



February 22, 2010
Commission Meeting Minutes
River Room, Mendocino County Office of Education
2240 Old River Rd.
Ukiah, CA 95482

Commission Members Present:

David Colfax	Jim Levine	Stacey Cryer
Diane Pauli	Mary Elliott	Tammy Scott
Lucresha Rentería	Paul Tichinin	

Commission Members Absent:

Jeremy Mann

Staff Present:

Anne Molgaard	Mary Pettit	Kathryn Dornhouber
Roseanne Castro	Charlene Bradt	Cassie Dillman
Terri Davis	Becca Floyd	Christy Barron
Menaka Olson	Natalie Swiencki	

Public Present:

Jill Carey	Miles Gordon	Linda Nagel
Sarah Weller	Kelly Burwell	
Cathy Minicucci	Svetlana Mulcahy	

ITEM 1 Welcome & Introductions by Commission Chair, Lucresha Rentería

Commissioner Rentería called the meeting to order at 1:18p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

ITEM 2 Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items

None.

ITEM 3 Consent Calendar (*Action*)

- A.** Approve Agenda
- B.** Approve Draft Minutes of January 25, 2010 Commission Meeting
- C.** Approve \$15,000 increase to Mordhorst Services, Inc. contract and extend contract to June 30, 2010

Funding increase and contract extension for Mordhorst Services, Inc was pulled from the consent calendar at the request of Commissioner Tichinin.

Motion was made to approve the February 22, 2010 agenda and the January 25, 2010 minutes. Consent Calendar. Motion/Levine, Second/Pauli. Passed.

Discussion held regarding funding available for contract extension. Executive Director Anne Molgaard stated that the Commission allocated \$600,000 to individual Family Resource Centers

(FRC) and the FRC Network. As of June 30, 2010, a total of \$400,000 will be spent on FRCs including this contract extension.

Carol Mordhorst, Interim Network Coordinator, has been working part time to develop a strategic plan and help with the organization of the network.

Motion was made to approve up to a \$15,000 increase to Mordhorst Services, Inc. contract and extend contract to June 30, 2010. Motion/Tichinin, Second/Scott. Passed.

Healthy Children

ITEM 4 The Gardens Project

Miles Gordon, Project Coordinator for the Gardens Project provided a program update. VISTA staff to the Gardens Project, Kelly Burwell and Cassie Dillman, were introduced. Mr. Gordon discussed:

- Project's goal to create access and sustainable network
- Project's focus on education, nutrition and economic development
- Six new preschool gardens located at: Talmage State Preschool; Willits Head Start; Nokomis Head Start; Fort Bragg Head Start; South Ukiah Head Start and Orchard Head Start.
- Six community gardens countywide
- Currently developing three more

The Gardens Project has served 308 children ages 0-5 and 764 family members of 0-5ers. The gardens produced 1240 lbs. of produce valued at \$2500.

Mr. Gordon stated there is a total of twenty-seven gardens throughout the county. Information is exchanged among gardens, partners and community members through Real Dirt, the eNewsletter, Facebook, blogs, the events calendar, and greenexchange. Mr. Gordon stated that there have been 3,300 unique visits to the website. The Gardens Project has shared grant writing with Ukiah Natural Foods.

Trainings included: Life Lab training, where twenty-five preschool staff participated; garden coordinators meetings to discuss sustainability and how to eat healthy; volunteer coordination to organize consistent work crews and master gardeners to adopt a garden to help with any questions. The Gardens Project also engaged in seed distribution.

Mr. Gordon stated that the overarching goal of the program is to create templates to encourage and facilitate ownership of new gardens. Mr. Gordon stated that working with the 0-5 population is important because early childhood is when children begin to develop and learn eating habits.

Mr. Gordon shared pictures from the Fort Bragg and South Ukiah Head Start work parties and garden installation.

Mr. Gordon stated the next steps for the Gardens Project are:

- sustainability to develop a fundraising committee and work to leverage funding
- plan, more garden development, continue development of templates for garden how-to, continue strengthening leadership and cross training.

For more information and to sign up for the eNewsletter attendees were direct to the website at www.gardensproject.org.

Executive Director Molgaard stated that the Commission supported this project with a \$75,000 grant approved in 2007.

Maximize Operational Effectiveness (ITEMS 5–10)

ITEM 5 Introduction of 2010-11 AmeriCorps VISTAS

Executive Director Molgaard stated the AmeriCorps VISTAs officially began their year of service on February 16, 2010. Each VISTA introduced themselves.

- Charlene Brat, Children's Action Committee Coordinator is originally from Schenectady, New York and plans to pursue a career in child abuse prevention on a global scale.
- Mary Pettit, Outreach Coordinator is originally from Owasso, Michigan and plans to work in Public Health in the future.
- Kathryn Dornhouber, Family Resource Center Coordinator, returned from the PeaceCorp six months ago. She plans to pursue an advanced degree and work in the social justice field.
- Executive Director Molgaard stated that Adrienne Binder, the new Nutrition and Fitness Advocate was attending a SPARK training in Round Valley and not able to attend the meeting. She shared that Ms. Binder is originally from Portland, Oregon and spent some time in Nicaragua working with an international organization on micro-finance.

ITEM 6 Fiscal Report (*Action*)

Discussion was held regarding the California state budget and proposals to shift first 5 funding.

Motion was made to approve December, 2009 Fiscal Reports. Motion/Tichinin, Second/Pauli. Passed.

ITEM 7 First 5 California 2008-2009 Annual Report (*Action*)

Executive Director Molgaard stated that as per the California Health and Safety Code each county commission is required to hold a public hearing. Commissioners held a discussion regarding the report.

Commission Chair Lucresha Rentería opened a public hearing. No public comment was heard, public hearing was closed.

Motion was made to accept the First 5 California 2008-2009 Annual report. Motion/Elliott, Second/Levine. Passed.

ITEM 8 MidYear Evaluation Report

Cathy Minicucci, Local Evaluator of Minicucci Associates reported that 2195 children and 2351 parents were served by FIRST 5 Mendocino funded programs in 2009-10. Ms. Minicucci stated that 54% of children served were identified as White, 35% were Hispanic, 10% were Native American and 1% were identified as other. This break down is proportionate to the ethnic distribution in the county.

Improved Child Health

For July to December 2009, 336 children five and under were served by Healthy Kids Mendocino. Community Gardens served 308 children under five and 292 children were served by the playgrounds located at:

Potter Valley Youth & Community Center FRC
Round Valley Head Start
Whale Gulch School
Pt. Arena State Preschool
Redwood Valley Lions Club County Park

Improved Family Functioning

There were 153 Kits for New Parents distributed from July to December 2009. Discussion held regarding the low figure. Executive Director Molgaard stated that there was a disruption at the state general services that affected the amount of kits distributed locally. Ms. Minicucci stated that she expects this number will be higher for the annual report. Raise & Shine served 224 children, a decrease from last year. There were nine Triple P workshops, forty-five calls to the referral line and one Triple P college class during this report period.

Imagination Library

Ms. Minicucci reported that a total of 1,241 children were registered. The greatest concentration of enrollment was in Ukiah at 51%, Fort Bragg at 19% and in Willits at 10%. According to gender, 55% of enrollees are boys and 45% are girls. Staff is working on strategies to increase Willits and Round Valley participation.

There were 101 responses from a parent post survey that was conducted after six months of participation in the program. The results were that 57% of respondents stated that they read eight or more times to their children per week, 38% reported reading four to seven times to their child per week and 5% reported reading to their child one to three times per week.

(Commissioner Scott leaves at 2:23 p.m.)

6% of respondents reported visiting the library five or more times a month, 48% visit the library one to four times a month and 47% never go to the library. Ms. Minicucci reported 79% of parents with four to five year olds reported that they do have a reading routine. 67% of respondents said they strongly agree that the Imagination Library encourages reading.

Respondents stated their satisfaction with Imagination Library was due to:

- Children receiving their books monthly
- Children enjoy receiving their books in the mail
- Books encourage parents to read more with their children

Respondents offered suggestions regarding content and age appropriateness of books, physical design of the books and placement of labels, seasonal themes. It was also suggested to involve family child care homes.

Family Resource Centers

All seven Family Resource Centers submitted reports online for the first time. The FRCs reported the following highlights:

Action Network – reported on five weekly playgroups who are using SPARK

Anderson Valley – after school program for teen mothers

Laytonville Healthy Start – Bringing Imagination Library and Triple P to their community

Nuestra Alianza de Willits – Building an effective board and Executive Director

Nuestra Casa – Transitioned to Mendocino FRC data system

Potter Valley Youth and Community Center – Started child care enrichment program for three to five year olds

Safe Passage - Mornings for Moms, Triple P class, Family Empowerment group, Get Set for Kindergarten weekly class

(Commissioner Cryer leaves at 2:40)

Improved Child Development

The School Readiness project served 449 children. SPARK held four trainings and trained 139 providers.

FRC Network

The FRC Network worked on leveraging grants to create efficiencies for solid funding streams. Carol Mordhorst helped with the adoption of strategic planning priorities, joint fundraising. The network applied for the OCAP grant and leveraged Medi-Cal funding. The FRC Network submitted an online report for the first time. Commissioners asked to review two FRC Achievement Milestones reports per month.

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

Christy Barron, Imagination Library Coordinator discussed need for continued funding and FIRST 5 Mendocino's partnership with Dollywood.

ITEM 9 Strategic Plan

Executive Director Molgaard presented 2007 survey questions that were given to community leaders to help with strategic planning. Commissioners reviewed the survey and directed staff to make edits and send out the new survey to community leaders.

Commissioners suggested adding questions regarding transportation, housing, preschool, children's activities, food stamp participation and child fitness as possible pressing issues for parents. Commissioners suggested adding questions regarding socialization of children and parent tobacco, alcohol or other drug use.

Commissioner Elliott said childhood obesity is a big concern. Discussion held regarding how to monitor childhood obesity, possibly through the Body Mass Index or BMI data.

ITEM 10 Director's Report

1. Executive Director Anne Molgaard reported on state budget and First 5 messaging on how county First 5's support safety net services, keep children out of foster care and that investing in early child development saves money in the long term.
2. Healthy Kids Mendocino (HKM) is planning for possible cuts by monitoring Healthy Families, Medi-Cal and Family PACT. HKM launched a strong and specific fundraising campaign and has developed a pool of donated services for children on the waiting list. HKM is committed to supporting wait-listed children. Enrollment decisions for CalKids will be made on June 30, 2010.

3. Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI) has served over 2797 children, 655 children were from Mendocino County. PDI is actively recruiting a Dental Director and has been working with billing changes.
4. A logo for the Mendocino Breast Start, the breastfeeding coalition has been developed. The overall goal of the coalition is to decrease the level of stress women feel related to breastfeeding. Details about the coalition will be discussed at a future meeting.
5. Executive Director Molgaard shared positive comments from the community regarding Raise & Shine.
6. Executive Director Molgaard reported that this is the last year CARES will be administered by FIRST 5 Mendocino. The Child Care Planning Council and NCO have considered taking over the program.
7. 2-1-1 Launch. www.211mendocino.org several commissioners attended the launch event on February 9, 2010. The word is spreading in the community about the program.

ITEM 12 Commissioner Reports, Announcements & Additional Materials

Commission Rentería opened the floor for Commissioner Reports.

Commissioner Elliott reported that twenty children were detained by children's services in February. Discussion held regarding the potential loss of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs services due to county budget cuts.

Commissioner Levine reported that he will attend the Water Cooler Joint Conference in Sacramento on March 10th.

Commissioner Renteria reported that the Mendocino Coast Clinic is working through difficult budget issues and considering various scenarios surrounding additional cuts to dental and Healthy Families.

No other reports were heard.

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.