

First 5 Tuolumne County Commission  
Minutes of Meeting 1:15 p.m., October 12, 2011  
Tuolumne County Health Department – Conference Room  
20111 Cedar Road North, Sonora, CA 95370

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by Chairperson Ashton, attendees were welcomed, and introductions were made.

Commissioners Present: Ashton, Denney, Peterson, Sells

Commissioners Absent: Alford, Bass, Kearns

Ex-Officio Members Present: Seegers, Thompson

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Williams

Staff Present: Kruse

Members of the Public Present: Shelly Hance, Gregory Oliver

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Ashton reminded the Commission of conflict of interest issues.

Action Items

1. Action on the approval of minutes for August 10, 2011

A quorum of Commissioners that attended the meeting on August 10, 2011 was not present; this item was deferred to the December 2011 meeting.

2. Consideration of a contract amendment for ICES to reflect carry-over funds in the amount of \$12,993.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the contract amendments.

Motion: to approve the contract amendment, as written, for ICES, to reflect carry-over funds for the Raising Healthy Families program in the amount of \$12,993.

Moved: Commissioner Sells

Seconded: Commissioner Peterson

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried: 4 ayes (Ashton, Denney, Peterson, Sells), Commissioners Alford, Bass and Kearns being absent from the vote.

3. Consideration of a contract amendment for Tuolumne Col Supt. Schools to reflect carry-over funds for the Smile Keepers program in the amount of \$1,089.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the contract amendments.

Motion: to approve the contract amendment, as written, for Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools, to reflect carry-over funds for Smile Keepers in the amount of \$1,089.

Moved: Commissioner Sells

Seconded: Commissioner Peterson

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried: 4 ayes (Ashton, Denney, Peterson, Sells), Commissioners Alford, Bass and Kearns being absent from the vote.

4. Consideration of a contract amendment for Tuolumne Col Supt. Schools to reflect carry-over funds for the SELF program in the amount of \$4,554 and to reflect staffing changes.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the contract amendments and reviewed the elements of a recent conversation with administrators at the Superintendent of Schools Office. She reported that Donna Meiss has schools lined up for the fiscal year, and has already begun services.

Commissioner Ashton said that she was pleased that an effort was made to stay consistent with the Commission's initial planning efforts.

Motion: to approve the contract amendment, as written, for Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools, to reflect carry-over funds for the SELF program in the amount of \$4,554, and to reflect the staffing changes.

Moved: Commissioner Denney

Seconded: Commissioner Peterson

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried: 4 ayes (Ashton, Denney, Peterson, Sells), Commissioners Alford, Bass and Kearns being absent from the vote.

5. Consideration of materials for a fee-based community partnership program
  - a. Consideration of approval of a policy (attachment #5a)
  - b. Consideration of approval of a MOU with A-TCAA for \$10,000 (attachment #5b)
  - c. Consideration of approval of a contract with Sheila Kruse (attachment #5c)

Sheila Kruse reviewed the history of the discussion to date and the Commission's instructions to bring back materials for review. Gregory Oliver addressed the issue of conflict of interest if the Executive Director acted independently in securing outside contracts, even if she disclosed at Commission meetings. In that event, the Executive Director would have to recuse herself from work on any potential conflicting contracts. If the funds come in through contracts with the Commission, the Commission can choose to assign the work, and not have to worry about conflict of interest.

Sheila Kruse reviewed all of the draft elements: policy, MOU with A-TCAA and word order, and contract with Sheila Kruse.

Commissioners and Gregory Oliver discussed the importance of alignment of the MOU with the policy, and suggested adding language to the MOU and to the work order to clarify compliance

with the policy. It was clarified that the expectation for data sharing would be included in all MOUs, not just with A-TCAA.

Shelly Hance reiterated that the MOU amount was a “not to exceed amount”, and that the work orders could conceivably come in under that amount, depending on the amount of funding availability. She addressed the potential of data sharing with the broader community.

Susan Sells noted that this process allows the Commission to provide resources to the greater community, but asked how the Commission would prioritize services if more requests came in than could be accommodated. There was some discussion about how that would occur, based on the Commission’s clear authority to choose priority projects.

In terms of the Executive Director contract, there was discussion regarding the 5% rate to cover Commission costs. The Commission instructed Sheila Kruse to report back at year end to see how this was working financially, for future year’s consideration.

Commissioner Ashton reiterated that the fee schedule allows for reimbursement to the Commission for the MOU, for work orders and for on-going costs, which honors the concern of the Commission in their initial discussion. Commissioner Thompson noted that 5% of \$10 thousand dollars would be \$500, which is not an unreasonable amount. Gregory Oliver noted that these amounts were not set in stone, and could be revisited at year’s end to guide future decisions.

- 5a. Motion: to approve the policy for Fee-Based Community Services, with the identified typo error corrected.

Moved: Commissioner Sells

Seconded: Commissioner Denney

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried: 4 ayes (Ashton, Denney, Peterson, Sells), Commissioners Alford, Bass and Kearns being absent from the vote.

- 5b. Motion: to approve the MOU with A-TCAA for Fee-Based Community Services, with identified amendments. Amendments include adding language regarding compliance with the Commission’s policies and procedures for fee-based community services. In addition, the Commission asked that language regarding compliance also be added to the draft work order template.

Moved: Commissioner Sells

Seconded: Commissioner Denney

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried: 4 ayes (Ashton, Denney, Peterson, Sells), Commissioners Alford, Bass and Kearns being absent from the vote.

- 5c. Motion: to approve the contract with Sheila Kruse for provision of Fee-Based Community Services, with the identified typo errors corrected.

Moved: Commissioner Sells

Seconded: Commissioner Denney

There was further discussion regarding the 5% rate to cover Commission costs. The Commission instructed Sheila Kruse to report back at year end to see how this was working financially, for future year's consideration.

Motion carried: 4 ayes (Ashton, Denney, Peterson, Sells), Commissioners Alford, Bass and Kearns being absent from the vote.

Adrienne Seegers offered to serve as the Commissioner designee for approving Work Orders. The Commission accepted this offer and expressed their appreciation.

6. Election of Officers

The slate was introduced. No additional nominations were made.

Motion: to approve the slate of nominees: Chair – Cori Ashton; Vice-Chair: Patricia Denney; Treasurer: Jan Kearns

Moved: Commissioner Peterson

Seconded: Commissioner Sells

Motion carried: 4 ayes (Ashton, Denney, Peterson, Sells), Commissioners Alford, Bass and Kearns being absent from the vote.

7. Public Hearing on Annual Audit and Annual Report for FY 10-11

Commissioner Ashton opened the public hearing. Sheila Kruse reviewed the audited financial report and presented a Power Point overview of the annual report data for the Commission. Commissioner Ashton called for public comments. Shelly Hance expressed her appreciation to the Commission for the Strategic Planning process that had occurred in the prior year, acknowledging that planning for funding cuts was a difficult task for a board, and that she understood that it was a good process that allowed the Commission to evaluate services and priorities. She also thanked them for allowing A-TCAA to utilize unspent funds to support the Blue Bell renovation project, and invited Commissioners to attend the open house to be held October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 3-6 pm.

There was no other public comment.

Motion: to accept the audited financial statements and annual report.

Moved: Commissioner Denney

Seconded: Commissioner Sells

Motion carried: 4 ayes (Ashton, Denney, Peterson, Sells), Commissioners Alford, Bass and Kearns being absent from the vote.

8. Report on Tuolumne MeWuk Dental Clinic project

Sheila Kruse reviewed the letter from Abhijit Gune, DDS, (dental director at the clinic) and discussed the issue of unexpended funds for the project. The Commission advised Sheila Kruse to

invoice only for the unexpended funds of \$98.75, and to allow the July 2011 expenditures for \$148.00.

9. Financial Report to August 2011

Sheila Kruse reviewed the financial report for July and August 2011. She noted that, although the report for that period did not yet reflect new revenues that, as of October, two months of revenues were in. The revenues for August were 18% lower, statewide, from last year. In response to queries, she responded that such fluctuations occasionally occur, but that she would be watching future months carefully.

10. Discussion Items, Reports, and Information Items

Sheila Kruse

- Reported on the status of AB99, the bill that takes half of First 5 fund balances. The lawsuit was heard in Fresno Superior Court on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Sheila has the full brief as well as a good summary if Commissioners are interested. The plaintiffs argued that AB 99 is not in furtherance of Prop 10, is not consistent with the intent of the voters, calls into play the constitutional power of voter initiatives, should be thrown out if any sections are unconstitutional, and cited precedent for their arguments. The AG office argued that AB 99 was consistent with Prop 10, does not supplant, that each section should be looked at on its own and also cited precedent. The judge asked the AG's attorney questions regarding how the state was thinking about spending the money, what the options were, whether the counties would ever see the money again, and the state's thinking about undoing local control. The judge said that a decision would not be likely for 90 days due to the court's limited resources.
- Reported on her participation at a meeting at the First 5 California offices (as a northeast region representative) to discuss a possible future partnership program for their Child Signature programs with a focus on the EduCare model elements and strategies. It is not clear yet at what level small counties will be feasibly able to participate in implementation, as the planning is still in its early stages. Sheila will continue to keep the Commission updated on future discussions. Adrienne Seegers noted that child care professionals in California already know what components need to be in place for high quality childcare, and are only hampered in implementing those components by limited funds. She expressed her frustration with programs at the state level investing in new strategies that did not apply funds directly to benefit children in ECE settings in California.

Susan Sells

- Reported that the Suicide Prevention Task Force held its 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> annual strategic planning meeting, to get input from the community. It was a successful event, with over 60 in

attendance. The core oversight committee will be utilizing the input to create another 3-year strategic plan for the community, which will involve suicide prevention and Intervention for all ages.

#### Evelyn Thompson

- Reported that she attended the Suicide Prevention Task Force meeting and that it was outstanding, and well done.
- Distributed flyers from ICES regarding ECE provider training events, upcoming parenting classes and workshops, and the ICES newsletter.
- Reported on her observation of staff teaching a Nurturing Parenting Class to parents involved in Drug Dependency Court and remarked on the power of watching these couples focusing on parenting, while in the midst of recovery.
- Reported that the county Special Education Office is continuing a version of Child Find arena style screenings (after the Friendship School was no longer funded), and suggested that the Commission invite Debbie Ritchie to come and review what the new Child Find system looks like. Sheila Kruse noted that she could be invited to the December meeting.

#### Susan Peterson

- Reported that she has started going to PRIDE classes, a foster parent training program with her birth moms. The interchange between foster parents and birth moms is informative to both parties.

#### Cori Ashton

- Reported that the YES Partnership is celebrating 25 years of substance abuse prevention and suicide prevention. There will be a 3 day "Mother Lode Idol" event to be held Oct 13-15 at the Opera Hall, with tickets at the door, showcasing good young talent. She encouraged the Commission to support this positive event for youth. She also noted that she has \$25 tickets for the SRT preview night, on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, for *Jacob Marley's Christmas*, and a YES auction, to support the YES Partnership. Please contact her if you are interested.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2011, at 1:15 pm.