



**December 8, 2008
Commission Meeting Minutes**

Commission Members Present in Ukiah:

Jeremy Mann	Alison Glassey (arrived @ 1:40)	Jim Levine
Mary Elliott	Paul Tichinin (arrived @ 2:40)	Diane Pauli
Tammy Scott		

Commission Members Present in Fort Bragg: Lucresha Rentería

Staff Present in Ukiah:

Anne Molgaard Candace Pomilia Erica Neyland

Staff Present in Fort Bragg: None

Public Present in Ukiah: Jill Carey, Suzy McConnell, Miles Gordon, Sharlene Schoonover, Nina Marino

ITEM 1 Welcome and Introductions by Commission Chair, Jeremy Mann

ITEM 2 Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items: None

ITEM 3 Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve Draft Minutes of October 27, 2008 Commission meeting

Motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar with revisions made: Motion/Scott, Second/Elliott (Scott, yes; Mann, yes; Pauli, yes; Levine, yes; Elliott, yes; Rentería, yes).
Passed.

Commissioner Glassey arrived to the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

ITEM 4 Recognition of AmeriCorps Members

Suzy McConnell thanked five AmeriCorps members for their year of service. Each member provided a brief summary of what they had accomplished during their term. Suzy presented each member with a gift bag, a certificate, and a plaque of recognition. The five members recognized were Iris Hoaglan, Jane Covella, Ana Maldonado, Vidiana Perez, and Iliana Mora.

Healthy Children

Item 7 Community Garden Project

Miles Gordon thanked the Commission for funding the Community Garden Project through its first year. The Community Garden Project has partnered with 17 countywide programs and raised over \$85,000 from grants and in-kind donations. Along the way the project has created many connections and networks with local businesses such as Rainbow Ag, Chevalier Vineyards, and the Farmers Markets. Chevalier Vineyards donated 100 yards of compost to four community gardens to get them started. The goal is to establish a continuing cycle to keep these projects helping each other.

At this time there are a total of 12 gardens in the county. The newer community gardens are located at Talmage State Preschool, Willits Head Start, Nokomis Head Start, and Fort Bragg Head Start.

The gardens help families and children form a network that creates access to healthier food for the 0-5 population. Gardens are used for harvest and exploration, not as production gardens. Families that work in the gardens are given \$20.00 vouchers to use at the local farmers markets. Children learn healthy eating habits while they are still developing them. The main goals of the Community Garden Project are to 1) put healthier food into the classroom 2) allow children and their families to take portions of food home and 3) to teach families how to sell their food and put the money earned back into the program.

Next steps for the Community Garden Project include: organizational sustainability, leveraging more funding, sponsorships and memberships, expanding the garden network, and expanding and formalizing structures. They also plan to develop new community gardens and create more partnerships to leverage needed funds and materials.

More information about the Community Gardens Project can be found at www.gardensproject.org.

Action: To approve/disapprove the second installment of the Community Garden Grant in the amount of \$30,000 pending finalization of contract terms.

Motion was made to approve: Motion/Levine, Second/Scott (Scott, yes; Mann, yes; Pauli, yes; Levine, yes; Elliott, yes; Rentería; yes, Glassey; yes). Passed.

Commissioner Tichinin arrived to the meeting at 2:40 pm.

Maximize Operational Effectiveness (ITEMS 5-6)

ITEM 5 Director's Report

Executive Director Anne Molgaard presented highlights of recent activities:

1. Director Molgaard reported that MRMIB—Healthy Families has run out of funding and plans to institute a waitlist. Healthy Kids Mendocino (HKM) is looking in to how this will affect our program and ability to provide health insurance for all children in Mendocino County. HKM may also have to start a waiting list to get children insured starting in January of 2009.
2. FIRST 5 Mendocino provided a SPARK training for 30 new Child Care Providers and 91 returning Child Care Providers. Participants were able to receive ½ unit of college credit through Mendocino College if desired. Participants who were not paid to attend the training by their employers were given a \$25 gas voucher. Each returning site received a super crawl tunnel. Eight new sites were in attendance and each was provided with equipment.
3. Director Molgaard reported that the Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI) has opened its second operatory to serve children in need of sedated dental care. PDI has now served its 753rd patient, 199 of the patients have been from Mendocino County. PDI will have its Founders Circle Celebration on May 13th, 2009. Molgaard extends her invite to the Commissioners.
4. FIRST 5 Mendocino has two new VISTA's arriving in December, 2008. Erica Neyland has taken the Community Outreach Coordinator position and Ashley Hileman will be the Nutrition and Fitness Advocate. FIRST 5 is still recruiting for 2009 VISTA's.
5. FIRST 5 has spoken with Intertribal Council of California, the consultant selected by Round Valley residents to assist them in planning for the establishment of a Family Resource Center in Covelo.
6. Ann Cole, FIRST 5 Mendocino Program Officer, met with the Mendocino County Library Advisory Council regarding the Imagination Library Initiative. FIRST 5 is actively looking for partners and donors to help get the Imagination Library started. Commissioners Paul Tichinin and Jim Levine each tendered a donation.
7. Director Molgaard attended the 2008 Zero to Three National Conference in Los Angeles where she gave a presentation on the public health approach of Raise & Shine.
8. The Special Needs Project demonstration grant ends as of June 2009. The team is planning which aspects of the project to sustain, e.g., conducting the ASQ Developmental Screenings in primary health care offices.
9. FIRST 5 has organized Spitfire Strategies to provide a Smart Chart training for all interested partners December 11th and 12th. The Smart Chart is a tool that helps us plan our specific messaging to encourage behavior change in our community. The Chart is Spitfire's signature planning tool designed to help create successful communications plans. The Chart helps guide the group through decision making around an audience target, value identification, and crafting effective messages. There are five main focus groups at the training: Breastfeeding, Food for All, Partnership for Healthy Babies, Children's Action Committee, and Gardening and Nutrition.

10. Director Molgaard announced that next year Gary Hudson from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office will chair the Policy Council on Children and Youth and she will act as vice-chair.

Commissioner Scott left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

ITEM 6 Fiscal Reports

After discussion, a motion was made to approve the Fiscal Reports for July, August, and September, 2008 as presented. Motion/Tichinin, Second/Glassey (Mann, yes; Pauli, yes; Levine, abstained; Elliott, yes; Rentería; yes, Glassey; yes, Tichinin; yes). Passed.

Children Ready to Learn

ITEM 8 Preschool Foundations (a Research Base Guide for Teachers)

Nina Marino from the California Preschool Instruction Network (CPIN) provided a brief presentation to the commission about the Preschool Learning Foundations. The four foundations are Social Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, English Language Development, and Mathematics. Nina distributed a preschool learning foundations handbook to each commissioner for them to review. CPIN also provides Professional Development to Preschool Teachers and center Directors. The state has now come out with infant/toddler foundations which show what toddlers in a high quality preschool typically are capable of learning in a year.

Knowledgeable, Nurturing Community

ITEM 10 Family Resource Centers

Action: To contract with each of the seven Family Resource Centers in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 per center for FIRST 5-related services to be specifically negotiated with the Executive Director.

Motion was made to approve: Motion/Tichinin, Second Elliott (Mann, yes; Pauli, yes; Levine, abstained; Elliott, yes; Rentería; yes, Glassey; yes, Tichinin; yes). Passed.

Knowledgeable, Nurturing Parents

ITEM 9 Raise & Shine

Raise & Shine has begun placing an article in the Mendo-Lake Exchange bi-weekly featuring a local Raise & Shine provider.

ITEM 11 Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Elliott shared with the commission that Health and Human Services Agency—Children’s Services is handling a very high number of adolescents right now. What may have happened the year they were born to cause this behavior? These children may have both cognitive disorders as well as mental health disorders.

ITEM 12 Upcoming Meetings and Announcements

None at this time.

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.