



January 28, 2008  
Commission Meeting Minutes

**Commission Members Present in Ukiah:**

David Colfax                      Diane Pauli  
Alison Glassey                  Tammy Scott

**Commission Members Present in Fort Bragg:**

Lucresha Rentería

**Staff Present in Ukiah:**

Anne Molgaard, Executive Director	Pam Ivey, Executive Secretary
Nina de Cordova—Program Officer	Sabra Lugthart, Program Manager— Communications
Nicole Bransford-Smith—VISTA, Nutrition and Fitness Advocate	Natalie Swiencki—VISTA, Community Outreach Coordinator

**Staff Present in Fort Bragg:** Lisa Westfall-Davis

**Public Present in Ukiah:** Jill Carey                      Briana McGonagle  
Linda Nagel    Megan van Sant

**Item 1      Welcome and Introductions by Commission Co-Chair, David Colfax**

**Item 2      Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items**

**Item 3      Consent Calendar**

- A. Approve Agenda
- B. Approve Draft Minutes of 12/05/07 Commission meeting
- C. Approve Cost of Living Adjustment to Salary Scale

Motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar, Motion/Pauli, Second/Scott (Colfax, yes; Glassey, yes; Pauli, yes; Scott, yes; Rentería, yes). Passed.

**Maximize Operational Effectiveness (Items 4 – 7)**

**ITEM 4      *CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER:* Swearing-In Ceremony for AmeriCorps Members**

**ITEM 5      Director's Report**

- A. VISTA/AmeriCorps. As of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008, seven AmeriCorps slots have been filled -- with one AmeriCorps member at the Mendocino County Youth Project in

Point Arena, another with the Young Parent Program at Ukiah High School, a third member at the Anderson Valley Family Resource Center; and four members with the School Readiness Program (in Hopland, Nokomis, Brookside and Round Valley).

Executive Director Anne Molgaard reported that cash brought into the county through VISTA members' paychecks is \$60,000.00, in federal funds. The value of this service if FIRST 5 Mendocino were to pay VISTA members would be about \$250,000.00.

Director Molgaard introduced two VISTA members who have joined our ranks on January 25th: Natalie Swiencki, who is supervised by our staff member, Sabra Lugthart, in Communications; and Briana McGonagle, part of our Nutrition and Fitness collaborative with the U.C. Cooperative Extension and supervised by Julie Featherson.

- B. Financial Updates. FIRST 5 Mendocino met the deadline for internally completing and sending out 1099 Forms, as the County Fiscal System does not generate those for us.

Per the Commission's approval at the December 5, 2007 Commission meeting, payroll services have been changed and employees received direct payroll deposits in January for the first time.

First 5 is still here because the Senate Bill by State Senator Cox to take the First 5 money and put it towards the Children's Health Initiative failed. He had done this last year as well, but we did get warned this year by some of our friends on the State Commission. The message is that First 5 California needs to do a better job of showing outcomes. Since that time, First 5 California has sent numerous requests for information to local commissions.

Although, FIRST 5 Mendocino has nearly \$3 million on its books, most of the \$3,000,000 is spoken for to fund decisions the Commission has already made for the next three years. Executive Director Anne Molgaard advised the Commission to be aware that due, in part, to the State budget's approximate \$14 billion deficit, and while First 5 funds are not part of California's general fund, there is going to be an element of pressure and our reserve monies may be viewed with suspicion. In the children's health bill that is going through, one of the ideas would be to cut all First 5's who are spending money on health and take that off the top.

- C. Evaluation Services. Executive Director Anne Molgaard confirmed that FIRST 5 Mendocino released the RFQ for Evaluation approved at the December 5, 2007 Commission meeting, with responses due February 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners Colfax and Glassey confirmed their interest in continuing their roles in this and shall remain on the subcommittee for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations on the proposals submitted.
- D. Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI). Executive Director Anne Molgaard announced PDI's opening. Commissioner Pauli asked about patient prioritization; Anne Molgaard responded that a medical protocol was implemented by its Board of Directors, with pain and permanent damage taking preference over patients'

geography within Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma counties. Presently, there are 200 children on the waiting list and PDI is booking appointments six weeks out.

- E. Safe Play Areas: Staff is continuing its investigation on safe play areas to present background research to the Commission and to determine the best way to leverage \$75,000 to get more safe play areas throughout the County.
- F. Play Today: From our research regarding the possibility of purchasing Play Today, Executive Director Anne Molgaard concluded it is not a viable option for FIRST 5 Mendocino as it would require approximately 60 kids per day paying at least \$5 per hour to support this facility's rent and expenses.
- G. Healthy Kids Mendocino Executive Committee Members Anne Molgaard and Cathy Frey recently met again with the new Director of Health and Human Services, Carmel Angelo, for the purpose of making sure that she understood that Healthy Kids Mendocino is a tripartite entity that is housed at Public Health, with staff paid from the Social Services budget. FIRST 5 is paying for a lot of the admin and premiums for 0-5. Also, that for the last couple of years, Healthy Kids Mendocino has received \$90,000 per year from the County Board of Supervisors, in addition to the help from Social Services and Public Health.  
  
Carmel Angelo requested another meeting concerning child abuse issues because she was very concerned at the child abuse figures. Director Molgaard met with her along with Camille Schraeder, Chair of the Children's Action Committee. Staff explained from a FIRST 5 perspective that we consider Raise and Shine funding, Family Resource Center funding and the VISTA that we want to place in the Children's Action Committee funding, all as part of strategies to help prevent child abuse.
- H. FIRST 5 Mendocino is currently interviewing for a bilingual Office Assistant to replace the position vacated in December by a VISTA AmeriCorps member.

## **ITEM 6      Communications Report**

Sabra Lugthart, Communications Program Manager, reported that the holidays are a busy time for Communications and Outreach efforts. The Journal of Pediatrics reports that the average 4-year old consumes about 64.5 pounds of added sugar a year, so that figure was used to focus our efforts on the Small Town Christmas event in Ukiah. Volunteers prepared healthy foods and desserts from the Deceptively Delicious cookbook by Jessica Seinfeld and offered food samples to families and told them what the healthy, unsuspecting ingredients were – such as beets, spinach, and more. We also displayed a sugar tower to visually show parents and children what 65 pounds of sugar actually looks like. During the holiday season, we also submit half-page ads in newspapers county wide (Ukiah Daily Journal, Willits News and the Fort Bragg Advocate) with great gift-giving suggestions, and this complements some of our School Readiness and Physical Activity efforts.

Sabra gave an overview of our newly redesigned Annual Report 2006-07 with Nina de Cordova, the chief artist.

Senate Bill-7 (SB-7) went into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, which makes it illegal for an adult to smoke in a car with a minor child under age 18, FIRST 5 Mendocino sent out a series of public service announcements county wide, and we are also working with Sheriff Allman to see if we can collaborate in other ways to spread the word.

**Item 7 Fiscal Report**

After review and discussion, a motion was made to approve the final Fiscal Report for October and November, 2007. Motion/ Glassey, Second/Pauli (Colfax, yes; Glassey, yes; Pauli, yes; Scott, yes; Rentería, yes)

**HEALTHY CHILDREN (Items 8-9)**

**Item 8 Healthy Kids Mendocino (HKM)**

Megan van Sant, Healthy Kids Mendocino Program Director showed a video presentation about Children's Health Insurance. The video was by California Child's Health, a statewide coalition of counties doing similar work as HKM, and featured some Mendocino County recipients.

Megan shared a success story about HKM about a now five-year-old child in Fort Bragg who, at two years old, became extremely anemic and sickly. Her family had no health coverage and her mother needed to quit her job to care for her daughter. HKM immediately arranged an appointment in San Francisco and under a specialist's care got a diagnosis, treatment and medications. Her health improved dramatically and the child is now five years old, is healthy again and in kindergarten.

Megan also reported that since HKM's formal launch in May, 2006, HKM has supported the enrollment or retention of health coverage for over 1,800 children and that in the last year there has been a 13 percent increase in Healthy Families enrollment.

One of the Outreach programs supported by FIRST 5 Mendocino is a school-by-school Outreach program, which has been phenomenally successful. In the last two weeks, 92 referrals for families were generated in the Anderson Valley School District who needed help with health insurance. This will result in two big enrollment events in Anderson Valley.

Megan anticipates that in the next couple of months the enrollment cap for Cal Kids will be reached, which may result in having to start doing at least a temporary waiting list since future funding, particularly with the county, is uncertain.

Commissioner Pauli asked Megan what the cost per child is for Cal Kids. Megan replied \$700 a year, part of which is subsidized by a grant from the State. But with regional fundraising and spreading out what comes from the county and the state, it is more like \$30 per child per month, which local communities could or should be contributing to.

## **ITEM 9 Community Gardens**

FIRST 5 Mendocino circulated an Invitation-To-Negotiate (ITN), producing just one response from Community Action Program of North Coast Opportunities (NCO). A subcommittee which included Commissioners Scott and Tichinin, Anne Molgaard and Nicole Bransford-Smith, Nutrition Coordinator reviewed and rated the Community Gardens' proposal. To negotiate with the Community Gardens project at NCO, in the two-year amount of \$75,000.00 to provide county-wide support services for community gardens with the stipulation the programs include parents and children aged 0 to 5.

Commissioner Pauli asked how much of the work would be done by paid administrative professionals and how much done by volunteers and community support. Anne Molgaard responded that a garden that did not have some sort of volunteer infrastructure would not be considered, and it is anticipated the garden would attract parents and their children and also become self-sustaining by selling its produce to generate income for purchasing garden tools and materials.

Motion was made to approve the subcommittee's recommendation, which directs staff to negotiate and contract with NCO. Motion/Scott, Second/Glassey (Colfax, yes; Glassey, yes; Pauli, yes; Scott, yes; Rentería, yes). Passed.

## **Item 10 Knowledgeable, Nurturing Parents – Raise & Shine**

Nina deCordova, Program Officer, reported on recent successes with Raise & Shine, including:

- An increase in phone calls by a factor of six to the Raise & Shine referral line in the two months following the marketing launch on October 1st.
- Three successful evening presentations on child behavior at Ukiah Valley Primary Care. Between 11 and 19 parents turned out for each presentation, despite cold, rainy weather. The presentations were top-notch, as indicated by parent evaluations.
- The class at Mendocino College, now running for the fifth time, was oversubscribed. The teachers (from Tapestry Family Services) let in a few extra people for a total enrollment of 27.

Nina reported on progress in getting a web-based data entry system up and running. She then updated the Commission on federal Title IV-E funds, totaling \$375,000, which will soon be used to train 160 more Triple P providers countywide. Commissioner Elliott and Redwood Children's Services Director Camille Schraeder are responsible for bringing these funds to our community.

Nina also updated the Commission on Proposition 63 Prevention and Early Intervention funds, which have not yet been allocated. Commissioner Pauli asked which organizations are competing for these funds, and who are the decision makers. Nina said that quite a

few organizations will be competing for the funds, and that the decision makers will be Health and Human Services Agency leadership and the Board of Supervisors.

Finally, Nina reported that Anne Molgaard gave a dynamic presentation on Raise & Shine to 22 county FIRST 5's, as well as their local human service agency partners. Nina is now being asked to give presentations about Raise & Shine to FIRST 5 Commissions and their partners around the state, as well as to the California Mental Health Director's Association. Nina and Anne are judiciously accepting a limited number of invitations.

- Item 11 High Quality Child Care and Children Ready to Learn—CARES 2007 Report**  
Executive Director Anne Molgaard reported that this CARES Report is from June 2007, at the end of CARES' seventh year of distributing stipends. Repeatedly, research says that kids are happier and do better in child care, dependent upon the level of education of the provider and the level of pay for the provider, so CARES reward Child Care Providers to improve their education.

CARES funded 123 providers in the amount of \$156,445.

The State First 5 definitely is continuing the CARES Program through 2009. Sometime this year, the State First 5 will be conducting an analysis of their current programs to determine their "Legacy Programs."

2008 CARES packets, complete with applications, were made available during this Commission meeting.

- Item 12 Knowledgeable, Nurturing Community – Family Resource Centers**  
Before this Commission meeting got underway, and before Item 1 (Welcome and Introductions), Director Anne Molgaard showed a video presentation, on the Agenda as Item 12, titled, "Hilos de la Vida/Threads of Life" from the Anderson Valley Family Resource Center (25 minutes).

**Item 13 Commissioner Reports**

**Commissioner Rentería** started the Clinic Leadership Institute this month, an 18-month program to help educate leaders starting in March, with pre-seminar work.

**Item 14 Upcoming Meetings/Reports**

Executive Director Anne Molgaard is going to ask Commissioner Elliott to move her Children's System of Care meetings, which are normally the exact same time as the Commission meetings.

The State Conference in Orange County is confirmed for May 21-23 and Commissioners were requested to let the FIRST 5 Mendocino office know if they wish to attend.

Ideas were shared on possible locations for FIRST 5 Mendocino's offsite Planning Meeting.

Next Executive Committee meeting will be held Thursday, March 13 at 12:00 Noon in Conference Room A at the County Executive Offices, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah.

Next Commission meeting will be held for Monday, February 25 at 1:00 PM at MCOE, East Room in the Cedar Building, Ukiah; and at the John Diederich Center, 208 Dana Street in Fort Bragg.