



October 26, 2015  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
Mendocino Coast Clinics, Inc.

**Commission Members Present**

Lucresha Rentería	Jim Flaherty	Paul Tichinin	John Passalacqua
Ben Anderson	Dan Hamburg	Bryan Lowery	

**Public Present who signed in**

Rosalie Gjerde – Child Abuse Prevention	Ruth Sparks – Fort Bragg Rotary
Dan Gjerde – Fourth District, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors	Karina Melden – NCO Head Start
Jason Morse – Mendocino Unified School District	Juliana Sanchez – Redwood State Preschool
Patti Raines – NCO/RCCC	Jenny Kubo – Redwood State Preschool
Jessica Ehlers – Mendocino Coast Clinics	Laura Welter – Safe Passage FRC
Lupe Esquivel	Doug Commissioner Anderson – Ukiah United Methodist Church

**ITEM 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Rentería called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. and welcomed visitors. The Commission, staff, and guests made introductions.

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

Commissioner Rentería asked for public comment. None received.

**ITEM 3 CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION)**

- A. Meeting Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes from September 28, 2015 Commission Meeting
- C. Fiscal Reports for May 2015 (final) and June 2015 (final)

Motion made to approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion/ Tichinin, Second/ Hamburg, (all ayes, no nays). Motion Passed.

**REDUCED SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND IMPROVED PARENTING**

**ITEM 4: DISCUSSION ABOUT NORTH COAST FAMILIES**

Following the luncheon with the public, Executive Director Anne Molgaard opened the floor to Commissioners to discuss the living situation of families with young children on the North Coast. Commissioners learned about NCO and State Preschool program, met teachers, discussed the Inclusion Program for children with disabilities, heard people were thankful for Triple P in life and the classroom, social/emotional behavior in the schools, the need for more preschool opportunities. Commissioner Rentería reflected on how Mendocino Coast Clinics MCC could engage more with Triple P.

Director Molgaard introduced Laura Welter from Safe Passage Family Resource Center to speak to the Commission on about their work with families and children on the North Coast. Safe Passage is funding mostly parenting classes and child care. Terri Davis and Cecilia Roy are currently facilitating parenting classes and Terri recently tried Triple P for teens. Tea for Two is a support group for women who are new to parenting which is held five Tuesday mornings in a row with Jade Aldrich who is a doula and breastfeeding peer counselor who recently became Triple P trained. Jade is meeting regularly with Stacy Pollina at MCC to hear about moms who will be having babies soon who may need extra support. Tanya Ayala, AmeriCorps Member, has helped to put together events for parents. She organized a PJ Party and encouraged people to show up in their pajamas, promoted Imagination Library and reading to children. She is also working with the Library and

the new librarian who started a new group called 1000 Books before Kindergarten.

The ongoing need is lower priced or free child care. It is tough for a young parent, especially if they are parenting alone, to work and find affordable childcare. FIRST 5 granted Safe Passage rental assistance funding; that was very helpful and the FRC was able to get a matching grant from The Community Foundation. Commissioner Lowery inquired what the budget would be on low priced for free childcare. Ms. Welter stated she would get back to FIRST 5 about what the costs would be. Commissioner Hamburg replied to the statement there was more subsidized child care available 30+ years ago, and inquired if there were less slots available and the response was an overwhelming yes. Patty Reins with NCO was engaged in the discussion and stated the competitive rate was \$4.00/hr for 40 hours a week. There is also a lack of appropriate care for night and weekends.

#### **ITEM 5: HOME VISITING PILOT (ACTION)**

As previously discussed with the Commission, Director Molgaard stressed the positive outcomes for children achieved through evidence-based Home Visiting programs. Staff recommended using section 7 of the Commission Contracting and Procurement Policy, Request for Qualifications. Allows for us to do a one-pager Request for Qualification (RFQ) and still have an open bid process. Executive Director Anne Molgaard stated it is going to take a series of partnerships. If the County is going to apply for Home Visiting funds through the state, it must go through Public Health Nursing/Maternal, Adolescent, and Child Health (PH) but they do not currently have the time or staff to start a pilot. Other alternatives to the RFQ would be a full Request for Proposal (RFP). Commissioner Lowery stated if the RFP was done, it would be put outside the timeframes. Commissioner Anderson inquired the dollar amount for the entire pilot and Executive Director Anne Molgaard responded it cannot exceed \$100,000.

Motion made to use the RFQ Process (within the Contracting and Procurement Policy approved 2007) in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 of FIRST 5 Mendocino funds and any additional funds secured.

Motion/ Tichinin, Second/Commissioner Flaherty, (all ayes, no nays). Abstain/Rentería. Motion Passed.

#### **ITEM 6: PARENTING SUPPORT ~ QUALITY CHILD CARE (ACTION)**

FIRST 5 received four different request around the same time inquiring about affordable child care: One was from foster parents stating they were leaving the system because there was no child care available; another needed care during job training; the Methodist Church called to offer its rooms previously used for child care and now available; and finally the Workforce Investment Youth provider called stating there were youth job training dollars available and there were no infant and toddler care at a reasonable price.

Director Molgaard explained to the above people that our Strategic Plan is focused on Parenting and Decreasing Substance Abuse, and while we did provide the CARES child care training funds for 12 years that program had ended. Those in need then made their case for FIRST 5's investment in quality child care--parenting is improved when parents have less financial stress; foster family agencies would be able to choose the better matches for children if more families where available to foster; a larger center would be able to accommodate parents who only have a short job training/interview and could use the rest of the day as a volunteer in a quality care center to learn from the credentialed early educators; the Methodist church is in line with our Strategic Plan since they maintain a substance free environment; church leaders Pat Meek & Debra Meek have been involved in human services, child care, and preschool for 35+ years each.

Commissioners reviewed the proposed budget. Unfortunately, infants would be removed at the beginning because they are the most expensive and will be added when the other parts are running smoothly. She went on to explain the employee titles and pay. The church is charging \$1.25/sq. and has outdoor space and includes utilities and janitorial services. Commissioner Tichinin was discussing the "cash flow" which would be put into the budget by FIRST 5. Commissioner Anderson asked if the \$40,000 would be a loan but the Executive Committee recommended that the funding be a simpler Special Funding Request. Commissioner Lowery inquired if there was a projection of the annual cost and would the classrooms bring in money to cover costs, and once everything is up and running the profit would be \$500 a month. Honoraria for Volunteers and Interns were added because there are so many local people who were interested in teaching arts, etc. They were not included in the child : adult ratio, but a small budget for incentives. Commissioner Lowery inquired how to prioritize CalWORKs, Foster Care and WIA (RCS), based on how many openings. Executive Director Anne Molgaard responded there was a combination of private pay, etc. and perhaps a partnership would need to be formed together and assign spots to people while keeping the center full. The 6 absences were based on 40 children but we wanted to know how many could be absent without losing money. On the Foster Parent side, it would be best to have

childcare available. Commissioner Anderson agreed, due to the extensive background to become a Foster Parent, those people need to be supported. The working foster parent is going to be a better quality foster parent and should not lose money on taking in foster children.

Commissioner Lowery, who had been in communication with Healthy and Human Services Director Stacey Cryer, offered HHSA funding for the project in the amount of \$40,000. He clarified that this is not ongoing funding, not that it can't continue, but the center cannot be dependent on it.

Commissioner Mann inquired if earthquake safety was an issue, and Doug Anderson was introduced to provide an response. Doug represents the Ukiah United Methodist Church. The unreinforced masonry is the church and the social hall, not the education (center) wing that FIRST 5 is considering. The majority of the use of the building was child care. As a foster parent himself, respite is relied upon heavily, but having another option that is reasonable would be invaluable. Commissioner Flaherty inquired about the layout of the building and a flyer was passed around with a diagram. The primary rooms would be 153, 152, 156 & 155 (as looking at the map would be across the hall from each other), Commissioner Lowery inquired about parking and it's a single row of parking with about 20 spaces with two entries. Commissioner Tichinin inquired about drop off and pick up and response was traffic would be limited to 1-way and there would be a designated drop off area. Licensing has already been completed in this area, the location has already been permitted for parking, play, etc., though it would need to be renewed. The playground is double gated and walk ways are all gated in the area of the center. There are renovations in the works to reconfigure the play area and it was hoped the church could use one of the rooms on Sunday for child care during church service.

Motion made to approve the \$40,000 for the child care center.

Motion/Mann, Second/Commissioner Flaherty, (all ayes, no naves). Motion Passed

## **MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS AND EVALUATION**

### **ITEM 7: DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Moved to item 10.

- IMPACT (Improved and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive), using for improved parenting, universal screening and quality child care, under Townley and Iliana.
- Pediatric Dental Initiative held its annual fundraiser and made \$100,000; PDI is now sustainable due to increased reimbursement rates from Partnership Health Plan.
- Mother to Baby Teratogens training.
- New ballot initiative, new tobacco tax. Includes backfill for Prop 10 and includes e-cigarettes.
- Foster Adopt committee to increase recruitment and retention. Big move to rename Foster Families to Resource Families. FIRST 5 role would probably be social marketing. Commissioner Lowery stated HHSA was approved by RCS who has training dollars from Chabot and HHSA reached out to TLC, Tapestry and Hopland Tribe for foster parent recruitment.
- Two new VISTA positions under a new program that start in February, bilingual preferred, college graduate and full-time. Commissioner Rentería stated there were very low turn outs at MCC for AmeriCorps positions.
- No Commission Meeting in November, next meeting is 12/14/15 at MCOE with video conference to the coast.

### **ITEM 8: 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORTS: PART II (ACTION)**

Returned from break at 3:13 p.m.

Staff presented the Annual Report highlights: 3,782 children served in 2014-15.

Healthy Kids Mendocino is considered a success now that all children are covered. HKM Celebration planned for 11/5/15.

Motion made to accept the 2014-15 Annual Report.

Motion/ Flaherty, Second/ Passalacqua, (all ayes, no naves). Motion Passed

*Commissioners Hamburg & Commissioner Passalacqua left the meeting at 3:20 p.m.*

### **ITEM 9: INDEPENDENT AUDIT (ACTION)**

Moved to item 8.

Fiscal year 2014-15 ended at \$30,000 to the good. Even as FIRST 5 tobacco tax goes down, in 14-15 we decreased expenses and so did not pull from reserves. Discussion of audit details ensued. No findings nor management letter.

Motion made to accept the 2014-15 Independent Audit.

Motion/ Anderson, Second/ Flaherty, (all ayes, no naves). Motion Passed

Commissioner Rentería called for a 10-minute break at 3:03 p.m.

*Commissioner Mann left at 3:03 p.m.*

#### **ITEM 10: COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE (ACTION)**

All days the same as scheduled in the draft except as follows:

Planning Meeting moved to the Friday after Memorial Day (June 3<sup>rd</sup>).

Motion made to approve the Commission Meeting Schedule for 2016 as amended.

Motion/ Anderson, Second/ Flaherty, (all ayes, no naves). Motion Passed

#### **ITEM 11: COMMISSIONER REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

Commissioner Rentería stated there would be a public forum to address the pediatrics shortage to make clear the continuing recruitment attempts with assistance by Tanya Ayala for child care. Also, Paula Cohen is retiring at the end of the calendar year and Commissioner Rentería will be the Mendocino Coast Clinics Executive Director as of January 1.

Commissioner Rentería adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

#### **ITEM 12: CLOSED SESSION – PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Per Gov. Code 54954(b) the Commission will conduct a Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director.

#### **ITEM 13: RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Commissioner Rentería reconvened in open session, no action taken. The Commissioners held a brief discussion and tabled the item for the next meeting to include more Commissioners.

Commissioner Rentería adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.