



June 22, 2015  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
Mendocino County Office of Education

**Commission Members Present**

Lucresha Rentería via video conference	Jeremy Mann	Paul Tichinin via video conference	John Passalacqua
Ben Anderson	Bryan Lowery	Dan Hamburg	

**Public Present who signed in**

Chris Skyhawk – Mendocino Coast Children’s Fund  
Camille Schrader - RCS

**ITEM 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Rentería called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and welcomed visitors. The Commission, staff and public made introductions.

**ITEM 2 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED**

Commissioner Rentería asked for public comment.

**ITEM 3 CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION)**

- A. Meeting Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes from May 29, 2015 Annual Planning Meeting

Motion made to approve the Consent Calendar.  
Motion/Hamburg, Second/Mann, (all ayes, no nays). Motion Passed.

A roll call was taken of the Commissioners present at the meeting.

**MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS AND EVALUATION**

**ITEM 4: DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Molgaard presented a PowerPoint presentation to update the Commission on the goings on in FIRST 5.

PDI has served 2552 kids to date, in Mendocino County. We negotiated a new agreement with Partnership Health Plan (PHP). We lose about \$300 for each case, and only there a limited amount of money to be earned during fundraising. We are looking to build an endowment along with the fundraising initiatives. We have negotiated 160% of MediCal rates for anesthesia and 185% of MediCal rates for facility. In the agreement for the new rates, we now accept developmentally disabled kids up to age 18. Previously we couldn’t accommodate them unless they were petit because the equipment is sized for small children. We will now need new equipment to accommodate the older children. There is a new rule that states regular dentistry must be tried twice before being referred to an outpatient surgery center, effective July 1, 2015. The Shultz Golf Tournament raised \$1 million. Another fundraiser is planned for October 2015, called Make Kids Smile in Sebastopol.

On June 12, FDCC made a presentation to BOS about the federal grant. FDCC components were presented, along with statistical information about a parent’s substance of choice. FIRST 5 has been funding Parent Mentors as well as treatment for anybody that falls through the cracks and has no other funding source. Commissioner Hamburg, Tichinin and Lowery engaged in a conversation confirming alcohol abuse is the highest abused substance in the county and the number of liquor licenses per capita number in the county is a larger ratio than most counties, most likely attributed to the recent establishment of wineries. Dollar General stores were discussed are starting popping-up around the county, the main sale is alcohol.

A program update was given on The ARC, due to the show of gratitude from a client who was legally able to obtain her

driver's license through the programs offered at the ARC. This led to a conversation regarding immigration due to DAPA, which was held up in the courts. Does it make any sense to open an immigration office? Robin Mancini comes up every other Wednesday to see clients. Do we want to train our staff to be paralegals to make some money? Do we want to be part of Catholic Charities, which we won't make any money? Executive Director Molgaard will update the Commission will be updated on progress on immigration at a later date.

There is a big need for high quality child care. CCPC and Foster/Adopt Committee have both discussed need. Executive Director Molgaard explained Foster/Adopt to the Commission. A survey returned from foster parents stated difficult to find child care. The Methodist church asked if we would open a childcare around the same time the survey results were reviewed. Do we focus on Foster care parents, TAY employees, Agency employees and Workforce Investment Program? FIRST 5 could get it started, with a focus on foster families, TAY, agency employees and WIA programs, then hand over to a private provider. We are currently running numbers, but last time the numbers didn't work, currently at \$1.20/sq/ft in rental space from the church. To assist in the startup, we are looking for largest subsidy and then try to gain a match from the community. The church has volunteers who want to help. The location of the church was discussed and they want to rent out the entire half of the south side (away from the worship hall). In 2008, a childcare was opened in the same space. Unfortunately, it opened on the same day as the economy crash. The Commissioner inquired if FIRST 5 would operate the center, but that isn't the goal. If the numbers work, instead of FIRST 5 doing the daily operations, we could instead approach the church about giving them a startup and a sustaining grant. As a Commission, this would be a significant difference to offer this type of service. State Pre-schools, the church and other groups have all been discussed and they were not interested. Commissioners Rentería and Anderson discussed the large cost and maybe another option would be putting it under the Raise & Shine nonprofit or RCS may do it with a startup grant. The way to make it work is to have 36 slots. There would need to be a mix of subsidized and private pay families. Each employee/volunteer would need to be live scanned with additional requirements. Commissioners Lowery and Anderson stated FIRST 5 may not be the correct agency to start this project, RCS has the staff and network, and we need to be careful to not get spread too thin.

AmeriCorps recruitments are open. Flyers advertising the positions were passed around to the Commission for 1 full-time and 1 part-time position.

Commissioner Rentería inquired about rent at the ARRC, as discussed in May 2015. Executive Director Molgaard is scheduled to meet with the new Director later in the week.

#### **ITEM 5: MCCF STAFF SHARING MOA (ACTION)**

Commission was presented with the new MOA and the Draft job description for the position. It reflects the changes and/or clarifications the Commission asked for at the meeting on May 29, 2015. The Commission took time to review the provided documents; names were removed, MOA stated by mutual agreement, there was an out clause and added South Coast. MCCF representative, Chris Skyhawk, requested to use the completed name of Mendocino Coast Children's Fund in the MOA. Commissioner Anderson stated the 14-day termination notice should be written as "14 day written notice to the other party".

Motion made to approve the MOA between MCCF and FIRST 5 Mendocino.

Motion/Mann, Second/Passalacqua, (all ayes, no nays). Motion Passed.

A roll call was taken of the Commissioners present at the meeting. Commissioner Tichinin out of the room and did not take place in the vote, a quorum was still present.

The job description was for information to the Commission only. There were no comments or actions taken.

#### **REDUCED SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND IMPROVED PARENTING**

#### **ITEM 7: GRAND JURY REPORT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (ACTION)**

Commissioner Lowery, acting as Assistant Director of HHSA, reached out to several people involved in helping to protect kids, including Commissioner Passalacqua and Executive Director Molgaard. HHSA is working on a very thoughtful response to the grand jury, due July 20th. He followed up with a letter to each person with a response date for feedback on each agency's thoughts. A large problem is data entry, if the work is done but not entered it would seem as if less work is being done. This information is being compiled and it would be helpful to have as many different perspectives as possible before the response is submitted to the grand jury. He suggested contacting Anita Toste, to give response as she is part of the tribal community and could act as the liaison between HHSA and other tribes. It is an opportunity and highlights HHSA regarding staffing at low levels, and that is being explored. Commissioner Hamburg stated we need improvements but an explanation is needed to the public regarding what the failures are and what the

challenges are. A big one is why do we have this “train and trot” in the county. There are been great employees and have left for lack of moral, pay, etc., and it’s a huge loss of the county. On the coast there are only 2 people where there needs to be at least 5 people. There seem to be some management issues that need to be addressed at a county level. Staff who are out and working on the cases need to feel local support and information they need. BOS is in contract negotiations with NCIU. Commissioner Lowery agreed salaries are a big deterrent/draw, when it comes to management there is always a way to make changes to increase staff morale. Lowery stated that HHSA does do good as well, including participating in FDDC, New Beginnings School, etc. and if we focus too much on the negative, it is a just as detrimental as pay. Commissioner Passalacqua stated the report is just the tip of the ice burg. There are a lot of problems that were not covered. The larger problem is the lack of experience, not using tools available, etc. There are many cases where multiple reports have been made and no action has been taken by Child Welfare.

Commissioner Tichinin and Lowery entered into a discussion about what is appropriate or not to discuss during the meeting. It was clarified that nothing had been said that wasn’t already made public. Executive Director Molgaard stated she needs this discussion so she could write a position paper and go in front of the BOS as an advocate. She is hoping this leads to direction for what the next step is for FIRST 5. The Commission agreed this is an opportunity and it is the only positive way out and there should be the assumption that 0 children should be harmed. It was thought FIRST 5 should work on a position paper and also think about what the appropriate role would be moving forward. Commissioner Lowery stated he would like something FIRST 5, but also to each Commissioner or any other person present, to provide any feedback.

Anne discussed the paper would most likely reinforce the report and adding on points that were not covered. The areas would be programs such as Emergency Response, Human Resources and Fiscal. There is a concern about quarterly facilitated meetings, which is fine for ongoing bases, but in the beginning, it could lose its importance.

Motion made to direct Executive Director Molgaard to work on producing a position paper to include proposals for how the appropriate role for FIRST 5 to assist in improvement, with approval from the Commission being part of the solution and a draft to be provided to the Commission.

Motion/Mann, Second/Tichinin (ayes; Mann, Passalacqua, Hamburg, Anderson, Rentería, Tichinin; no naves; Lowery abstained). Motion Passed.

The Commission would like to have a special meeting to review the paper, due to its importance, either via video or phone conference.

Chris Skyhawk, representative of Mendocino Coast Children’s Fund, inquired what the role of organizations (such as MCCF) and how can they participate in the dialog to the problem. Commissioner Lowery responded that it would open up a different type of dialog among committees throughout the county, about what is needed in the different communities. The discussion continued, however Commissioners Tichinin and Passalacqua stated the meeting was not the appropriate forum to pass through this information or to give the voice to the other organizations. It could be beneficial to have an objective party to offer support for organizations with an interest to speak through.

## **ITEM 8: COMMISSIONER REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

Commissioner Rentería asked for any report, updates or announcements.

Commissioner Anderson said there are yoga groups free of charge at the Little Lake Clinic and they continue to have Kids Fitness, which is well attended.

Commissioner Passalacqua said there is some good movement in Foster/Adopt and we are starting to see some progress.

## **ITEM 9: CLOSED SESSION – PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Until Commission could be together, tabled to August meeting. Phone meeting TBD to review response to the Grand Jury Report.

## **ITEM 10: RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Commissioner Rentería closed the meeting at 2:55 p.m.