



November 29, 2010

Commission Meeting Minutes

River Room, Mendocino County Office of Education
2240 Old River Rd.
Ukiah, CA 95482

and by Video Conference:
John Diederich Center at Safe Passage
208 Dana, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Commission Members Present in Ukiah:

Tammy Scott	Paul Tichinin	Diane Pauli
Jeremy Mann	Jim Levine	

Commission Members Present in Fort Bragg:

Lucresha Rentería

Commission Members Absent:

David Colfax	Stacey Cryer
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Staff Present:

Anne Molgaard	Roseanne Castro	Melanie Underhill
Kathryn Dornhouber	Terri Davis	Menaka Olson

Public Present in Ukiah:

Linda Nagel	Eileen Mitro	Jill Carey
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ITEM 1 Welcome & Introductions by Commission Vice-Chair, Jeremy Mann

Commissioner Mann called the meeting to order at 1:15p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

ITEM 2 Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items

Linda Nagel, representing the Partnership for Healthy Babies, requested the Commission consider allocating VISTA hours to assist the group with expanding outreach on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and the effects of marijuana use during pregnancy. FIRST 5 Mendocino assisted with the development of FASD and marijuana poster and brochure materials. Now the group looks to share these materials statewide. Ms. Nagel stated she will speak further about this matter with Anne Molgaard, Executive Director.

ITEM 3 Consent Calendar (*Action*)

- A. Approve Agenda
- B. Approve Draft Minutes of October 25, 2010 Commission Meeting
- C. Approve Draft Minutes of October 28, 2010 Special Commission Meeting
- D. 2011 Commission Meeting Schedule

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

MAXIMIZE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS (ITEMS 4–5)

ITEM 4 Director's Report

1. Stage 3 Child Care providers sued the state for failing to give proper notice about funding cuts to providers and families. The State was required to properly notice providers and families. FIRST 5 Mendocino will proceed with the bridge loan to North Coast Opportunities.
2. First 5 California Water Cooler Joint Conference will be held on March 1-2, 2011 in Sacramento. Commissioners were invited to attend.
3. Food for All received the Golden Hunger Award from the United States Department of Agriculture for outstanding service to food stamp clients and for outstanding increase in the number of children and families using food stamps properly. The Round Valley Food Pantry project is moving forward. Willits Community Services is the fiscal agent. Food for All is working with the Round Valley Indian Tribes, the Round Valley Library Commons and the Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).
4. The Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI) has served 4,182 children, 920 children were from Mendocino County. The Make Kids Smile luncheon fundraiser netted approximately \$40,000 profit for the surgery center. FIRST 5 Mendocino VISTAs volunteered during the event. PDI is currently negotiating contracts with private pay providers to diversify and increase revenues and to serve more middle income families.
5. 2-1-1 Mendocino has served 6,000 people as of September, 2010. Staff is considering alternative locations to display the 2-1-1 banner.
6. Special Funding Request are being processed and paid. The Round Valley Car Seat Training occurred in Willits.
7. Staff is recruiting for the Child Abuse Prevention and Family Resource Center Network Coordinator AmeriCorps VISTA positions. New VISTAs will begin in late January. There have been many local applicants. Adrienne Binder, Nutrition and Fitness VISTA will continue her service for one more year.

ITEM 5 Fiscal Report (*Action*)

- Commission was updated on the Imagination Library and for the Healthy Kids Mendocino funds held at the Community Foundation of Mendocino County.
- The Commission reviewed interest rates and discussed placement of funds at an independent financial institution, versus the County, to maximize earnings.
- Executive Director Molgaard discussed the correspondence from Sherry Novick, Executive Director of First 5 Association of California, the trade association for First 5 local commissions. According to financial reports submitted to the State by all fifty-eight counties, as of October 31, 2010 counties have a combined reserve of \$1.9 billion. Executive Director Molgaard stated that most of these funds are from the four largest counties: Los Angeles; San Diego; Orange; and Riverside. \$900 million is unreserved with \$637 million as designated unreserved. According to Executive Director Molgaard, three years ago FIRST 5 Mendocino had \$3.1 million in the bank, now there is \$1.2 million in the bank. Commissions need to explain their long-term strategies, as most entities' recent practice does not include such planning.

Motion was made to approve July, August and September, 2010 Fiscal Reports.

Motion/Tichinin, Second/Scott. (Levine, yes; Mann, yes; Pauli, yes; Tichinin, yes; Scott, yes; Rentería, yes). Passed.

ITEM 6 Small County Augmentations (Action)

As revenues decline, the State will eliminate Small County Augmentation funding.

First 5 Nevada is requesting small counties sign on to a letter to the State to reconsider funding for Small County Augmentation. Discussion held regarding plan. Currently, the augmentation fund is at \$3 million. Funding is distributed to the eight smallest counties to fund them at a minimum of \$200,000 to cover staffing and program operation costs. Another twenty counties receive augmentations so they do not spend more than 50% of their budget on administration. In the past, FIRST 5 Mendocino has received \$75,000 to \$115,000 a year for the Small County Augmentation.

Motion was made to approve signing on to the letter proposed by First 5 Nevada to continue Small County Augmentations to twenty-nine counties. Motion/Pauli, Second/Levine. (Levine, yes; Mann, yes; Pauli, yes; Tichinin, yes; Scott, yes; Rentería, yes). Passed.

HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE (ITEMS 7–8)

ITEM 7 CARES Plus (Action)

Last year, the nine-year long Comprehensive Approaches to Raise Educational Standards (CARES) program ended. The State decided to re-institute the program in the form of CARES Plus beginning July 1, 2011.

At this time, it is not clear what the State match will be. FIRST 5 Mendocino may decide to discontinue the program if it is not feasible.

Executive Director Molgaard stated that a group has met and began discussion about this issue. CARES Plus components include:

- The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), an observation tool to measure teacher child interaction;
- Emphasis on units and professional growth hours; and
- internet training on second hand smoke

Motion was made to approve submittal of a Letter of Intent to serve as lead agency for CARES Plus 2010-13 contingent upon final authorization by a subcommittee consisting of Commissioner Scott and the Executive Committee that will meet before the January 18th application deadline. Motion/Tichinin, Second/Pauli. (Levine, yes; Mann, yes; Pauli, yes; Tichinin, yes; Scott, yes; Rentería, yes). Passed.

ITEM 8 CARES 2010-11 (Action)

There is no State funding for CARES stipends until next fiscal year, July 1, 2011. Staff have received many inquiries regarding the status of CARES for the year ending June 30, 2011.

CARES Funding

This year there is approximately \$36,000 from AB 212 to cover state funded programs such as the eighteen State Preschools and combinations between Head Start, Early Head Start and State Preschool. This amount represents a 25% cut from last year.

The Mendocino County Child Care Planning Council's (CCPC) budget this year is approximately \$38,000, minus 4% for Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) Business Department for indirect costs.

The CCPC requests \$60,000 in bridge funding to keep CARES operational for 2010-11.

Executive Director Molgaard recommends the Commission fund CARES with \$40,000 from the long-term reserves and enters into a subcontract with MCOE to staff the CCPC. For FIRST 5 Mendocino to staff the CCPC from January 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010 it would cost approximately \$28,000. It is anticipated this will result in a savings of approximately \$10,000. This savings would be added to the budget for CARES stipends.

The proposal is to combine \$15,000 from FIRST 5 Mendocino reserves, \$36,000 from AB 212 funding, and \$11,000 savings from subcontract with MCOE to apply towards CARES. The CARES stipends will be lowered this year to \$250, \$500 and \$800. Discussion held regarding proposed budget presented by Executive Director Molgaard.

Commissioner Tichinin states he will abstain from voting on this item.

Commissioner Mann suggested considering this proposal as a Special Funding Request for February 1, 2011. Commissioner Scott suggested skipping CARES for one year if not many providers will benefit.

Mendocino College reported to Director Molgaard that enrollment in Child Development classes was stable in Fall 2010 semester, even without the CARES program in place. However, upon drilling down in the data, Conan McKay discovered that more students were taking CDV classes as General Education and less of the CARES-target population were enrolled (current child care providers).

Linda Nagel, member the CCPC, stated that if there is no other funding for CARES to supplement AB 212 dollars it will create uncertainty about the future and be detrimental to the project if only state funded child care providers receive a CARES stipend. Ms. Nagel also expressed concerned about staff support for the CCPC.

Commissioner Mann states his support of the proposal to use money creatively in order to move forward instead of suspending CARES for one year. Commissioner Mann stated he does not want to spend down reserve funds if it can be avoided. Commissioner Rentería stated \$15,000 is not much to pull from the reserve.

Eileen Mitro, Co-Chair of the CCPC, stated the need for additional funding for CARES in addition to the AB 212 dollars and that many innovative proposals regarding staffing the CCPC have been discussed.

- (1) Motion was made to fund up to \$15,000, from the FIRST 5 Mendocino long-term reserves, for CARES 2011 stipends as a match to the CCPC's AB 212 funding. Motion/Pauli, Second/Levine. (Levine, yes; Mann, yes; Pauli, yes; Tichinin, abstains; Scott, yes; Rentería, yes) Passed.
- (2) Motion was made to direct Executive Director Molgaard to negotiate a subcontract with MCOE to staff the CCPC and fulfill all legal requirements for the six month period from January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011 and to invest any remaining funds into CARES 2011 stipends. Motion/Rentería, Second/Scott. (Levine, yes; Mann, yes; Pauli, yes; Tichinin, abstains; Scott, yes; Renteria, yes) Passed.

Ms. Nagel requested the Commission consider allocating FIRST 5 Mendocino staff time to administer the CARES program for 2011. Commissioner Levine stated that this matter will be addressed during contract negotiations. Ms. Nagel respectfully requested the CCPC participate in contract negotiations.

(Commissioner Tichinin leaves at 2:45 p.m.)

CHILDREN READY TO LEARN

ITEM 9 Imagination Library (*Action*)

Melanie Underhill, Imagination Library Coordinator VISTA, informed the Commission about the McCallum House Dine Out event on Wednesday, November 17 which earned \$820. These funds will cover 30 children for one year, or 351 children for one month.

The Spelling Bee fundraiser will be held Saturday, February 26th in Ukiah. Commissioners were asked to solicit one silent auction item for the event. If successful, next year the event will be held on the coast. Groups from the Friends of the Library, Mendocino College, elementary schools, book clubs, and others will be asked to participate in the event.

Commissioner Pauli suggested staff contact the Grace Lutheran church to help with the event. Commissioner Pauli asked how money will be made from the event. Ms. Underhill stated funds will be raised through the silent action, champagne cash bar, \$5 entry fee and team sponsorships.

No action was taken on this item.

ITEM 10 Commissioner Reports, Announcements & Additional Materials

Commissioner Scott celebrated her 15th wedding anniversary.

Commissioner Levine stated that on Friday, December 10th there will be a youth art sale and silent action at the Art Center in Ukiah.

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.