



January 27, 2014
Commission Meeting Minutes
MCOE
Southeast Room

Commission Members Present

Diane Pauli Dan Hamburg Stacey Cryer
Bryan Lowery John Passalacqua

Public Present who signed in

Harvey Barker, Umpqua Bank

ITEM 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Pauli called the meeting to order at 1:10 and those present introduced themselves.

ITEM 2 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

No comments from the public were received.

ITEM 3: CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved down agenda until quorum could be established.

MAXIMIZE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

ITEM 4 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Molgaard announced the recent burglary that occurred at FIRST 5 Mendocino's office three weeks ago and that a new alarm system was recently installed.

Executive Director Molgaard briefed the Commission about recent discussions with the Packard Foundation around the rising issue of unavailable healthcare for undocumented children aged 0-5. In Mendocino County, Healthy Kids Mendocino continues the program called Carrots, issuing health vouchers, covered by FIRST 5 grants and donations to the Community Foundation. However, it is not insurance so one serious health claim could decimate that funding source, therefore discussions with the Packard Foundation are about finding other solutions.

Executive Director Molgaard briefed the Commission of the results from a distributed Fire Arm Safety Survey. The survey was inspired by interest from the Children's Health Committee, a subcommittee of the Policy Council on Children and Youth. The next step was a meeting among Director Molgaard and Healthy Kids Mendocino's Megan Van Sant, Sheriff Tom Allman and Paul Tichinin to discuss the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety program of the NRA. The program reviews the key points of safety if a firearm is found: Stop, Don't Touch, Leave the Area, Tell an Adult. A hundred parents of school-aged children from a variety of schools took the poll, the results were:

- 82% of parents are comfortable with an NRA presentation at their child's school;
- 45% of parents live in gun owning households;
- 66% of children who live in gun owning homes are well educated about gun safety;
- 17% of children who live in non-gun owning homes are well educated about gun safety.

After a brief discussion, the Commission concluded that there is no way to measure the effectiveness in the 0-5 age population and that the funding resources for such a program are beyond those of FIRST 5 Mendocino's.

Executive Director Molgaard introduced one of the two new VISTAs joining FIRST 5 Mendocino, Sander Sanchez, who arrived in Ukiah from Michigan. The other VISTA, Greg Etter will be joining Sander after their training. Both new VISTAs will be starting their first official week on February 3, 2014 after their training in Los Angeles. Executive Director Molgaard requested that Commissioners please contact Townley Anderson, if they knew of any very-affordable housing.

Executive Director Molgaard updated the Commission of the Kindergarten Readiness Act being introduced and that FIRST 5 Association does support it. It expands transitional kindergarten to more 4-year olds. Discussion ensued about how holding back children from traditional Kindergarten is actually a benefit to help integrate children more effectively. This is an incremental way to get to universal preschool.

Another interesting development happening at Humboldt State University with First 5 Humboldt is the North West Child Trauma Institute that studies the effect of trauma on children, driven by the Dr. Bruce Perry studies.

Executive Director Molgaard updated the Commission of upcoming dates: Pediatric Dental Initiative's open house is this evening, January 27, 2014 celebrating 10,000 smiles, 2,000 of those smiles in Mendocino County. 2-1-1 re-launch, is at the Board of Supervisors office on February 11, 2014 at 11:30. Healthy Mendocino will be celebrating their one year anniversary on February 12, 2014. Reminders for both events will be sent out electronically.

Commissioner Cryer entered at 1:25.

ITEM 3 CONSENT CALENDAR *(Action)*

- A. Approve Agenda
- B. Approve Draft Minutes of December 16, 2013 Commission Meeting
- C. Disapprove Kindergarten Entry Profile (KEP)

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

ITEM 5 RECOGNITION OF AND FINAL REPORTS FROM VISTA MEMBERS

Members completing their year of service: Rebecca Benn, Lactation and Infant Health Advocate; Hanna Neguise, Maternal Child Health Advocate; Sean Telles, Social Entrepreneur received a commemorative plate from local Earthenware Potters with their names and service dates.

Rebecca summarized how she is wrapping up the agenda for the upcoming Breastfeeding Conference and then relocating back to her home town of Sacramento and anticipating employment with WIC or several schools she has submitted resumes to.

Sean is moving back home to Los Angeles temporarily before heading to the Philippines for his wedding, then to Hong Kong to teach English. Sean summarized his year of service with a slide show of different collaborations and groups that he participated in, such as Active 20's-30's Club that organizes fundraisers for children and Rugby Reads that participates in Story Time at the Library.

Hanna is joining the FEMA Corps, which is another AmeriCorps program that responds to Federal Emergencies and will be relocating to Sacramento. Hanna summarized her year of service with a slide show of statistics that reflected the projects she worked on related to improving maternal health through a variety of outreach events and social media topics on increasing awareness of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and smoke-free housing.

ITEM 7: IMAGINATION LIBRARY - PART ONE

Harvey Barker, manager of local Umpqua Bank Ukiah Branch, presented a grant check in the amount of \$2,500 awarded to the Imagination Library Program. Mr. Barker, who is also part of the Ukiah Rotary, expressed his support for FIRST 5 Mendocino and the Imagination Library program. He mentioned that his branch has an Imagination Library book collection that his customer's children can read. Katie Cason, Literacy advocate VISTA, presented Mr. Barker with an Imagination Library t-shirt.

ITEM 6 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC (Action)

Commissioner Pauli opened a public forum on the State annual report, and asked for any comments.

No one had any specific comments on the annual report.

Commission Pauli then closed the public hearing

Motion made to approve First 5 California's Annual Report for 2012-13
Made/Cryer Second/Passalacqua (all ayes, no nays). Motion Passed.

IMPROVED PARENTING & DECREASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ITEM 7: IMAGINATION LIBRARY - PART TWO

FIRST 5 Mendocino Literacy Advocate, Katie Cason, hosted at the library, gave a summary of the recent Imagination Library fundraiser, Bee for Books.

Cason explained the Bee for Books Mission:

- (1) To establish relationships with local businesses, organizations, artists and philanthropists.

Sean Telles helped to create a video from Lover's Lane honey, about bees and honey, which was shared on Imagination Library's Facebook page and created an increase of 400 likes and 5 shares;

- (2) To gain awareness of community members;
- (3) To raise money and reduce the expenses by gathering as many donations that you can.

County Librarian, Mindy Kittay, gathered expansive raffle items, Librarian Roseanne booked her band, the Funky Dozen to perform and the Saturday Afternoon Club gave the space at reduced rate. The Bee for Books 2014 event raised \$5,000 net profit.

Cason gave thanks to Children's Action Committee VISTA, Kary Fernandez for taking pictures throughout the event and to FIRST 5 Fiscal Manager Roseanne Ibarra for creating decorations. Overall, it was estimated that about 100 people participated and that the Saturday Afternoon Club was a great venue to pursue for following events as well.

ITEM 8: ARC FAMILY INFORMATION CENTER

Raise & Shine Manager, Maya Stuart, presented to the Commission potential uses for the space at the Alex Rorabaugh Center (ARC) which is south of town next to Grace Hudson school.

Currently, FIRST 5 Mendocino is currently offering Triple P parenting groups, and a bilingual playgroup, Mama y Yo, at the ARC. FIRST 5 pays \$900 for office space at the ARC. HHSA Community Outreach unit contributes \$200/month and have a staff member in the ARC each morning. Still, the space is under-utilized. Stuart's proposal includes using the ARC as a satellite office for FIRST 5 Mendocino staff to provide information and referral as well as activities appropriate to FIRST 5's priorities. It would increase services to that part of town, provide information and referrals and reinforce partnerships to get more direct services. The goal is to finish this fiscal year introducing a pilot program and to assess the needs of the community in relation to hours and services.

FIRST 5 Mendocino is aware of the potential conflict of interest with Nuestra Casa by offering bilingual services, however the services offered at the ARC would greater meet the 0-5 aged population (Nuestra Casa monthly data reports very few 0-5 served) and is line with FIRST 5 Mendocino's strategic plan to improve parenting.

Canvassing of the surrounding areas of the 48 apartment units south of the ARC and Deep Valley Mobile Home Park has resulted in requests to public access computers to look for employment, bilingual playgroups and bilingual parenting classes.

The offices would be open to all, but with a focus on Spanish speaking and will also allow the South part of Ukiah to have access to services currently not readily accessed by those struggling with transportation.

The budget for this year would be \$32,000, (\$12,000 from the grant funds that Nuestra Casa did not request and \$20,000 from Health and Human Services Agency) covering staffing, marketing to get the word out, and rent.

Commission discussion concluded that there was definitely a need for such services in the southern Ukiah and that the conflict of interest is of less concern considering the staffing issues that Nuestra Casa is experiencing, that they did not request the remaining funds, and that these services will augment what is available to the public. FIRST 5's use of the ARC does not interfere with Nuestra Casa's ability to continue providing tax and tutoring help as well as documentation work surrounding immigration status. Of the funds being used by the pilot site, \$12,000 is committed to the Spanish speaking community to ensure consistent funding to that population.

Commission agreed that setting up the office as suggested was a desired move and future plans will be decided at the May 2014 Commission Meeting.

ITEM 9: DISCUSSION OF AFTERCARE PILOT

Raise & Shine manager, Maya Stuart, introduced the purpose and need for a Substance Abuse Recovery Aftercare pilot program. There is significant evidence showing that genetic disposition contributes to generational substance abuse as well as the nurture component. Helping that population avoid relapse is the greatest priority. "Aftercare" is a term used for working with people who have completed a treatment program for substance abuse.

The purpose of this pilot is to specifically support **parents** recovering from substance abuse. The design is different from traditional AA that focuses sobriety which is often seen as relying on a higher power and spiritual focus to maintain sobriety. The Aftercare approach is facilitated so that the conversation can stay focused on substance abuse recovery. The Aftercare program Stuart is suggesting would include family time and structured activities for children while their parents attend Aftercare group. The goal is for parents to bring their children, have a good meal together, then children can play in a safe environment to allow parents to learn and access other services, allowing for both family and individual time.

Stuart recommends the Pilot program be a partnership with Safe Passage FRC on the north coast; they have the space, willingness, and recognize the need in their community. The goal start time would be this upcoming fiscal year, July 2014-June 2015. The population served, which is up for discussion, would be those at the greatest risk identified as parents with a history of substance abuse and their children. There is significant evidence showing that genetic disposition contributes to generational substance abuse as well as the nurture component. Helping that population avoid relapse is the greatest priority.

Components of the program could include:

- Meals
- Games
- Guest Speakers
- Children activities
- Introducing a family routine
- Positive Parenting
- Self-Care (stress reduction)

Evaluation would include but not be limited to:

- Number of parents and children served
- Parent Stress Index
- Participant surveys
- Partner narratives

Current budget estimate is \$15,435

Executive Director Molgaard further explained that the program format will be designed to give tools to families that show healthy interactions with their children, how to prepare healthy meals, and to help set them up for better successes once they are home alone with their children.

Commission discussed ensued and Stuart was asked to research the possibility further, including meeting with Mary Brown, HHS Children's Services on the North Coast, Marlene Tempelare AOD counselor on the North Coast, and Laura Welter Safe Passage Executive Director.

The Commission requested the following questions be addressed:

- What existing programs might be good sources of participant recruitment?
- What criteria would need to be met for participation?
- What facilitator and children's activities provider qualifications would be required?

Full Commission agreed that there is an overwhelming need for such a program and that it is in line with FIRST 5 Mendocino's strategic plan to reduce substance abuse.

Commission requested that:

- Participants come by "Invite Only";
- Target population is clearly defined;
- Meetings with Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD), Safe Passage and Social Services Staff on the Coast be arranged to discuss the criteria of how a person enters the program. Scott Willow and Mary Brown were suggested contacts;

Commissioner Lowery mentioned gathering research information from The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) and also mentioned he knew of a group in Willits that once offered Supportive Services around empowerment. He mentioned A.J. Barrett and Gene Price as potential contacts for information

ITEM 10 COMMISSIONER REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

With no further comments or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.