

**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission**

**Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, May 1, 2012, 4:00 PM  
601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield, CA**

**Attendance**

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

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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM by Chair Seifert.

**I. Public Comment**

No public comment

**II. Consent Calendar**

**A. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for May 1, 2012**

***Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for May 1, 2012.***

**Moved: Commissioner Betz**

**Vote: 8-0-0**

**III. Request for Proposals Funding Awards**

**Initial Motion: Consider approval to participate in the First 5 California Child Signature Program (CSP) for early care and education quality improvement, including approval of funding of up to \$210,000 for the Solano CSP for the period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015. Authorize the Executive Director to finalize and submit the Solano CSP Application in response to CSP RFA #2 by May 21, 2012**

Discussion: Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director, made a report on First 5 California's release (March 30, 2012) of a non-competitive Request for Applications (RFA #2) for County Commissions to participate in its "Child Signature Program,"<sup>1</sup> a three-year early developmental quality improvement program.

She noted that while RFA #2 is non-competitive, with no match requirement, staff are recommending the Commission allocate additional local funding in an amount representing a 1:1 match to provide support for sites to participate in the project. There is significant work to be done by the sites, and especially in a resource-challenged county like Solano, sites may have good intentions to participate, but find that their capacity is so strained, without some level of financial support, that they either must drop the program or would fail to achieve the level of participation required to remain in the program.

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<sup>1</sup> The Child Signature Program has 3 phases: RFA #1 was to provide additional support to the eight current "Power of Preschool"/PoP Initiative Counties; Phase 2 is the subject of this report (RFA #2); Phase 3 is scheduled for FY2013/14 and will be an opportunity for some Phase 2 participants that meet F5 California's CSP Baseline Standards to receive enhanced support for two years. That RFP (#3) will be competitive, with a match requirement.

The selected sites will do an extensive readiness assessment, then they commit to creating a quality improvement program, with they will commit to the following three years. First 5 California assists in the project by funding, according to number of classrooms, an Early Learning Systems Specialist (ELSS), who brokers and facilitates site participation in technical assistance and training provided by First 5 California's "E4" – Early Education Effectiveness Exchange, with online and webinar training. The sites will need to conduct the initial needs assessment, develop a quality improvement plan, will be expected to network with each other, and may also need to purchase equipment to allow on-site "attendance" at the trainings and webinars. Sites must also commit to following First 5 California's principles of equity. First 5 California requires local First 5 Commissions to absorb the administrative costs of managing the ELSS. First 5 Solano expects to contract for the ELSS.

Ms. Arrostuto noted that the outpouring of excitement and support for this opportunity in the child development community has been gratifying - 66 classrooms have been identified so far that would qualify for, and are interested in, this program. She also noted that participation in the program could help position Solano County for future opportunities such as Race to the Top or other funding.

Commissioners discussed the CSP opportunity and were uniformly positive. Ms. Arrostuto asked that, if the program is approved, Commissioners allow staff to subsequently determine the proportion of the 1:1 match that should go to year one, year two and year three, since a greater level of effort is required in year one. Commissioners agreed.

Commissioners further agreed that the motion should be revised to allow First 5 Solano to ask for the maximum number of classrooms (30) and that that up to \$150,000 of the year one funding be from the FY2012/13 Discretionary Fund (with the understanding that any additional funding for year one, if needed, would come from the Long Term Financial Plan, as would funding for years two and three, with the Commissioners reviewing sources of funding each year in the budget process for years two and three).

**Amended Motions:**

**Approve participation in the First 5 California Child Signature Program (CSP) for early care and education quality improvement.**

**Moved: Commissioner Gossell**

**Vote: 8-0-0**

**Approve of funding up to \$315,000 at 1:1 match with First 5 California, up to 30 classrooms, for the Solano CSP for the period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015.**

**Moved: Commissioner Betz**

**Vote: 8-0-0**

**Authorize the Executive Director to finalize and submit the Solano CSP Application in response to CSP RFA #2 by May 21, 2012.**

**Moved: Commissioner Gossell**

**Vote: 8-0-0**

**Approve sources of funding: Year 1 Funding in the amount of up to \$150,000 from the 2012/2013 Discretionary Fund, with remaining funds for year 1, year 2 and year 3 from the Long Term Financial Plan, and reassessed during the approval of each budget.**

**Moved: Commissioner Speck**  
**Vote: 8-0-0**

**VI. Commissioner Remarks**

No Commissioner remarks.

**IX. Future Agenda Items, Meeting time/Date/Location**

The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 5:30 PM, 601 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533. Future agenda items include Committee Reports; FY2012-2015, Funding Cycle Update; Proposed Amended 2012-2015 Program Investment Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Denise Winters, Account Clerk II

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



June 5, 2012