

First 5 Tuolumne County Commission
Draft Minutes of Meeting 1:00 p.m., February 9, 2011
Tuolumne County Health Department – Conference Room
20111 Cedar Road North, Sonora, CA 95370

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Commissioner Denney.

Attendees were welcomed by Commissioner Denney, and introductions were made.

Commissioners Present: Alford, Bass, Braia, Denney

Commissioners Absent: Ashton, Kearns, Sells

Ex-Officio Members Present: Seegers, Thompson, Williams

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Staff Present: Kruse

Members of the Public Present: Susan Peterson, Kathy Amos, Liz Bryun, Donna Meiss, Lisa Edwards, Emily Fajardo, Arleen Garland

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Denney reminded the Commission of conflict of interest issues.

Action Items

1. Action on Approval of Minutes for December 15, 2010

Motion: to accept the minutes for December 15, 2010

Moved: Commissioner Bass

Seconded: Commissioner Denney

There was no further discussion.

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

Commissioner Sells entered the meeting.

2. Consideration of applications in response to the Request for Applications for Oral Health Prevention Programs:
 - a. Tuolumne County Superintendent of School's request for \$109,794 to support the Smile Keepers Program

Sheila Kruse reviewed the Request for Applications (RFA) process, where five targeted RFAs were released to correspond to the planning group recommendations that were made at the November 2010 Commission meeting. She noted that, each RFA had received only one application. The applications are not competing against each other, but were reviewed against the specific requirements of each RFA. There were 3 separate scoring teams, so scores for each proposal should not be compared against each other, but only viewed in light of the team recommendation.

Sheila Kruse noted that Ericka Hagstrom-Dossi was not at the meeting due to a scheduled dental screening at Bellview School. She reviewed the scoring team recommendations and provided the Commission with school-specific screening visit data provided by Erika Hagstrom-Dossi, which is available as an attachment to these minutes.

Motion: To approve funding in the amount of \$109,794 for the Tuolumne County Superintendent of School's Smile Keeper's Program for four years beginning in FY 11-12 and going through FY 14-15.

Moved: Commissioner Bass
Seconded: Commissioner Braia

There was no further discussion.

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

3. Consideration of applications in response to the Request for Applications for Nurse Home Visiting Programs:
 - a. Tuolumne County Public Health Department's request for \$107,752 to support the Parent Nurse Partnership Program

Commissioner Denney recused herself from participation in this item, as an employee of Tuolumne County Public Health, and left the room.

Commissioner Alford assumed the role of the Chairperson.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the scoring team recommendations. Kathy Amos provided a response to the scoring team questions regarding caseloads and operational costs. The response is available as an attachment to these minutes.

Motion: To approve funding in the amount of \$107,752 for the Tuolumne County Public Health Department's Parent Nurse Partnership Program for four years beginning in FY 11-12 and going through FY 14-15.

Moved: Commissioner Bass
Seconded: Commissioner Sells

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried: 4 ayes (Alford, Bass, Braia, Sells), Commissioner Denney having recused herself from the discussion and vote, Commissioners Ashton and Kearns being absent from the vote.

Commissioner Denney rejoined the meeting.

4. Consideration of applications in response to the Request for Applications for Family Literacy and Learning Programs:
 - a. Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency's (A-TCAA) request for \$407,307 to support Family Learning and Support Services.

Joan Alford recused herself from the item due to a family member being employed by A-TCAA Head Start, and left the room.

Marcia Williams stated that she was not acting as an Ex-Officio member during this item.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the scoring team recommendations. She noted that Tara Parker had been unable to attend the meeting due to an important MHSA meeting in Amador County, and that Marcia Williams would read the response to the five scoring team questions that Tara Parker had provided, and would respond to any questions. The response, which addresses ASQ screening, number of families to be served, service hours, leveraged funds, and future demand for services, is available as an attachment to these minutes.

Motion: To approve funding in the amount of \$407,307 for A-TCAA's Family Learning and Support Services for four years beginning in FY 11-12 and going through FY 14-15.

Moved: Commissioner Sells

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried: 4 ayes (Bass, Braia, Denney, Sells), Commissioner Alford having recused herself from the discussion and vote, Commissioners Ashton and Kearns being absent from the vote.

Commissioner Alford rejoined the meeting.

5. Consideration of applications in response to the Request for Applications for Parent Support and Education Programs:
 - a. Infant Child Enrichment Service's (ICES) request for \$452,563 to support the Raising Healthy Families Program

Evelyn Thompson stated that she was not acting as an Ex-Officio member during this item.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the scoring team recommendations. Arleen Garland provided a response to the four scoring team questions regarding ASQ screening, PCIT, occupancy costs and staff allocation. The response is available as an attachment to these minutes.

Diane Braia asked for clarification of the amount requested, noting that the cover sheet showed only one year's worth of funding. Sheila Kruse noted that ICES, as well as some other applicants, put only the first year's request on their cover sheet, but that the full request was for four years of funding in the amount of \$452,563.

Motion: To approve funding in the amount of \$452,563 for ICES' Raising Healthy Families Services for four years beginning in FY 11-12 and going through FY 14-15.

Moved: Commissioner Braia

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

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

6. Consideration of applications in response to the Request for Applications for Social-Emotional Consultation Programs:
 - a. Tuolumne County Superintendent of School's request for \$431,013 to support the Social Emotional Learning Foundations Project.

Sheila Kruse noted that the review team discussed that the response to this RFA was more challenging than the others, because it required the development of a new program based on some limited guidelines provided in the RFA. Sheila Kruse reviewed the scoring team recommendations. Liz Bryun provided a response to the four scoring team questions regarding ASQ screening, number of children served, access issues and future leveraging. Donna Meiss added some clarifying comments. The response is available as an attachment to these minutes.

Commissioner Sells recommended that, if the program found 2 different screening tools to be equivalent, that the program consider using ASQ in order to be consistent with county-wide screening. Donna Meiss replied that the recommendation would be carefully considered, once a comparison was done of screening tools, including the ASQ and the Dial 3.

Motion: To approve funding in the amount of \$431,013 for the Tuolumne County Superintendent of School's Social Emotional Learning Foundations Project for four years beginning in FY 11-12 and going through FY 14-15.

Moved: Commissioner Alford

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

There was no further discussion.

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

Sheila Kruse extended her thanks and appreciation to the members of the community planning group, and commended them on the difficult work and collegial approach that resulted in a smooth funding awards process. Marcia Williams thanked Sheila Kruse for facilitating the process.

7. FY 2010-2011 mid-year budget revision

Sheila Kruse reviewed the proposed budget revision and explained the proposed changes in projected revenues and expenditures.

Motion: To approve the mid-year budget revision.

Moved: Commissioner Bass

Seconded: Commissioner Alford

There was no further discussion.

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

8. Consideration of reappointment of Ex-Officio members
 - a. Marcia Williams
 - b. Evelyn Thompson
 - c. Adrienne Seegers

Motion: To approve the slate of ex-officio appointments

Moved: Commissioner Braia

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

Susan Sells relayed her appreciation to all of the Ex-Officos for continuing to serve.

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

9. Consideration of approval of clarifying language for *Section 5.1.1: Fund Balance* in the Policy and Procedure Manual.

Motion: To approve the new language for Section 5.1.1 regarding Fund Balance in the Policy and Procedure Manual.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the proposed language changes.

Marcia Williams asked if this language would serve to protect the fund balance from a sweep by the State of California if a ballot measure passes, as outlined in the Governor's proposed budget. Sheila noted that the last ballot measure had language protecting funds that were committed by contract. It is not known what language a new ballot initiative would have in terms of current legal commitments, but that would have to be clearly specified in the ballot language. Fund balance reporting does clearly delineate which trust funds are committed by contracts.

Moved: Commissioner Bass

Seconded: Commissioner Alford

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

Discussion Items, Reports, and Information Items

10. Mind Matters, Inc. contract update and discussion

Sheila Kruse reviewed the status of the Mind Matters contract, which will have funds remaining on the end date of February 14, 2011. The idea of setting unused funds aside as a 'scholarship' fund akin to the Dental Help Fund was discussed, to be used on an as-needed basis when children are in crisis and parents were unable to pay for services. The Commissioners discussed and consensus was reached on the following: (1) the idea of a "behavioral health" fund was of interest; (2) the fund should be available for use at more than one provider, including Mind Matters but also

including Tuolumne County Behavioral Health, or other local providers, for a larger scope of behavioral health services; (3) the scope must be clearly defined for the type of services provided and the eligibility of children; and (4) the administrative structure must be clear and not unduly onerous for the First 5 Executive Director. The Commission directed Sheila Kruse to convene a planning group to bring back recommendations to the Commission at a later date. Susan Sells noted that the Sonora Area Foundation could be approached once the fund was in place.

11. Commissioner Alford and Commissioner Braia term expiration update

Sheila Kruse noted that both terms end on March 31st, and thanked Commissioner Alford and Braia for their valuable participation for the past three years. She reported that Commissioner Alford is interested in seeking a second term, and that Commissioner Braia, although expressing positive sentiments about her time on the Commission, had decided not to seek a second term. Sheila Kruse reported that the application forms are on the website, and encouraged Commissioners to let interested parties know about the vacancy. She also noted that Susan Peterson, who has served two previous partial terms, has expressed interest in applying for the vacancy.

12. FPPC Form 700 annual filing reminder

Sheila Kruse reminded Commissioners of the filing deadline of April 1, 2011. She reminded county employees to add the First 5 Tuolumne County Commission to the cover page of their county form under the “filing for multiple positions” section, and to send Sheila a copy.

13. CA State Budget update

Sheila Kruse reported on ballot proposals being discussed at the California legislative level. One proposal, put forward by the Governor, is to sweep 1 billion in fund balances and to permanently divert 50% of the funds to support children’s MediCal. There is no information on whether there would be a baseline protection for small counties. A 50% diversion of funds (and the corresponding threat to small county augmentations) would put local revenues at such a low level that it would constitute a threat to continued operations. Another ballot initiative being discussed is to eliminate Prop 10 altogether. The state situation is so dire, that legislators are having difficulty deciding what can be protected and what must be cut. It is important to let legislators know of the proposed ballot initiative and its impact on local communities. Dr. Stolp, Health Officer, sent a letter this week to our local legislators and Chairs of the budget committees.

Liz Bass reported on the Board of Supervisor’s discussion around sending letters of support for outside agencies. The board decided, when requested for a letter of support, to comment on the importance of the services, but to also acknowledge that the budget decisions are difficult this year. Liz Bass noted that a personal connection with a legislator would have far more impact than a letter.

Sheila Kruse reported that the First 5 Association has informed counties that the FPPC allows Commissions to lobby directly with legislators prior to a ballot initiative, but that there is case law that advises against engaging the public in lobbying with public funds or resources.

First 5 Tuolumne was invited by the First 5 Association to submit a story for inclusion in an article about First 5 in Healthy Cities magazine.

Today the Commission approved five agencies for grants for four years each. We will have enough funds in the fund balance to cover 2 years of the four year contracts. At year's end, all of the fund balance will be encumbered by contract. The Commission and the grantees are best served, at this time, by continuing on with contracting. When and if a ballot initiative is created, the Commission can look at options for future planning.

14. Discussion of March/April 2011 meeting schedule.

The Commission decided to have a meeting on March 9, 2011 as well as April 13, 2011.

15. Financial Report (to Dec 2010)

Sheila Kruse presented the financial report and discussed the 3% statewide revenue drop.

16. Reports from Executive Director, Commissioners and Ex-Officios

Sheila Kruse reported:

- She recently attended the First 5 Staff Summit and brought back information to share:
 - Ted Lempert, CEO of Children NOW and former Member of the California State Assembly, presented on the *Children's Agenda For California*. He noted that there is no coordinated lobbying group for young children although, for most politicians, young children are a priority. His idea for California is to convene the many local, disparate voices for children into a coordinated effort with one message. He sees the role of First 5 Commissions to be a convener of the many voices locally to have more power in messaging, and sees the agenda as a powerful united message.
 - Information on the new Federal Health Insurance program for children and current roll-out activities.
- She attended the recent MHSA forum and commented on the First 5 funding decline and expressed support for continuation of MHSA funding for parent education and for social-emotional consultation.
- There may be an article coming out in the Union Democrat regarding the end of the Friendship School. Sheila Kruse was contacted to comment on this subject, which was initiated by Liz Bryun.

Patricia Denney reported:

- The next Pregnancy and Baby Fair is scheduled to be held on June 11, 2011. The project is in its early stages of planning, all interested parties should contact her.

Liz Bass reported:

- The current political situation is the most focused and polarized experience she has seen in her history. The current focus is not on children, nor on the condition of families. She relayed a recent conversation with Kristin Olsen, where the new assemblywoman invited her to comment on the state budget situation. Liz Bass offered to assist the Commissioners in making connections with the Assemblywoman where possible.
- She was contacted, recently, by an interested citizen who wanted the Board of Supervisors to form a Human Rights Commission, to encompass a number of things, including hate crimes. Liz Bass noted that there was no sentiment to support that now, but that the idea had the potential for the creation of a broader social service advocacy group in the future. Currently, individual social service interests are too small and isolated to be having an impact on political decisions.

Joan Alford commented on the recent First 5 public planning process, noted she was proud to be part of it, and thanked Sheila for bringing it to a successful conclusion.

Diane Braia commented that she agreed, and was pleased with the result.

Susan Sells reported:

- Two MHSA community forums were recently held in the community. There was good representation from First 5 at both forums, and Susan would be glad to share the summary of community feedback that was collected. MHSA is also faced with declining revenues, with a 40% decrease projected. The process is now to complete an annual update of the plan, present it to the Board of Supervisors, allow for a public comment period, and implement for FY 11-12. Susan's recommendation will be to keep funding the same for FY 11-12 as it was in FY 10-11. She hopes to be able to inform grantees by the end of March in regards to MHSA commitments for FY 11-12, but the repercussions of state budget cuts could change how the funds will be invested locally. The final decisions regarding allocations will be made at higher levels.

Evelyn Thompson reported:

- The Local Child Care Planning Council (LCCPC) met recently on a one day retreat with 30 attendees, to address disaster planning issues for child care. Clarence Teem, a county disaster planning specialist, has been working with ICES to put a child care plan together. Due to this collaboration, every licensed center and family child care home will be on a GIS map (with ICES updating regularly) so that county first responders will know where children are located in child care. Providers working at centers and Family Child Care Homes will receive a CD and checklist for disaster planning. The LCCPC has also just finished their strategic plan, and will report to Board of Supervisors, and would be glad to report to the First 5 Commission.
- ICES received a small amount of federal funds to create a Parent Leadership Academy, the first of its kind in Tuolumne County, which will begin this year. While similar to Leadership Tuolumne County, it has a more focused purpose, to help provide training to 12 parents who are interested in serving on boards and committees in Tuolumne County. Multiple agencies are offering resources and helping with the planning and implementation. There will be a full day retreat at the college, (with child care provided)

followed by ten 2-hour sessions. There will be multiple topics to strengthen parents' capacity as board members, and there will be an expectation that participants will serve on a committee or board following their participation. ICES is looking for a variety of participants; interested parents can access materials at www.iocesagency.org or contact ICES.

- The State budget is the scariest it has ever been. The Alternative Payment Program is at risk due to a proposed 35% cut and additional other budget cuts that could add up to a total 50% reduction in revenues. The program provides childcare subsidies to parents who are working, are in school or in a training program. This decrease, combined with current limits on administrative percentages would leave only \$71 thousand in Tuolumne County and \$45 thousand in Mariposa County to pay for staff and associated administrative costs to operate the program. These proposed cuts come on top of cuts that occurred retroactively for this fiscal year. At the same time, there has been no decrease in administrative responsibilities for the program. There may not be enough funds for ICES to keep the program going in the two counties, and there may not be any other organizations willing to take it on for that amount. At risk are over 140 families with parents working at 75 different employers in the county, and whose children are served by a variety of child care providers throughout the county. The loss of the child care funds would be devastating to our economy. Evelyn has spoken with Kristin Olsen and Tom Berryhill to educate them on this critical issue.
- The budget cuts will impact programs beyond ICES. Columbia College Child Development Center will also experience a 35% cut. Private centers that serve both types of families (private funds and subsidized state funds) are in danger of closing.
- This situation is being played out in many small counties in California. The forecast, statewide, is that 75%-100% of 100% state funded centers (depending on the county) would close if faced with the proposed cuts. Centers have already been challenged with negative or static funding in last few years, and have no more ways to streamline. So, programs that have been operating for years would be in the position of having to turn back state money.

Adrienne Seegers reported:

- The facility on campus is an inspiring place for children and teachers. Adrienne extended an invitation to come out and visit to see the wonderful result of the community investment in young children. The program has seen an increase in men enrolling in child development classes and has hired some young men as employees at the center, which is very rewarding to see. The center opened their second infant and toddler classrooms in January, and is now fully utilizing all of the classrooms to help meet the demand. Adrienne is now serving as Interim Dean for Vocational Education, overseeing all vocational programs and engaging with community groups. In that capacity, she reports that Columbia College has done a thoughtful job of planning for projected budget cuts over the last several years. Although cuts will be sustained, they will be distributed across the college and programs, so no faculty members or programs have been lost. Adrienne reported that she recently attended a faculty seminar about CSEFEL, and is very excited to see how the college can adopt the methods at the centers and through the instructional curriculum.

Marcia Williams reported:

- Two A-TCAA childcare programs are also at risk for the 35% state cut. The programs did a parent survey, asking if parents could support a fee increase of \$143/month. The parents could not – they work at low wage jobs, and would have to quit work. She noted that the A-TCAA programs draw down \$3 in federal funds for every \$1 in state funds, so the ripple effect would be devastating.
- A-TCAA is bracing for additional big cuts. The Early Head Start program, which had an accelerated start up last year, is going well. There is a waiting list, the program has partnered with Cal Safe and has demonstrated its efficacy in meeting the needs of high risk families. Now, when the program is in full operation, the funding is due to end on Dec 30th. Although the federal program invested \$500,000 last year into infrastructure into 2 counties, there is now a threat to close them. The program, primarily supported by ARRA funds, currently supports 30 full time benefitted positions in both counties, so those employees are at risk of losing their jobs. The threat is to take Head Start back to 2008 levels. Marcia hopes that the support for early intervention (0-3) at the federal level will prove to sustain this ARRA success.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 9, 2011, 1 pm, information will follow.