

## First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, October 4, 2011, 5:00 PM  
601 Texas Street, Room A, Fairfield, CA

### Attendance

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

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

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 5:04 PM by Chairperson Ayala.

### I. Public Comment

Claudia Humphrey, Lift3 Support Group, reported on the \$250,000 federal grant awarded to Lift3Support Group and thanked the Commission for its financial support in applying for this grant opportunity.

Commissioner Seifert arrived at the meeting.

Susan Whalen reported on presenting the collaborative work of screening women of substance abuse to a national audience.

Doug Hayward, Solano Coalition for Better Health, thanked the Commission for its support in providing \$6,500 and technical assistance to support the application to the federal government for a school based oral health grant of up to \$800,000 over 4 years.

Lynn Hoffman presented Sarah Howard a certificate of appreciation for her time and service to First 5 Solano as a College Intern for community and business engagement.

Dan Ayala presented a certificate of appreciation to Heather Devaney for her many years of service to First 5 Solano.

### II. Consent Calendar

**A. Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for October 4, 2011**

**B. Motion: Approve Minutes of the August 9, 2011 Commission Meeting**

**C. Motion: Approve minutes of the August 20, 2011 Commission Retreat**

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

### III. Public Hearing: FY2010/11 Annual Audit

**Motion: Receive the FY2010/11 First 5 Solano Audit**

Ian Goldberg, Deputy Auditor, Solano County, summarized FY2010/11 audit process and advised the Commission that their financial statements included in the Audit are presented fairly as of June 30, 3011.

First 5 Solano again received an “unqualified opinion,” which is the highest rating.

The County Auditor-Controller's Office found no issues with internal controls. A new accounting standard, GASB 54, was required as of FY2010/11 and has determined that about \$8.8 million of First 5's fund balance is considered restricted. AB99 is considered an "extraordinary item" for accounting purposes. Pending any changes (litigation is in process), the Commission will need to remit the funds by June 30, 2012.

The Annual Audit Report will be presented to Solano County Board of Supervisors on October 23, 2011.

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

#### **IV. Public Hearing: First 5 Solano FY2010/11 Annual Report**

***Motion: Approve the First 5 Solano submission to First 5 California for its FY2010/11 Annual Report***

The First 5 Solano FY2010/11 Annual Report was presented by Cherelyn Ellington, School Readiness and Community 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). Ms. Ellington presented the highlights of the report. Ms. Arrostuto noted that First 5 Solano currently tracks 472 performance measures, over 90% of which are met or exceeded. Staff will be recommending streamlining of performance measure tracking in the next funding cycle. Additionally, staff intend to propose a consolidation of collaborative efforts for the next funding cycle.

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

#### **V. Public Hearing: Annual Review of the First 5 Solano 2007 Strategic Plan**

Steven LaFrance, LFA Group (First 5 Solano Evaluator) facilitated the statutorily-required annual review of the current First 5 Solano Strategic Plan. Mr. LaFrance presented a 4-year Trends Report on selected performance measures, noting that the current plan has performed well, with significant levels of accomplishment in the funded programs.

#### **VI. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Program and Community Engagement Committee**

- 1. Motion: Approve deployment of previously-allocated Community Stability Funds of up to \$75,000 to support transition services to homeless families with children aged 0-5***

Discussion: Venis Jones Boyd, Family Support & Child Care Programs Manager, gave a brief summary of the motion to include a discussion regarding the decision to authorize the distribution of \$1,000 per family from \$500 per family on the basis that each grant given assists two families in obtaining shelter.

The grant will be awarded to Interfaith Council of Solano County who will be working with three homeless shelters in Solano County.

***Commissioner Dean moved to approve this motion. The motion passed 7-0-0.***

##### **B. Systems and Policy Committee**

## **1. Motion: Adopt First 5 Futures Implementation and Fund Development Plan**

Discussion: Commissioner Seifert introduced the First 5 Futures Implementation and Fund Development Plan, and turned the meeting over to Glen Price of the Glen Price Group to present the details of the Fund Development Plan for First 5 Futures. He complimented the Commissioners on their vision and noted that the plan is the first of its kind, and the plan itself should be marketed to bring in investment dollars, as one or more foundations may be interested in helping First 5 Solano implement the plan, and bring it to scale for other First 5s. The implementation section of the plan is very comprehensive. Lynn Hoffman, Fund Development Manager, will have primary responsibility for implementation; however, it was noted that it is essential that every Commissioner and staff member is needed to successfully implement the plan.

Ms. Arrostuto reported that staff will regularly update the System & Policy Committee on progress. Additionally, Ms. Arrostuto requested that the Commission consider assigning a commissioner to work on an internal strategy team with staff and report back to the commission with any new ideas.

***Commissioner Seifert moved to approve this motion. The motion passed 7-0-0.***

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

Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director for First 5 Solano, reported on staffing changes and levels. Staffing is currently short-handed with the departure of the Administrative Secretary; Solano County is experiencing a hiring freeze, resulting in delays. Until the staffing issues are resolved, First 5 Solano staff may be skipping meetings and dealing with the highest priorities:

In August 2011, the case for AB99 was heard in Fresno County, Michele Harris attended. She was impressed with the Counties' attorneys' presentation. The Commission needs to consider what to fund if and when the restrictions on reserve funds are lifted.

Solano County is a finalist in the 100 Best Communities. There will be a public announcement at 601 Texas Street, Conference Room A, on October 12, 2011 at 9:00. If Solano County wins it will be the 5<sup>th</sup> time in as many years.

The third Safety Net Summit on Poverty (a joint effort of First 5 Solano, United Way of the Bay Area and Children's Network of Solano County) meeting is scheduled to be held in January, 2012.

## **VIII. Chair Appoints Nominating Committee for 2012 Officers**

Commissioners Gossell and Commissioner Fairchild volunteered for the Nominating Committee and were so appointed by the Chair.

## **IX. Strategic Planning**

Dr. Lori Allio, 2011 Strategic Plan Update consultant, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that included final proposed wording of the strategic plan framework based on the work done by Commissioners at their August 22, 2011 Retreat. Proposed changes included eliminating two Result areas that did not receive preference indicators at retreat; the Commissioners agreed that these were either no longer needed, or already covered in Result areas being retained. With those deletions and the addition of new Result areas for Priority 4/First 5 Futures, the new framework has 14 Results in the 4 Priority areas.

The Commission also reviewed the draft agenda for the October 22, 2011 Retreat, and discussed the key goal of the meeting, which is to make decisions on the length of the funding cycle and the amounts per Result area that the commission wants to fund. Additionally, if AB 99 funds are

returned, the Commission would want a contingency plan to make adjustments to their funding plan.

**Public Comments:**

Nancy Calvo, Health Services Administrator, Health & Social Services, shared with the Commission the opportunity to she had to attend Project Launch. The purpose is designed to help the State efforts to increase cross-agency coordination and practice developing early system of care for children.

Shelli Cannon-Dekreek, Health Services Manager, Health & Social Services, stated that we all understand that these are difficult times and things will have to change but would like to build a continuum of care and achieve healthy moms and have healthy babies and in doing so is asking the Commission to continue to support Healthy Well-Being Priority. Ms. Cannon-Dekreek was asked by Commissioner Dean if she had a thought or opinion on Result 3. Ms. Cannon-Dekreek responded by stating that her priorities are R1 and R2, and agreed that R3 can be incorporated into a different result area.

Loren, a former client of Planned Parenthood (a graduate of the Family Life program) spoke to the Commission advocating for resources and emphasized the need to support teen pregnancy. Loren gave a background of the benefits she received from BabyFirst services and the impact on her life from the program.

**X. Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner Fairchild commented that she had participated in the GCYF Conference., where she attended a Faith-Based organization pre-conference and reviewed the outcome information related to community indicators. Sustainability questions were asked and no one could address the sustainability issue.

Commissioner Thigpen commented that she had also attended the GCYF Conference and found the information very interesting. Foundation leaders discussed advocacy and funding concerns on the federal, state and local levels.

Commission Ayala commented that he had attended a Rotary meeting where shaken baby syndrome was demonstrated, and that he had participated in a ribbon-cutting on behalf of First 5 at a pumpkin patch in Dixon.

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

The First 5 Solano Commission Retreat will be held on Saturday, October 22nd from 9:00 AM – 1:00PM at the County Event Center, 601 Texas Street, Conference Room A, Fairfield. The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on December 6, 2011 at 5:00 PM at 601 Texas Street, Fairfield. Future agenda items include: Election of 2012 First 5 Solano Officers; Strategic Planning.

Commissioner Ayala adjourned the meeting at 8:35.

Denise Winters, Account Clerk II  
Approved: