

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 5:30 PM Multi-Purpose Room 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA

Attendance

Commissioners: Norma Thigpen, Chair; Dee Alarcón; Dan Ayala; Stephan Betz; Dana Dean; Sheryl Fairchild; Linda Seifert.

Staff/Public: Commission staff and approximately 15 members of the public were present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:38 PM by Chairperson Thigpen.

I. Greetings, Introductions, Public Comment

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Patrick Duterte, Director for Solano County Health & Social Services (H&SS), spoke regarding item VI on the agenda. Mr. Duterte explained to the Commission the successes of the Nurse Family Partnership program in other counties, which H&SS is requesting funding for Solano County for through the First 5 Solano Community Stability Fund.

Megan Richards, Project Manager for Solano County Mental Health, informed the Commission that the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) innovation plan for Solano County is now posted on their county website for public comment. Also, the MHSA Steering Committee has been meeting to develop a three to five year strategic plan. The plan should be ready for public comment in November.

II. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for October 6, 2009

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for October 6, 2009.

Commissioner Alarcón moved to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approve Minutes of the August 4, 2009 Commission Meeting

Motion: Approve Minutes of the August 4, 2009 Commission Meeting.

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

IV. Public Hearing: FY2008/09 Annual Audit

Motion: Receive the FY2008/09 First 5 Solano Audit.

Discussion: Ian Goldberg, Deputy Auditor-Controller for Solano County, informed the Commission that First 5 Solano received an “unqualified opinion” (the highest rating) for its FY2008/09 audit. Some changes were made in the way the audit is developed and presented as mandated by the State Controller’s Office. The management discussion and analysis portion of the report is a new requirement this year.

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

V. Public Hearing: First 5 California FY2008/09 Annual Report

Motion: Approve the First 5 Solano submission to First 5 California for its FY2008/09 Annual Report.

Discussion: Cherelyn Ellington, Community Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the annual report submission. She noted that the report was prepared in a format prescribed by First 5 California, for the purpose of preparing and issuing its own annual report to the State Legislature, and did not equate to an "Annual Report" for First 5 Solano. The Commission could expect to receive a more full and complete local annual report as part of the First 5 Solano FY2008/09 Evaluation Report, due to be issued in November.

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

VI. Community Stability Fund

1. Motion: Approve deployment of the Community Stability Fund of up to \$1,000,000.

2. Motion: Approve time frame for and proportions of funding for deployment of the \$1,000,000 Community Stability Fund determined over FY2009/10, FY2010/11 and/or FY2011/12.

3. Motion: Approve proportion of the \$1,000,000 Community Stability Fund to be deployed for current First 5-funded grants, non-First 5-funded programs, and/or reserved for increased need in FY2010/11 and FY2011/12.

4. Motion: Adopt non-supplantation guidelines for the evaluation of Community Stability Fund requests.

5. Motion: Approve weighted criteria for evaluating requests for Community Stability Funds.

6. Motion: Approve a process for determining recommendations for funding for Community Stability Funds.

Discussion: Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director for First 5 Solano, reviewed the staff report behind the motions related to the Community Stability Fund (CSF). She informed the Commission that no motions to deploy funding to specific purposes was intended for this meeting, but rather a general discussion to determine the Commission's process for deploying this funding. Ms. Arrostuto recommended bringing funding decisions, if any, to the December Commission meeting instead of the November retreat.

Commissioner Betz asked how grantees have changed their operations to be able to serve 40 percent more clients with the same amount of funding. Ms. Arrostuto explained that funding was raised last fiscal year, albeit not by 40 percent. Also, grantee underspending went down significantly.

Commissioner Fairchild commented that one of the strengths of First 5 Solano is the long term vision. She would like to be very thoughtful with any raises in funding to ensure that long term vision is still in place. She commented that she would prefer to look at the strategic plan before making any decisions on funding.

Commissioner Dean requested more information on the potential choices for programs to fund before deciding what percentage to give to First 5 Solano grantees vs. other programs. She asked for a possible "top ten list" of what other needs there are in the community.

Commissioner Betz suggested including a return on investment model in the draft criteria for the Community Stability Fund, as well as a requirement for using evidence-based practices. He would like to know the plan the applicant would have for changing the community using First 5 Solano funds.

Ms. Arrostuto suggested that a general solicitation for funding could be issued to determine community need, and that the level of funding available might be dwarfed by the responses. She expressed concern about raising community expectations unrealistically, since the CSF is a relatively small amount (spread over the next 30 months) compared to the level of need.

Commissioner Fairchild suggested supporting innovative ways that organizations can do things more efficiently in the future, since the funding crisis is far from over.

Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the financial tables in the staff report and the impact the extra million dollars of funding would have on the long term financial plan.

Commissioner Seifert agreed that it would be a good idea to reward agencies that are finding innovative ways to do business to accommodate the changing economy. She suggested looking at ways to change the historical ways of doing business and to look at how we can partner together with other agencies and work together to solve the most prevalent concerns in the current economy.

Ms. Arrostuto commented that the current First 5 Solano grantees all currently participate in successful collaboratives. Last fiscal year, the grantees leveraged twice the money they received from First 5 Solano.

Commissioner Betz would like to ask the grantees what they did differently in the last nine to twelve months and how they have improved their services. That information would be valuable to have at the retreat as part of the report on results.

Commissioner Alarcón commented that she felt it is difficult to commit to anything tonight because she is concerned about what will happen when the federal stimulus funds end and the community needs become even greater. If the Commission commits to a funding decision now, they might not be able to respond to needs that arise then.

Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the draft non-supplantation guidelines in the Commission packet and gave the Commission a brief background on the non-supplantation language in the Proposition 10 statute.

Commissioner Dean moved to approve motion VI.4 as amended: Adopt non-supplantation guidelines; removed "Draft" from the header; adopting option 3b; changing first sentence to remove from "to meet" to end of sentence ("Fund" would be end of sentence); for the evaluation of Community Stability Fund requests. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Seifert moved to defer action on items VI.1, VI.2, VI.3, VI.5 and VI.6 to the Commission Retreat in November. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Executive Director's Report

A. Motion: Approve additional allocation of unspent Cycle 1 School Readiness funds (as determined by subsequent reconciliation by First 5 California) in the amount of \$70,000 (from \$192,000 to \$262,000) for expansion of preschool slots in SR catchment areas as set forth in RFP 2009-01.

Commissioner Seifert moved to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Motion: Authorize the Program Committee to approve award of funds for RFP 2009-01 at a special meeting on October 29, 2009.

Discussion: Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the staff report behind this item. The one issue with the special Program Committee meeting being held is that Commissioner Seifert, who serves on the Committee, is not available that day for the meeting.

Commissioner Alarcón moved to approve this motion. The motion was approved as amended: Authorize the Program Committee to approve award of funds for RFP 2009-01 at a special meeting on October 29, 2009 and to have the Commission Chair appoint a Commissioner to fill Commissioner Seifert's position on the Committee for the special meeting of October 29,2009. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thigpen appointed Commissioner Ayala to serve at the Program Committee Special meeting on October 29.

Ms. Arrostuto informed the Commission that Chris Shipman, Health and Well-Being Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, was presented with a "Champions for Change" award from the Gold County Region of the Healthy Eating, Active Living Collaborative recently.

Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the remaining portions of her Executive Director's report.

VIII. Committee Meetings

A. Program Committee

Commissioner Fairchild informed the Commission that at the last meeting, the Committee heard about the Earn It! Keep It! Save It! campaign and the PEAK Initiative. A progress report on the EPSDT Initiative will be coming to the next Program Committee meeting.

B. Internal Systems Committee

1. Motion: Consider approval of a revision to the Committee Structure Document that identifies the Internal Systems Committee members typically as the Chair, Vice-Chair and Past-Chair, and adds responsibilities regarding oversight of the Community Engagement Budget and Discretionary Funds to the Community Engagement Committee.

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

The Commission discussed the proposed topics for the annual retreat.

C. Community Engagement Committee

Commissioner Betz informed the Commission that the First 5 California "Hands On Health Van" will be coming to the Rio Vista Bass Festival in October. This is only the second time the van has visited Solano County. Ms. Ellington worked with First 5 California to obtain the visit from the van. Also, the Partnership Health Plan is planning a "Healthy Fathers" event to address men's health disparities on February 10, 2010.

IX. Chair Appoints Nominating Committee for 2010 Officers

Commissioners Betz, Ayala and Fairchild were appointed to the nominating committee.

X. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Thigpen acknowledged Jeanette Panchula of Solano County H&SS, who was recently awarded the Nurses Week Community Service Excellence Award.

Commissioner Dean commented that she just returned from a trip to South Africa. Her daughter is in the VOENA choir, who went to the country to perform in a concert. The sense of community there was very inspiring.

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

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on December 1, 2009 at 5:30 PM, Multi-Purpose Room at 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533. Future agenda items include: Election of 2010 First 5 Solano Officers. Note: The annual First 5 Solano Commission Retreat will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 9:30am– 3:00pm at the Joe Nelson Community Center, 611 Village Dr., Suisun CA. Agenda Items include: Public Hearing: First 5 Solano 2007 Strategic Plan Review

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.


Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary

Approved: *December 1, 2009*