

First 5 Tuolumne County Commission
Minutes of Meeting 1:00 p.m., October 14, 2009
Tuolumne County Health Department – Conference Room
20111 Cedar Road North, Sonora, CA 95370

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Commissioner Alford, in the absence of Chair Branscum. Attendees were welcomed by Commissioner Alford and introductions were made.

Commissioners Present: Alford, Braia, Denney, Kearns
Commissioners Absent: Ashton, Bass, Branscum
Ex-Officio Members Present: Seegers, Sells, Thompson
Ex-Officio Members Absent: Hoffman-Brady, Schroeter, Williams
Staff Present: Kruse, Cook
Members of the Public Present: Bessie Platten, Christine Greenberger, Quincy Yaley

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Action Items

Joan Alford chaired for the meeting (as appointed by Emily Branscum), in the absence of the current officers.

1. Action on Approval of Minutes for August 12, 2009

Action on this Item was postponed until the December meeting, since only two Commissioners present had been in attendance at the August 12, 2009 meeting.

Sheila Kruse said that the grant applicants had been told, in error, that the meeting would start at 1:30, so the Commission will address Items #3-5 first, to allow for grantees' attendance during Item #2.

3. Election of Officers for the Commission, effective December 9, 2009

Sheila noted that, at the August meeting, the Commission had nominated the following slate of officers: Joan Alford, Chair; Liz Bass, Vice Chair; Emily Branscum, Treasurer. Sheila asked for any additional nominations from the floor. No further nominations were made.

Motion: to elect the slate of officers as nominated

Moved: Commissioner Kearns

Seconded: Commissioner Braia

Motion carried, 4 ayes; Commissioners Branscum, Bass and Ashton being absent from the vote.

4. Dental Help Fund carryover funding authorization

Sheila Kruse informed the Commission that \$640.00 in unspent funds remain in the 08-09 Dental Help Fund, as she had reported in August. Usually unspent funds roll back into the First 5 fund for redistribution at Financial Planning time in December. However, she reported that \$2,600.00 of the \$3000.00 budgeted for FY 2009-10 has been used already, and other needs have already been identified. Sheila recommended that the \$640.00 from 08-09 be added to the \$400.00 left in 09-10, to meet the current identified needs.

Motion: to approve the carryover of the unspent Dental Help funding \$640.00 from FY 2008-09 to FY 2009-10

Moved: Commissioner Denney

Seconded: Commissioner Braia

Motion carried, 4 ayes; Commissioners Branscum, Bass and Ashton being absent from the vote.

5. Public Hearing on Annual Audit and Annual Report for FY 08-09

Chair Alford opened the Public Hearing.

Sheila Kruse presented the Annual Audit and Annual Report, and presented a PowerPoint summary of the Annual Report.

Chair Alford invited public comment and discussion. No public comments or questions were received.

Motion: to accept the Annual Audit and Annual Report for FY 08-09

Moved: Commissioner Denney

Seconded: Commissioner Braia

Motion carried, 4 ayes; Commissioners Branscum, Bass and Ashton being absent from the vote.

Chair Alford closed the Public Hearing.

2. Consideration of Community Grant applications

Chair Alford read the conflict of interest statement. Commissioner Denney notified the Chair of her intention to recuse herself from the discussion and vote on Item 2.a.1. Sheila Kruse explained that, with only 4 Commissioners present, 3 votes will be needed to act on any item on the agenda, and in the event of a recusal, a unanimous vote (all three votes) will be needed to carry a motion.

Sheila said that the scoring teams had found that all the applications received had merit, but that there was not enough funding to meet all the requested needs.

Commissioner Denney recused herself from the discussion and vote on Item 2.a.

a. The Commission considered the following micro grant applications:

1) Tuolumne County Childbirth Consortium – Pregnancy and Baby Fair: \$1000 request

2) Tuolumne County Library – Spanish and Bilingual Library Collection: \$1000 request

The Commission reviewed the applications and the scoring teams' recommendations.

Bessie Platten and Christine Greenberger responded to questions from the Commission.

The Commission decided by consensus to not fund the Baby Fair, and to consider funding for the Library. They decided to move the discussion of the Library's application into the full funding decision for Item 2b.

Commissioner Denney re-entered the meeting.

b. The Commission considered the following grant applications and grantee responses:

1) Mind Matters Clinic, Inc. – Services for children with ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder and Learning Disabilities disorders: \$16,000 request.

Susan Diax-Kierns from Mind Matters Clinic responded to questions from the Commission.

2) Summerville Parent Nursery School – Operating Cost Assistance: \$5,000 request

Quincy Yaney responded to questions from the Commission.

3) Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency – Rose Quartz Transitional Housing - \$13,000 request

Sheila Kruse responded to questions from the Commission, based on the proposal content and scoring team recommendation.

- 4) Sonora Regional Medical Center Birth Center – Lactation Specialist Gap Care: \$8,000 request

Sheila Kruse responded to questions from the Commission, based on the proposal content and scoring team recommendation.

The Commission discussed the applications and possible funding options and amounts.

Motion: to approve the funding decisions reflected in the discussion to date (and viewed by the Commissioners on a projected spreadsheet.)

Moved: Commissioner Braia

Seconded: Commissioner Kearns

After additional discussion, Commissioner Braia withdrew her motion.

Motion: to fund Tuolumne County Library proposal in the amount of \$1,000, the A-TCAA proposal in the amount of \$12,600, and Summerville Parent Nursery School proposal in the amount of \$4,000.

Moved: Commissioner Braia

Seconded: Commissioner Kearns

Motion carried: 4 ayes, Commissioners Bass, Branscum and Ashton being absent from the vote.

Motion: not to fund the SRMC Birth Center proposal, the Baby Fair proposal, and the Mind Matters proposal.

Moved: Commissioner Kearns

Seconded: Commissioner Braia

Motion carried: 3 ayes, Commissioner Denney having recused herself from the vote and Commissioners Bass, Branscum and Ashton being absent from the vote.

The Commission then directed the Executive Director to request a revised proposal from Mind Matters Clinic for up to \$8,000 after they have met with other Tuolumne County providers to discuss the need for critical services and support for children with the diagnosis of autism, (or other behavioral issues), and their families. The Commission would like to see evidence that a collaborative service approach has been developed that will address service gaps in Tuolumne County. The Commission identified key providers in the county that could be contacted. The Commission noted that it would like to keep the service focus on medical evaluations and family counseling. The Commission requested an explanation of why the clinic does not serve the MediCal population. Some Commissioners noted that other funds might be available from agencies to support training, and recommended that Mind Matters contact ICES, Head Start and Behavioral Health in regards to other funding options for training.

Discussion Items, Information Items and Reports

6. Financial Reports July/August 2009

Sheila Kruse presented the combined July and August 2009 financial report.

7. Commissioner Ethics Training Requirement

Sheila reminded the Commission of the mandatory ethics training to be completed biannually by all Commissioners. New Commissioners have one year from appointment to take the training.

8. Staffing changes effective January 2010

Sheila informed the Commission that Janet Cook will retire in December. Sheila noted that the Health Dept. had indicated that it would have difficulty in replacing this position immediately. Sheila offered to assume the duties of the Secretary, as needed, through the end of this fiscal year.

9. Financial Planning/Staffing Committee

Sheila asked the Commission to consider setting up an ad hoc committee to discuss initial recommendations on financial planning and to discuss staffing changes. The Commission expressed a preference for discussing financial planning in a regular meeting, which Sheila pointed out would likely mean a longer meeting time in December.

10. Commission as Fiscal Agent for broader Dental Help Fund

Sheila explained that she has been approached by Erika Hagstrom-Dossi regarding an ongoing discussion in the community regarding expansion of the dental help fund to serve children over the age of 5, through community fundraising. She noted that she has broached the possibility that the Commission could act as the Fiscal Agent, but wanted to discuss this with the Commission. She noted that her role would be limited only to working with the County Auditor to release funds to the dental providers, and would not involve the coordination or services or the approval of payments. The fiscal agent partnership could be revisited on an annual basis. She asked the Commission for direction. The Commission agreed that it was a good idea, and that Sheila should pursue it, setting up procedures so that others carry the bulk of the work load.

11. Commission Reports

Chair Alford said that she will do her best as the new Chair of the Commission. Other Commissioners and Ex-Officios commended her on her first chaired meeting.

Commissioner Denney reported that the Health Department is moving forward with H1N1 vaccination campaign at schools and preschools.

Commissioner Kearns reported on a pre-kindergarten planning group, coordinated by Brenda Chapman, to see what preschool for all would look like when funds become available. Brenda, Sheila, Marcia Williams and others will attend training on support for preschool teachers and administrators regarding social/emotional development.

12. Ex-Officio Reports

Susan Sells and Evelyn Thompson reported positively on the introduction of the *Nurturing Parenting* training curriculum funded through the MHSA funds.

Evelyn Thompson reported that the local Child Care Planning Council will show the film "Autistic-Like" on February 20, 2010 at Columbia College. The Planning Council met and discussed disaster planning to give feedback to county planners regarding childcare needs.

13. Secretary Report

Janet Cook informed the Commission of an upcoming conference on substance abuse.

14. Executive Director Report

Sheila Kruse reported that the First 5 California Health Van will be in Sonora on October 21 at the Child Find Screening.

Time and location for next meeting: 1:00 p.m., December 9, 2009, Tuolumne County Health Department Conference Room.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.