



**November 1, 2004 Meeting  
Minutes**

**Commission Members Present:**

David Colfax	Paul Tichinin	Carol Mordhorst
Tammy Scott	Diane Pauli	Lucresha Renteria
Betty Smith	Jeremy Mann	Alison Glassey

**Staff Present:**

Anne Molgaard, Executive Director  
Lisa Westfall, Administrative Manager  
Jung Fitzpatrick, Children's Health Initiative  
Nina Morais, Contract Coordinator

**Others Present:**

Nice Alterman                  Cathy Ferron

**I. Welcome and Introductions by Jeremy Mann**

The Commission took photos for the community outreach Annual Report. Group shots were taken at Grantee Sue Benoit's home (where she runs Little Rascals Child Care).

**II. Public Comment on Non-Agendized Items**

None.

**III. Consent Calendar**

Motion made to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion/Glassey; second/Tichinin. Passed.

**IV. Business Items**

**A. Annual Report to First 5 California 2003-04**

Discussion about all the good work that has been accomplished. Motion to accept. Motion/Colfax, second/Mordhorst. Passed.

**B. Audit for Fiscal Year 2003-04**

The 2003-2004 Audit Report was enclosed in the Commission packets. The Independent Audit was performed by Bartig, Basler & Ray. No findings or management letter.

Motion to accept. Motion/Tichinin, second/Colfax. Passed.

**C. Commissioner Appointment Status**

The Commission welcomed Lucresha Renteria as an official Commission member; the Board of Supervisors appointed her on October 26, 2004. Her term will expire in June of 2007. She is the Operations Manager at Mendocino Coast Clinics in Fort Bragg. She

is married and has 3 children. She is also active in LARC (Latino Advocacy Resource Coalition) and her church.

**D. Director's Report**

Special Needs project applied for the State Commission. FIRST 5 is still in the running. It was a difficult application, mainly regarding School Readiness and the need to do universal screening for each child (with a 1 on 1 match). If it is funded, we will need to pull dollars from Regional Grants to leave more funds for this grant. We may need to edit/revise the plan and likely get all players together. While working with Nina Morais our Contract Coordinator, we decided that if this is not funded and we do have funds available, then we will give them more time to submit. There are about 65 births in Willits per year and 30 in Round Valley.

Nina and Anne are preparing the Large Grant materials. Nina has drafted the FAQ and it will be posted to the website.

The C.A.R.E.S. report for 2003-2004 was completed and sent in by the due date of October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Tichinin was wondering when and where the State Conference is next year. The dates are April 27-29, 2005 in Hollywood. Anne confirmed that there is training and travel money available in the Commissioner's budget. Commissioner Scott wondering if each Commissioner makes their own travel arrangements or if Staff will be doing it. Staff is available to make the arrangements. Some Commissioners make their own arrangements if they combine it with other professional or personal obligations.

Preschool For All

Commissioner Pauli had a question about what type of issues she was to review with Commissioner Tichinin as the Preschool for All Subcommittee. Anne said the subcommittee will schedule a meeting at the end of the day today. The main focus will be to look at Preschool For All and assess where we stand as a county. We should be thinking about what type of role we want to take as a more rural county and if we want to consider taking a leadership role in this. We also need to consider how much this will cost. Anne discussed the need for some analysis of our childcare workforce (CARES data, center waiting lists) to determine if we even have a shortage of preschools here. She also touched on how the Preschool For All initiative is a somewhat controversial one; mainly in populations with a higher percentage of people of color. There are some cultures that don't necessarily want their children brought into their community's mainstream at such early ages. Family child care providers also doesn't want to be left out.

Whole Child Conference

As of this date, there were approximately 75 people registered, but expecting about 200 by mid-week. FIRST 5 staff has spent a large amount of time on this project. Jung has been working hard at pulling a lot of this together. Lucy De Nickerson, as the Project Manager, has also been working to coordinate all the logistics.

### **Fire Safety Day**

Jung set up and worked our table at this fair on October 9<sup>th</sup>. More long hours from Jung!

**Education/Conference Scholarships** Commissioner Smith asked for an update on the Scholarships. Lisa Westfall explained how many childcare providers applied and how many were awarded. There were nineteen applicants and sixteen were awarded scholarships. Lisa also explained the general stipend amounts and reasons for those who were turned down. We stayed within the \$12,000 and will present a project report at the next meeting.

### **E. Fiscal Report/Budget**

Monthly fiscal report was included with this month's Commission packets. Motion to accept. Motion/Tichinin, second/Glassey. Passed.

### **F. Access to Healthcare**

Jung Fitzpatrick, VISTA Health Policy Coordinator, reported that the Department of Public Health applied for a step-by-step Planning Grant. Hopefully we will get both grants. We are talking with other FIRST 5's on a regional basis. We also want to talk with Community Foundation to inform them of the initiative.

The average cost of health insurance for a child is approximately \$1,500 a year.

Fund Development with partners will be necessary for the initiative to succeed. The Commission had previously discussed the idea of working with community partners to help FIRST 5 host a Mothers and/or Father's Day event. Tammy brought up how Cinco de Mayo is a large Ukiah community weekend event that does fall close to Mother's Day. She just expressed that some businesses may be overwhelmed with that weekend's preparations. We will explore talking with local wineries and businesses. One of the next steps might be to talk with special event planners to obtain some broad estimates for the project.

United Way has contracted for a regional coordinator for Children's Health Initiative (Sonoma, Lake, & Mendocino Counties). Family Action has received the contract. Requesting support and letter written from the Board of Supervisors to Mendocino Healthy Kids.

### **G. Partner Reports**

We have two partners - Mendocino County Public Advisory Health Advisory Board (MCPHAB) & Tobacco Settlement Advisory Committee (TSAC). They devised four joint priorities: Lifestyle Prevention Education, Aging, Access to Care, and Alcohol & Other Drugs (Mental Health included). Carol is hoping that other counties and organizations adopt these priorities as well in order to focus on improving community health.

**H. Evaluation of Grantee Performance Results and Data**

Nice Alterman and Cathy Ferron, our local evaluators, presented 'What outcomes do we want to have for our children in the next 1-5 years'. Through a participatory process, the Commission defined its outcome priorities:

- To have healthy children
- To have all children ready to learn
- To have higher quality child care
- To have knowledgeable, nurturing community
- To have knowledgeable, nurturing parents
- To maximize operational effectiveness

**I. Commissioner Reports**

Tammy thanked Anne for presenting the keynote address at the NCO All Staff Day, she had received great reports about it.

Alison reported that she had had an initial conversation about additional funding for the proposed Willits Longitudinal Study.

Jeremy reported that his heart is beating well!

**V. Next Meeting**

Monday December 6, 2004 at MCOE and the John Diederich Center in Fort Bragg.

**VI. Announcements**

Next Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday November 17<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the FIRST 5 office.