



**March 27, 2006 Commission Meeting
Minutes**

Commission Members Present in Ukiah:

David Colfax Diane Pauli Tammy Scott

Commission Members Present in Fort Bragg:

Lucresha Rentería Betty Smith Paul Tichinin

Staff Present in Ukiah:

Anne Molgaard, Executive Director
Tami Jorgensen, Executive Assistant
Stacey Kolsrud, Health Policy Coordinator
Sabra Lughart, Community Outreach Coordinator
Nina deCordova Wright, Program Officer

Others Present in Ukiah:

Susan McConnell Ruben Guerrero Camille Schraeder Karin Wandrei
Noel O'Neill Sharon Kiichli

I. Welcome and Introductions by Vice Chair David Colfax

II. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items

No comments were made.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Approve Agenda
- B. Approve Draft Minutes of 2/27/06 Commission Meeting
- C. Extension of Evaluation Contract
- D. Contract with Child Development Division, Mendocino County Office of Education

Per Commissioner Smith's request, changes will be made to February's minutes to reflect the fact that several child care centers on the coast have directors who are also acting as teachers due to the lack of qualified staff/acceptable salaries.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar, including amendment to the minutes. Motion/Pauli second/Scott. (Colfax, yes; Rentería, yes; Scott, yes; Smith, yes; Pauli, yes; Tichinin, abstain)
Passed.

IV. Business Items

A. Reports

1. Director's Report

Director Anne Molgaard explained and clarified the various items in her written report. She also informed the Commission of a budget adjustment (less than 20%) she approved for the Mendocino County Department of Public Health, Immunization Project.

2. Community Outreach Report

Sabra recently delivered presentations to WIC coastal staff and inland staff members at their monthly meeting in Ukiah. Presentations remain to be delivered with AmeriCorps Parent Advocates and at the Mendocino Coast Clinics.

Preparations for Turn Off TV~Turn On Life week are in progress. We have hired Rachel Kradin as our coastal coordinator. She has been doing excellent work and has secured some exciting events on the coast.

FIRST 5 Commission viewed the new video that will be part of a training tool developed by the Children's Action Committee, a subcommittee of the Policy Council on Children and Youth (PCCY). This project is funded by the Mendocino County Tobacco Settlement funds. The training will be delivered to community members to bring awareness to the issue that child abuse does happen in our community, and what can we do to prevent and recognize child abuse and neglect. The training tool includes a website which will be open to the public on Friday, March 31, 2006. The web address is www.mendocinokids.org. After viewing the film Commissioners suggest that to include a screen of statics, the film to run on MSAT a few time a week, and it was suggested that the "what you can do" section was indirect and did not focus on the connection between methamphetamine use and child abuse. It was also suggested to include a report on the evidence of class income related to abuse and neglect, and pictures of local organizations on the Coast.

3. Access to Health Care – Stacey Kolsrud

Healthy Kids Mendocino Update -

- Presentations to inform and possibly generate funds have been made to the **Coast Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Sonoma-Mendocino-Lake** and to the **Health and Human Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors**. General feedback was positive and encouraging.
- The group continues to make progress working towards the **launch of CalKids in May**. A subgroup of the Planning and Policy Committee is working on specific launch events and dealing with media; while other members of the group are concentrating on creating the provider network and establishing funding for the program. Stacey received feedback from the group about promotional materials.

In effort to continue our fundraising efforts for Healthy Kids Mendocino, we are working on various projects:

- Coordinating a team to walk/run in the **Human Race** with the proceeds going the Healthy Kids Mendocino fund we set up at the Community Foundation.
- Holding a fundraising reception at the **Ukiah Valley Medical Center Outpatient Pavilion** on Sunday, March 26, 2006 from 2:30 - 4:30 pm complete with speakers and refreshments. Three pledges of \$5,000, including one from UVPC, and a single pledge of \$1,000 were received at the event.

Other Activities:

- Stacey is helping with the planning of the **5th Annual Whole Child Conference** to be held on April 8, 2006. She is in charge of child care for the event and with the help of Commissioner Tammy Scott completely staffed the event with quality

providers, until the registration grew! She is still currently working on staffing the event. Commissioner Smith commended Commissioner Scott and Stacey for their work on this project.

- FIRST 5 assisted with a few **Asthma Roundtables** in 2003-04 that have now resulted in a \$50,000 grant award for planning a local Asthma Coalition. Commissioner Mordhorst and Stacey attended the first meeting. The three areas of focus for the grant will be outdoor air pollution, indoor air pollution and the relationship between asthma in the schools. We are measuring the pros and cons of participating in this coalition due to the fact that Stacey's VISTA position was not replaced and we can only spread the incoming VISTA so thin! Commissioner Pauli commented that she would like to have a FIRST 5 presence in the coalition.

4. **Fiscal Report**

a. After review and discussion, motion made to approve the January 2006 Fiscal Reports. Motion/Tichinin, second/Scott. (Colfax, yes; Rentería, yes; Scott, yes; Smith, yes; Tichinin, yes; Pauli, yes) Passed.

B. First 5 California Annual Report

A public hearing was opened at 3:00 p.m. for input and review of First 5 California's 2005 Annual Report. Hearing no comments from the public, Vice-Chair Colfax closed the public hearing at 3:05.

C. Re-Application for School Readiness Matching Funds

The Commission received a presentation from Susan McConnell and Ruben Guerrero of Mendocino County Office of Education explaining the reapplication process and progress to date.

The primary changes will be to increase staff qualifications, focus on outreach to Family, Friend, and Neighbor child care providers, and to evaluate the project more closely.

Motion made to approve the new School Readiness application for matching funds 2006-2010. Motion/Pauli, second/Scott. (Colfax, yes; Rentería, yes; Scott, yes; Smith, yes; Pauli, yes; Tichinin, abstain) Passed.

D. Early Mental Health

Nina first reminded Commissioners about upcoming meetings with the Early Mental Health Initiative's evaluation consultant, Dr. Barbara (Cricket) Mitchell, on Thursday, April 6th. She invited all Commissioners to attend.

Next, Nina distributed a two-page budget summary for the Initiative. She reported that a grant from The California Endowment seemed likely, but that the amount would be less than anticipated. She also explained that most of the funding hoped for from Proposition 63 would be delayed. Originally staff had hoped to have access to substantial Proposition 63 funds in the Initiative's first year. While there is still a strong prospect that these funds will be directed toward the Initiative, the funds may not be available until the Initiative's third year.

Nina reported that these changes would likely require phased implementation of the Initiative. Children who qualify for Medi-Cal can easily be served initially, since FIRST 5 is responsible for only 5% of the cost of assessment and treatment for those children. However, assessment and

treatment of non-Medi-Cal children will probably need to be delayed until funding can be secured to cover those costs.

Nina then proposed that staff take the following steps to move forward with phased implementation of the Initiative:

- Continue working with The California Endowment to secure a grant of \$300,000 to \$330,000;
- Work with the Department of Mental Health, the Organizational Providers, and other partners to determine protocol and criteria for a “scholarship fund” for uninsured and underinsured children;
- Hire one or more consultants to prepare grant applications for the scholarship fund and other aspects of the Initiative that might appeal to private foundations, paying for the grant writers with funds from The California Endowment;
- Begin implementation of the Initiative, serving Medi-Cal children initially and other children as scholarship funds can be secured; and
- Vigilantly follow the drafting of state guidelines for expenditure of Proposition 63 Prevention and Early Intervention funds, looking for opportunities to make funding for children 0 – 5 a high priority.

Then, in response to a question from Commissioner Scott, Anne described the worst-case scenario that could develop under a plan for phased implementation. Families with public health insurance might be assessed and treated for free, Anne explained, whereas families with private insurance might need to pay a portion of the cost of assessment and treatment.

Sharon Kuehli and Karin Wandrei then spoke, expressing their concern that funding be secured to pay for assessment and treatment of children not eligible for Medi-Cal. They explained that, under their contracts with the county Mental Health Department, the Organizational Providers are obligated to serve 10% non-Medi-Cal children, and are always in danger of not having sufficient funds to fulfill this obligation.

Noel O’Neill of the Department of Mental Health spoke in favor of phased implementation, expressing his hope that by the third year of the Initiative, Proposition 63 could cover a substantial portion of the cost of assessing and treating non-Medi-Cal children. Noel, Camille Schraeder, and Karin Wandrei also reported that in a recent meeting with state officials disbursing Proposition 63 funds, the officials expressed considerable enthusiasm about the Early Mental Health Initiative, calling it “truly cutting edge.”

Karin Wandrei then raised two important concerns: (1) that screening not be provided for children unless it is clear that the children will receive assessment and treatment if necessary; and (2) that children with and without Medi-Cal receive the same quality of treatment. Staff promised to call a meeting with representatives of the Department of Mental Health, the Organizational Providers, and other partners to address these concerns.

Finally, Commissioner Smith praised FIRST 5 and Nuestra Casa staff for holding a focus group on Triple P’s Spanish translation, which seems likely to improve the quality of that translation dramatically. She also asked that staff express to Triple P America the Commission’s concern about the cultural appropriateness of the videotapes, as they are potentially an important tool to use in educating parents. Commissioner Smith requested that other stakeholders review the videotapes.

IV. Next Meetings

A list of potential meeting dates for the remainder of the calendar year 2006 was distributed to Commissioners with a request for input as to Commissioners’ availability.