 Texas St., Conference Room B, Fairfield, CA 94533.

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM.


Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary

Approved: *December 7, 2010*