

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, April 6, 2010, 5:30 PM
Dixon Senior Center
201 S 5th Street, Dixon, CA

Attendance

Commissioners: Dan Ayala, Vice-Chair; Dee Alarcón, Stephan Betz, Sheryl Fairchild, Elaine Norinsky, Linda Seifert, Norma Thigpen.

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:36 PM by Vice-Chair Ayala.

I. Greetings, Introductions, Public Comment

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Doug Hayward, Interim Executive Director for Solano Coalition for Better Health, introduced himself to the Commission and commented that he is excited to be working with First 5 Solano.

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

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for April 6, 2010.

Commissioner Ayala asked to move item number V to item number VIII.

Commissioner Alarcón moved to approve the Agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approve Minutes of the March 2, 2010 Commission Meeting

Motion: Approve Minutes of the March 2, 2010 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Thigpen requested amendment to the first line under item VI.C.2 as follows: "Commissioners Betz and *Thigpen* recused themselves..."

Commissioner Betz requested amendment to Page 4, Paragraph 5 as follows: "...the report provided is the information he was looking for previously to be able to move forward with policy decisions regarding the CSF" to "...the information in the risk analysis was exactly what he needed, and commended staff."

Commissioner Betz moved to approve the Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Dixon Services Presentation

Rick Fuller, Vice-Mayor, City of Dixon welcomed the Commission to Dixon.

(Commissioner Seifert arrived at the meeting.)

Carole Paterson, Director, UC Cooperative Extension thanked the Commission for recognizing Hannah Crawford-Steward and Kaylee Lindgren for their hard work on their 4-H "Diaper Roundup"

project. They collected over 3,000 diapers for the Children's Network "Diaper Drive." Commissioner Ayala presented Ms. Crawford-Stewart with a certificate of appreciation from the Commission.

Cookie Powell, Executive Director of Dixon Family Services, spoke about the upcoming 15th annual Community Block Party that Dixon Family Services puts on. She commented that Dixon Family Services and the community of Dixon appreciate the ongoing support of First 5 Solano.

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

Motion: Conduct the required public hearing on, and consider acceptance of, the First 5 California Children and Families Commission's FY2008/09 Annual Report, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 130150.

Discussion: Chereilyn Ellington, Community Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, reviewed the process for the production of the First 5 CA FY2008/09 Annual Report.

Commissioner Betz asked about the audit findings on page three. It says "The audit had no negative findings". He asked if that meant there were no exceptions.

Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director for First 5 Solano, informed the Commission that staff would follow up on that question.

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

VI. Committee Meetings

A. Program Committee

Commissioner Seifert reported that there were no action items brought forward from the last Program Committee. They did have several presentations from grantees.

B. Internal Systems Committee

1. Motion: Consider approval of the utilization of up to \$62,500 in currently allocated Organizational Support Funds to award one-time grants (as approved) of up to \$2,500 for up to 25 First 5-funded organizations to purchase equipment and materials that sustain or expand organizational capacity. (Source of funding: Organizational Support fund).

Discussion: Commissioner Ayala reviewed the staff report for this motion.

Ms. Arrostuto explained that these grants have been very helpful to grantees in purchasing office items not included in their budgets.

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

C. Community Engagement Committee

Commissioner Betz reported that the Community Engagement Committee had not met since the last Commission meeting.

VII. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Arrostuto reviewed her Executive Director's report and the recent legislative updates.

Regarding First 5 staff activities, Ms. Arrostuto recognized Venis Jones Boyd, Family Support and Quality Child Care Programs Manager, for her work with the local Toastmasters group. Ms. Boyd

recently won first place in the "Table Tops" Impromptu Speech category. Chris Shipman, Health and Well-Being Programs Manager, commented on an event she recently attended ("Day at the California Museum" sponsored by the First Lady of California, Maria Shriver) in Sacramento. Chereyn Ellington, Community Programs Manager, commented on the "April Children's Month" resolutions that were presented at the Board of Supervisors that morning.

Commissioner Seifert commented that Ms. Ellington did a great job with the flow of the presentation of "April Children's Month" Resolutions at the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Arrostuto recognized Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary, for her selection as a "Big Sister" with the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program.

Commissioner Ayala recognized the hard work of staff at the joint Solano EDC breakfast on March 31.

Commissioner Betz complimented staff for their work in helping to get pediatricians in Solano County to use the "MCHAT" (an early mental health screening tool). Ms. Arrostuto commented that the credit for implementing the MCHAT should go to the Commission, in funding the Early Childhood Developmental Health Collaborative. Under the leadership of Debbi Davis and Ms. Shipman, this collaborative has been instrumental in implementing use of the MCHAT.

Commissioner Fairchild arrived at the meeting.

VIII. Community Stability Fund/Discretionary Fund

Item A: Receive a report on the Discretionary Fund and Community Stability Fund, and provide input on a draft Community Stability Fund Policy.

Discussion: Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the staff report for this item, as well as the Discretionary Fund (DF) Policy and the draft Community Stability Fund (CSF) Policy.

Commissioner Seifert commented that she felt one of the purposes of the CSF should be to support the existing First 5 Solano initiatives in following through to their completion. She stated that it is still the grantees' responsibility to maintain leveraged funds and the support they have provided in the past. She also felt that the CSF funds could be used to support the vision for First 5 Futures, to ensure First 5's sustainability as tobacco taxes decline. The DF could be used for one-time needs.

Commissioner Betz commented that he was interested in knowing how much money would be needed to support the quality child care and IFSI initiatives at the fully-funded level, and the current (year-to-date) levels of expenditures for these initiatives to date.

Commissioner Fairchild commented that she liked the idea of using the CSF to keep the current initiatives whole as a first priority. A second priority for the fund would be First 5 Futures. She felt the DF has been used appropriately in the past, and would not suggest any changes to the DF.

Commissioner Betz suggested putting out a call to the community for ideas on how to sustain the child care and IFSI initiatives.

Commissioner Seifert suggested doing small grants to fund community projects by teens and youth in the county. Commissioner Alarcón also commented favorably on this idea.

Commissioner Fairchild requested that the CSF be looked at in a two-year window, over the next two years of the funding cycle.

Item B: Receive a follow-up report detailing risk analyses for the Quality Child Care and Integrated Family Support Initiatives.

Discussion: Ms. Harris reviewed the staff report for this item.

Commissioner Betz asked what funding level would be needed to enable the quality child care initiative to meet the current needs in the community. Commissioner Fairchild explained that at the last Program Committee meeting, three options were presented for different levels of funding for this initiative. The Committee had some questions regarding the request, and asked for more information to be brought back to the next Program Committee meeting in May. It has not come to the full Commission yet.

The Commission discussed the source of funding for the previously-approved allocation of \$255,076 to Solano County Health and Social Services for the Integrated Family Support Initiative Child Welfare Services Social Worker and Public Health Nurse. The Commission directed staff to use CSF funds for this item.

Ms. Arrostuto commended Ms. Boyd and Michele Harris, Deputy Director for First 5 Solano, for all their hard work on the reports on the CSF and DF.

IX. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Alarcón commented that she attended the First 5 Solano School Readiness collaborative meeting on April 1st as a Commissioner Partner Visit. She explained that they reviewed upcoming curriculum for the school readiness sites and it was very well-done.


Commissioner Betz commented that he met with Child Start, Inc. and discussed some ideas for the funding of the program. He commented that he has been attending trainings for Reflective Practice and if there is a way to implement that practice, he would like to do that.

Commissioner Fairchild attended the First 5 Joint Water Cooler conference in Sacramento in March. She felt the needs of local Commissions were not addressed in the agenda. She hopes that next year there will be an independent First 5 conference. Commissioner Ayala also attended the conference, and agreed with Commissioner Fairchild that it should have been more focused on First 5.

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

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on June 1, 2010 at 5:30 PM, Multi-Purpose Room at 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533. Future agenda items include: State Budget Update.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.


Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary
Approved:

June 1, 2010