



July 28, 2014

Commission Meeting Minutes

MCOE

Southeast Room

Commission Members Present

Lucresha Rentería

Dan Hamburg

Stacey Cryer

Bryan Lowery

John Passalacqua

Public Present who signed in

Laurence Joaquin, Round Valley Family Resource Center

Megan Van Sant, HHSA Community Outreach Unit, Program Administrator

Sandra Mix, Caspar Children's Garden, Director

ITEM 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Rentería called the meeting to order at 1:20 and those present introduced themselves.

ITEM 2 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

No comments from the public were made.

ITEM 3: CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

A. Approve Agenda

B. Approve Draft Minutes of May 30, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting

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

REDUCED SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND IMPROVED PARENTING (Action)

ITEM 4 2013-14 Summary and 2014-15 Program Update

Maya Stuart, Raise & Shine Program Manager, presented to the Commission the summary for the 2013-14 year. The funds received from Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) allowed an additional 12 parenting groups this year increasing the total to 23, leading to the highest rate of completion ever. Providers are more enthusiastic as well, two groups were recovery focused, with 156 parents served and 132 zero to five aged children plus 390 siblings and other family members served. The ARC, opened in February 2014 and despite little marketing, the classes are all well attended. The ARC Family Resource Center (FRC) staff will be changing with AmeriCorps member, Kristin Mullen-Muhr, leaving and new AmeriCorps taking her place. There is continued development in coordinating the ARC space with Boys and Girls Club (renter) and the City of Ukiah (building manager). The FRCs have been returning their contracts which provide \$5000 base funding with additional funding available based on services provided in prior years. There will be continued data review to make sure all the services they are doing are being captured. There are no contracts in place at this moment for Anderson Valley or Nuestra Casa FRCs. Commissioner Passalacqua confirmed that the money originally set aside for those has not yet been distributed. Commissioner Lowery complimented the overall increase of numbers served.

There have been two trainings for Triple P Providers, with some in Spanish, in addition to the creation of a mentoring program to help support continued facilitation success.

Stuart updated the Commission about the Title IVE contracts that are pending approval from the Board of Supervisors to continue Signs of Safety with the Youth Project and other connecting agencies. Regarding other funding and projects, she explained that in the past year, planning was poor but much has been learned from past mistakes and staff is going into this year with a greater understanding of their strengths and challenges. Commissioner Cryer requested further explanation. The Federal Grant of \$10,000 required the use of the Celebrating Families Curriculum which demanded staff that was out of FIRST 5 Mendocino's range. With three sessions of 16 weeks FIRST 5 needed eight staff to do it properly and four rooms and a meal. Even using Cherry Street facilities for free, it was way over budget.

ITEM 5 The CalFresh Challenge

Megan Van Sant, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Community Outreach Unit Program Administrator, presented the County Nutrition Action Plan to celebrate the Federal Food Program, CalFresh. Starting the celebration in October: week one will focus on school cafeterias; week two will celebrate with WIC and a proclamation to Board of Supervisors; week three will focus on asking individuals, particularly policy makers, to participate in the CalFresh challenge and practice living on a CalFresh budget of \$5 a day, to bring attention to the challenges of living on such a small food budget. She is asking for Commissioners to inform other council members, etc. to go to the Health Mendocino website at www.healthymendocino.org on September 15, 2014 to register and to publicize their participation. Commissioner Passalacqua inquired about the end goal and what was expected to be learned from the experience. Van Sant responded that food stamps are not a life of comfort, as the news media sometimes portrays, and through this challenge the goal is to reform that image and educate how it only pays for food and that the program has a very low fraud rate, it's hopeful to raise awareness around the things people generally take for granted such as coffee, smoothies, etc. and to realize the difficulty in eating healthy on a limited budget. The ultimate goal is to raise enough awareness so when the program is threatened, people can fight for it. Van Sant further explained that the program is accessed by families with children whose parents are working forty hours a week. It's not the homeless who are the primary recipients, but the families and children. Seventy percent of CalFresh recipients are children and many are seniors.

ITEM 6: Special Funding Request (Action)

Executive Director Molgaard briefed the Commission on how Caspar Children's Garden was able to secure a bridge loan from the Children's Coast Fund after it was decided in the March 31, 2014 Commission Meeting that FIRST 5 would not be approving such a loan. With funds secured in the bank to open, there was still a need to landscape and pay necessary re-opening fees and licensures. Caspar Children's Garden has submitted a revised request to cover these bare minimum expenses to ensure their re-opening in September. Commissioner Rentería inquired if there was a modified program to accommodate less teachers. Sandra Mix, Caspar Children's Garden Director, responded that no teachers were actually hired as of yet and they would fill as the need required. Commission discussed that there was no funding for Special Request in the current 2014-15 fiscal budget, however, this request came before Commission in April of last fiscal year and does have merit to receive funding. With limited slots for quality child care available on the Coast, the Commission recognizes the need for quality care to improve a child's early development.

Motion made to approve the Special Funding request in the amount of \$7,534. Motion/Cryer, Second/Hamburg (all ayes, no nays) Motion Passed.

ITEM 7 Mendocino County Immunization Rates

Michelle Rich, Data & Research VISTA, presented to the Commission the updated information regarding the current kindergarten immunization rates throughout Mendocino County. Compared to the rest of the State of California, Mendocino County is 14.8% below the state average. While the State of California saw a modest decline in the last 5 years, Mendocino County has seen a larger decline from 83.8% in 2010 to 75.4% in 2013.

Rich explained that individuals were placed in different exemption categories: Conditional, Personal Medical Exemption (PME) and Personal Belief Exemptions (PBE). The conditionals had a higher percentage than PMEs or PBEs. A conditional entrant is a student who does not meet all requirements. This student must be followed up because he/she lacks (i.e., is not yet due for) at least one dose and does not have a PME or PBE on file; or a physician affidavit of temporary Medical Exemption, or is a transfer student who has no record available yet. Over the last 3 years, the number of PBEs has stayed about the same as has the number of PMEs. The number of conditional entrants has shot up dramatically.

In 2012 the personal belief exemption became more restrictive in that there is an additional requirement of a signature from a health care practitioner to obtain the exemption. Effective Jan. 1, 2014 parents must now obtain this additional signature when filing with the governing authority the necessary documents that state which vaccinations have not been given on the basis that they are contrary to his or her beliefs. When the law was amended for this change, Governor Brown also issued an executive order directing the health department to include a separate religious exemption on the new exemption form.

At a state level Public Schools have a higher rate than Private Schools. This is true across all categories of entrants (Conditional, PBE, and PME). Mendocino County had 4 private schools reporting and 27 public schools reporting in 2013. Two of the top five schools with low immunization rates were charter schools.

The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) is a secure, confidential, statewide computerized immunization information system for California residents. FIRST 5 Mendocino granted \$50,000 to Public Health to help implement it. The problem was that children who moved often weren't in the system and foster children were getting over immunized because of lack of reporting. Commission briefly discussed next steps to improve rates.

Commissioner Cryer reported that of the fourteen Partnership Health Plan regions, Mendocino's rates were lowest. She further explained that Partnership gives clinics and providers incentives to vaccinate, which has shown a relative improvement in the rates. Commission discussed the focus to encourage schools to follow-up on the conditional entrants to have their vaccinations completed or their files updated showing completion. Commissioner Rentería commented that a great test site is in Anderson Valley who has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mendocino Community Health Clinic to provide services at the school and act as the school nurse. Another issue is that vaccinations that happen at sports calls, Safeways, and other special functions often go undocumented to schools and physicians if the parent never turns them in to their health care provider.

Commissioner Cryer will share the data that she is collecting through Partnership Health Plan, but HHSA does not need any assistance from FRIST 5 at this time.

MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS AND EVALUATION *(Action)*

ITEM 8: Director's Report

Executive Director Molgaard showed the Commissioners the new visual aid for the approved Strategic Plan. She also distributed the new ARC rack cards for Commissioners to handout in their own agencies.

Commissioner Lowery offered to have the ARC rack cards and flyers in the client booths rather than in the lobby to be more readily accessible.

The Mendocino Courts have contacted FIRST 5 to inquire about the availability to manage the Parenting Apart workshop currently being provided by Redwood Children Services. The \$35,000 contract would include the supervised family court ordered visitations; it is in alignment with our current priorities, would allow the use of evidence-based practices and bring new people to the ARC. FIRST 5 can also offer a bilingual option and some coastal services not previously available. Commissioner Lowery inquired about how many parents are being served? Executive Director Molgaard reported that an average of ten parents at any one time is currently being served as reported by Carol Park, the Family Court Services Director. This project only includes the cases that the Family Law judge sends.

Leadership Mendocino asked FIRST 5 Mendocino to sponsor Chris Skyhawk for the upcoming year. Skyhawk is a local Mendocino resident who has several years of experience in the Mental Health field working with at-risk youth and families. In recent years he has done several sessions of Parenting Workshops which have been funded by FIRST 5 and the Child Abuse Prevention Council. He currently does Rites of Passage work with young men and runs mentoring groups for young people in a variety of settings. He has been a community organizer throughout his adult life. He is a good fit for the program and his work reflects the goals of FIRST 5 Mendocino.

Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI) has served over 2,000. Executive Molgaard reported that the no-show rate is unusually high. She has requested data from them to see what clinics in Mendocino County have high no-show rates and to see what possible incentives can be offered legally. She shared the upcoming Make Kids Smile fundraising event for PDI on October 9, 2014 at the French Garden in Sebastopol.

Executive Molgaard reported that she brought up the conversation at the recent First 5 Association meeting about taking a leadership position to educate about the effects of marijuana. There are several other First 5's also working on taking a preemptive move to affect legislation in preparation for potential legalization to make it more child-healthy.

Day of Caring for the United Way of the Wine Country will be on September 10, 2014. There will be a service project happening at the ARC or Boys and Girls Club. More information will be sent out as it becomes available.

Moving Forward Mendocino, the collective impact group out of Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) has narrowed their focus to two items: Work force development which is having kids either in school or getting ready to work; and third grade reading.

FIRST 5 Mendocino's current evaluator, Catherine Minicucci's contract expires on November 1, 2014 and will be going into semi-retirement. The contract is \$25,000, Executive Molgaard inquired if the Commission preferred transferring those duties to staff plus a \$10,000 expert. This is similar to how the current accounting is done with an external CPA oversight. This is effective as it puts another set of eyes on the

data and reduces the cost. Commissioners inquired about who and how that would get accomplished. Executive Molgaard informed that exiting VISTA Michelle Rich has the evaluation skills and could be brought in part-time to do that. Rich is currently negotiating to work part time to work on data, 2-1-1, etc. Commissioners agreed that if it can be done with current staff and meet all the state requirements than it should be done in house. Evaluator Minicucci will complete the required evaluations for this year that are due to the state by October 21, 2014.

AmeriCorps VISTA is undergoing multiple changes with several contract holders. There is a current recruitment freeze until negotiations are finalized. So no new recruitments will be occurring, to make accommodations for this reduction, FIRST 5 Mendocino will be doing less outreach. If there is a specific event the Commission would like to have representation, then please contact the FIRST 5 office. The current two VISTA members will continue to February.

Diaper Depot currently has 20 pallets of diapers available for county wide diaper distribution. Five pallets are at the coast with the Mendocino Coast Children's Fund. There is currently an agreement with Jill Bradley at CalWorks to offer diapers as an incentive for orientation attendees. Commissioner Lowery inquired about possibly getting some to the foster parents who offer emergency care for infants, if so, he advised to contact Human Health Services Agency program manager, Thelma Giwoff, to set that up. Commissioner Cryer mentioned Diane Agee, of Redwood Coast Medical Services to discuss a diaper incentive for parents bringing their child in for their initial dental visit. Executive Molgaard noted the importance of always keeping a supply of diapers and formula on hand to be available in case of a natural disaster.

Executive Molgaard reported that Greg Etter, Social Entrepreneur VISTA, will be discussing the idea of bringing a community project, such as building a batting cage, to the public's attention. It will be a good way to gauge the community need of such an activity.

Currently there is nothing on the agenda for the August 25, 2014 Commissioner meeting. With the difficulty of securing a quorum, it is decided to cancel the meeting.

First 5 Association is holding a 2015 Child, Health, Education, and Care Summit from February 10-12, 2015. If any Commissioners are interested in going, please contact Townley Saye, as they are always very informative.

ITEM 9: NON-PROFIT *(Action)*

Executive Director Molgaard reminded the Commission of the need to form a non-profit to facilitate needed grant and fundraising activities. She presented a list of decisions that need to be made in order to form the 501(c)(3) organization.

Today's decisions include:

Statement of Purpose:

- "This corporation is formed for the charitable purpose of fostering the healthy birth, growth, development, and education of children in Northern California."

Age:

- Especially 0-5, and their parents and siblings

Geography:

- Northern California

Name:

- FIRST 5 Mendocino-no objections

Other Article Details:

- Address at 166 East Gobbi Street, Ukiah
- Service of Process

Bylaws as written in:

- Non-membership corporation (i.e., not the co-op, the Board of Directors acts as the membership)
- What is best for smart decision-making
- Simplicity of making decisions/signing checks and documents

Bylaws Decisions:

- Number of directors: 5-9, include FIRST 5 Executive Director
- Number of meetings: at least 2 meetings year
- Meetings by telephone: yes.

Motion made to approve the Articles of Incorporation decisions including: Statement of Purpose, Age, Geography, Name, Article Details, and Bylaws. Made/Cryer, Second/Passalacqua. (all ayes, no naves) Motion Passed.

Articles and bylaws to file:

- File Articles, Bylaws with CA Secretary of State
- File 1023 for tax-exempt status (fed)
- File 5300a for tax-exempt status (state)

Motion made to authorize the filing of Articles of Incorporation. Made/Cryer, Second/Passalacqua. (all ayes, no naves) Motion Passed.

ITEM 10: RECOGNITION AND FINAL REPORTS FROM VISTA AND AMERICORPS

MEMBERS

Members completing their VISTA year of service: Kathleen Cason, Early Literacy Advocate; Kary Fernandez, CAC Coordinator; Julia Healy, Fresh Food Advocate; Ligia Lopes, Nutrition and Fitness Advocate; Antonio Rentería, Coastal Coordinator; and Michelle Rich, Healthy Mendocino Data & Research Coordinator. Member completing her AmeriCorps year of service: Kristin Mullen-Muhr, Family Advocate.

Each VISTA presented their project summaries to the Commission. Many VISTAs, such as Michelle Rich, Kathleen Cason, Kary Fernandez, and Julia Healy are staying local and continuing to work on projects they are passionate on. Ligia Lopez and Kristin Mullen-Muhr will be leaving the area completely, while Antonio Rentería will be returning to school at the neighboring county, Sonoma.

ITEM 11 COMMISSIONER REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Commissioner Rentería thanked all the VISTAs for their year of service. Commissioner Hamburg commented on how satisfied he was to have them part of the FIRST 5 programs.

With no further comments or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.