

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 5:00 PM
601 Texas Street, Conference Room A, Fairfield, CA

Attendance

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

Staff/Public: Commission staff and approximately 36 members of the public were present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by Chairperson Ayala.

I. Public Comment

Commissioner Ayala noted that Doug Hayward is leaving the Solano Coalition for Better Health, and thanked him for the excellent support he has given the Commission. Commissioner Betz added that Mr. Hayward's effective combining of policy and action will be missed. Mr. Hayward thanked the Commission for its support of young children's health.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for December 6, 2011

B. Approve Minutes of the October 4, 2011 Commission Retreat

C. Approve Minutes of the October 22, 2011 Commission Retreat

Motion: Commissioner Betz moved to approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for December 6, 2011, approve Minutes of the October 4, 2011 Commission Retreat, and approve Minutes of the October 22, 2011 Commission Retreat. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Hearing: Adoption of First 5 Solano 2012 Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Lori Allio, Strategic Planning Consultant with Hatchuel Tabernick Associates, presented the draft 2012 Strategic Plan for adoption by the Commission. She noted that there were two changes from the version mailed to the Commissioners: (1) The table in the "Investment Approach" entitled "FY2012-2015 Funding Cycle-Funds Available for Investment" has been removed (to be included instead in the Program Investment Plan), and (2) the wording in the second and third paragraphs of the "First 5 Futures" section was revised for clarity. Dr. Allio noted that the First 5 Solano Strategic Plan Update is a thoughtful, "solid" plan that will guide the Commission's work effectively in the next few years. Commissioner Betz commented that the Board of Supervisors was very supportive of the report recently made to them, which outlined this developing plan. Commissioner Fairchild commented that the plan turned out well, and Commissioner Gossell commented on the 1963 John F. Kennedy quotation in the Plan, observing that some of the same challenges as 50 years ago, still exist.

Motion: Commission Fairchild moved to adopt the First 5 Solano 2012 Strategic Plan Update. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. 2012-2015 Program Investment Plan

Michele Harris, First 5 Solano Deputy Director, noted the Commission was being asked to approve the 2012-2015 Program Investment Plan and select one of two following alternatives:

- (1) Funding as approved and directed at the 10/22/11 Retreat;
- (2) Funding as proposed to incorporate a portion of reserve funds restored by the invalidation of AB 99.

(Commissioner Seifert arrived at the meeting.)

Ms. Harris explained that Alternative #1 is based on the Commission's approval and direction at their October 22, 2011 Retreat, and requires available reserves to be spread over the three years of the funding cycle (FY2012/13, FY2013/14, and FY2014/15), with greater weight toward year one to enable transition time for services that would be reduced or eliminated.

Ms. Harris indicated that Alternative #2 uses the same amounts for year one of the funding cycle as in Alternative #1; however, it maintains funding for years two and three of the funding cycle at the year one level. Alternative #2 utilizes a portion of the newly-restored reserve funds resulting from the Superior Court's invalidating AB 99.

With both alternatives, year one of the 2012-2015 Program Investment Plan is fully-funded.

The decision between Alternatives #1 and #2 was whether to utilize a portion of the reserve funds restored by the invalidation of AB 99 to increase funding for years two and three of the funding cycle. Staff recommended approval of Alternative #2 since it is more difficult to rebuild dismantled services (than to reduce services at some future date, should the state appeal the Court's ruling invalidating AB 99 and win).

Commissioner Gossell asked how this would affect future contracts for services. Ms. Harris explained that in all First 5 contracts, "subject to the availability of funding" language is included.

Commissioner Betz asked how long the State has to file an appeal, and Ms. Harris responded 60 days from the date of the notice of entry of judgment. Commissioner Fairchild suggested that our contracts be written for one year with two 12-month optional renewals. Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director for First 5 Solano, responded that First 5 can do this.

Commissioner Dean suggested that the Commission focus on Alternative #2 and include Alternative #1 as the stated plan if AB 99 litigation should again compromise First 5 funding.

Commissioner Seifert apologized for arriving at 5:30 PM, explaining that the start time was incorrectly entered on her calendar. She stated that Staff has developed a very good plan, and she wanted to support Commissioner Dean's option, suggesting that the Commission could rely on staff and County Counsel to develop appropriate contract language. Commissioner Speck encouraged the Commission to be cautious. Ms. Arrostuto noted that she consulted with both the Auditor-Controller's and County Counsel's offices before preparing the proposals, and that Alternative #2 is allowable from their perspectives. Commissioner Dean noted that (1) an appeal could be filed and then possibility the funds could go away and (2) the Court could freeze the funds. Ms. Arrostuto agreed, again noting that, with year one fully-funded either way, there would be time to make changes should the current funding situation change.

Mr. Richard Pires, Sr. of Healthy Start Family Resource Center thanked the Commission for their support, stating that this program has provided opportunity for those like himself to receive medical help for his two children, bus transportation to and from school, and the training to be a productive member of society.

Chief Richard Word of the Vacaville Police Department spoke in favor of Alternative #2 and noted that Vacaville is wisely using the funds being given it for the Family Resource Center and that these funds are an investment in stopping the cycle of abuse in the community.

Ms. Ana Dineen of Fairfield spoke to the possible reduction in funds to Priority 3, Result areas 9, 10, & 11. She noted that the Integrated Family Support Initiative program began 7 years ago and that their Family Resource Center gives social support to Solano residents, 29% of whom are living below the poverty level. Ms. Dineen proposed that when the funds become available, the Commission consider funding the gap that will still exist with Alternative #2.

The Rev. Willie Graham said he was proud of the Commission and staff who work long hours to help people in the community. He noted that he had been a part of the Commission at its beginning and was pleased that the foundations created and decisions made in the beginning are still being followed to enhance the lives of our families in the community.

Ms. Otilia Canto Guerra of Birds Landing (with interpreter Ana Dineen) shared how important the Family Resource Center in Rio Vista has been in her family's life, providing home visits to the isolated farm where her family resides to give invaluable help to her 3-year-old son.

Ms. Sharlett Rose of More Excellent Way said that she is involved as a Counselor because of the help she received for her daughter through Healthy Families. She stated that all of the programs are needed, and it is important to keep all of these programs "alive" and funded.

Ms. Marsha Alexander of Family Childcare shared that First 5 had helped her renew her teacher's permit and enabled their Cares Plus Program to help 16 children in their development. On behalf of all the child care providers, she expressed appreciation to First 5 and her hopes that these programs will continue in the future.

Ms. Jennifer Green of Benicia expressed her gratitude for the resources and care she and her three children have been given during the past two years. She said the people at the Family Resource Center care about her, have helped her to resolve rent and health issues, and provided a Thanksgiving dinner for her family.

Commissioner Dean said in considering the public comments that she would like to hear from staff how the 30% decrease decision for year one of the new funding cycle was calculated.

Ms. Harris noted that the funds for this were authorized at \$975,000 in 2007. Since that time, the Commission made several one-time augmentations in that area. With the 30% decrease, funding will be at the FY2008/2009 level. Commissioner Fairchild noted it is sobering to look at the figures.

Commissioner Gossell thanked all the families for coming to the meeting and expressed appreciation for the public comments given. She noted that there is not enough money to cover all the programs we have set up, that the needs for people in our County are increasing, but we just do not have the money to meet all the needs. She added that it is a hard decision to cut programs but wanted the public to know that the Commission is listening to them.

Motion: Commissioner Seifert moved to approve the 2012-2015 Program Investment Plan with Alternative #2, except that Alternative #1 will be triggered if funds previously restricted by AB 99 become unavailable. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. 2012-2015 Contracting and Solicitation Plan

Ms. Arrostuto expressed appreciation to Dr. Allio for her work as the Strategic Plan Consultant. Ms. Arrostuto indicated there were a series of grants or initiatives in considering the approval of the 2012-2015 Program Investment Plan Attachment A "Contracting and Solicitation Plan" for Strategic Plan Result areas which needed the Commission's consideration, and that these issues are presented as a series of separate motions, to ensure that any Commissioner with a conflict of interest could recuse him/herself from the discussion and action for any such motion.

A. Tier 1 Result areas

1. R3 – Deploy up to \$750,000 to Solano Coalition for Better Health for children's health insurance services for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 (\$250,000 for FY2012/13, \$250,000 for FY2013/14 and \$250,000 for FY2014/15) (new contract).

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Betz and approved unanimously.

2. R4 – Deploy up to \$2,688,846 (including \$436,000 in MHSA matching funds annually) for the Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) initiative early mental/developmental health services as outlined in the staff report for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2014 and including an option to extend for one additional 12-month period beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 (\$896,262 for FY2012/13, \$896,282 for FY2013/14 and optional \$896,282 for FY2014/15) (Contract Amendments)

(Commissioners Betz and Thigpen recused themselves from this item, citing a conflict of interest as they are employees of Solano County Health and Social Services, which partially funds this initiative. Commissioner Speck recused himself from this item, citing a conflict of interest as Solano SELPA, which is housed in the Solano County Office of Education, is a subcontractor in this initiative. All three Commissioners left the room.)

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Gossell. The motion was approved 6-0.

3. R4 – Deploy up to \$918,000 to Solano County Health and Social Services Department/Mental Health Division for Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 (\$306,000 for FY2012/13, \$306,000 for FY2013/14 and \$306,000 for FY2014/15) (New Contract)

(Commissioners Betz and Thigpen recused themselves from this item, citing a conflict of interest as they are employees of Solano County Health and Social Services, the contractor for this grant. These two Commissioners left the room.)

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Gossell. The motion was approved 7-0.

4. R5 – Deploy up to \$432,000 to Child Start, Inc. for "wraparound" child care services for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 (\$144,000 for FY2012/2013, \$144,000 for FY2013/14 and \$144,000 for FY2014/15) (New Contract)

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Seifert and approved unanimously.

5. R7/R8 – Deploy up to \$240,000 for Pre-Kindergarten Academy services for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 (\$80,000 for FY2012/13, \$80,000 for FY2013/14 and \$80,000 for FY2014/15) (Request for Proposals)

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Fairchild and approved unanimously.

6. Parent education: Deploy up to \$300,000 for parent education services for Solano County parents/caregivers of young children for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 (\$100,000 for FY2012/13, \$100,000 for FY2013/14, and \$100,000 for FY2014/15) (Request for Proposals)

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Norinsky and approved unanimously.

7. Collaboration/coordination: Deploy up to \$25,000 for FY2012/13 for development and implementation of information technology services for data collection, case management and reporting for First 5 Solano-funded services

Commissioner Dean asked staff to explain what they expect to see from this initiative. Ms. Arrostuto responded that having one consolidated, comprehensive system will improve the quality of data collection, case management, and reports while decreasing the workload. The \$25,000 is not to purchase the program but represents partial funding (together with a similar motion later in the agenda that would deploy an additional \$25,000 from the FY2011/12 First 5 Futures budget, for \$50,000 total) for consultant services to analyze the Commission's and the community's needs and take the Commission through the entire process to a new data contract.

Commissioner Dean asked how we could say that this system would serve the goals of First 5. Ms. Arrostuto replied that it is a legacy program that could outlive First 5 and will benefit the community for years to come.

Commissioner Seifert commented that this program would allow us to create apples-to-apples comparisons. Ms. Arrostuto added that it would provide a needed and valuable service in a broad, comprehensive and consistent way in our community.

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Seifert.

Ms. Nancy Calvo, Health Services Administrator with H&SS, in response to Commissioner Dean's question, noted that this will enable us to share First 5 program information more effectively across initiatives and connect evaluations. She noted that Commissioners need to provide ongoing support for grantees to utilize such a system.

The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Collaboration/coordination: Deploy up to \$350,000 for coordination and collaboration of Solano early childhood system services for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 (\$150,000 for FY2012/13, \$100,000 for FY2013/14 and \$100,000 FY2014/15) (Request for Qualifications)

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Seifert and approved unanimously.

B. Tier II Result areas

- 1a. R1/R2 – Deploy up to \$3,195,045 for prenatal services for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 (\$1,065,015 for FY2012/13, \$1,065,015 for FY2013/14 and \$1,065,015 for FY2014/15) (Request for Proposals)

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Betz and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Fairchild asked if her understanding was correct that contracts with the County cannot be for more than 5 years and are then new solicitations for services are required. Ms. Arrostuto confirmed that this is the County policy.

- 1b. R6 – Deploy up to \$393,501 to Children’s Network for CARES Plus child care workforce professional development services for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 (\$131,167 for FY2012/13, \$131,167 for FY2013/14 and \$131,167 for FY2014/2015) (New Contract)

(Commissioner Speck recused himself from this item, citing a conflict of interest as Solano County Office of Education, is a partner in this initiative, and left the room.)

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Gossell. The motion was approved 8-0.

- 1c. R9/R10/R11 – Deploy up to \$2,628,105 for family support services for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015 (\$876,035 for FY2012/13, \$876,035 for FY2013/14 and \$876,035 for FY2014/15) (Request for Proposals)

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Seifert and approved unanimously.

VI. Election of 2012 First 5 Solano Commission Officers

Commissioner Gossell, who with Commissioner Fairchild served on the Nominating Committee, requested approval of the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for election of 2012 First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission Officers: Chair – Linda Seifert; and Vice-Chair – Dana Dean.

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ayala and approved unanimously.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. *Systems and Policy Committee:* Commissioner Seifert reported that the Committee is requesting approval of technical changes, as outlined in the staff report, to language in the following policies to conform to restructuring of standing Committees: 1) Contracting and Procurement Policy; 2) Co-Sponsorship of Conferences and Training Fund Policy; and 3) Salary and Benefits of Commission Staff Policy.

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Seifert and approved unanimously.

- B. *Program and Community Engagement Committee:* There has been no meeting of this Committee since the last Commission meeting. Commissioner Dean noted the next Committee meeting will be held December 8, 2011.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Arrostuto requested approval to deploy up to \$25,000 beginning January 1, 2012 for development and implementation of information technology services for data collection, case management and reporting for First 5 Solano-funded services. (Source of funding: FY2011/12 First 5 Futures Budget – Professional Services)

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Seifert and approved unanimously.

IX. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Gossell thanked Dr. Allio and the commission staff for all their hard work. Commissioner Fairchild agreed that Dr. Allio is one of the best facilitators she has seen and noted that the First 5 Futures will help us to do more in the future. She added that we have to work hard on our First 5 goals and what we have put in place tonight.

Commissioner Norinsky expressed gratitude for being appointed to this Commission and voiced her willingness to do anything to help.

Commissioner Seifert echoed appreciation for the incredible hard work of Dr. Allio's and the staff. She wished everyone the best during the Holiday season and invited all to her open house on December 11, asking that guests bring a toy or pajamas for a child.

Commissioner Ayala thanked Dr. Allio and Staff for answering all of his questions and making his job easier; he thanked the Commissioners for the support they gave him during the past year; and he offered his congratulations to the new Chair and Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Ayala adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM.



Yvonne S. Liid, Administrative Secretary

Approved: January 10, 2012