

# First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

## Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, August 3, 2010, 5:30 PM Solano Community College 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield, CA

### Attendance

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

Staff/Public: Commission staff and approximately 20 members of the public were present.

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:30 PM by Chairperson Gossell.

#### I. Review, Amend, Adopt Agenda of August 3, 2010

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

#### II. Public Comment

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

There was no public comment.

#### III. Presentation of NACo Award

Michael Johnson, Solano County Administrator, presented a "2010 Achievement Award" from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK) initiative to Commissioner Gossell. Patrick Duterte, Director of Solano County Health and Social Services Department (H&SS), thanked the Commission and acknowledged the hard work of all the partners, represented by Debbi Davis from Children's Nurturing Project and Glenda Lingenfelter and Megan Richards from H&SS.

#### IV. Approve Minutes of June 1, 2010 and June 15, 2010 Commission Meetings

*Commissioner Fairchild moved to approve the June 1, 2010 Commission meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Commissioner Alarcón moved to approve the June 15, 2010 Commission meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### V. Approve 2011 Commission Meeting Schedule

*Motion: Approve 2011 Commission Meeting Schedule*

Discussion: Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director for First 5 Solano, explained that the 2011 schedule is patterned on the 2010 schedule, with one exception: staff is recommending the August 2011 meeting be moved to the second Tuesday. The first Tuesday of August is "National Night Out," and First 5 staff and Commissioners have been receiving an increasing number of requests to participate in events that evening.

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

## **VI. State Budget Issues and Impacts**

Mr. Duterte reviewed the FY2010/11 Governor's "May Revise" budget. This year H&SS is at risk of "drastic" cuts. The budget identifies CalWORKS, In-Home Support Services, transitional age youth programs and Healthy Families as having deep cuts or being eliminated completely.

(Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Superintendent/President of Solano Community College, arrived and welcomed the Commission to the college. Dr. Laguerre explained that since the Commission-sponsored Economic Development Corporation breakfast in March, the Commission has convinced many people how important it is to take care of children ages 0-5. The college will continue to support early childhood education under Dr. Laguerre's leadership.)

Kim Thomas, Executive Director for Children's Network, informed the Commission that in the May revise, the governor was proposing to eliminate all funding for child care in the state, except for state preschool, which is approximately a \$23 million dollar cut to Solano County alone. She reviewed the effects this would have on children, providers and parents in the county. Ms. Thomas expressed her hope that the Commission would join with the Children's Network, Children's Alliance and the Child Care Planning Council in expressing their opposition to the proposed child care cuts.

Commissioner Gossell directed staff to prepare a letter to this effect.

Doug Hayward, Executive Director for Solano Coalition for Better Health, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding proposed cuts to the Healthy Families, Healthy Kids and Medi-Cal programs.

## **VII. Fairfield and Suisun City Services Presentation**

Vickie Good, Adult School Principal for Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD), explained to the Commission that for the past ten years, they have had funding to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for parents, as well as teaching them how to read to their children daily. The funding for that program does not exist this year. The new Bransford preschool library is on the same site as a state preschool and the adult school.

Liz Teresi, First 5 Solano School Readiness Coordinator for FSUSD, reviewed the scope of work between First 5 Solano and FSUSD for the new library. The scope of work includes parenting classes, library lessons for the children, hearing and vision screenings and community meetings.

Shirley Collins, Lead Training and Curriculum Specialist for Child and Youth Programs at Travis Air Force Base (AFB), explained the main goals of the program she works for is to provide available, quality and affordable child care. Travis AFB is currently working on building another child development center to accommodate more children.

Ana Dineen, Healthy Start FRC Coordinator for FSUSD, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the programs the Healthy Start Family Resource Centers (FRCs) run, the events they hold and the partnerships with other community agencies. About fifty percent of the families the FSUSD FRCs see every year have children ages 0-5.

Ms. Arrostuto made a special announcement to the Commission that Ms. Dineen is retiring at the end of August, and acknowledged the years of hard work and dedication that Ms. Dineen has put in for the FRCs and the school district. Ms. Dineen thanked the Commission for the recognition. Araceli Cantu-Tong, Director of English Learner Services for FSUSD, commented that there is no obstacle that Ms. Dineen can't overcome to serve the community. Commissioner Betz commented that Ms. Dineen has empowered the Healthy Start program to help it take health services into a school and transform the parent/teacher/child relationship. The Commission took a

short break to congratulate Ms. Dineen.

## VIII. Committee Reports

### A. Program Committee

#### 1. Item: 2010 Solano Children's Report Card Presentation

Discussion: Amanda Winn, Community Organization Analyst for Children's Network, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the 2010 Solano Children's Report Card. Highlights included the negative impact of the economic downturn on Solano families and the changing demographics of the child population.

#### 2. **Motion: Consider approval of the First 5 Solano Basic Needs Fund Deployment Plan.**

Discussion: Commissioner Fairchild reviewed the staff report for this item. Under this plan, \$400,000 of the one-time, \$1 million First 5 Solano Community Stability Fund will be deployed over FY2010/11 and FY2011/12 through the FRCs, for basic needs such as avoidance of eviction/utility shut-off for families with children aged 0-5. FRC staff will use a system and criteria already in place for this purpose. First 5 funds will not supplant existing funds such as LIHEAP or other resources.

Commissioner Betz thanked the Program Committee members and staff for putting together an "amazing" plan.

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

#### 3. **Motion: Consider the deployment of up to \$400,000 (\$200,000 for FY2010/11 and \$200,000 for FY2011/12) as a one-time basic needs fund for pregnant women and families with children ages 0-5.**

Discussion: Commissioner Seifert requested the words "in accordance with the First 5 Solano Basic Needs Deployment Plan" be added to the motion.

**Commissioner Seifert moved to approve the motion as amended: Consider the deployment of up to \$400,000 (\$200,000 for FY2010/11 and \$200,000 for FY2011/12) as a one-time basic needs fund for pregnant women and families with children ages 0-5, in accordance with the First 5 Solano Basic Needs Deployment Plan. The motion passed unanimously.**

### B. Internal Systems Committee

Commissioner Ayala reviewed the Co-Sponsorship Fund grants awarded at the last Internal Systems Committee meeting. He informed the Commission that the Committee will be bringing forward some suggested revisions to the Co-Sponsorship policy in October as part of the annual review of Commission policies.

### C. Community Engagement Committee

Commissioner Betz reported that the Community Engagement Committee had not met since the last Commission meeting.

Maureen McSweeney, former First 5 Solano Commissioner and current Early Childhood Development Professor at Solano Community College, announced the next Early Childhood Education conference will be on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The

topic will be "Today Decides Tomorrow".

**IX. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Arrostuto reviewed her Executive Director's Report and noted that First 5 Solano recently had their "ribbon-cutting" (new Chamber member event) at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, including a KUIC coffee break.

First 5 also had an exhibit at the Solano County Fair that was staffed by community partners and First 5 staff throughout the run of the fair. At the booth, the summer safety items were handed out (sun visors, sanitizing wipes and sun safety kits).

First 5 Futures is moving forward with establishing a position for a fund developer.

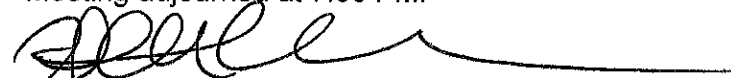
**X. Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner Seifert reported that at the Board of Supervisors' (BOS) FY2010/11 Budget Hearings, the BOS authorized the filling of nine vacant positions in the Child Welfare Services division despite the hiring freeze, noting the critical need to maintain child safety. The BOS also asked its Health and Social Services/Family Justice Subcommittee (HSSFJS) take a closer look at child welfare services being provided in Solano County. That meeting will be later this month, or in September.

**XI. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location**

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on October 5, 2010 at 5:30 PM, Solano County Events Center, Conference Room A, 601 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533. Future agenda items include: FY2009/10 Annual Report and Audit; Nominating Committee for 2011 Officers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.



Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary

Approved:

October 5, 2010