

# First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

## Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 5:30 PM Multi-Purpose Room 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA

### Attendance

Commissioners: Norma Thigpen, Chair; Debbie Gossell, Vice-Chair; Dan Ayala; Stephan Betz; Sheryl Fairchild; Elaine Norinsky; Linda Seifert.

Staff/Public: Commission staff and one member of the public were present.

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:37 PM by Chairperson Thigpen.

#### I. Greetings, Introductions, Public Comment

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

There was no public comment.

#### II. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for December 1, 2009

*Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for December 1, 2009.*

*Commissioner Betz moved to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### III. Approve Minutes of the October 6, 2009 Commission Meeting and November 14, 2009 Commission Retreat

*Motion: Approve Minutes of the October 6, 2009 Commission Meeting and November 14, 2009 Commission Retreat.*

*Commissioner Norinsky moved to approve this motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### IV. Executive Director's Report

*A. Motion: Approve a grant application to the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, for \$1,200,000 for a research program to study the impacts of enhanced home-visiting, early developmental health services and family economic success funds on the incidence of substantiated CPS reports among high-risk families with children aged 0-2.*

Discussion: Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director for First 5 Solano, reviewed the portion of her Executive Director's report regarding this motion. She informed the Commission that some funds were needed to assist in the costs for developing the grant application. The original estimates turned out to be lower than the actual costs. She asked the Commission if they would consider earmarking \$10,000 from the Organizational Support Fund to assist with the costs for preparing the grant application.

*Commissioner Seifert moved to approve the motion as amended: Approve a grant application to the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, for \$1,240,000 for a research program to study the impacts of enhanced home-visiting, early developmental health services and family economic*

**success funds on the incidence of substantiated CPS reports among high-risk families with children aged 0-2 and authorize a \$10,000 allocation from the Organizational Support Fund to assist in the costs for developing the grant application. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Arrostuto reviewed the remainder of her Executive Director's report, including information on the proposed tobacco tax ballot initiative.

Commissioner Seifert asked if it would be possible to write letters or if there is something Commissioners could sign to help obtain backfill dollars for First 5 Solano on the new tax initiative.

## **V. Committee Meetings**

### **A. Program Committee**

Commissioner Norinsky explained that there is no business to report from the Program Committee, however the next meeting will have some very important items on the agenda.

### **B. Internal Systems Committee**

Commissioner Gossell reviewed the co-sponsorship requests approved at the last meeting.

### **C. Community Engagement Committee**

Commissioner Betz informed the Commission that the Public Affairs training for Commissioners will be in December or January. There are so many community engagement events going on that staff has had to ask grantees to help First 5 Solano distribute their materials at their booths. He asked that when Commissioners meet with grantees, that they please support this effort to help reach out to the community.

## **VI. Election of 2010 First 5 Solano Commission Officers**

***Motion: Consider approval of the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for election of 2010 First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission Officers: Chair – Commissioner Debbie Gossell and Vice Chair – Dan Ayala.***

Discussion: Commissioner Betz reviewed the staff report from the Nominating Committee. He explained that Commissioner Ayala stepped down from the Nominating Committee, as he was one of the Commissioners being considered for nomination to be an officer.

***Commissioner Betz moved to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

## **VII. Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner Gossell informed the Commission that the Fairmont school in Vacaville will be starting an Early Start program there, which will focus on children ages zero to three that focuses on children who receive in-home services.

Commissioner Ayala reported that last week, Dixon Family Services (DFS) hosted an event to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On behalf of DFS, he was asked to thank First 5 Solano for all of the support the Family Resource Center has received.

Commissioner Fairchild thanked Commissioner Thigpen for her great service to the Commission and welcomed the new officers.

Commissioner Norinsky echoed Commissioner Fairchild's remarks.

Commissioner Betz thanked Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary for First 5 Solano, for the succinct way the minutes of the November retreat were put together. He requested that pictures of the tablecloths from the retreat be put into a document and sent to Commissioners or posted on the website. Commissioner Betz thanked Commissioner Thigpen for guiding the Commission for the past year and for keeping the meetings on track.

Commissioner Seifert thanked the Commissioners and First 5 Solano staff for all of the help and support throughout the last year. She commented that she is looking forward to working with the new officers, as well as continuing to work with Commissioner Thigpen.

Commissioner Thigpen commented that being a part of the Commission has been an honor for her and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as Chair.

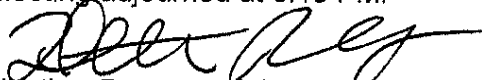
Commissioner Norinsky explained that the thing she appreciates most about Commissioner Thigpen is the fact that she remained so calm in spite of all of the issues that came up during the last year.

Commissioner Thigpen thanked staff, and especially Ms. Arrostituto, for the support provided to her throughout her year as Chair.

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

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on January 12, 2010 at 5:30 PM, Multi-Purpose Room at 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533. Future agenda items include: Introduction of 2010 Officers; Appointment of Committee Chairs.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

  
Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary

Approved: *January 12, 2010*