

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 5:30 PM 601 Texas Street, Room A, Fairfield, CA

Attendance

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

Staff/Public: Commission staff and approximately 25 members of the public were present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:42 PM by Chairperson Ayala.

I. Public Comment

Nazlin Huerta, Health Education Specialist for Solano County Mental Health, commented that the Solano County Board of Supervisors (BOS) designated May as Mental Health Month. The department had put out a calendar with all of the events going on throughout the month.

Kim Thomas, Executive Director of Children's Network, asked the Commission to consider allowing themselves access to the money that is set aside today with the cost savings from the budget modifications.

II. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for May 10, 2011

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for May 10, 2011.

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

III. Approve Minutes of the April 5, 2011 Commission Meeting

Motion: Approve Minutes of the March 1, 2011 Commission Meeting.

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

Commissioner Betz commended staff for the outstanding job in pulling all of the varied items from the April Commission meeting into a comprehensive set of minutes. Christina Arrostituto, Executive Director for First 5 Solano, commended Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary for First 5 Solano, for her excellent work in this area.

IV. FY2011/12 First 5 Budget Reductions

A. *Motion: Consider approval of reductions of \$838,718 (from \$2,537,758 to \$1,699,040) in internal services and expenses to the FY2011/12 First 5 Solano Budget*

Discussion: Ms. Arrostituto commented that the FY2011/12 budget is fully funded. However, Commissioners have chosen to make reductions to save funds for the future, given the devastating effect of AB99 on the Commission's finances. She reported that staff and grantees have worked together to recommend both internal and contracted services reductions for FY2011/12 that are designed to ensure the currently-funded grants can meet their performance goals for next fiscal year (the last year of a five-year funding cycle).

Ms. Harris reviewed the staff report for item IV.A.

Commissioner Seifert commented that she was concerned with the elimination of the \$200,000 from the Community Stability Fund (CSF). Commissioner Fairchild commented that she would like to add the elimination of funding for Commissioner stipends for FY2011/12 to this motion. Commissioner Seifert requested the line item for Commissioner stipends be eliminated, \$75,000 be added back into the CSF. Commissioner Dean suggested that \$9,000 be added back for Community Engagement quarterly event partnerships.

Commissioner Seifert moved to approve this motion as amended: Consider approval of reductions of \$838,718 (from \$2,537,758 to \$1,765,049) in internal services and expenses to the FY2011/12 First 5 Solano Budget, eliminating stipends (\$8,000), adding \$75,000 back to the Community Stability Fund and adding back funding for Community Engagement quarterly event partnerships (\$9,000).

The Commission discussed different funding options, and chose to table this motion until after item IV.G.

B. Motion: Consider approval of reductions of \$219,131 (\$1,611,628 to \$1,392,497) in the BabyFirst Solano Initiative for FY2011/12.

Commissioners Betz and Thigpen recused themselves from this item, stating their conflict of interest as employees of the Solano County Health and Social Services Department, which is a contractor for this initiative, and left the room.

Discussion: Chris Shipman, Health Programs Manager for First 5 Solano, reviewed the staff report for this item, along with Nancy Calvo and Shelli Cannon-DeCreek (Solano County Health and Social Services/Public Health).

Commissioner Norinsky commented that she found it difficult to vote on program reductions, and she would choose to abstain.

Commissioner Seifert moved to approve this motion. The motion passed with six ayes, and one abstention (Commissioner Norinsky).

Commissioners Betz and Thigpen returned to the meeting.

C. Motion: Consider approval of reductions of \$38,651 (\$303,887 to \$265,236) in the Children's Health Initiative.

Commissioner Speck recused himself from this item, stating his conflict of interest as an employee of the Solano County Office of Education, which is a contractor for this initiative, and left the room.

Discussion: Ms. Shipman reviewed the staff report for this item, along with Doug Hayward (Solano Coalition for Better Health).

Commissioner Betz moved to approve this motion. The motion passed with seven ayes and one abstention (Commissioners Norinsky).

Commissioner Speck returned to the meeting.

D. Motion: Consider approval of reductions of \$93,908 (\$1,343,857 to \$1,249,949) in the Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative for FY2011/12.

Commissioners Betz and Thigpen recused themselves from this item, stating their conflict of interest as employees of the Solano County Health and Social Services Department, which is a contractor for this initiative, and left the room.

Discussion: Ms. Shipman reviewed the staff report for this item, along with Debbi Davis (Children's Nurturing Project), Michael Kitzes (Solano County Health and Social Services/Mental Health Division) and Kathy Lago (Solano Family and Children's Services).

Commissioner Speck moved to approve this motion. The motion passed with six ayes and one abstention (Commissioner Norinsky).

Commissioners Betz and Thigpen returned to the meeting.

E. Motion: Consider approval of reductions of \$47,114 (\$550,316 to \$503,202) in the Quality Child Care Initiative for FY2011/12.

Discussion: Venis Jones Boyd, Quality Child Care Programs Manager, reviewed the staff report for this item along with Kim Thomas (Children's Network) and Grayland Hilt (Child Start).

Commissioner Gossell moved to approve this motion. The motion passed with eight ayes and one abstention (Commissioner Norinsky).

F. Motion: Consider approval of reductions of \$137,094 (\$1,246,420 to \$1,109,326) in the School Readiness Initiative for FY2011/12.

Commissioners Speck and Gossell recused themselves from this item, stating their conflict of interest as employees of the Solano County Office of Education (Speck) and Vacaville Unified School District (Gossell), which are contractors for this initiative, and left the room.

Discussion: M. Lynn Hoffman, School Readiness Programs Manager, reviewed the staff report for this item along with Elizabeth Terisi (Anna Kyle School Readiness), and Lisette Estrella-Henderson and Dr. Cheryl Lynn de Werff (Solano County Office of Education).

Commissioner Dean moved to approve this motion as amended: Consider approval of reductions of \$137,094 (\$1,246,420 to \$1,117,626) in the School Readiness Initiative for FY2011/12; adding back \$8,300 for the Priority One Preschool Network (POPEN) to keep home visits at a rate of once a week. The motion failed with four ayes and three abstentions (Commissioners Fairchild, Thigpen and Norinsky).

Commissioner Seifert moved to approve the original motion: Consider approval of reductions of \$137,094 (\$1,246,420 to \$1,109,326) in the School Readiness Initiative for FY2011/12. The motion failed with four ayes, one no and two abstentions (Commissioners Thigpen and Norinsky).

Commissioner Fairchild moved to approve this motion as amended: Consider approval of reductions of \$137,094 (\$1,246,420 to \$1,113,526) in the School Readiness Initiative for FY2011/12; adding back \$4,200 for the Priority One Preschool Network to keep visits at the rate of every other week. The motion passed with seven ayes.

Commissioners Gossell and Speck returned to the meeting.

G. Motion: Consider approval of reductions of \$67,640 (\$1,406,937 to \$1,339,297) in the Integrated Family Support Initiative for FY2011/12.

Commissioners Betz and Thigpen recused themselves from this item, stating their conflict of interest as employees of the Solano County Health and Social Services Department, which is a contractor for this initiative, and left the room.

Discussion: Venis Jones Boyd reviewed this item, along with Rosemary Kennedy (Children's Network).

Commissioner Fairchild moved to approve this motion. The motion passed with seven ayes.

Commissioners Betz and Thigpen returned to the meeting.

The Commission returned to item IV.A.

Commissioner Seifert moved to approve item IV.A as amended: Consider approval of reductions of \$838,718 (from \$2,537,758 to \$1,800,040) in internal services and expenses to the FY2011/12 First 5 Solano Budget, eliminating stipends (\$8,000), adding back \$100,000 to the Community Stability Fund for basic needs and adding back \$9,000 for Community Engagement quarterly event partnerships. The motion passed unanimously.

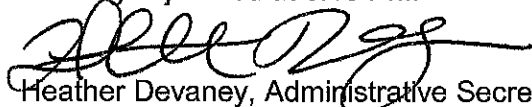
V. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioners thanked community partners and staff for their diligent efforts to preserve services while

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

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on June 7, 2011 at 5:00 PM, 601 Texas St., Room A, Fairfield CA 94533. Future agenda items include: Strategic Planning.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.


Heather Devaney, Administrative Secretary

Approved: June 7, 2011