



February 24, 2014
Commission Meeting Minutes
MCOE
Southeast Room

Commission Members Present

Diane Pauli Jeremy Mann Lucresha Rentería
Bryan Lowery John Passalacqua

Public Present who signed in

Commissioner Rentería called the meeting to order at 1:15 and those present introduced themselves.

ITEM 2 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

No comments from the public were received.

ITEM 3 CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

- A. Approve Agenda
- B. Approve Draft Minutes of January 27, 2014 Commission Meeting

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

MAXIMIZE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

ITEM 4 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Molgaard reported to the Commission that the Round Valley Family Resource Center has hired a half time employee to take over after the Round Valley FRC Coordinator VISTA has left. Laurence, who was hired, is working on another grant, a Youth Aspirations Project, for the community. Currently the FRC hosts a beading class that is standing room only.

Other updates included the management of the Mendocino Diaper Depot, a project started by a past Children's Action Committee VISTA, Ashley Bergin. The current Children's Action Committee VISTA position is in its last year and will possibly not be renewed, so the question is how will the program be managed and by which agency. Past VISTA developments have secured a spot in the National Diaper Bank queue which is scheduled to begin in 2015, and will bring 2 million diapers into the county for free distribution to those who need it. Some possible agencies in question are WIC and FIRST 5, but the issue of staffing to manage distribution remains. Commissioner Lowery offered potential storage of overflow diapers at Health and Human Services Agency offices.

Executive Director Molgaard updated the Commission of the current book club book entitled "Born for Love" by Bruce Perry who specializes in child trauma. The book emphasizes that the brain is hard-wired for empathy, we are built to connect but we are not born that way, it's through the connection with a child's

parent/caregiver that empathy is developed. A clip of an interview with Bruce Perry was shown that discussed the empathic element and how child's language and motor skills develop as a function of opportunities provided from parents. These are considered "use-dependent functions" with empathy being one as well. The clip further discussed relational density, lots of repetition with input. All these systems in our brain, including relational, grow as a function of use. Executive Director Molgaard brought several copies of the book for Commissioners to borrow and read for later discussion.

Executive Director Molgaard briefed the Commission about upcoming dates and events.

- Leadership Mendocino is looking for possible candidates beginning in August.
- On March 14, 2014 the second annual Breastfeeding Conference will be held at Consolidated Tribal Health. Physician Jack Newman will be speaking and CEU's and CME's will be provided to licensed professionals. If any Commissioner knows of any individual or professional interested in attending, please contact Menaka Olson in the FIRST 5 office or refer to website at breaststart.org to register for the event.
- A Triple P Primary Care Teen training will be provided beginning March 25 through the 27th. The Primary Care Triple P Training Course is appropriate for individuals (Pediatricians, Child Care providers, teachers, principals) who are available to advise and support parents during focused conversations about specific behavior concerns. The Primary Care with Teen Extension equips the provider with the tools and structure of this highly rated, evidence based program, to support parents or caregivers of children ages birth through 16 years. If any Commissioner is interested or know of individuals or professionals who may be interested, please contact Yasmin Acevedo at the FIRST 5 office. Space is limited to twenty participants and generally costs \$1500 per person, which Raise & Shine is covering with funds from Title IV-E, it also provides access to copyrighted tip sheets that can be distributed to parents.

Commissioners inquired about the New Kit for Parents and when the best time was to give those to new parents as well as if there were any additions that could be personally added to the Kit. Executive Director Molgaard informed that the best time is around the seventh month of pregnancy and that First 5 California allows an addition of up to three items, with one being the pamphlet of FIRST 5 Mendocino programs and resources. Discussion of adding a possible thermometer and aspirator ensued, with the conclusion that if a thermometer was added that it would allow for a conversation to happen between practitioner and parent on the parameters of safe fevers. Executive Molgaard mentioned that some numbers of how much it would cost to add such items would be researched and provided at next meeting.

ITEM 5 FISCAL REPORT (Action)

Roseanne Ibarra, Fiscal Manager reported that FIRST 5 Mendocino's revenue expenditure for administrative category 6200 for Outside Service costs were off due to an internal error that has since been corrected. Also, some items were miscoded which affected the numbers to be higher than anticipated. Also category 6600, Education & Trainings were higher because of unexpected needed trainings. For 6610, Transportation & Travel is a bit over as well due to the increase in category 6600.

Executive Director Molgaard reported that the payroll account needed to be closed and reopened due to the recent burglary where checks were stolen. She reminded the Commission that since the burglary, the FIRST 5 office has since been re-keyed and had an alarm system put into place.

Executive Director Molgaard pointed out that the Community Foundation Healthy Kids account is getting lower due to that fact that no efforts to raise funds for the program have been in effect since the Affordable

Care Act initiation. Also, a negotiation to do a six-month invoice with Imagination Library's Dolly Parton Foundation is now in effect.

Motion made to approve the fiscal reports for October, November, December 2013, including the Community Foundation of Mendocino County Funds.

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

ITEM 6: SPECIAL FUNDING REQUEST (*Action*)

Executive Director Molgaard briefed the Commission on the services provided by the Willits Daily Bread Corporation, emphasizing that they only had two employees, a cook and an Executive Director with the rest being volunteer driven. Their request is in line with how many 0-5 are served. Executive Director Molgaard suggested approving funding based on the stipulation that they receive a FIRST 5 Mendocino training overview so they have a full understanding of everything 0-5 related. Commission inquired about funds being requested for salary augmentation, after a brief discussion, Commissioners voted. Commissioner Lowery was in opposition until further clarification of salary costs could be identified.

Motion made to approve the Special Funding Request from Willits Daily Bread with the addendum of suggested training on FIRST 5 Mendocino Agenda in the amount not to exceed \$4000. Motion/Pauli, Second/Mann (4 ayes, 1 nays).

Note of a nay vote from Commissioner Lowery.
Motion did not pass due to lack of a voting quorum.

ITEM 7 INTRODUCTION OF NEW VISTA MEMBERS

Executive Director Molgaard opened the floor for beginning VISTAs, Sander Sanchez and Greg Etter to introduce themselves.

Sander Sanchez, Maternal Child Health Advocate VISTA: Originally from Michigan, he has a major in Biomolecular science. He will be working out of the Public Health office and is looking forward to continuing the work started by past MCHA VISTAs.

Greg Etter, Social Entrepreneur VISTA: Originally from Philadelphia and grew up in small town in New Jersey. He's hoping to get a taste of the entrepreneurial spirit and of starting up a business. He's continuing the work of the past VISTA while also starting to analyze the Thanksgiving coffee sales in order to increase revenue for the Imagination Library program. Another imminent project is to work with Redwood Children Services in developing a child care site for either employee's children or for foster kids. There is also work in the area of creating an app for smart phones that would aid in developing healthy food plans on a limited budget.

IMPROVED PARENTING & DECREASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ITEM 8: DECREASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Maya Stuart, Raise & Shine manager, reminds Commission of the new strategic Plan of reducing substance abuse. Last meeting discussed bringing a substance abuse aftercare program on the North Coast with collaboration with Safe Passage.

Last meeting concerns involved safety for children, recruitment process for participants, and who would provide facilitator services and their qualifications. Manager Stuart is still collaborating with

County employees, Child welfare agencies, Alcohol and Other Drug Programs (AODP) on the Coast as well as Laura Welter, Executive Director for Safe Passage FRC. The work needing to be done is too extensive for email/phone conversations, so meeting times are still in negotiation. Manager Stuart has spoken with Marlene Templaere, the AODP Coast contact, and Mary Brown, the Social Worker Supervisor for Child Welfare. Discussion is around creating a year-long pilot, potentially following a template used in other rural communities.

Components included in program:

- Meal
- Games
- Support Group, speaker
- Children Activities

There is more research needing to be done to maintain the concerns of the Commission surrounding safety.

Manager Stuart contacted Linda Carpenter, of the National Association of Substance Abuse Prevention and Child Welfare who is working with the FDDC on a federal grant and is active on a coalition she speaks with monthly, Stuart inquired to see if anyone else is doing a similar program that could possibly be modeled after in the Pilot Program. Carpenter has added the inquiry to her upcoming meeting agenda and will respond once an answer is known. This project in particular is a priority to Manager Stuart who is very committed to this vision of a program and will bring any more answers to Commission questions to next meeting as well.

Commissioner response was supportive and recognized that the program availability in a small community is beneficial to community as a whole.

ITEM 9: ARC DEVELOPMENT

Raise & Shine Manager, Maya Stuart, updated the Commission on the ARC developments, mentioning that two FIRST 5 Mendocino staff members are now occupying that office full time. The spot is a good placement for a Spanish Language focused Family Resource Center with family Spanish/English speaking activities and information referrals. Aware of not making it only Spanish speaking but being available to everyone, currently there is a Community Outreach Unit employee working 20 hours a week working with CalFresh, Carrots program, MediCal sign-ups and the Car Seat Program. It's a nice relationship to work together to keep staff consistently there 40 hours a week. Lydia Villegas, Site Supervisor and Kristin Mullen-Muhr, AmeriCorps member, are there with semi private spaces and a small office to do some private meetings. Manager Stuart reported that two needs assessments have been done there and results are not yet available. Since last Tuesday's move in, there were four new walk-ins before 9 a.m. and 27 contacts made to date. It's important to remember that before the FIRST 5 move into those offices there would have been no one available to answer questions since it was only staffed part-time. Currently at the ARC, FIRST 5 Mendocino is hosting a Spanish playgroup, Mama y Yo, where two Grace Hudson teachers recently came in to watch and gain information about other potential services available at the ARC through FIRST 5 Mendocino. There is a short survey being produced for those who walk in, as well as for parents and teachers of the school inquiring about what might be of interest to them; such as Saturday hours, public computers, parenting classes, etc. The same logo of the ARC will be used to make billboards, fliers, etc.

Site Supervisor, Lydia Villegas summarized some of the requests that have been received since the office has been open full time:

- Health Insurance
- ESL class with childcare
- Financial help with PGE bills
- North Coast Energy applications
- Carrots coupons
- Medi-Cal help provided.
- CARES
- Car Seats.

Executive Director Molgaard spoke to the car seat issue with there being a lack of facilitation. Liability is an issue if a car seat is installed by non-certified person, which requires a 40-hour training. Lily Caravello, with Healthy Kids Mendocino, is currently the only other one who is trained to install car seats other than the Highway Patrol.

Tuesday, February 25 is a scheduled meeting at the ARC with the Grace Hudson Board, the City and ARC Board, to clarify communication procedures and to delineate what space is the Schools, the City's and FIRST 5's. A discussion of what potential summer programs can be offered through SPACE at the ARC is also scheduled to happen soon.

Commission discussed the lack of feedback from Nuestra Casa and how receiving funds from Health and Human Resource Agency is allowing FIRST 5 Mendocino to offer Triple P parenting classes to help with older children who fall out of the 0-5 age range. Further discussion developed on ways FIRST 5 can be proactive with the potential legalization of marijuana and how to best begin giving the information out on how it affects children. It was concluded that a discussion will be placed on next month's agenda to further discuss the brain developments and effects of being parented by parents under the use of marijuana. Research studies from states that have recently legalized marijuana such as Washington and Colorado could have potential public campaigns already in effect.

ITEM 10: 2-1-1 & HEALTHY MENDOCINO

Executive Director Molgaard filled in for Healthy Mendocino Data and Research Coordinator VISTA, Michelle Rich and summarized the 2-1-1 re-launch presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 11, 2014 that included a light lunch and website demonstration. She summarized that FRIST 5 Mendocino, United Way and Health and Human Services Agency were the funders for the project and that 10,000 people have been served. Currently there are banners across State Street in Ukiah advertising the service. If there are known receptionists or individuals the Commission knows who could benefit from a 2-1-1 training, please have them contact Michelle Rich; the training typically takes only ten minutes.

The Healthy Mendocino first year anniversary event happened on February 12, 2014 at Public Health Offices and included a wide range of representation of funders, FIRST 5 Mendocino being the largest one. It included a lunch and presentation with a question/answer follow-up. A few highlights included 6000 unique visitors to the site, stronger collaborations with funders, and

24 presentations to the community have been given. Susan Baird is the main volunteer for Healthy Mendocino and serves on the Health and Human Service Agency Board and does health data analysis. The Community Foundation has started to require their grantee applicants site their statistics from the Healthy Mendocino site. There are initiative indicators that list statistics, links and other helpful information to make searching for information more streamlined. If a presentation is needed, then Michelle Rich can bring one to your organization, just let her know. She can also put information (a dashboard) on your webpage that can be linked to Healthy Mendocino's website to access more information for your viewer.

ITEM 11 COMMISSIONER REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Commissioner Passalacqua commented on the first meeting held to discuss concurrent planning and the shortage of foster homes in the community, State Adoptions was present at the meeting as well. There are a lot less County Foster Homes than in past years and it is resulting in more Family Foster Agencies (FFAs) being used because they are able to do more with the money they receive. The problem is that County Homes aren't being cultivated, thus creating a further shortage and reducing the availability of homes. It creates a situation where children have to be sent out of the county, costing more money in the long run. There is no long term plan for foster children besides waiting for the parents to stop abusing substances. He mentioned a VISTA up in Humboldt who is working on trying to come up with a plan to solicit and find County Homes. Executive Director Molgaard spoke to that, mentioning Humboldt had an AmeriCorps member who was helpful in getting information out, but didn't take the place of a staff person. What they ended up doing was hiring a woman who engaged her church who had a mission to create a mentoring program for new foster families and created a support group for such parents and families; now 50% of foster families are coming from this church in particular to become involved in foster care. Commissioners discussed a possible foster parenting mentor program here locally and discussed some of the potential challenges; the biggest being the lack of communication and respect that many foster parents experience while providing foster care services. The state system is currently overwhelmed having a high social worker turn-over rate along with minimal efforts going in to recruiting foster homes which resulting in a reduction of good foster homes.

Discussion concluded that the biggest impact can be made upon foster care if a system is created that respects and communicates effectively with foster families in all regards to confidentiality. The concurrent plan needs to start at the moment of a child's entry in regards to determining if a family meets the threshold for adoption so the amount of transitions a child experiences while in the foster system are reduced. Nonprofits can generally move faster than the County to get information out to educate about the need for more foster homes. 2-1-1 has information on the current list of FFAs and transitional housing for teens in foster care.

With no further comments or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

ITEM 12: CLOSED SESSION