



March 24, 2008
Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present in Ukiah (MCOE River Room):

Jeremy Mann Mary Elliott Diane Pauli
David Colfax Alison Glassey Paul Tichinin

Commission Members Present in Fort Bragg (MCOE Coast Office):

Lucresha Rentería

Staff Present in Ukiah:

Nicole Bransford-Smith, Nutrition and Fitness Advocate (VISTA)
Nina deCordova, Program Officer
Pam Ivey, Executive Secretary
Sabra Lugthart, Program Manager, Communications
Maya Stuart, Referral Coordinator, Raise & Shine
Natalie Swiencki, Community Outreach Coordinator (VISTA)

Staff Present in Fort Bragg:

Lisa Westfall-Davis

Public Present in Ukiah:

Cathy Ferron Linda Nagel Becky Wilson Suzy McConnell
Sue Haun Jill Carey Nancy Sutherland Debbie Rogers

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 Agenda

B. Approve Draft Minutes of 1/28/08 Commission meeting

Motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar: Motion/Tichinin, Second/Elliott (Mann, yes; Colfax, yes; Glassey, yes; Pauli, yes; Tichinin, yes; Elliott, yes). Passed.

Knowledgeable, Nurturing Parents (ITEMS 4 – 5)

ITEM 4 Drug Court Dependency Presentation

Presentation of a federal grant awarded to the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) of Mendocino County, was presented by Becky Wilson, HHSA Senior Program

Manager of Children's Services for the Department of Social Services, and Nancy Sutherland, Treatment Supervisor of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Program (AODP) for the Mendocino County Department of Public Health.

This grant of \$500,000 per year for five years was awarded to HHSA to initiate a Family Dependency Drug Court (Family Drug Court) and began on October 1, 2007. As of January 9, 2008, the first three clients entered the Drug Court; currently, twelve active clients participate in Family Drug Court. The purpose of the grant is to enhance services to substance-abusive parents. The primary goals of Family Drug Court are to increase the number of children that are reunified with their parents and to decrease their re-entry into foster care.

The handbook for parents participating in the Family Drug Court was made available to Commission members.

Nancy Sutherland and members of the Commission discussed the treatment process and how the grant award will be used. As an example of the treatment process of methamphetamine users in particular whose lives are in chaos, confused and unmanageable in all areas, the Family Drug Court brings people in, gives them structure and makes it clear what they need to do and how they need to do it. The program is reinforced by the judge and by the other participants. There are also sanctions and incentives to support their behavior as they continue through the Family Drug Court program.

This service is currently offered only in Ukiah because the commitment of the client is to be at AODP four days a week and in Family Drug Court on the fifth day, so the program is for clients that live in and around Ukiah. Family Drug Court is available to clients in Willits, providing they are willing to make the commitment and able to come to Ukiah every day; bus passes would be provided. The entire program spans 20 months or more.

ITEM 5 Raise & Shine

Nina deCordova updated Commission members on Raise & Shine. Staff is focusing on three priorities:

- (1) Coordinating upcoming Triple P workshops, groups, and classes in Ukiah, Willits and possibly Round Valley -- including our first class in Spanish at Nuestra Casa beginning April 11th;
- (2) Raising funds for the 2008-09 fiscal year; and
- (3) Creating an opportunity to review program accomplishments and set a course for the future, three years after we first began planning the "Early Mental Health Initiative."

This third task began just a few hours before the Commission meeting, with a facilitated discussion of "what's working" and "what's not working" with Raise & Shine's advisory body, the Children's System of Care (CSOC) Subcommittee. Sue

Haun facilitated that meeting. Commissioner Elliott and Linda Nagel from the Public Health Department both participated. All three told the Commission that the meeting was a great opportunity for the Subcommittee to review our initial goals, realize how far we have come, and discuss where we should go from here.

Nina advised Commission members to expect a longer, more detailed discussion of Raise & Shine at the April Commission meeting. At that meeting, program evaluator Dr. Barbara "Cricket" Mitchell will discuss both local implementation of Raise & Shine, and the program's potential impact on other communities in California.

Commissioner Chair Jeremy Mann offered an anecdote relating to child behavior. A parent of one of his patients talked to him about being stressed by their children's behavior concerning problem areas such as at dinner and at bedtime, and he gave the parent a Triple P information sheet and encouraged them to try it. The parent subsequently reported back that the family had implemented Triple P with great success and now uses Triple P practices for other behavioral issues.

Maximize Operational Effectiveness (ITEMS 6 – 9)

ITEM 6 FIRST 5 California Annual Report 2006-07

Commission Chair Jeremy Mann opened the public meeting. No public comment was made. The public meeting was closed.

ITEM 7 Director's Report

In Executive Director Anne Molgaard's absence, Commission Chair Jeremy Mann asked if there were any questions concerning the Director's Report. There were no questions.

ITEM 8 Fiscal Reports

After review and discussion, a motion was made to approve the final Fiscal Reports for December 2007 and January 2008. Motion/Tichinin, Second/Colfax (Mann, yes; Colfax, yes; Glassey, yes; Pauli, yes; Tichinin, yes; Elliott, yes; Rentería, yes). Passed.

ITEM 9 2007 Kindergarten Entry Profile (KEP) Report

FIRST 5 Mendocino Evaluator Cathy Ferron presented a slide show and data to report the results of the 2007 Kindergarten Entry Profile (KEP) Report. The material includes five data sets covering the five years of conducting the Entry Profiles. Trends based on some of the data were discussed. Cathy advised that she has real concerns whether there is a trend or not in the data, and pointed out an important issue with the data -- that 2004 data was a banner year in the results, and that the overall results for the Entry Profile have not been as good since 2004.

With regard to the tool itself, it is an observation tool (a "snapshot in time" versus a "diagnostic" tool) that is completed by kindergarten teachers for each individual kindergarten student in their classroom and assesses six main skill areas: social skills; language; reading; interest in books; writing; and math. The tool is much more useful in the aggregate than with the individual child and gives a sense of how that age group is doing as they are entering kindergarten.

Trends in the demographics of children as reported in the KEP sample were discussed in both School Readiness and Non-School Readiness schools.

Upon conclusion of this presentation, Commissioners commented that the data does not seem to reveal a trend. Cathy Ferron is in complete agreement that there does not seem to be a trend; these are discrete datasets from year to year. Cathy also reiterated to the Commission that she has some concerns about the variability of the data because these are different children who are assessed each year and different teachers may be implementing the tool in different ways from year to year.

Cathy does not believe the data is invalid, as it was collected according to a consistent process, and this is a process that is being applied statewide. There are limitations to the current process being applied in Mendocino County due to budget. How the data is used needs to be carefully reconsidered. Cathy feels further discussion is worthwhile and suggested that FIRST 5 Mendocino needs to examine its original purpose and re-think what they want to do with the data from this point.

Healthy Children (ITEMS 10 – 13)

ITEM 10 Safe Sleeping

Sabra Lughart, Communications Manager, gave a presentation on FIRST 5 Mendocino's *Safe Sleeping Campaign*, in collaboration with the Child Death Review Team (CDRT). This Campaign is funded by a \$4,500 grant to CDRT from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services strictly for media-related spending, with FIRST 5 Mendocino matching those funds.

FIRST 5 Mendocino has purchased and is distributing Snuggle Nests and infant-sized "onesies," with printing in both English and Spanish on the fabric instructing parents and caregivers to place infants on their back to sleep. Snuggle Nests were offered free to new parents via radio announcements and advertisements--also in both English and Spanish. The first order of Snuggle Nests were given out within two weeks; an additional 40 were ordered. Parents are also given literature concerning safe sleeping practices for their infants, and FIRST 5 Mendocino has responded to numerous calls concerning Safe Sleeping practices.

ITEM 11 Healthy Kids Mendocino

No further discussion of the Commission packet material.

ITEM 12 Safe Play Areas

Nicole Bransford-Smith, Nutrition and Fitness Advocate, made an initial presentation to the Commission on research findings to increase safe play areas throughout Mendocino County. FIRST 5 Mendocino allocated \$75,000 to safe play areas and is seeking additional funding for this project.

Based on the data collected and information presented, including site-rankings based on evidence of need, the Commission discussed the findings and requested that additional information be gathered regarding the seven high-need sites, as follows: (1) Round Valley

Head Start, (2) Round Valley State Preschool, (3) Potter Valley Family Resource Center, (4) Lion's Club Park-Redwood Valley, (5) Grace Hudson Elementary-Ukiah, (6) Arena State Preschool-Pt. Arena, and (7) Health Center in Boonville (on the existing map as Faulkner Park).

At the April 28, 2008 Commission meeting, staff will present the additional information and the Commission will determine the safe play areas as to specific sites, the funding process and funding amounts.

ITEM 13 Nutrition & Fitness Small Grant Reports

Nicole Bransford-Smith, Nutrition and Fitness Advocate, reported on the remaining Small Grant Final Reports. Overall, the grantees were satisfied with their projects. Grantees using SPARK reported that parents, children and providers are excited about SPARK and have seen positive changes come from it. The grantees working with gardens and nutritional foods such as Discover World Preschool claim that children and their families have benefited in many ways, including a better understanding of nutrition labels and eating fresh foods. A teacher in Hopland that was teaching nutrition reported the children were more willing to eat healthy foods that they had prepared themselves and that she was happy to help them do so.

ITEM 14 High Quality Child Care and Children Ready to Learn

Susan McConnell and Debbie Rogers of the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) presented Year 2 Findings of the four-year Special Needs Project (SNP) with a PowerPoint presentation titled "WEAVE AND WISH." The Special Needs Project is administered through MCOE and funded by First 5 California and FIRST 5 Mendocino in a 1:1 match. We are one of ten demonstration sites in California.

The overall goal of this screening is to decrease the number of children entering kindergarten with unidentified special needs. The SNP choose Willits and Covelo as sites and is required to conduct 500 screenings per year at these two sites -- that is, 500 children are being screened, with some children being screened more than once a year.

A strong focus of this Special Needs Project is getting families with a child with special needs linked to services offered throughout the community. SNP has offered training to parents, child care providers and preschool teachers on coping with children's behavior and training about the IFSP and IEP processes, along with our Community Advisory Committee for Special Education. SNP also provided community resources and referrals, such as FIRST 5 Mendocino's Kit for New Parents, behavioral consulting, shelter, clothing and food bank.

It was reported that 2006-07 was the best year for conducting screenings, with a total of 430, of which 61% were with parental consent and 39% was aggregate data gathered from agencies using the "Ages & Stages" questionnaire. A significant number of one-year-olds were screened because then it is known that the program caught them early so that services could be provided by the time they entered school.

A merging goal as the SNP is approaching the end of the project is focusing on inclusion, with an Inclusion Team in Willits. Inclusion means including children with

special needs alongside typically developing children. The Inclusion process is being institutionalized in that community, to be carried on in subsequent years there.

Commission Chair Jeremy Mann voiced concern about future funding of this program by FIRST 5 Mendocino unless the people implementing and providing the behavioral interventions were Triple P trained, as FIRST 5 Mendocino has put considerable time and money into Raise & Shine.

The complete presentation is included in the Commissioner packet materials, and the SNP will have more information for the Commission next fall.

ITEM 15 Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Jeremy Mann announced that as of Friday, March 21st, his office at Ukiah Valley Primary Care is now open at their new location: 260 Hospital Drive, Suite 204.

Commissioners Tichinin, Mann and Rentería hope to attend the First 5 California State Conference May 21-23 in Anaheim, California.

ITEM 16 Upcoming Meetings and Announcements

The *FIRST 5 Mendocino Executive Committee* meets **Monday, April 14, 2008**, at 4:30-5:30 at the FIRST 5 Mendocino office.

The next *FIRST 5 Mendocino Commission* meets at 1:00 **Monday, April 28, 2008** in the **Southeast Room** in the Cedar Building at MCOE; and the John Diederich Center, 208 Dana Street in Fort Bragg.

The *First 5 California Annual State Conference* will be held **Thursday-Friday, May 21-23, 2008**, in Anaheim, California.

The *FIRST 5 Mendocino Annual Planning Meeting* is scheduled for **Friday, May 30, 2008**. The location will soon be announced, but will be at a facility along the Mendocino Coast.