

First 5 Tuolumne County Commission
Minutes of Meeting 1:00 p.m., June 23, 2010
Tuolumne County Health Department – Conference Room
20111 Cedar Road North, Sonora, CA 95370

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Commissioner Alford.

Attendees were welcomed by Commissioner Alford and introductions were made.

Commissioners Present: Alford, Ashton, Bass, Denney, Kearns

Commissioners Absent: Braia, Branscum

Ex-Officio Members Present: Thompson, Williams

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Seegers, Sells

Staff Present: Kruse, Sprouse

Members of the Public Present:

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Action Items

1. Action on Approval of Minutes for April 14, 2010

Motion: to accept the minutes

Moved: Commissioner Ashton

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

Motion carried, 5 ayes, Commissioners Braia and Branscum being absent from the vote

2. Consideration of approval of a contract scope of services update for the Tuolumne County Public Health Department to provide operations support to the Commission in FY 10-11 for \$8,316.

Sheila Kruse reviewed changes to the scope of services for FY 10-11, noting an increase to 15% FTE, based on actual hours tracked (vs. quarterly time studies) and based on the fact that there would be at least 3 additional regularly noticed Commission meetings due to the community planning for future initiatives in the Summer and Fall months.

Motion: to approve the contract as written

Moved: Commissioner Bass

Seconded: Commissioner Denney

Motion carried, 5 ayes, Commissioners Braia and Branscum being absent from the vote

3. Consideration of approval of a contract with Tuolumne County Public Health Department's for \$20,000 to support the Parent Nurse Partnership (PNP) Case Management Program

Commissioner Denney recused herself from the discussion and the vote and left the room.

Sheila Kruse reviewed key contract elements, noting that the contract benchmarks and evaluation were very similar to the prior year's contract.

Motion: to approve the contract as written

Moved: Commissioner Kearns

Seconded: Commissioner Ashton

Motion carried, 4 ayes, Commissioners Denney recusing herself and Commissioners Braia and Branscum being absent from the vote

4. Action on Approval of the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget
Sheila Kruse noted that the only change from the draft budget reviewed at the April meeting was an increase in \$2,772 in professional services due to the increase of 5% FTE for the support staff position.
Cori Ashton asked about the distribution of Kits for New Parents and Sheila Kruse described the current process.
Motion: to approve the operating budget for FY 2010-2011
Moved: Commissioner Ashton
Seconded: Commissioner Bass
Motion carried, 5 ayes; Commissioners Braia and Branscum being absent from the vote

5. Action to support *The Coalition to Protect Our Children, Protect our Future* and to support the *Campaign to Save Child Care*.
Cori Ashton briefed the Commission on *The Coalition to Protect Our Children, Protect our Future*, and recommended Commission support.

Motion: to support *The Coalition to Protect Our Children, Protect our Future*
Moved: Commissioner Denney
Seconded: Commissioner Bass
Motion carried, 5 ayes, Commissioners Braia and Branscum being absent from the vote

Evelyn Thompson briefed the Commission on the Governor's May revise impact on childcare and the resulting *Campaign to Save Child Care* and recommended Commission support. She noted that the Governor's proposal is off the table right now, but could return prior to the final budget.

Motion: to support the *Campaign to Save Child Care*
Moved: Commissioner Kearns
Seconded: Commissioner Ashton
Motion carried, 5 ayes, Commissioners Braia and Branscum being absent from the vote

Further discussion clarified that Cori Ashton would communicate with the *Coalition to Protect Our Children*, and that Sheila Kruse would communicate with the *Campaign to Save Child Care* to add the Commission's name to the list of supporters.

Discussion Items, Reports, and Information Items

6. Discuss Emergency Repayable Grant Program for FY 10-11
Sheila reviewed the past history of the Emergency Repayable Grant Program and engaged the Commission in a discussion of whether they wish to open the grant program to assist local agencies during the anticipated delay in the state budget for FY 10-11.
Commissioners stated their support for the program for the coming fiscal year. Commissioner Kearns asked if the criteria could be changed regarding programs that are being considered for significant reductions or eliminations in a final legislative proposal, in light of the importance of strong local programs. Sheila Kruse noted that the language of "final" allowed for communication as the budget process proceeded. Commissioners agreed that they wanted to reduce the risk, but wanted to support local programs. Commissioner Ashton suggested a percentage of the total grant amount. Sheila Kruse noted that past practice was to disburse funds on a month-by-month basis as needed for cash flow. Commissioner Bass asked if there were agencies other than ICES or

ATCAA who would be likely to request funding. Sheila Kruse responded that it would be open to all organizations, but those two agencies are the key non-profit providers that provide core programs for 0-5. She noted that agencies that serve a broader audience could apply, but funds would only be loaned for services for 0-5. Evelyn Thompson clarified that funds are disbursed to address cash flow versus program reductions. It was noted that the County of Tuolumne would likely be able to address its own cash flow issues. In response to a question from Commissioner Bass, Sheila noted that the funds are available in the fund balance, but those are now dedicated to the next cycle of funding. She noted that the Commission had the money to loan (in terms of cash flow), but a default would result in the loss of up to one year's worth of future community granting, as the fund balance is entirely dedicated. Commissioners asked that Sheila bring back amended language in the description to provide more clarity in the procedures, in terms of how funds would be disbursed.

7. Discuss priority areas for funding beginning in FY 11-12
Sheila Kruse reviewed the efforts to date in prioritizing services, and presented a model to guide community collaborative planning at the July meeting, using an expanded CSEFEL pyramid. The Commissioners approved the model for presenting to the community members during discussion item #10. Evelyn Thompson clarified that parents, caregivers and teachers were all important adults to consider in the expanded CSEFEL model. Marcia Williams noted that the CSEFEL model also includes parents (although not obvious on the pyramid) and has a lot of resources on their website for parents. Marcia Williams suggested that, when considering impact, that the “bang for a buck” issue be considered, since funds are so limited. Commissioner Kearns agreed, noting that it would be important to consider how a modest First 5 investment could make the greatest impact on the broadest group of children and families. Commissioner Kearns noted that there are existing services for parents, teachers and caregivers, but they are not clearly integrated and articulated, and that any First 5 investment should require an integrated model. Evelyn Thompson noted that the “universal interventions” level on the pyramid will elicit a lot of conversation during the upcoming planning sessions.
8. Financial Report: March and April 2010
Commissioner Denney asked about the difference in expenditures and revenues; Sheila responded that budgeted expenditures are higher than revenues (by \$185,000) and that the Commission is spending down the fund balance in a planned fashion, as per the financial plan. Commissioner Kearns asked if the projected revenue and expenditures were still accurate; Sheila responded that the report only showed revenues through March and that the expected revenues would be close to the budgeted amount based on revenues received to date. She noted that the expenditures would come in close to the budgeted amounts, with the exceptions only in contracts that cross over fiscal years.
9. Reports from Executive Director, Commissioners and Ex-Officios
Sheila Kruse reported on state budget issues, specifically the May revise proposal, and the Democrat's proposal to shift services (CalWorks Child Care, Adult Protective Services and other state-supported Aging Services, Juvenile Parole Services, low-level criminal offender (drug and property offenses) incarceration and supervision to local county control (along with new and existing revenues). Also included in the Democrat's proposal is Welfare to Work cost shifts (and revenues) from state to county. She reported on the following local issues: (1) Sonora Area Foundation will enter into a contract with Mind Matters for services from children 6-18 directly;

(2) she read a letter from Emily Branscum, who's resignation from the Commission will be effective July 1, and encouraged Commissioners to spread the word regarding the vacancy; (3) she reported on her attendance at a recent local preschool planning group meeting which focused on CSEFEL training in implementation in Tuolumne County; (4) she reported on the visit of the First 5 CA van to the Food Bank Open House; and (5) she reported on recent opportunity to purchase more Kits for New Parents before the state contract expired with the vendor.

Commissioner Ashton clarified that many of the conversations about Welfare to Work involve increasing exemptions to reduce costs. There have also been conversations about privatizing eligibility services. Marcia reported that the child care contracts have been received.

Commissioner Denney reported on the Pregnancy and Baby Fair. 125 pregnant women and moms attended, bringing other family members. 42 kits were given away in the first hour and fifteen minutes. She reported that she could have given away more, and was surprised how many pregnant moms were not getting them at their medical care providers.

Commissioner Ashton wondered about protocol when First 5 Commissioners are invited to events such as the Columbia College Child Development Center ribbon cutting, noting that going as a group was more meaningful than attending individually. Sheila suggested that interested Commissioners respond to her when she circulates an invitation and that she would communicate back to coordinate interested Commissioners. She shared that she had also attended the ribbon cutting for the transitional shelter in Columbia.

Marcia Williams reported that A-TCAA Early Start opened their new center on June 7 at Shaw's Flat. They have a partnership with Cal Safe and are excited about getting services underway. She reported that the center employs 15 people.

Evelyn Thompson reported on a gift that was given to the Columbia College Child Development Center. She described a "paper bouquet" that served as a vehicle to congratulate and send personalized messages to the College from a wide variety of stakeholders, partners and colleagues, including a student and teacher in child development, a parent, a Board of Supervisors member, the Chamber of Commerce, a state child development leader, and other interested parties. It was presented to the president of the college.

Commissioner Kearns left the meeting.

2:30 pm

10. Introduction to collaborative planning for First 5 funding beginning in FY 11-12

Members of the Public Present: Tim Hoffman-Brady, Lisa Edwards, Liz Bryun, Brenda Chapman, Donna Meiss, Joe Silva, Erin Pollen, Laurie Perry, Kathy Amos, Mark Gee. Evelyn Thompson and Marcia Williams attended as members of the public.

Commissioner Alford welcomed the community members. Sheila Kruse presented an introduction to the collaborative planning process, outlining the revenues that would be available, the reason for the reduction in funding, the process for collaborative planning and the guidelines and timelines for decision making.

She explained that the July 14th meeting would be a collaborative working meeting, with a focus on identifying the services that would be available in FY 11-12 and the service gaps, and invited the community members to come prepared to populate that service map. She then opened the meeting up for questions or comments.

Erin Pollen noted that the presentation had clearly set out the process and parameters and that she looked forward to future collaborative working sessions. Brenda Chapman asked if the PowerPoint presentation could be made available and Sheila responded that a text version was available on the website as part of the meeting attachments, and that the full PowerPoint presentation would be made available on the website after the meeting.

Time and location for next meeting: July 14, 2010, Tuolumne County Health Department Conference Room, starting time to be determined, depending on Commission business. (Community planning to begin at 2 p.m.)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.