

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 5:30 PM Solano County Health and Social Services Center 2101 Courage Drive, Multi-Purpose Room, Fairfield, CA

Attendance

Commissioners: Norma Thigpen, Chair; Dee Alarcón; Dan Ayala; Stephan Betz; Sheryl Fairchild; Dr. Elaine Norinsky; Dr. Sharon Tucker.

Staff/Public: Commission staff and approximately 17 members of the public were present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:39 PM by Chairperson Thigpen.

I. Greetings, Introductions, Public Comment

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves. There was no public comment.

II. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for March 3, 2009

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for March 3, 2009

Discussion: Staff requested that on agenda item IV, the date at the end of the motion should be changed to June 30, 2010.

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

III. Approve Minutes of the February 3, 2009 Commission Meeting

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2009

Discussion: Minutes for February 3, 2009 were amended to show that Commissioner Betz moved to approve item II.B.

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

IV. Executive Director's Report

Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director of First 5 Solano, informed the Commission that the 2009 First 5 California annual conference has been canceled.

Motion: Consider approval of a deployment of up to \$50,000 to Solano County Office of Education to extend the Preschool for All Plan Implementation agreement for the period July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 (Source of funding: First 5 Solano FY2007-2012 Program Investment Plan, Quality Child Care Initiative)

Discussion: Commissioner Alarcón recused herself from the discussion and vote on this item due to a possible conflict of interest. She left the room.

Commissioner Betz commented that he will support this motion because it makes sense to align this contract with the funding cycle for the rest of the contracts.

Christie Speck of Solano Community College thanked the Commission for supporting this initiative. This funding helps agencies in the county to build a strong preschool program.

June Regis, a family child care provider in Solano County, thanked the Commission for supporting child care providers in the county by supporting the continuation of the Preschool for All Advisory Group.

Dr. Jackie Jackson of the Local Child Care Planning Council informed the Commission that there are over 4,000 children in the county waiting to be placed in child care. She believes this funding will help improve the preschool program in the county and place those children in care.

Commissioner Fairchild noted that the PFA scope of work should be refocused on the current, more urgent issues of preschool need, and bring the key partners together to support the local planning council and the current needs in the community.

Commissioner Betz moved to approve this motion. The motion passed with five ayes and one abstention.

Commissioner Alarcón returned to the meeting.

Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the portion of her Executive Director's report pertaining to the current legislation that proposes to defund First 5 Commissions across the state and the impact it would have on First 5 Solano. She informed the Commission that no public dollars can be spent by Commissioners or staff in advocating for or against a ballot initiative. This includes time and materials.

(Commissioner Tucker arrived at the meeting.)

Commissioner Fairchild asked if the Commission will be able to revisit and amend the FY2009/10 budget if Proposition 1D passes. Michele Harris, Deputy Director for First 5 Solano, informed the Commission that the FY2009/10 budget can be reopened if needed. Any unspent dollars in the FY2009/10 budget will roll back into the general reserve. No reserve dollars would need to be used for the FY2009/10 budget, regardless of the result of the election on May 19. She also commented that the vast majority of First 5 yearly funding is in contract. All of the contracts carry a 30 day cancellation clause.

Ms. Arrostuto informed the Commission that there are currently no plans by any agencies to take or redirect the county level reserve or contingency funds.

The Commission discussed different scenarios regarding funding levels and decisions regarding whether to save or spend contingent on the failure or passage of Proposition 1D.

V. FY2009/10 Budget

Motion: Consider approval of the First 5 Solano FY2009/10 Proposed Budget.

Discussion: Ms. Harris reviewed the PowerPoint presentation regarding the FY2009/10 proposed budget. Commissioner Tucker asked Ms. Harris to clarify the 564% increase in line item 3008 (discretionary fund). Ms. Harris explained that the fund had been lowered previously, then restored to the full \$250,000 level based on the need in the community for expanded program investment and to fill critical service gaps.

The Commission reviewed the budget and discussed the increases and decreases in multiple line items and the reasoning behind them. Commissioner Tucker commented that the decision to hire

interns instead of AmeriCorps members should be a policy level decision. The Commission requested that this item be brought through the Internal Systems Committee for further discussion.

Commissioner Tucker asked for clarification on the cost of the audit. Ms. Harris informed the Commission that she has done research on what other First 5 Commissions with similar budgets pay for their audits and this is a reasonable price. She will bring this research and information to the next Internal Systems Committee meeting at Commissioner Tucker's request.

Commissioner Betz commented that the line items should be looked at in regards to which ones are obligated if Proposition 1D passes. He wants to ensure that First 5 Solano stays the course they are currently on, but stays flexible to make any needed changes after the election.

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

VI. Committee Meetings

A. Program Committee

There were no action items for the Program Committee.

B. Internal Systems Committee

Motion: Consider approval of revisions to the Commissioner Job Description as outlined in the staff report to remove or update outdated language and align with existing laws and policies.

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

C. Community Engagement Committee

There were no action items for the Community Engagement Committee. Commissioner Betz informed the Commission that the Committee would like to purchase fans that are shown to reduce the risk of SIDS when placed in a baby's room. The funds would come from the remaining discretionary funds for FY2008/09. This item will come to the full Commission in April.

Commissioner Ayala informed the Commission that the Community Engagement Committee meetings have been moved from the fourth Friday of the month to the second Friday of the month.

VII. Public Hearing: First 5 California FY2007/08 Annual Report

Motion: Conduct the required public hearing on, and consider acceptance of, the First 5 California Children and Families Commission's FY2007/08 Annual Report, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 130150.

Discussion: Chereilyn Ellington, Community Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, reviewed the staff report behind this motion.

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

VIII. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Alarcón commended Ms. Harris on the budget she prepared and her ready responses to all the questions.

Commissioner Fairchild expressed appreciation to the staff for keeping the Commission up to date and informed on all the legislative happenings.

Commissioner Norinsky seconded Commissioner Fairchild and commented on the excellent First 5 Solano staff.

Commissioner Betz thanked Ms. Arrostuto for the concise email updates and the work she puts into making sure the Commission is up to date.

Commissioner Thigpen commented that she agrees with all that has been said and expressed her appreciation for Ms. Arrostuto and the First 5 Solano staff. Commissioner Thigpen also attended the More Excellent Way Community Baby Shower, which is co-sponsored by First 5 Solano. There were about 40-50 women that attended the shower, along with some First 5 Solano grantees that passed out information at booths.

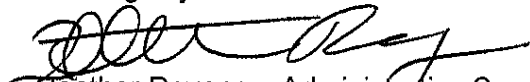
Ms. Arrostuto informed the Commission that April is Children's Month, and First 5 Solano is working with a large group of partners to celebrate Children's Month. A fund is available for community members to apply for funds to have small community events for Children's Month. More information is available on the First 5 Solano website.

The Commission requested the line items in the budget be brought through Internal Systems Committee in time to bring that discussion to the full Commission in June.

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

The next First 5 Solano Commission meeting will be on April 7, 2009 at 5:30 PM at Ulatis Community Center, 1000 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.


Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary
Approved: April 7, 2009