



February 4, 2002 Meeting

Commission Members Present in Ukiah:

David Colfax, Carol Mordhorst, Gayle Zepeda, Jeremy Mann

Commission Members in Fort Bragg:

Betty Smith

Commission Members Absent:

Alison Glassey, Paul Tichinin

Staff Present in Ukiah:

Anne Molgaard, Executive Director
Laura Franklin, Administrative Assistant

Others Present in Ukiah:

Sheryn Hildebrand, Tess O'Connell, Dotty Coplen, Linda Bouskill Nagel

Others Present in Fort Bragg:

Fayne Leventhal

I. Welcome by Vice-Chairperson Carol Mordhorst

II. Consent Calendar

Motion made to accept the Consent Calendar (Colfax, Zepeda): Colfax, yes; Mann, yes; Mordhorst, yes; Smith, yes; Zepeda, yes. Passed.

- A. Approve Agenda
- B. Approve Minutes of January 7, 2002 Commission Meeting

III. Business Items

A. Directors Report

Items specifically discussed from the Director's Report were as follows:

1. Oral Health

Dr. Katherine Foster, pediatrician and member of Sonoma County's Prop 10 Commission, contacted CF1st about joining in a regional effort to establish a hospital based pediatric dentistry program serving Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties. There will be a planning meeting in Ukiah on Thursday, February 7th. Director Molgaard to e-mail Commissioners with pertinent information.

2. Safe From the Start

Safe From the Start, an initiative to raise awareness of the effect of violence on young children, will hold a forum on the Coast April 10 and an Inland

forum in Ukiah on April 11 with Linda Chamberlin keynote speaker. April 12 is reserved for “change agents” with breakfast for Lake County and lunch for Mendocino County. Updates to follow at Commission March meeting. Commissioner Smith would like to see publicity for the event early in the communities.

3. State CBO Program

Some of the public was recently confused by recent ads in the newspapers regarding monies available from Prop 10. This is not to be confused with our regular grant cycle. These ads concerned the State CCFC CBO Program (Community Based Organizations) targets new and expectant parents and caregivers from diverse populations who are not reached through the paid media or public relations components of the CCFC public education campaign. If Commissioners know of someone who is qualified for the CBO Program, please forward their name and staff will see that they receive an RFP.

4. Other

Commissioner Mann requested a copy of the CD-ROM for new commissioners.

B. Fiscal Report

Motion made to approve December fiscal report (Mann, Colfax): Colfax, yes; Mann, yes; Mordhorst, yes; Smith, yes; Zepeda, yes. Passed.

C. Commission Status and Commissioner Appointments

Director Molgaard reported that County has not completed their update yet. Apparently, the Clerk of the Board is concerned about the inconsistent language in the County Code, by-laws, and Prop 10 law. She suggested Director Molgaard meet with her and County Counsel Klein.

The Commission discussed and decided it prefers appointments made by the entire board and not by specific categories, so that a single Supervisor cannot hold up the appointment process. Commissioner Zepeda would like to see a list of names selected by the Commission presented to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. Commissioner Colfax thought the Board should make at-large appointments, making sure the Commission is balanced.

Also discussed were the options of legal status of the Commission. Commissioners could adopt either one of two different organization types: (1) free-standing public entity in which the Commission is a legal public entity separate from the county, or (2) County agency, which enables the Commission to operate directly under the umbrella of the county government. Director Molgaard presented each with its own advantages and disadvantages. Commissioner Mordhorst favors the County agency because she feels the County is responsible for Prop 10 monies and if something were to happen down the road, the County would be blamed even if the Commission were free-standing. She also had concerns about higher administrative costs that could be associated with a free-standing status. Commissioner Colfax felt the County would still get the heat if something were to come down whether the Commission were under County jurisdiction or not. He also felt it would be better if

the Commission were to bring one idea to the BOS (with regards to Commissioner appointment or Commission legal status) and if the BOS wanted to counter they could at that time. If they were to accept the Commission's suggestions, it could then be moved to Peter Klein to clarify the legal language for the ordinance. Commissioner Zepeda expressed concerns over administrative costs also, and would have liked to have heard Commissioners Tichinin and Glassey's opinions as well.

A motion was made to move forward with ordinance language regarding Commissioner appointments to be made by the Board as a group without specific categories and establishing the Commission as a free-standing public entity to be prepared and presented by Director Molgaard (Colfax, Mann): Colfax, yes; Mann, yes; Mordhorst, no; Smith, yes; Zepeda, yes. Passed.

Commissioner Mordhorst would like to see the letter before Director Molgaard presents it and also to inform Commissioners when the item is on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

D. Regional Status Report

The Commission needs a protocol to decide on second year funding. Prop 10 grants were given out for one year with the possibility of good performance being renewed for year 2, good performance for Year 2 being rewarded for Year 3. Director Molgaard will draft criteria and present to next Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Mann pointed out that the Commission needs to have a starting deadline with the funded grantees. There are several grantees that have not yet begun their programs that were funded in the first round.

Two of the Commission's funded applicants were present to speak about their programs:

CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates): Sheryn Hildebrand, newly appointed Executive Director, gave the presentation. CASA, in collaboration with the Mendocino College Foster and Kin Care Program, sponsored 2 workshops called *Optimizing Care for Children 0-5*. The workshops were well received and CASA is working with the Mendocino County Policy Council on Children and Youth in developing a forum for Spring 2002, *Safe from the Start-- Taking Action on Children Exposed to Violence*. The CASA Board of Directors also held a retreat emphasizing the strategic planning process. An action plan was developed and a follow-up strategic planning oversight was scheduled. There are also plans for further volunteer and facilitator training.

The Commission was concerned about the numbers of children 0-5 that were being serviced through this grant. Commissioner Mordhorst wanted to know if CASA had done any outreach with the attorneys who would benefit from their services for kids; Hildebrand noted that many of their referrals come from judges, social workers and lawyers. Commissioner Zepeda wondered about Native American relations. Relationships still need to be worked on in reservations. Commissioner Mordhorst would like to know of the 400 kids placed in foster care homes, how many of them are aged 0-5.

WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Breastfeeding: Tess O'Connell, registered dietician and lead person for the program, gave a presentation on the success of their program encouraging mothers to nurse their babies. Tess visits every mother giving birth at UVMC. The program has been well received by the medical community. OB nurses at UVMC have been trained so there is more consistency in lactation advice and assistance to new mothers. Physicians as of lately have been sending lactation referrals to WIC's Breastfeeding Coordinator (BF), indicating an increased awareness in the area of lactation. WIC was initially funded to work in the greater Ukiak region, but may present a plan to expand services.

Director Molgaard will continue to have some of our grantees attend Commission meetings and give reports on their programs.

E. Channel Into Children~Plug Into Parents

A budget was presented by Director Molgaard for Channel Into Children~Plug Into Parents (formerly Turn Off TV~Turn On Life) for \$12,506. Through its promotion CF1st would encourage parents and children to spend quality time interacting with each other and to form positive attachments which child development experts have proven are necessary for positive outcomes in life.

A motion was made to endorse Channel Into Children~Plug Into Parents (Mann, Colfax): Colfax, yes; Mann, yes; Mordhorst, no; Smith, yes; Zepeda, yes. Passed.

Discussion: Commissioner Mann felt Channel Into Children~Plug Into Parents sent a positive message and was good for the Commission.

F. Systems Integration

Item tabled until March meeting due to lack of quorum.

G. Policy & Advocacy Framework

Commissioner suggested that Director Molgaard e-mail Commissioners to have them prioritize their top 6 policy topics that they may want to pursue. Item was tabled until March meeting due to lack of quorum.

H. Small Grants

No action taken because this program was previously passed. Director asked remaining Commissioners to let her know if there were any comments on the draft guidelines and application.

I. CCAFA Policy Platform

This was the last opportunity for Commission feedback as February 7, 2002 is the last day for comments. Commissioner Smith would be interested in School Readiness. No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

J. Commissioner Reports

None

III. Event Schedule

Director Molgaard distributed flyers for the upcoming Children & Families State Conference March 21-22 in San Diego.