

First 5 Tuolumne County Commission
Minutes of Meeting 2:00 p.m., April 13, 2011
Tuolumne County Health Department – Conference Room
20111 Cedar Road North, Sonora, CA 95370

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m. by Chairperson Ashton.

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

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

Commissioners Absent: Denney

Ex-Officio Members Present: Williams

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Seegers, Thompson

Staff Present: Kruse

Members of the Public Present: Susan Peterson, Kathy Amos, Liz Bryun, Donna Meiss, Lisa Edwards, Arleen Garland, Erika Hagstrom-Dossi

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Ashton reminded the Commission of conflict of interest issues.

Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing on the Draft Update to the Strategic Plan and Long Term Financial Plan for FY 11-12 through 14-15

Commissioner Ashton opened the public hearing. Sheila Kruse presented the draft update to the Strategic Plan and the Long Financial Plan. She noted that this draft included changes requested by Commissioners at the December 2010 meeting.

Commissioner Ashton invited public comment. No public comment was provided.

Commissioner Sells requested the data detail for the demographic section.

Motion: to accept the Strategic Plan and Long Term Financial Plan for FY 11-12 through 14-15.

Moved: Commissioner Kearns

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

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

2. Public Hearing on the First 5 California Children and Families Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Sheila Kruse presented the First 5 California Children and Families Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

No comments were provided by Commissioners. Commissioner Ashton invited public comment. No public comment was provided.

Action Items

3. Action on Approval of Minutes for February 9, 2011

Motion: to accept the minutes for February 9, 2011

Moved: Commissioner Bass

Seconded: Commissioner Alford

There was no further discussion.

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

4. Consideration of approval of a contract with Tuolumne County Superintendent of School's Office for \$109,794 to support the Smile Keepers Program.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the changes in the contract language that will be included in all contracts considered today, regarding 4 years of funding, carry-over funding, prepayment language, and availability of funds.

Commissioner Kearns asked for clarity on the type of situation where a prepayment that exceeded 4 months would be used. The Commission discussed situations where the flexibility provided by this language might be useful. Marcia Williams shared that the federal government has just provided 6 months of prepayment for Head Start programs.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the 4-year contract elements for the Smile Keepers program.

Motion: To approve the contract with Tuolumne County Superintendent of School's Office for \$109,794 to support the Smile Keepers Program.

Moved: Commissioner Kearns

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

There was no further discussion.

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

5. Consideration of approval of a contract with Tuolumne County Public Health Department for \$107,752 to support the Parent Nurse Partnership Program.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the program services and the evaluation plan in the 4-year contract.

Motion: To approve the contract with Tuolumne County Public Health Department for \$107,752 to support the Parent Nurse Partnership Program.

Moved: Commissioner Sells

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

There was no further discussion.

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

6. Consideration of approval of a contract with the Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency for \$407,307 to support Family Learning and Support Services.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the program services and the evaluation plan in the 4-year contract.

Motion: To approve the contract with the Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency for \$407,307 to support Family Learning and Support Services.

Moved: Commissioner Alford

Seconded: Commissioner Sells

There was no further discussion.

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

7. Consideration of approval of a contract with Infant Child Enrichment Service for \$452,563 to support the Raising Healthy Families Program.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the program services and the evaluation plan in the 4-year contract.

Motion: To approve the contract with Infant Child Enrichment Service for \$452,563 to support the Raising Healthy Families Program.

Moved: Commissioner Kearns

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

There was no further discussion.

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

8. Consideration of approval of a contract with Tuolumne County Superintendent of School's Office for \$431,013 to support the Social Emotional Learning Foundations Project.

Sheila gave a brief overview of the program services and the evaluation plan in the 4-year contract.

Motion: To approve the contract with Tuolumne County Superintendent of School's Office for \$431,013 to support the Social Emotional Learning Foundations Project.

Moved: Commissioner Sells

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

There was no further discussion.

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

9. Consideration of an amendment to the current contract with the Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency for the creation of classroom space for the Family Learning Center.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the request, and the impact on the program sustainability.

Marcia Williams explained that Tara Parker was unable to attend due to illness, and that she would represent A-TCAA and answer questions. She provided photographs of the site.

Marcia Williams responded to questions of the Commissioners:

- the windows will be replaced;
- the proposed construction and new use has gone through the planning process and has been approved for use for 50 families;
- the site will be ready for use by the Fall of 2011.

Commissioners Ashton and Sells spoke in support of the project, especially in terms of the impact on sustainability.

Motion: To authorize the Executive Director to prepare a contract amendment to reflect the elements in the proposal provided by A-TCAA, and authorize the Commission Chair to sign the contract amendment prior to the June 2011 meeting, if consistent with the action today.

Moved: Commissioner Alford

Seconded: Commissioner Kearns

There was no further discussion.

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

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

Sheila Kruse reviewed the proposed changes in the fund balance section.

Motion: To approve the clarifying language for *Section 5.1.1: Fund Balance* in the Policy and Procedure Manual

Moved: Commissioner Alford

Seconded: Commissioner Kearns

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

11. Consideration of applications for two Commissioner vacancies for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Sheila Kruse reviewed Joan Alford's application and the administrative issues for making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion: To make a recommendation to provide to the Board of Supervisors regarding the application of Joan Alford to serve a second term on the Commission

Moved: Commissioner Kearns

Seconded: Commissioner Sells

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

Sheila Kruse reviewed Susan Peterson's application and the administrative issues for making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion: To give the Commission Officers (Ashton, Denney and Kearns) the authority to review all applications that are received up to the end of the vacancy posting date, and to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Commission. The Officers may also choose to bring the decision back to the full Commission in June 2011.

Moved: Commissioner Sells

Seconded: Commissioner Alford

Discussion: Commissioner Sells commented on how lucky the Commission was to have Susan Peterson interested in serving once again.

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

12. Action on Approval of the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget

Sheila Kruse reviewed the current year budget status and the draft operating budget for next fiscal year and responded to questions from the Commissioners.

Moved: Commissioner Alford

Seconded: Commissioner Sells

Discussion: Commissioner Kearns asked about funding for technology needs that might arise. Sheila Kruse responded that she was responsible for all technology needs under the terms of her contract. Commissioner Kearns suggested that Commissioners be offered the option of receiving packets electronically starting next year. Commissioners discussed and agreed that offering the option would be good, but that paper packets continue to be distributed as a general rule, unless otherwise requested.

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

Discussion Items, Reports, and Information Items

13. Consideration of carry-over fund agreements with Infant Child Enrichment Services and with the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office for crossing over from FY 10-11 to FY 11-12.

Sheila Kruse discussed the issues facing current grantees as they face diminishing funds in the coming years, and their requests to carry over unused funds from this year to offset costs next fiscal year.

Commissioner Bass noted that the request seems reasonable. Commissioner Ashton raised a general concern that programs could conceivably shelter funds and not meet their program service requirements. Sheila Kruse noted that, while this is a valid concern, it does not apply in these two specific cases, as the savings reflected unforeseen situations that did not affect the level of service provision, and grantees met their benchmarks. Commissioner Bass noted that, while she understood Commissioner Ashton's concern, the First 5 programs were monitored quarterly and there was good accountability. Commissioner Sells commented that building in flexibility was important, as long as there was good accountability. Commissioner Kearns asked if the next year's contracts were anticipating that unspent funds would be available. Sheila Kruse responded that they did not, nor did the approved financial plan, and that these would be extra, unanticipated funds. Commissioner Kearns commented that she thought allowing carryover would be a good idea, in that case. Commissioner Bass reiterated that, with good accountability, the idea seemed practical. Sheila will bring back draft agreements, in June, to reflect this discussion.

14. Outcome Evaluation Summary Report for FY 09-10.

Sheila Kruse presented the highlights of the outcome evaluation for FY 09-10. Commissioner Sells commented that the outcomes were exciting. Commissioner Bass brought forward the idea of orienting the new Supervisors regarding First 5 with a similar presentation, and noted that she would follow up with Sheila at a later time.

15. Benchmark Report Mid-Year FY 10-11

Sheila Kruse presented the mid-year benchmark report. Commission Ashton noted that she appreciated the clear format of the report.

16. CA State Budget update

Sheila Kruse updated the Commission on the passage of AB 99 and the impact on First 5 Commissions statewide. She explained that, on first read, First 5 Tuolumne will be exempt from the requirement of remitting 50% of the FY 09-10 fund balance to the State of California. She noted that the following language of the bill raises questions: *“A county commission that received less than six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) in California Children and Families Trust Fund revenues in the 2009-10 fiscal year is exempt.”* In FY 09-10, First 5 Tuolumne received funds from First 5 CA for the general tobacco tax revenues based on birthrate, and for School Readiness and small county augmentations. The Commission also received regional technical assistance funds as administrator for an 11-county region. If the regional TA funds are counted, First 5 Tuolumne would be over the \$600,000 trigger, and would not be exempt. If only the amount of these TA funds that went to the county directly, First 5 Tuolumne would be under the \$600,000 trigger. The initial bill language was drafted considering only the tobacco tax revenues based on birthrates. Sheila Kruse will carefully monitor the implementation of the bill to see which state agency enforces the bill, and how the language will be interpreted.

Three county commissions (Fresno, Madera and Merced) have filed suit to challenge AB99, and other county commissions are considering their options in this regard.

Senator Dutton pulled SB 486 from the scheduled hearing today, and has made it a two-year bill.

17. Financial Report (to Feb 2011)

Sheila Kruse presented the report. Commissioner Kearns asked if there was the possibility of or plans for the Commission to actively go out and leverage new funds in light of diminishing revenues. Sheila Kruse reviewed the history of the Commission activity in this area, where the Commission supported grantees in this regard, but did not act as a grant administrator directly. Commissioner Sells noted that the potential for leveraging funds against the Sonora Area Foundation, or MHSA funds was strong. The Commission entered into a discussion about the future possibilities of working with grantees to leverage First 5 funds against Sonora Area Foundation funds. Commissioner Sells suggested a presentation to the Sonora Area Foundation explaining the programs that we fund, and the outcomes.

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

Sheila Kruse discussed a recent conversation with California Coverage Health Initiative (CCHI). They contacted counties that do not have local children's health insurance initiatives to invite them to participate in a statewide communication system for information and outreach as counties move to implement the new federal health care reform enrollment. Sheila participated on a conference call to learn about their ideas to facilitate statewide communication. The organization is looking for county-level contacts to coordinate communication. Sheila invites interested agencies to contact her to determine who would be the best lead agency in Tuolumne County.

Commissioner Sells reported that the Board of Supervisors, last Tuesday approved Behavioral Health's annual update of the Mental Health Services Act (all components). This plan authorizes moving ahead with the current Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services for one more year. Behavioral Health is currently exploring the feasibility of providing some of the services internally, rather than continuing community contracts. The cuts at the state level have resulted in all state-level MHSA positions being cut, and the local Board of Supervisors will have the sole authority to approve the annual update next year.

Community Comments:

Erika Hagstrom-Dossi reported that the annual *Give Kids a Smile* event, 2 free days of dental care for children ages birth to 18, will be held April 29-30th, in conjunction with the Tuolumne Me Wuk Indian Dental Clinic. Local dentists and hygienists are donating their time.

Arleen Garland reported that ICES is holding its annual Children's Fair on Saturday April 16th, 10 am-2 pm at the Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 8, 2011, 1 pm, information will follow.