



April 28, 2014
Commission Meeting Minutes
Yuki Trails, Round Valley

Commission Members Present

Stacey Cryer Dan Hamburg Lucresha Rentería
Bryan Lowery John Passalacqua

Public Present who signed in

Diann Simmons, Round Valley Indian Health Center Clarence Britton, Round Valley Indian Health Center
Trina Fitzgerral, Round Valley TANF Rachel Borum, Round Valley Librarian

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 February 24, 2014 Commission Meeting
- C. Approve Willits Bread Special Funding Request
- D. Approve Kindergarten Readiness Backpack Special Funding Request
- E. Approve SPACE Creative Arts Camp Special Funding Request

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

MAXIMIZE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

ITEM 4 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Molgaard expressed thanks to Round Valley Family Resource Center Coordinator, Julia Russ, and Fresh Food Advocate VISTA, Julia Healy, for preparing the meeting luncheon. She then explained the upcoming changes in the VISTA program, noting the reasons for the changes are still unclear but no new VISTAs would be starting after the current members' terms end. The programs issues that will need continued support include the Children's Action Committee and Diaper Depot; Maternal Child Health Advocate VISTA positions are in their final third year and were not planning on being refilled. There is little concern with losing the activities the Nutrition and Fitness VISTA performs since they are so integrated into the Public Health model. The VISTA positions out of Safe Passage/Mendocino Community Center of the Coast and the Research VISTA out of North Coast Opportunities will also not be continued, however there may be a possibility to use the funds previously paid for VISTA to employ someone part time to perform similar duties. The Social Entrepreneur position will also be ending in February of 2015, there is much excitement around the potential business ventures of batting cages, miniature golf and child care facilities that will encourage the ongoing research of what other long-term fundraising activities can be done. The Round Valley FRC and Community Garden VISTA positions are in their second year and ideally should continue as it generally takes a while to get things going. The FRC's hiring of Lawrence Joaquin is hopeful in

creating sustainability; continued funding could contribute to its growth. Another position not completely independent yet is the Early Literacy Imagination Library VISTA position. Multiple interruptions with VISTA supervision led to the position being moved back to the FIRST 5 offices, with two days out of the Library. There was hope that Friends of the Library would potentially adopt the program. Another consequence to trouble shoot is the Diaper Depot and what agency will manage the 1.5 million diapers expected to arrive in Mendocino County in 2015 as part of the National Diaper Network. Clarence Britton, of the Round Valley Indian Health Center, asked how the concerns for the continuation of the garden support can be communicated. Executive Director Molgaard informed that voicing it here for the present Commissioners to hear is great and to also follow it up with a letter of concern that can be presented to the Commission at the May 2014 planning Committee when program budgets are discussed.

Executive Director Molgaard updated the Commission about United Way of Wine Country, which includes Sonoma, Lake, Humboldt, Del Norte and Mendocino Counties, and reported that for every dollar donated to the United Way, Mendocino County receives \$1.50 in return. Currently the largest single donor being Retch with \$30,000 given and another \$20,000 combined from other sources. The United Way Collective Impact discussion group has joined with Mendocino County Office of Education's Moving Forward Mendocino and will focus on greater efforts to prepare children for college and industry, with a greater emphasis on economic development.

Ongoing fundraising ideas include opening child care facilities; one request from Redwood Children's Services would help many foster parents caring for at-risk children on limited budgets. Another request came from Ukiah High School teachers, however FIRST 5 Mendocino may help them navigate the occupancy of the closed Early Head Start facility near the High School; combining the Young Parent Program out of the high school along with helping teachers with child care needs could potentially be a solution for both problems.

Executive Director Molgaard reported that the Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI) is proving to be financially stable and has now served 2,200 Mendocino County kids.

Hero's for Youth, a group started by John Azzaro, a CASA volunteer, is a mentoring promotion group that believes every retiree should be a volunteer. He recently had a promotional event that showed a video about Lawrence Lazaro, a case worker out of the Arbor, and talked about his story of being homeless and having mental illness in his family. Their goal is to show more of these vignettes to motivate people towards mentorship. Laurence is also providing Triple P parenting classes out of the Arbor now for young parents.

Upcoming FIRST 5 Mendocino events include the First 5 California Hands on Health Van coming to the May 17th Farmer's market at the Alex Thomas Plaza in Ukiah. Also the May 30th planning meeting will be an all-day discussion at the ARC.

ITEM 6: FISCAL

A. Monthly Fiscal Reports *(Action)*

Commission reviewed the monthly reports from January and February with no questions.

Commission noted that the budget was over with an explanation to follow in next agenda item.

Motion made to approve Fiscal Reports for Jan, Feb 2014 Motion/Cryer
Second/Hamburg (all ayes, no nays) Motion Passed.

B. Budget Revision *(Action)*

Executive Director Molgaard reviewed the current budget to actuals and explained the reasons for the discrepancies: the unexpected start-up cost for programs to support the new Strategic Plan; the addition of AmeriCorps members to facilitate new Improved Parenting programs; another was the ARC Family Information Center additions; a merit raise was given to employees (the first in three years). Finally, there were areas in the original budget that were expected to create revenue that

failed to bring in as much as projected, such as the Imagination Library fundraiser and the fact that the Prop 10 amount was less than expected. As previously agreed to use \$50,000 of reserve funds to maintain the budget at \$750,000, this year more will be used.

Commissioner Hamburg inquired about how the long-term funding would be affected. Executive Director Molgaard explained there were several ways it could look, with one being a “no staff” model, where the Prop 10 funds would directly go to the Community Foundation of Mendocino County and be distributed through grants for 0-5 programs. Commissioner Lowery further inquired about the potential tax on e-cigarettes and that if that tax could be applied, if so, FIRST 5 Mendocino funds would be more constant. As it is, there is no tobacco tax applied to e-cigarettes. Molgaard will provide further legislative information at the next meeting.

Motion made to approve the Budget Revision for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

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

C. Draft Budget

Executive Director Molgaard introduced the budget projections for the upcoming May 30, 2014 planning meeting. She encouraged the Commissioners to consider where reductions should be made. The draft budget distributes 102.5% across all programs, so there will need to 2.5% reduction amongst the programs to stay within the projected \$750,000 funds. All of these programs will be further discussed in greater detail at the May meeting.

ITEM 7 REDUCED SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A. Family Dependency Drug Court Proposal (*Action*)

Executive Director Molgaard explained how Commissioner Passalacqua has been the lead on involvement and that the Federal Dependency Drug Court (FDDC) system currently treats 40 families, half of whom have children under the age of five. These families are going through the process of getting and staying sober, securing employment and meeting many approval measures defined by social workers or judges to get their children back. FIRST 5 Mendocino was asked to support their recovery and help improve their parenting once they get their children back. The current 5 year federal grant, which was extended by two years, is ending. In order to keep doing what has been done, FDDC is revamping their program making it smaller and more refined and requesting a FIRST 5 grant to fund the Parent Mentor Program.

Executive Director Molgaard passed out the Parent Mentor Policies and Handbooks and additional information requested for Commissioners to review. The applicant, FDDC, included an evaluation model from Santa Clara County as an example of what the local one will be modeled after. Commissioner Lowery pointed out a discrepancy in the budget with the percentage of mentor employment and asked for that to be corrected to show congruency. Commissioner Hamburg inquired if there was a recommendation at this time, and Executive Molgaard recommended that no decision be made this month, considering the status of the budget and would likely recommended approval next month. Another past concern was that the mentors would not be teaching Triple P, but have since been trained to teach those strategies. Commission discussion concluded that the proposal fits perfectly into FIRST 5 Mendocino’s current strategic plan of reducing substance abuse among parent and caregivers of young children. However, the proposal is still quite expensive. It’s difficult to discern prevention from intervention; intervention being the more expensive program. This program could potentially change the next generation and yes, is more expensive than funding FRCs to hold AA meetings. With Ford Street going through a redesign of putting recovery programs in the Buddy Eller building and families and single adults in their smaller building, they will have more ability to serve the FDDC participants who are going through detox.

Commissioner Passalacqua agrees on postponing. Commissioner Rentería requested that the budget

discrepancies get corrected. Commissioner Cryer wanted it noted that HHSA is supportive of the FDDC program through money and philosophy and if the Commission agrees to approve funding, HHSA will still continue its support. Details of a competitive hiring process and/or liability insurance for HHSA employees would need to be worked out if approved.

Commission decided to table decision until May 30, 2014 meeting

ITEM 8: IMPROVED PARENTING

A. Healthy Beverage Policy (*Action*)

Executive Director Molgaard reminded the Commission that the Healthy Beverage Philosophy was adopted by the Commission in March 2012. The reason the Philosophy wasn't made into Policy then was because the wording was too specific in some ways and too broad in other ways. The Health and Human Services Agency Public Health requested that the Commission support a revised Policy that has been edited. FIRST 5 Mendocino works closely with them and in the spirit of collaboration it is being recommended by staff. Commission Cryer noted that this is simply a policy and not an endorsement of any tax against sugary drinks. Nutrition Fitness VISTA mentioned that many from Public Health feel FIRST 5 Mendocino is a leader in creating healthy policies.

Commission approved to adopt the April 2014 Health Beverage Policy: Motion/Cryer, Second/Passalacqua. (all ayes, no nays) Motion Passed

ITEM 9: SPECIAL FUNDING REQUESTS

A. Casper Children's Garden (*Action*)

Executive Director Molgaard briefed the Commission on the requested bridge loan from Caspar Children's Garden (CCG). She explained that CCG is required by the state to have \$25,000 in the bank to complete their licensing application. She further explained that CCG had parents signed up for attendance, but had no deposits collected from parents. She discussed how, if approved, she and Chair Renteria thought of having the funds in an account that required two signers with the Commissioner Chair being one of them would make the loan more secure. Commissioner Lowery expressed concern about the risk of CCG's inability to repay the loan.

Commissioner Hamburg mentioned that FIRST 5 is in the business of promoting good child care while Commissioner Renteria expressed concern about the number of families willing to transfer back to Caspar who have alternately found other child care options since the site closure in June 2013 and is hesitant to get into the loaning business when traditionally FIRST 5 Mendocino grants the funds to programs. Commissioner Lowery asked Executive Director Molgaard about the bottom line budget if funds were granted and not expected to be returned. She responded that \$25,000 is a lot to spend on one program and would be less reluctant if funds were to go to several programs promoting parenting rather than one on child care. She suggested having the CCG's Vice-President, Skip Taube, come and meet with the Commission or require them to have thirty deposits of \$250 each by May 30, 2014 to insure they have invested parents. Previously, Commissioner Renteria asked the Coastal Coordinator VISTA to look into the participant group and he reported that there are approximately 18 families in need of child care with overcrowding currently happening at the Mendocino child care (overflow). Commissioner Hamburg likes the idea of verifying staff and families who are waiting to re-open and agrees with Executive Director Molgaard about dispersing funds to a wider region.

Commissioner Cryer expressed that it is a good cause but that could potentially set a bad precedence for loaning money, and is not sure if it's FIRST 5 Mendocino's role. She further elaborated that when money is given, as in a grant, there are certain deliverables that are expected versus a loan that is given upfront without any guarantee.

Motion made to not approve the Caspar Children's Garden Bridge Loan of \$25,000
Made/Lowery, Second/Cryer.

3 ayes: Commissioners Rentería, Lowery, Cryer;
2 naves: Commissioners Hamburg, Passalacqua naves
Motion did not pass due to lack of a voting quorum

Executive Director inquired if Caspar Children's Garden came back with a \$10,000 request for Special Funding, would the Commission entertain it? Commission was in agreement that they would consider it.

B. Young Parent Program at MCOE (*Action*)

Executive Director Molgaard briefed the Commission on the request for Mendocino County Office of Education's (MCOE) Young Parent Program to upgrade their equipment that has been used for many years to continue providing child care. She briefed that the only hesitation the Executive Committee expressed was the high cost of the glider included in the request.

Commission motioned to pass Young Parent Program Special Request with modifications. Glider will be removed reducing request from \$4715 to \$3630. Made/Cryer, Second/Passalacqua (all ayes, no naves) Motion Passed

With all *Action* items voted on Commissioners Cryer and Lowery left at 3:30pm for another scheduled meeting.

ITEM 5 FIRST 5 MEDIA

Menaka Olson, Communications Assistant, presented First 5 California's media campaign to discuss the importance of brain development importance; with the hashtag #taklkreading, Talk, Read, Sing: your words have the power to shape your child's world.

The campaign is being widely distributed with a heavy emphasis on early morning shows and cable networks, including the top four networks. There is a proposed cookbook and other outreach materials educating the public about how to engage fully with their children. The goal is to reach parents in lower economic regions to instigate sustainable behavior changes.

FIRST 5 Mendocino is sharing these messages on Facebook and all outreach pages, as well as VISTAs educating at host sites and during outreach. Mama y Yo is a good example of how FIRST 5 is creating a local example.

Olson updated the Commission on the recent success of the Breastfeeding conference FIRST 5 Mendocino organized and held on March 14, 2014. There were several other sponsors, such as Ukiah Valley Medical Center (UVMC), Women, Infant and Children (WIC), Care for Her, Consolidated Tribal Health, and BreastStart. The turn-out was great with a good combination of public and practitioners. The evening before FIRST 5 hosted a dinner for physicians who were unable to attend, allowing them a venue to ask questions. The dinner was well-received and appreciated. FIRST 5 Mendocino contributed \$3500 towards the event. Commissioner Rentería mentioned that her staff enjoyed the conference and believes it is important to continue efforts to get other agencies to partner, especially those agencies that don't necessarily do prenatal care but are doing well-baby care.

ITEM 7 REDUCED SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A. Recovery Support Developments

Maya Stuart, Raise & Shine Manager, updated the Commission about the potential of a pilot program on the Coast at the Safe Passage Family Resource Center, summarizing that the pilot will be designed to support parents in recovery, intended to operate throughout the coming fiscal year. The long-term goal is to see how this worked and then discuss it with other FRC's to see how the program can be modified for their area and needs.

Program includes:

- Meals and Games (For families)
- Support Groups, Facilitator (For participants)
- AOD trained facilitator preferred
- Data collection and evaluation

Two trained Early Childhood Providers are budgeting to provide child care services with the understanding that the children attending the program will possibly have behavior problems.

AA/NA are good for peer support but have no child care option. This program with professional facilitation would include child care with quality supervision and a meal component to model by example. Ideally groups would meet twice monthly. Commissioner Rentería inquired if there would be an age requirement. Stuart explained that the program can be as specific as needed while it's a pilot to figure out the nuts and bolts of what is going to work best.

Commissioner Passalacqua suggested a needs assessment from the substance abuse counselors currently providing services and the Voluntary Child Protective case workers. He is curious to hear if enough people have gotten the treatment that would warrant the support the pilot could provide. Possibly treatment plans may be in greater demand than the after-care of treatment.

Commissioner Rentería commented that she has people in her clinic who are on Suboxone (to treat opiate addiction) and that is the entirety of their treatment. She thinks these individuals would greatly benefit from such a program. Commissioner Passalacqua mentioned that there are people on waitlists for months just to get treatment and are struggling more with finding treatment rather than missing support groups due to lack of child care. Commissioner Rentería further questioned if instead of designing a new program, could quality child care and support be integrated into the AA/NA groups currently available. Stuart said she was more than willing to look into it and bring information back to the Commission. Commissioner Hamburg questioned about having the appropriate staff available to facilitate such a pilot and as to when the pilot would begin. Stuart responded that the Safe Passage staff was fully on board and that though there were no AOD trained staff available there were plenty of parent facilitators/educators available and it would be preferable to get contracts for service in line by beginning of fiscal year with first meetings beginning in August.

Commissioner Rentería mentioned a program out of the College of the Redwoods that offered certifications in interim drug counselor services. She mentioned there may be many who have been educated in the background of addiction and gone through the program themselves.

Julia Russ requested to be put on the radar for potential pilot programs that could help the Round Valley population stay more on target with their sobriety. The Round Valley Red Road to Recovery is a similar program currently happening, but not with the as much offered support.

ITEM 8: IMPROVED PARENTING

A. ARC Family information Center Updates

Maya Stuart, Raise & Shine Manager, reported on the current ARC Activities which include offering immediate parenting services, identifying local community needs, increasing services around parenting support. There has been limited outreach and marketing but a warm reception from the public with attendance of events increasing weekly. If continued, the goal is to find additional funding for services outside of FIRST 5 and Health and Human Services Agency.

Lydia Villegas, ARC Manager, reported on the English as Second Language (ESL) Conversation group and the Easter Outreach they did that attracted 70 children where over 500 eggs were hidden. Future

activities include a summer music program for pre-kindergarteners and a three week Creative Arts Camp provided by SPACE Performing Arts. The trend line for attendance is steadily increasing and the request to Commission to continue funding the center is estimated at \$99,992 plus partner funds and grants that HHSA has tentatively agreed to. The amounts would come from the areas of Policy, Substance Abuse and Parenting of the FIRST 5's current strategic plan. Refined budget figures will be supplied at the May Planning meeting on May 30, 2014.

There are obstacles to overcome with the ARC facility due to the multiple players (Ukiah Valley Arts and Rec Center board, City of Ukiah, Ukiah Unified School District, Grace Hudson Elementary School, Board and Girls Club) but ongoing conversations are slowly getting more streamlined. The benefits of being at the ARC are that the facility is designed to be a community center and children and families are already present.

B. Family Resource Centers Network Summary

Becca Wald, Round Valley FRC VISTA, reported on the FRC Network, funded by FIRST 5 Mendocino. There are nine FRCs in the network that range from Gualala to Laytonville.

FIRST 5 funds to the Round Valley FRC have allowed them to hire Lawrence Joaquin as a half-time employee. This is a necessary transition for the center to have a local member who is involved in the local community rather than a temporary VISTA. Julia Russ, Round Valley FRC Manager, mentioned that the Round Valley FRC will be moving to a new facility recently donated to the Round Valley Indian Health Center and will include a Wellness Center offering expanded services.

Maya Stuart introduced the proposed funding for the Family Resource Centers for next fiscal year in preparation for a final vote on these contracts at the May meeting. Overall, Stuart is requesting \$87,570 to the Family Resource Centers; this does not include the Round Valley FRC and the ARC, which are in their start-up mode. The funds will come out of the budget equally from Policy, Substance Abuse and Parenting categories.

Stuart suggested that each Family Resource Center receive a different amount of funding specifically based on how much they do that supports the two FIRST 5 priorities and how many children ages 0-5 and their families are served. The Planning Meeting will have refined budget items. Commissioner Rentería requested the totals be emailed before the meeting and expressed her appreciation for the breakdown and explanation of the inequities of each FRC.

ITEM 10: COMMISSIONER REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Commissioner Chair Rentería mentioned that even though the enrollment period for Covered California has ended, individuals can still continue to enroll in Medi-Cal at any time. Mendocino County led the charge for successful enrolments, with Mendocino being number 3 and Ukiah area number 1. Executive Director Molgaard reminded Commissioners and public to please contact FIRST 5 Mendocino of any undocumented children who need healthcare so advocacy work can be continued on their behalf in Sacramento; it is more common that thought with 1 in every 6 children born into mixed status homes.

With no further comments or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

ITEM 11 TOUR ROUND VALLEY FRC