



January 31, 2011
Commission Meeting Minutes
East Room, Mendocino County Office of Education
2240 Old River Rd.
Ukiah, CA 95482

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

Commission Members Present in Ukiah:

Lucresha Rentería	Dan Hamburg	Diane Pauli
Tammy Scott	Jim Levine	Stacey Cryer

Commission Members Present in Fort Bragg:

Paul Tichinin

Commission Members Absent:

Jeremy Mann

Staff Present:

Anne Molgaard	Jamie Boban	Cassie Dillman
Roseanne Castro	Melanie Underhill	Menaka Olson
Mary Pettit	Adrienne Binder	
Kathryn Dornhuber	Kelly Burwell	

Public Present in Ukiah:

Jill Carey Linda Nagel

ITEM 1 Welcome & Introductions by Commission Chair, Lucresha Rentería

Commissioner Rentería called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. Those present introduced themselves. Jamie Boban, new Family Resource Center Advocate VISTA, will replace Kathryn Dornhuber whose term of service ends this month. Jamie is from Chicago, has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and is interested in non-profit work. Commissioner Dan Hamburg introduced himself and shared that he has a background in education, child care and that he and Diane Pauli worked together many years ago. Commissioner Hamburg has four children and six granddaughters.

ITEM 2 Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items

None.

ITEM 3 Consent Calendar (*Action*)

- A.** Approve Agenda
- B.** Approve Draft Minutes of November 29, 2010 Commission Meeting

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

MAXIMIZE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS (ITEMS 4–9)

ITEM 4 Director's Report

Executive Director Anne Molgaard discussed:

1. Food for All and FIRST 5 launched the Round Valley Food Pantry pilot on Thursday, January 20, 2011. Food for All will transfer ownership to a community group by this summer. Currently, there is a Memorandum of Understanding with the Willits Food Bank. Adrienne Binder, Nutrition and Fitness VISTA, shared photos and informed the Commission that:
 - a. Commodity food distributed by the food pantry is from the US Department of Agriculture that is retrieved from Fort Bragg food bank;
 - b. No identification is required to receive a food distribution;
 - c. 100 people were served, totaling approximately 10% of the Round Valley population and representing over 30 households in the community.
 - d. Community members learned about the pantry primarily through word of mouth.
2. A thank you letter from the Mendocino County Child Care Planning Council (CCPC) was received regarding the bridge loan to North Coast Opportunities, Inc. (NCO) for the Stage 3 CalWORKS Child Care cut enacted by Governor Schwarzenegger. Executive Director Molgaard informed the Commission that NCO requested FIRST 5 hold the loan funds as legislation is pending to overturn the Governor's cut.
3. FIRST 5's proposal to staff the CCPC was approved by the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE). After study, MCOE selected FIRST 5 as the contractor due to its familiarity with the programs and as a way to marshal child care resources more effectively. CCPC staff was eliminated as part of required staffing cuts across all departments at MCOE. FIRST 5 Mendocino will staff the CCPC for six months, until June 30, 2011. Staffing duties will be distributed among Executive Director Molgaard, Roseanne Castro and consultant Sue Haun. Any cost savings will be rolled into the 2011 Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) program.
4. The Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI) celebrated its third anniversary on Wednesday, January 25, 2011. PDI has served 4,417 children, 977 from Mendocino County. Unfortunately, Mendocino County children continue to have a great need for sedated dentistry.
5. At the July 26th meeting, the Family Dependency Drug Court (FDDC) presented to the Commission regarding its services and need for future funding. The goal of FDDC is to provide treatment for drug addiction to help parents become functional more quickly and regain custody of their children. FDDC was funded under a five year grant that will end in eighteen months. In October, 2010, FDDC submitted a request for funding to the Commission for the FDDC transitional housing program. Executive Director Molgaard informed the Commission she will be meeting with FDDC staff on Friday, February 4, 2011. Commissioner Cryer, director of the Health and Human Services Agency, a partner in the FDDC effort, encouraged the Commission to see FDDC in a larger context of mental health services and the need to prioritize services.

6. VISTA recruitment is underway for the following positions for July 2011:
Imagination Library Coordinator; Child Abuse Prevention Advocate; and the Outreach Coordinator.

ITEM 5 Fiscal Report (*Action*)

After review and discussion, motion was made to approve October, November and December, 2010 Fiscal Report. Motion/Tichinin, Second/Cryer. (Rentería, yes; Scott, yes; Hamburg, yes; Levine, yes; Pauli, yes; Cryer, yes; Tichinin, yes). Passed.

ITEM 6 Governor's Budget Proposal

Executive Director Molgaard discussed Governor Jerry Brown's budget proposal to shift \$1 billion in state and local First 5 funds to the State's General Fund ostensibly to cover Medi-Cal Services for children through age 5. The proposal would sweep all funds reserved for longer-term strategies and also includes a permanent 50% shift of ongoing Proposition 10 funds to the State's General Fund to be used for unspecified children's programs. Executive Director Molgaard shared the strategy that First 5 California Association (F5AC), the trade association for First 5's is pursuing.

Executive Director Molgaard stated that F5AC goal is to stay off the ballot or ensure the measure is written so that enough infrastructure is in place to keep local Commissions viable. At this time the threshold is \$400,000 for a local Commission to be solvent and at least marginally effective. Unfortunately, First 5 is not at the table for negotiations. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) has not taken a position on the proposed cuts to First 5 as at this point they are concerned more with the status of realignment dollars.

Executive Director Molgaard advised the Commission to consider moving funds to the Mendocino County Community Foundation where funding for Imagination Library and Healthy Kids Mendocino is currently held.

Commissioners were asked to submit personalized letters of opposition to Senator Noreen Evans and Assemblyman Wes Chesbro.

Commissioner Cryer requested staff provide information on how much FIRST 5 Mendocino's preventative programs saved in Medi-Cal dollars.

ITEM 7 Fiscal Year 2010-11 (*Action*)

This item was tabled and will be heard at the next meeting on February 28, 2011. No action was taken on this item.

ITEM 8 Special Funding Requests (*Action*)

Executive Director Molgaard stated that the Commission requested the Special Funding Request Rating Matrix be adjusted to increase the weight of whether a program is experiencing a crisis. The Commission intended this funding source to be used in response to the current difficult economic times. Applications for the second cycle of funding are due Tuesday, February 1, 2011. The Commission reviewed the rating matrix.

Commissioner Levine stated that the matrix currently attributes too much weight to the quality of writing and does not assign greater value to a request that meets a family's basic need or if the applicant demonstrates it is undergoing a crisis. Discussion held.

The Commission directed staff to adjust the matrix as follows:

- o Increase the points possible under the *Link to FIRST 5 Goals* category to 0, 3 and 6 points; and

- Adjust the point possible under the *Community Need* category to 0, 4 and 8 points.
-

Motion was made to revise the Special Funding Request Rating Matrix. Motion/Levine, Second/Hamburg. (Rentería, yes; Scott, yes; Hamburg, yes; Levine, yes; Pauli, yes; Cryer, yes; Tichinin, yes). Passed.

Commissioners Pauli and Levine volunteered to read applications as part of the review Committee.

ITEM 9 Report Out on Annual Report to the Public

Executive Director Molgaard reported that 1411 Annual Report emails and post cards were sent out to the public with

- 943 electronic post card emails and
- 450 hard copy post cards mailed via the United States Postal Services

(Connection with Commissioner Tichinin in Fort Bragg was lost at 2:16 p.m.)

Out of the 943 who received the email, 190 opened the message. Last year the video annual report was emailed to 861 people, 153 opened the email. Last year the annual report production costs \$8,430; this year's cost was \$1,500.

KNOWLEDGEABLE NURTURING COMMUNITY

ITEM 10 Family Resource Centers

Kathryn Dornhuber, Family Resource Center Advocate VISTA, discussed her year of service. Research has demonstrated that poverty is a very strong indicator of success for a child. In our community there are 11 Family Resource Center's (FRC's). The FRC Network meets monthly and offers trainings and mutual support for member FRCs.

Ms. Dornhuber discussed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) pilot and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) centers that is spearheaded by FRCs this year. Trained volunteers will be available to help low-income families file their taxes and obtain the EITC credit to bring in more money to their households. FRC's are interested in having VITA be part of their regular services. FRC's are applying for grant funding as a group, this makes their application stronger. Jaime Boban, the new FRC Advocate VISTA, will be working on this.

Commissioner Cryer stated that FRC's spread out through county are invaluable for Medi-Cal managed care.

(Commissioner Hamburg leaves at 2:33 p.m.)

ITEM 11 Commissioner Reports, Announcements & Additional Materials

Commissioner Levine announced he received positive feedback about the Imagination Library program from a parent on the South Coast. Commissioner Cryer announced California Forward, a non-partisan group focused on the California government structure and budget, is coming to Ukiah on March 9th and looking for community input.

Staff directed to follow up on Laytonville Ride-Sharing program through the Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA).

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.