

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, June 7, 2011, 5:00 PM 601 Texas Street, Room A, Fairfield, CA

Attendance

Commissioners: Dan Ayala, Chair; Stephan Betz, Dana Dean, Sheryl Fairchild, Elaine Norinsky, Jay Speck, Norma Thigpen.

Staff/Public: Commission staff and approximately eight members of the public were present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:10 PM by Chairperson Ayala.

I. Public Comment

Commissioner Ayala presented Grayland Hilt, Executive Director of Child Start, Inc., with a letter of appreciation for his years of service to the community with Child Start, Inc. Mr. Hilt acknowledged the Commission's work for children ages 0-5 and thanked the Commission for the support.

II. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for June 7, 2011

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for June 7, 2011.

Commissioner Fairchild moved to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approve Minutes of the May 10, 2011 Commission Meeting

Motion: Approve Minutes of the May 10, 2011 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Fairchild moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Program Committee

1. *Motion: Accept the 2010-11 Kindergarten Readiness Report.*

Commissioner Dean arrived at the meeting.

Discussion: Lynn Hoffman, School Readiness Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, made a presentation on the 2010-11 Kindergarten Readiness Report (KRR).

Commissioner Betz arrived at the meeting.

Commissioner Dean asked for more information on the entire population of kindergarteners and the percentages of their ethnicity, to see if this corresponds with the data for the preschoolers in the KRR. She also asked for clarification on the recommendation in the PowerPoint that states "focus on supporting Spanish-speaking students", and what types of supports would be provided.

Commissioner Fairchild moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(Commissioner Ayala presented Mike Ammann, President of the Solano EDC, with a letter of appreciation from the Commission for the support he had provided for children 0-5 in Solano County with the EDC. Mr. Ammann commented that he and the Commission had some “firsts” in service for children in the county, and he truly enjoyed that.)

B. Internal Systems Committee

1. Commissioner Ayala gave a report on the updated Internal Systems Committee meeting calendar for the remainder of 2011. The meetings had been rescheduled to accommodate the Commission’s strategic planning process.

C. Community Engagement Committee

Commissioner Betz commented that the Committee had discussed the structure of the current Community Engagement Committee and agreed with the recommendation to incorporate the work of this Committee into the other two standing Committees. Much of the duties would be delegated to a re-named “Program and Community Engagement Committee.”

1. ***Motion: Accept the First 5 Solano Community Input Report.***

Discussion: Christina Arrostuto made a presentation on the First 5 Solano Community Input Report.

Commissioner Betz commented that at the meetings he had attended, parents requested changing the term “parent education” to “parent support”.

Commissioner Betz moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. ***Motion: Approve Minutes of the May 20, 2011 Community Engagement Committee meeting (Commissioners Betz and Dean).***

Commissioner Betz moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Executive Director’s Report

A. ***Motion: Consider approval of the revised Commission “Committee Structure” document, restructuring the 3 standing Committees to 2 Committees, the “Systems and Policy” and “Program and Community Engagement” Committees.***

Discussion: Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the staff report and Committee process behind this item. The recommendation is credited to 1) the fine work the Committee has accomplished in the past few years to root community engagement in the Commission’s policy and practice and 2) the shift to First 5 Futures as a priority activity which will take additional staff and Commission time. The formal work of the Committee would be incorporated into the remaining two standing Committees, and “community partner” visits would be directed to Business Engagement and other First 5 Futures purposes.

Commissioner Fairchild moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ayala noted that Commissioner Fairchild, who chaired the Program Committee, was already serving as the liaison for both the First 5 CA and Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families 2011 Conference. With the change in Committee Structure, other Commissioners are available for Committee service, so he (with her consent) appointed

Commissioner Dean as Chair of the Program and Community Engagement Committee.

Michele Harris, Deputy Director for First 5 Solano, presented Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary for First 5 Solano, with an award acknowledging her ten years of work with Solano County. Ms. Devaney thanked the County for the award and acknowledged the dedicated work of all Solano County employees.

Commissioner Ayala recognized Ms. Harris' recent graduation from the CSAC Training Institute with a Senior Executive Credential.

The Commission took a short break.

VI. Strategic Planning

A. Motion: Accept the First 5 Solano 2011 Community Indicators Report.

Discussion: Steven LaFrance, Principal of LFA Group (First 5 Solano's evaluator), reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the 2011 Community Indicators Report and 2011 Family Survey.

The Commission discussed the Healthy People 2020 targets for infant mortality and how they were derived. Overall, the Commission did not agree that the standard for infant mortality should be increased rather than decreased. A footnote was added to the Community Indicators Report that stated the First 5 Solano Commission decided to use the Healthy People 2010 target for this item as opposed to the Healthy People 2020 target.

Commissioner Dean commented that making a connection between the people who need recreational services and the public libraries was very important, as the libraries have information on a lot of resources for families.

Ms. Arrostuto commented that transportation was a barrier for a lot of families to get to the library. Some of the school readiness sites had created their own on-site libraries, to make it easier for parents to access early literacy supports.

Commissioner Dean moved to approve this motion as amended: adding a footnote to the Community Indicators Report to state "the First 5 Solano Commission decided to use the Healthy People 2010 target for infant mortality as opposed to the Healthy People 2020 targets". The motion passed unanimously.

B. Motion: Accept the First 5 Solano 2011 Family Survey.

Commissioner Dean moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lori Allio, 2011 Strategic Plan Update consultant, asked the Commission to comment on the most important items, from their perspectives, in the reports they had just received. Items mentioned were:

- In the KRR, when cognitive development was the focus, there was an improvement. Thus, there was a direct link between focusing investments on an issue and positive results.
- Some Commissioners wanted more information about infant mortality and access to prenatal care.

- Lack of transportation and child care, safe parks and safe neighborhoods were key issues that have come up repeatedly over the years. These may be beyond the scope of First 5 funding, but continued to be important community issues. What role could the Commission play to impact those needs? One suggestion was working with the Solano Transportation Authority to find access routes to main service centers.
- Looking more carefully at the concept of serving as the clearinghouse for information on free and reduced cost services, like the library and even funding early childhood recreational and library activities.
- Importance of “drilling down” into subgroups and identifying ways to assist populations that needed more services.
- Focusing on the groups based on location, ethnicity and income.
- Focusing on the Spanish-speaking population, which is growing.

VII. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Thigpen commented that she had participated in the Fil-Am Chamber mixer recently hosted by First 5 Solano. It was a very successful “First 5 Futures” event in helping the Commission build business relationships, and there was a great turnout. Commissioner Thigpen also attended the Pista sa Nasyon festival, which was the 25th anniversary of the Fil-Am Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Speck commented that he was impressed with the data and reports that had been presented that evening.

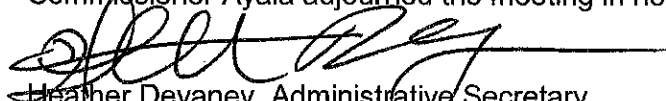
Ms. Arrostuto commented that the Assembly Budget Subcommittee recommended last week that they would be interested in repealing AB99 if First 5 Commissions would “give” \$500 million to the state instead of \$1 billion. Commissions across the state have been having calls on this suggestion, but it didn’t seem feasible.

Commissioner Dean asked that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Cris “Oggee” Villanueva, who had passed away. He was a member of the Vallejo City USD School Board and was active in children’s programs in the county.

VIII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on August 9, 2011 at 5:00 PM, 601 Texas Street, Room B. Future agenda items include: Approve 2012 Commission/Committee Meeting Schedule; Strategic Planning; Basic Needs Funding.

Commissioner Ayala adjourned the meeting in honor of Mr. Villanueva at 7:34 PM.


 Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary
 Approved: August 9, 2011