

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, March 4, 2008, 5:30 PM Solano County Health and Social Services Center 2101 Courage Dr., Multi-Purpose Room, Fairfield, CA

Attendance

Commissioners: Norma Thigpen, Vice-Chair; Dan Ayala; Stephan Betz; Sheryl Fairchild; Debbie Gossell; Barbara Kondylis and Dr. Elaine Norinsky.

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:33 PM by Vice-Chair Thigpen.

I. Executive Session

The Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 5:35 PM. The meeting was reconvened by Vice-Chair Thigpen at 5:45 PM.

II. Greetings, Introductions, Public Comment

Commissioners, staff and members of the public introduced themselves.

Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director for First 5 Solano, introduced Charlene Ping, the new Deputy County Administrator for Solano County Health & Social Services and First 5 Solano.

Lynn Guest, School Readiness Coordinator for First 5 Solano, introduced Gordon Battles III, Patsy Ott and Irene Khangab, three of First 5 Solano's new AmeriCorps members, to the Commission.

III. Consent Items

A. Item III.A was moved to agenda item IV.

B. ***Commissioner Kondylis moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2008 Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.***

IV. Rescheduled Consent Items

Commissioner Kondylis moved to approve the agenda for the March 4, 2008 Commission meeting with the following amendments: 1. Move item VII.A.1 to be heard before item V; 2. Change word "Accept" in item VI to "Receive". The motion passed unanimously.

V. Program Committee (CARES Motion)

A. ***Commissioner Betz moved to approve extending the CARES (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) program through FY2008/09 by increasing the award of funds by up to \$20,000 in order to secure CARES matching funds from First 5 California. Source of funds: FY2008/09 Discretionary funds. The motion passed unanimously.***

VI. FY2008/09 Proposed Budget

Commissioner Kondylis moved to approve the First 5 Solano FY2008/09 Proposed Budget.

Discussion: Michele Harris, Deputy Director for First 5 Solano, reviewed the FY2008/09 Proposed Budget and the supplementary PowerPoint presentation with the Commission.

Ms. Arrostuto informed the Commission that Prop 10 revenues have not been declining as fast as previously thought and the fund balance has been receiving more interest than originally projected. These items will result in a recalibration of the First 5 Solano Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP). The Commission discussed different aspects of the recalibration of the LTFP. A timeline of the components involved in adjusting the LTFP will be brought to the Internal Systems Committee. The major decision points will be brought to the Commission retreat in October.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Evaluation Report

Ms. Arrostuto thanked all the First 5 Solano grantees, LFA group and Michael Kogus at Persimmony for their diligent efforts in documenting the value and return on First 5 Solano investments.

Steven LaFrance of LFA Group, Project Director for the county-wide evaluation of First 5 Solano, reviewed the First 5 Solano FY2006/07 Evaluation Report and supplementary PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioner Kondylis asked if information on domestic violence is gathered on the ATOD screening tool used by BabyFirst Solano. Jayleen Richards, Health Services Manager for BabyFirst, informed the Commission that this information is currently being collected, but is not being reported to First 5 Solano. Also, the Evaluation report being presented is for FY2006/07, when this data was not yet being collected. Commissioner Kondylis requested this information be reported to the Commission.

Commissioner Kondylis asked staff to bring back the amount of money saved each year by the investment of First 5 Solano dollars in preventing the 120 children from being removed from their families and put into foster care. She requested that figure before June 2008. Commissioner Betz asked if it would be possible to quantify the prevention.

VIII. Committee Meetings

A. Program Committee

1. Original Motion:

Approve the deployment of up to \$24,200 in currently allocated Organizational Support funds to award one-time grants (as approved) of up to \$2,200 for 11 First 5-funded non-profit organizations for equipment and materials that sustain or expand organizational capacity. Source of funds: \$24,000 Organizational Support funds; \$200 Executive Director's fund. The motion passed unanimously with the following amendments: 1. Include all First 5 Solano funded grantees; 2. Amount changed to up to \$2000 per grantee. Source of funds for additional \$12,000: Executive Director's Special Projects Budget.

Discussion: The staff report documented the original proposal to the Program Committee and the discussion that resulted in the Committee's recommendation to move the Organizational Support project forward but to exclude First 5-funded public agencies from this opportunity. Commissioners determined that it was in the interest of the Commission to offer this opportunity to each First 5-funded agency as outlined in the list attached to the proposal, whether non-profit or public agency. The motion was amended accordingly.

Amended Motion:

Commissioner Kondylis moved to approve the deployment of up to \$36,000 to award one-time grants (as approved) of up to \$2,000 for 18 First 5-funded non-profit organizations for equipment and materials that sustain or expand organizational capacity. Source of funds: \$24,000 Organizational Support funds; \$12,000

The amended motion passed unanimously.

B. Internal Systems Committee

1. ***Commissioner Betz moved to approve endorsement of the Draft Bay Area First 5 Policy Framework. The motion passed unanimously.***

C. Community Engagement Committee

Commissioner Betz asked the Commissioners to review the 2008 Commissioner's Partner Site Visit Calendar in the Commission packet and contact Norma Lisenko, Community Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, to sign up for any site visits they are available for.

IX. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Ayala informed the Commission that Dixon is having a block party from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on April 26, 2008. The event is free.

X. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Arrostituto reviewed the highlights of the Executive Director's report, including the deployment of funds from the Executive Director's Special Projects Budget for a pre-kindergarten academy and visits from the dental van in the River Delta school district in Rio Vista, First 5 Solano's unprecedented third straight win of the 100 Best Communities award, the upcoming Results Fair on April 24, 2008, the Elsa Widenmann Healthy Start event in January and the Positive Parenting Workshop that was held on February 9..

On February 2, 2008, Ms. Arrostituto, Ms. Lisenko and Patsy Ott, one of First 5 Solano's AmeriCorps members, staffed a booth at the Feelin' Great in 2008 event at Westfield Mall in Fairfield. Over 100 Kits for New Parents were distributed, including 40 Spanish kits. Growth charts, annual report calendars and BabyFirst Solano and Library information were also distributed.

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

Note: The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on **April 1, 2008 at 5:30 PM, at the D.H. White Multi-Purpose Room at 500 Elm Street, Rio Vista.** Future agenda items include: First 5 California Annual Report for FY2006/07.

XII. Adjourn in Memory of Al Fleming, Executive Director, Fighting Back Partnership

Commissioner Thigpen spoke briefly on Mr. Fleming's dedication to helping others and asked for a moment of silence to honor his memory. The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM in memory of Mr. Fleming.

Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary
Approved: