

# First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

## Minutes of Meeting – Saturday, August 20, 2011, 9:00 AM Solano County Office of Education 5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA

### Attendance

Commissioners: Dan Ayala, Chair; Linda Seifert, Vice-Chair; Stephan Betz, Dana Dean, Sheryl Fairchild, Debbie Gossell, Jay Speck, 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: 9:05 AM by Vice-Chair Seifert.

### I. Public Comment

Kim Thomas, Executive Director for Children's Network, presented the Commissioners with a community resource guide created by the Children's Network as part of the Integrated Family Support Initiative.

### II. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for August 20, 2011

***Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for August 20, 2011.***

***Commissioner Betz moved to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.***

### III. Strategic Planning

Christina Arrostuto Executive Director for First 5 Solano, welcomed the Commissioners, staff and public to the retreat and thanked them for coming out on a Saturday. She commented that in the past ten years, the Commission had increased the awareness of how important early childhood truly was, as well as promoted and funded collaboration and helped over 50,000 children and 75,000 parents. At the upcoming October Commission meeting, the First 5 Futures Implementation and Fund Development Plan would be presented, as well as a year-end report that would provide four year data trends on all the currently funded programs.

Dr. Lori Allio, 2011 Strategic Plan Update consultant, reviewed the Map of the Day's activities and the goal of the retreat, which was to revise the current strategic framework as needed. The draft Mission, Vision and Core Values statements would be revisited at the half day retreat in October, when the draft of the revised strategic plan would come to the Commission.

[Commissioner Dean arrived at the meeting.]

Commissioners, staff and public then participated in four rounds of small group discussions, with Commissioners rotating among each table (one for each Priority area and one for "System Change/Other Ideas") to discuss current or proposed new result areas under each Priority.

[Commissioner Ayala arrived at the meeting.]

There was a lunch break.

Dr. Allio facilitated the Commission's review and discussion of each of the four rounds of small

groups in the morning session. Note that in the course of the discussion, the Commission's consensus was that certain "overarching criteria" should be incorporated as guiding principles in the Strategic Plan Framework, in order to capture these important concepts for all the Priority Areas. These included:

- Leveraging funds
- Addressing disparities
- Business practices
- Access to services
- Transportation
- Targeting high-risk populations
- Service integration/coordination
- Cross-initiative coordination
- Advocacy

### **Priority One Discussion**

The Commission discussed ideas generated at the "Health and Well-Being" Priority table. Themes that had emerged from the morning discussion included leveraging funds, integration, coordination and collaboration, high risk populations, access to health care, health care reform, services for undocumented / documented and mental health.

The Commission reached consensus on possible wording changes for the Priority One area:

P1-G2-R3<sup>1</sup>: Parents, caregivers and communities provide and support healthy living for children through leveraged, coordinated delivery of services.

P1-G2-R4: Under health care "or other" reform, all children 0-5 have comprehensive health insurance

### **Priority Two Discussion**

The Commission discussed ideas generated at the "Early Childhood Learning and Development" Priority table. Themes that had emerged from the morning discussion included neighborhood-based services, parent instruction / involvement / education and participation, training providers and caregivers, preserving the service linkage, emotional health of children and reliable, consistent child care.

The Commission reached consensus on possible wording changes for the Priority2 area:

~~P2-G3-R8: Families have access to~~ Reliable childcare is consistently available to families.

P2-G4-R10: Parents and primary caregivers are educated on, prepared to, and engage in helping their children enter school ready to learn.

P2-G4-R11: Children have access to quality, affordable early learning experiences ~~throughout the~~ in their community (ages 3 Birth-5).

### **Priority Three Discussion**

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<sup>1</sup> P=Priority, G=Goal, R=Result

The Commission discussed ideas generated at the “Family Support and Parent Education” Priority table. The Commission reached consensus on possible wording changes for the Priority 3 area:

P3-G5-R12: Families know about and access necessary support systems and community services.

P3-G6-R14: Parents and primary caregivers are educated on and practice effective parenting strategies.

**Table Four Discussion**

The Commission discussed ideas generated at this table, including upstream investments, technology, evidence-based and effective programs, advocacy (reducing poverty and promoting Preschool for All), advocacy (public relations, legislation, forming partnerships), alternative funding streams (tax / local partners), capacity building / training and First 5 Futures (sustainability). The overarching theme was “advocacy.” The Commission reached consensus that this should be a fourth Priority Area and directed staff to bring forth proposed wording for Goals and Results.

**Prioritization of Strategic Plan Result Areas**

Dr. Allio led the Commissioners through a process of identifying their highest priorities for funding within their to-be-revised Strategic Plan Framework. Ms. Arrostuto advised Commissioners that available funding would be significantly decreased in any future funding cycle. She also noted that she would be bringing forth a proposal for “set-aside” funding for the fourth Priority area and they therefore did not need to rank this proposed Priority area.

Commissioners were given four “dots” and asked to rank their highest priorities by placing “dots” next to Result areas. The results were:

Priority	Result #	Result	# of Dots
Health and Well-Being	R1	Mothers have healthy pregnancies	4
	R2	Newborns are healthy	2
	R3	Parents, caregivers, & communities provide & support healthy living for children through leveraged coordinated delivery of services	0
	R4	Under health care “or other” reform all children 0-5 have comprehensive health insurance	0
	R5	Children access comprehensive health care services	3
	R6	Children and parents /primary caregivers access appropriate mental health services	4
Early Childhood Learning and Development	R7	Community members support children’s learning and development	0
	R8	Reliable childcare is consistently available to families	5
	R9	Childcare providers know and practice high-quality child care programming	2
	R10	Parents and primary caregivers are educated on, prepared to, and engage in helping their children enter school ready to learn	1
	R11	Children have access to quality, affordable early learning experiences in their community (Birth-5)	2

Family Support and Parent Education	R12	Families know about and access necessary support systems and community services	2
	R13	Children are raised in safe homes and communities	4
	R14	Parents and primary caregivers are educated on and practice effective parenting strategies	3
	R15	Parents and primary caregivers use community information and resources	0

Dr. Allio advised that at the upcoming October 4<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting, the discussion results from that day would be presented in draft form to consider and discuss.

India Alarcon, Consultant for LFA Group (First 5 Solano's evaluator), noted that LFA would present a report at the October 4<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting with data trends over the past four years for currently funded programs.


**IV. Closing Remarks**

Commissioners thanked Dr. Allio, staff and the public for their work and expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the day. Several members of the public thanked the Commission for the high level of public inclusion and engagement in the First 5 Solano Strategic Plan update process.

**V. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location**

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on October 4, 2011 at 5:00 PM at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: FY2010/11 Annual Report Submission to First 5 California; FY2011/11 Audit; Nominating Committee for 2012 Officers; Strategic Planning.

Commissioner Ayala adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

  
 Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary  
 Approved: *October 4, 2011*