

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 5:30PM

601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield, CA

Attendance

Commissioners: Linda Seifert, Dan Ayala, Jay Speck, Elise Crane, Marisela Barbosa, Stephan Betz

Staff/Public: Commission staff and 12 Members of the public.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM with a salute to the flag.

I. Public Comment

Christie Speck, Director of the Children's Programs at Solano Community College, thanked the Commission for strengthening the work that community is involved with for children 0-5 and their families. The Child Signature Program is a valuable program that has allowed staff to attend training, purchases for assets, children's curriculum, and additional tools for learning.

Becky Billing, President of Solano Napa Association for the education of young children, thanked the commission for the sponsorship of the annual Early Childhood Education conference on September 28 at Solano Community College. First 5 Solano funding allowed the planners to keep the registration costs to be affordable for parents, caregivers and other community members to participate in this valuable learning experience.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for December 3, 2013**
- B. Approve the minutes of the October 1, 2013 Commission Meeting**
- C. Approve the minutes of the October 19, 2013 Commission Retreat**

Moved: Commissioner Ayala

Vote: 6-0-0

III. Committee Reports

C. Systems and Policy Committee

Motion: A. Approve the 2013-2018 First 5 Solano Long Term Financial Plan

Discussion: Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director, reported that the First 5 Solano Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) was last updated in 2008. The plan has been updated for current language and evolving issues since 2008 that impact the LTFP. Ms. Arrostuto noted that the LTFP will assist the Commission in the plans for the future with the impacts illustrated in the model. The principles in the model have a long term approach to funding; the model supports Commission Program Investment Plans for its funding cycles, which in turn support the Commission's annual Budget. The LTFP helps the Commission to strategize about funding at the category level, without obligation to specific grantees or contracts.

Megan Richards, Deputy Director, reviewed the assumptions with the new LTFP model to include the interest rate, matching funds and the Prop 10 tax dollars. Ms. Richards reviewed

the reserves, declining revenue and the declining interest, as well as the matching funds not included after the funds are no longer secured. The current funding cycle is through FY2014/2015; the model demonstrates continued funding through FY2016/17 and partial/almost full funding in FY2017/18. Note, however that the Commission is free to change the funding levels as they move closer to the next funding cycle. Those decisions will be made over the next year.

Moved: Commissioner Betz

Vote: 6-0-0

IV. 2014 Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services

B. Motion: Approve an increased allocation of up to \$42,645 (from \$117,355 to \$160,000) for 2014 Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services (Source of funds: Discretionary Fund)

Discussion: Chereilyn Ellington Hunt, Community Programs & Early Childhood Education Manager, reported on the success of the 2013 Pre-Kindergarten Academies, which were held countywide in every city. Thanks in part to the successful launch of the "Pre-K Business Champions" campaign (which allowed for an additional 65 slots), the number of children served more than doubled than the previous year academies.

Moved: Commissioner Crane

Vote: 6-0-0

C. Approve the Request for Applications #2014-01 for 2014 Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services

Ms. Ellington Hunt reported that 2014 will be the third year that expanded Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services have been offered in Solano County. The request for application has slightly changed by improving the forms and templates for ease of completion by the interested applicants.

Staff brought forward a motion to the Commission to deploy an additional \$42,645 for 2014 Pre-Kindergarten Academy services. These additional funds would bring the total funding for 2014 Pre-K Academies to \$160,000, allowing First 5 Solano to solicit for the same number of children served as in 2013.

Moved: Commissioner Betz

Vote: 6-0-0

V. 2012-2015 Funding Cycle: Grantee Presentation

Venis Jones Boyd, Family Support Programs Manager, introduced Debbie Peralez, Executive Director of Child Start, Inc., who presented the Commission with an overview of Head Start "wrap-around care", offered with First 5 Solano funding. The second presenter, Sheila Smith, (CARES Plus Manager for grantee the Children's Network), gave an overview of the CARES Plus program and the benefits that the providers have received over the last few years. Beth Coffman, First 5 Solano's contracted Early Learning Systems Specialist, gave an overview of the first 18 months the Child Signature Program, offered throughout Solano County through a partnership between First 5 Solano and First 5 California.

VI. Election of 2014 First 5 Solano Commission Officers

A. Consider election Jay Speck as 2014 Chair and Aaron Crutison as 2014 Vice-Chair, as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Commissioner Ayala led the discussion, reporting that Commissioners Dean and Ayala, who served as the Nominating Committee, nominated Commissioner Speck for the Chair and Commissioner Crutison for Vice-Chair.

Moved: Commissioner Ayala
Vote: 6-0-0

VII. Executive Director's Report

A. Approve submission of an application to join Housing First Solano as a General Member, and delegate HFS representation to the Executive Director.

Commissioner Ayala wished everyone a happy holiday season and hope for a prosperous new year.

Commissioner Barbosa thanked the presenters for their presentations.

Commissioner Betz thanked Commissioner Seifert for her leadership as Chair, allowing the Commission to get a lot done through the last year.

Commissioner Speck appreciated being elected as the Chair of the Commission and said he was excited about what the coming year has in store for the Commission.

Commissioner Crane thanked staff for all of their work and the dedication staff has for the Commission.

Commissioner Seifert thanked the Commissioners, Staff and community partners and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Moved: Commissioner Crane
Vote: 6-0-0

VIII. Commissioner Remarks

Meeting adjourned: 7:11PM

Approved: 