

## First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 5:30PM  
601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield, CA

### Attendance

Commissioners: Dana Dean (Chair), Linda Seifert, Dan Ayala, Jay Speck, Elaine Norinsky  
Aaron Crutison were all present when the meeting was called to order.

Staff/Public: Commission staff and 13 members of the public

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34PM by Chair Dean.

#### I. Public Comment

No Public Comment

#### II. Consent Calendar

***A. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for October 2, 2012***

***B. Approve the minutes of the August 14, 2012 Commission Meeting***

**Moved: Commissioner Ayala**

**Vote: 6-0-0**

**Commissioner Gossell arrived 5:40PM**

#### III. Breast Feeding-Friendly Express

Breastfeeding Coalition of Solano County presented information and statistics on breast feeding and thanked the Commission for supplying the Breast Feeding Friendly Express to the County Fair.

Mike Paluszak, Solano County Fair Director, thanked Christina, First 5 and the Commission for bringing the Breast Feeding Friendly Express to the fair and hopes to see the Express in the future.

Commissioner Dean thanked First 5 Fresno for allowing First 5 Solano the ability to rent the Breast Feeding Express, considered a tremendous success, and shared the thought of looking into providing such a resource locally. Commissioner Dean presented certificates to the volunteers in thanks for providing their assistance.

#### IV. Public Hearing: FY2011/12 Annual Audit

***Motion: Receive the FY2011/12 First 5 Solano Audit***

Phyllis Taynton, Assistant Auditor-Controller, presented First 5 Solano FY2011/12 Annual Audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and also the government auditing standards issued by Comptroller General

of the United States. In addition we audited the commission's compliance with the state compliance.

Three reports were issued in conjunction with the audit. The first report is the Independent Auditor's report and financials, for which an "unqualified" opinion was issued. This is what is known as a "clean opinion" and is the highest rating. The second is the internal controls report; this audit report was also issued an "unqualified" opinion. The third is the report on the state's compliance; again an "unqualified" opinion was given. She also noted that during FY2011/12, the liability of AB99 was extinguished and the funds returned to the Commission's financial statements.

Commissioner Dean questioned the difference shown in what was budgeted and actually spent shown as a negative. Ms. Taynton let the commissioner know that she would the variance in a positive manner and fix the presentation issue.

Commissioner Dean commented on the large gap of funds not used by some grantees, and requested this information brought back to the Systems and Policy Committee, The Committee will report back to the commission on the unspent funds as needed.

**Moved: Commissioner Seifert**

**Vote: 7-0-0**

## **V. Public Hearing: FY 2011/12 Annual Report**

***Motion: Approve the First 5 Solano submission to First 5 California for its FY2011/12 Annual Report***

The First 5 Solano FY2011/12 Annual Report was presented by Cherelyn Ellington, Prenatal and Early Childhood Education Programs Manager. Ms. Ellington began by reviewing the parameters of the report, noting that the report is prepared in a manner and format specified by First 5 California, but that First 5 Solano adds additional information (primarily about results, such as the "Table of Accomplishments" and "Leveraged Funds Report"). The data comes from grantees and is available to the Commission, the Board of Supervisors and the public.

**Moved: Commissioner Gossell**

**Vote: 7-0-0**

## **VI. Committee Reports**

A. Systems and Policy Committee

***A.1. Motion: Approve an allocation of \$69,885 to the Interfaith Council of Solano County for the period of October 2012 – June 30, 2013 for transition of homeless families to permanent housing. Source of funding: Long Term Financial Plan.***

The recommendation of the Systems and Policy Committee is to approve the allocation to Interfaith Council of Solano County to continue the program that was started in FY11/12. The dollar amount that is to be spent per family remains at \$1,000 per family for housing needs.

Linda Mahoney, Director of the Interfaith Council of Solano County, commented that ICSC started a new program to use the funds that were allocated and had requirements for the families that received the dollars that have been allocated. The dollars spent to date moved 24 families into permanent housing. The help families with rent or deposit costs, keep them focused on obtaining/keeping their jobs and teach them self-sufficiency strategies. The monies used to date were only used for deposits and first month rent, the checks were made out to the landlords.

**Moved: Commissioner Speck**

**Vote: 7-0-0**

***A.2. Motion: Approve the revised 2012-2015 Program Investment Plan, Alternative 2.***

**Moved: Commissioner Seifert**

**Vote: 7-0-0**

## **VII. Executive Director's Report**

***A. Motion: Adopt a Resolution in support of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17, 2012, receive a report on Solano Safety Net Summit on Poverty activities, and endorse the United Way of the Bay Area "Partner Pledge for the Bay Area Roadmap to Cut Poverty"***

Christina Arrostuto, Executive Direct, gave a presentation to the commission in support of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17, 2012. In terms of prevention and early intervention, reducing poverty couldn't be a better topic. Ms. Arrostuto showed a PowerPoint presentation reflecting how First 5 Solano assisted the community as the economy worsened in 2008-2011, including establishing the Community Stability Fund.

The United Way of the Bay Area had many community conversations and launched a 10-year campaign to reduce poverty, with many partners throughout Solano County. First 5 joined with a core steering committee including the Children's Network, Kaiser Permanente, UWBA and CAP Solano to hold "Safety Net Summits on Poverty" meetings. There have had five summits to date, touching people deeply across our community. The format of the meetings included education about poverty and "collective impact" strategies to address poverty locally. The 50-100 community participants committed to short- medium- and long term goals.

Participants created a very robust "system scan" of available county services as the short-term goal. The medium-term goal was an "Opportunity Conference," held in May 2012, a day when people living in poverty came together, were educated on poverty, and built their self-esteem. "Navigators" volunteered as informal mentors, people willing to open doors in the community. The long-term project was a 5-year strategic goal that would impact poverty in our community, the group centered in on education and jobs as being the most important areas to address.

Ms. Arrostuto recommended that the Commission endorse the UWBA "Partner Pledge" to support the UWBA "Roadmap to Cut Poverty," Every entity that endorses this

resolution agrees to be publicly named and acknowledged as supporters of the project and will help shape the project. First 5 Solano would be agreeing to participate in helping define what success looks like (metrics) and what is measured, lastly agree to participate in at least one road map strategy. She mentioned that she has been asked to serve on the UWBA's "Founding Steering Council," a group of community partners that is working to move the "Cut Poverty in Half by 2020" project forward in the Bay Area.

**Moved: Commissioner Seifert**

**Vote: 7-0-0**

**VIII. Chair Appoints Nominating Committee for 2013 Officers**

Volunteers: Commissioner Gossell and Commissioner Crutison.

**IX. Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner Dean welcomed new Commissioner Aaron Crutison.

Commissioner Crutison introduced himself and gave a brief history of his work and background.

Commissioner Ayala, who attended the recent First 5 Quarterly Grantee Training and Technical Assistance meeting, encouraged the Commissioners to do the same, noting it is a great opportunity to meet and speak with grantees. Commissioner Ayala also let the Commission, public and staff know about the recent annual "Kid Fest" held in Vacaville.

Commissioner Dean spoke briefly on the visit that she and Christina Arrostuto had with First 5 Fresno in speaking with their Commission and thanking them for the use of the Breast Feeding Friendly Express.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02PM

Denise Winters, Office Assistant III

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_