

First 5 Tuolumne County Commission
Minutes of Meeting 1:00 p.m., December 15, 2010
Tuolumne County Health Department – Conference Room
20111 Cedar Road North, Sonora, CA 95370

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Commissioner Ashton.

Attendees were welcomed by Commissioner Ashton.

Commissioners Present: Ashton, Bass, Braia, Denney

Commissioners Absent: Alford, Sells

Ex-Officio Members Present: Thompson, Williams

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Seegers

Staff Present: Kruse

Members of the Public Present: Erika Hagstrom-Dossi, Bette Axiak, Ruth Caldwell, Chris McKenzie, Arleen Garland, Donna Meiss, Liz Bryun, Lisa Edwards, Tara Parker

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Ashton reminded the Commission of conflict of interest issues.

Action Items

1. Action on Approval of Minutes for October 31, 2010 and November 10, 2010

Commissioner Denney noted that a date correction was required, the correct meeting date was October 29, not October 31.

Motion: to accept the minutes for October 29, 2010

Moved: Commissioner Denney

Seconded: Commissioner Ashton

Motion carried: 3 ayes (Ashton, Denney, Kears), Commissioners Bass and Braia abstaining, Commissioners Alford and Sells being absent from the vote.

Motion: to accept the minutes for November 10, 2010

Moved: Commissioner Denney

Seconded: Commissioner Ashton

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

2. Consideration of reversal of the Intent to Award decision for \$4,000 for Summerville Parent Nursery School operations funding for FY 09-10 through 10-11.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the history of the item, and explained that the Commission must take formal action to reverse the Intent to Award, as discussed at the August 2010 Commission meeting.

Motion: To reverse the Notice of Intent to Award to Summerville Parent Nursery School for operations support for the academic years 09-10 through 10-11 in the amount of \$4,000, and to make these funds available for other Commission appropriations.

Moved: Commissioner Bass
Seconded: Commissioner Denney

Motion carried: 5 ayes (Ashton, Bass, Braia, Denney, Kearns), Commissioners Alford and Sells being absent from the vote.

Commissioner Alford entered the meeting.

Discussion Items, Reports, and Information Items

3. Update on Stage 3 childcare transition grant

Sheila Kruse reported that Evelyn Thompson, Executive Director of ICES, had notified the Commission that, as a result of the ruling by the Judge of Alameda County Superior Court and the state agency overseeing Stage 3 child care, ICES was allowed to transfer all Stage 3 families into the General Alternative Payment Program. As a result the agency will not need to utilize the First 5 Tuolumne funds set aside for this purpose.

4. Update on CARES Plus RFA

Sheila Kruse reported that she convened Evelyn Thompson, Chris McKenzie, Adrienne Seegers and Marcia Williams (representing the Local Child Care Planning Council, ICES, Columbia College Child Development Center and Head Start) to discuss the CARES Plus RFA. Collectively, the group chose to recommend against the Commission submitting an *Intent to Apply*. They also reported that they were not interested in applying as lead agencies or subcontracted agencies. The reasons key reasons included concern about barriers to participation for Family Child Care providers, the limited flexibility of the model to meet local needs, the access difficulties to the CLASS curriculum in geographic areas with dial-up modems, the anticipated difficulties of getting CDE trainers to Sonora at convenient times for providers a minimum of 6 days a year, and the fact that there are other resources available for ECE training and support. They were concerned about the administrative requirements that would have to be met with \$10,000. They recommended that the Commission put the \$10,000 toward the S/E Consultation model with a focus on FCC providers. Sheila Kruse noted that, of the other 11 other counties that were eligible for the same amount of matching funds, 55% decided not to apply, 18% were open to subcontract to other lead agencies, and 27% were acting as lead agencies (but two of the three were in a unique partnership model that made operation of the program feasible). Sheila Kruse noted that, although Calaveras and Amador were willing to discuss partnership models, no one could see how the administrative costs would be significantly reduced due to the necessity of an in-county staff member to coordinate the program and to mentor participants. Chris McKenzie noted that, due to the requirements to take Child Development courses in a certain order, that there would only be 5-8 providers who would even be eligible to participate at this time. Evelyn Thompson expressed hope

that First 5 CA would come to understand that small counties support CARES, but that this service model was not a good fit to small county concerns.

5. Review of community planning group recommendations and leveraging discussions

Sheila Kruse reviewed a synopsis of the work that had been done collaboratively by the group since June. She reviewed the services and within those services, the tentative budget, estimated staffing, estimated families served, the critical service components, important linkages, leveraging opportunities and desired outcomes (see agenda attachment #3). She also reported on possible leveraging opportunities. She noted that the Sonora Area Foundation has notified the Commission that it is not interested in a four-year funding partnership. Commissioners provided feedback to clarify the recommendations: (1) the paraprofessional Home Visiting Service should also include case management; (2) for the Family Literacy and Learning service, an important linkage is the Tuolumne County library; (3) for the Social-Emotional Consultation service, it should be clear that services will be provided to all ECE providers, including FCC providers as well as teachers. It was noted that preschool teachers generally have knowledge of developmental milestones, and that some rewording of this outcome should be considered. The Commission agreed that the document, with changes included, was reflective of the planning process and should be used to guide future activities.

6. Review the draft elements of the Strategic Plan and Financial Plan for FY 11-12 to FY 14-15.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the updated elements of the plans. She noted that the new plans reflect the work that has been done since June through collaborative planning.

For the Strategic Plan, suggested edits included: (1) add direct service to children under Early Childhood Development, with a specific focus on support to children with Social/Emotional delays; (2) consider language to make the goals, objectives and services and supports more child directed; (3) clarify the access indicators in Goal 2 through examples (translation, etc.)

For the Financial Plan suggested edits were to: (1) clarify that the Commission would review any new funds available in light of the projected reduction in revenues in the following funding cycle and (2) consider alternatives to the word “retain” to clarify the Commission’s intent in this regard.

Sheila shall bring back new language to be considered at the public hearing on the plans.

7. Identify next steps for making granting decisions for the next funding cycle.

Sheila Kruse reviewed different options for proceeding with selecting contractors for the services that were approved as funding priorities for the next funding cycle. The Commission discussed the various scenarios presented and chose to release a competitive Request for Applications (RFA) for the different services. The RFA will be very specific for the different services, reflecting the collaborative planning work done to date. Extra points will be awarded to organizations that have participated in the collaborative planning process. The proposals will also be scored to reflect organizational capacity to provide the services, based on service history in the community. The collaborative planning process

will continue after the December 15th meeting adjourns, to determine the final issues for the Social-Emotional Consultation services and for parenting support for children with social-emotional delays. RFAs will be released in a timely fashion with goal for contracts to be approved by March or April of 2011. The Commission authorized Sheila Kruse to independently proceed with any additional collaborative planning work necessary to define the scope of work for the RFAs. In light of this, the agenda item #9 will not be part of the days' agenda, but will proceed as an independent meeting to complete the community planning process.

8. Reports from Executive Director, Commissioners and Ex-Officios
Commissioner Kearns reported that there would be a CSEFEL training on January 15-17, 2011 in San Jose, CA. Interested parties can get information from the California Map to Inclusion website.

Evelyn Thompson reported that ICES has a Child Abuse Prevention Grant through the county to develop and provide a Parent Leadership Academy. The academy will expand to address targeted training for parents that serve on committees in Tuolumne County. The CAP parenting advisory committee will help choose curriculum that will help parents, such as public speaking, and how to be effective committee members.

There were no additional reports.

9. Item 9 was removed from the agenda, and the Executive Director was directed to proceed with community planning independently. Outcome notes from this community planning meeting will be available on request.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 12, 2011, at 1 pm. (Note, this was subsequently changed, by email correspondence, to February 9, 2011 at 1 pm.)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

The meeting was immediately followed by a community planning meeting to address the service strategy for social-emotional consultation and parent support for children with social-emotional delays.