

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
Annual Commission Retreat
October 25, 2014, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Jay Speck (Chair), Aaron Crutison, Dan Ayala, Dana Dean, Erin Hannigan, Liz Niedziela, and Marisela Barbosa

First 5 Staff present: Megan Richards (Interim Executive Director), Venis Jones Boyd (Family Support Programs), Ciara Gonsalves (Policy and Fund Development), Cherelyn Ellington-Hunt (Early Childhood Development), Christiana Lewis (Office Assistant III), Raisa Ballesteros (College Intern), and Ashley Forsyth (College Intern)

Members of the public present: Rian Smith (EMQ Families First), Nazlin Huerta (BabyFirst Solano), Denise Winters (Child Nurturing Project), Michele Harris (Child Nurturing Project), Isabel Montano (City of Vacaville), Christina Arrostuto (United Way Bay Area), Becky Billing (Napa County Child Care Local Planning Council), Debbi Davis (Child Nurturing Project), Susan Brutchy (Applied Survey Research), Dr. Lori Allio (Hatchuel Tabernik Associates), Kim Carpenter (Applied Survey Research), Christina Branom (Applied Survey Research), Alan Kerzin (The Children's Network), and one member of the public.

I. Call to Order/Salute to the Flag

Chair Speck called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

II. Welcome and Overview of the Agenda

Motion: Approve the Commission Retreat Meeting Agenda for October 25, 2014

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala
Approved 5-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Speck, Crutison, Hannigan, Ayala, and Barbosa

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Public Comment

Ms. Arrostuto congratulated Ms. Richards on her term as Interim Executive Director, and Ms. Michele Harris as the new Executive Director of First 5 Solano. Ms. Arrostuto expressed the United Way Bay Area's (UWBA) pride in the upcoming work First 5 Solano and The Safety Net Summit will be doing to help boost Rise Together Bay Area in Solano.

IV. Public Hearing: FY2013/14 Annual Audit

Ms. Richards explained that a representative from the Auditor's Office could not attend the Retreat to present on the FY2013/14 audit, but instead provided a memo outlining the highlights from the Audit for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2014. Ms. Richards read to the Commission the memo that detailed the dates in which the audit will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors where it is anticipated they will accept the audit report. Solano County Internal Audit Division conducts the annual First 5 Solano Audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States.

Motion: Receive the FY2013/14 First 5 Solano Audit

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Ayala
Approved 5-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Speck, Crutison, Hannigan, Ayala, and Barbosa

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Ms. Richards commented that appropriate systems have been set up within First 5, so even with some turnover in staff, First 5 Solano maintains reliable accounting practices. Chair Speck complimented Ms. Richards and the First 5 staff for the favorable audit.

(Commissioner Dean arrived at 10:15am)

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

Dr. Allio reviewed the vision, mission, core values, and framework in First 5 Solano's current Strategic Plan that was adopted at the December 6, 2011 Commission Retreat.

(Commissioner Niedzela arrived at 10:30am)

Ms. Carpenter from Applied Survey Research (ASR) presented the First 5 Solano Strategic Framework Results Dashboard. Ms. Carpenter explained that the results presented were extracted from the Results Dashboard and that they represent a selection of indicators with the most reliable County data over approximately the last five years and reviewed the data for the first line on the Dashboard as an example.

Ms. Carpenter then presented the Solano County Community Trends data related to the Commission's priority areas 1 and 2, while Ms. Branom presented information on priority area 3.

The Commission asked how the rates of poverty compared to California overall and how many kids are actually affected. Ms. Branom stated that this data is not in this presentation, but it is available.

Ms. Branom presented data on the homeless population and pointed out that it is difficult to capture accurate data regarding this population. While Solano County has improved its ability to measure the homeless population, it is still under-reported in our County. Discussion occurred regarding types of homeless housing (transitional versus shelter) and under-reporting of homelessness.

Ms. Branom also presented information on youth in foster care in Solano County. The Commission asked how many children are affected and how this compares to California. Commissioner Crutison confirmed the number of children currently in foster care in Solano County is approximately 450, and about 65,000 in California. Commissioner Barbosa commented that she would like to know the overall well-being of children once they enter the foster care system. Commissioner Hanningan added that it would help to determine if First 5 was targeting the most appropriate communities. Ms. Richards said First 5 will be presenting a draft report of the PEAK outcomes for children referred from child welfare at the next Program and Community Engagement Committee and could bring more detailed data on poverty and child welfare to that meeting for Commission Review. Commissioner Barbosa asked if there was a tracking system for children living with relatives. Commissioner Crutison said Child Welfare does track that information and continues to advocate for children to remain with their families, and there is new legislature that provides families the same financial aid it does to foster parents.

VI. Organizational History Review

Dr. Allio led the Commissioners, staff, and audience in updating the First 5 Solano Organizational History chart. The chart was originally created in 2011 and updated through 2014.

VII. Collective Impact Training

Dr. Allio presented the Collective Impact (CI) training. CI fosters the idea that organizations are able to accomplish more with less if they are able to collaborate on a shared goal rather than compete. Dr. Allio continued to explain that CI is an approach with five elements: a broad range of actors; shared measures; mutually reinforcing programs; continuous communication; and a backbone agency.

Chair Speck asked if “will” was an appropriate verb to describe First 5 Solano’s plan “unfolding parallel with the CI planning.” Dr. Allio responded that it is very unlikely that the CI group will come up with a plan that is completely outside of the First 5 Strategic Framework, but the Commission has sole authority on what to fund. Chair Speck offered

that he does not necessarily disagree with the statement, but asked to avoid defining words like “will” and “shall.”

Dr. Allio solicited input from the Commissioners on whether they believe CI will change Commission roles. Commissioner Dean expressed that she is specifically concerned that CI may infringe on First 5’s statutory and regulatory constraints and responsibilities. Commissioner Dean pointed out that throughout the CI process, the Commission must continue to respect its authority. Dr. Allio responded that the First 5 Commission is not, at any time, obligated to yield to CI and may continue to remain in control of all aspects.

Ms. Richards added that it is important to distinguish between the Commission’s Strategic Plan which can be broad in scope and the Program Investment Plan which defines what part of the plan the Commission will fund.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:15pm

(Commissioner Crutison left the meeting at 12:45pm)

Reconvened at 12:45pm

Ms. Gonsalves led the Commissioners, staff, and audience in a group exercise, “Flocking”.

VIII. Collective Impact: Help Me Grow and First 5

Ms. Davis presented the history of collaboration and the framework of Help Me Grow. Dr. Allio added that Help Me Grow is an evidence-based national model. Dr. Allio continued with the process utilizing the Help Me Grow framework with the CI process. The dates in the CI timeline were shifted slightly to align with the finalized Commission meeting dates in 2015. The anticipated timeframe to share the mapping and strategy with the Commission and a large convening of community players is around March 2015.

The Commission discussed what the role of the Commission would be while building the CI Collaboration. Commissioners voiced desire to be involved at varying levels of commitment. The Commission agreed that they wanted to be informed of the CI meetings and workgroups so they could choose at what level they wanted to participate and could stay informed of the process.

IX. Commissioner Remarks

Each Commissioner thanked the members of Help Me Grow, CI Leadership, staff, and everyone who attended, and also conveyed excitement for moving forward with the CI process and getting to know new staff/partners. Commissioner Barbosa provided a touching personal story to emphasize the importance of family, care for young children, and community relationships. Commissioner Speck acknowledged that the decision to update the Strategic Plan was appropriate given the current fiscal circumstance.

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

The next Commission meeting will be held on December 2, 2014 at 5:30 PM at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: Strategic Planning; Committee Reports.

Adjourn

Commissioner Speck adjourned the meeting at 1:40pm.

Christiana Lewis, Office Assistant III

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christiana Lewis', written over a horizontal line.