

First 5 Tuolumne County Commission
Minutes of Meeting 1:00 p.m., August 11, 2010
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.

Attendees were welcomed by Commissioner Alford and introductions were made.

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

Commissioners Absent: Denney

Ex-Officio Members Present: Seegers

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Sells, Thompson, Williams (see Item #11)

Staff Present: Kruse

Members of the Public Present: (see Item #11)

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Action Items

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

Sheila Kruse identified one correction: (1) Item 51, first line should be changed to say “Commissioner Ashton identified three corrections.” Commissioner Kearns noted that her name was misspelled.

Motion: to accept the minutes with corrections as noted

Moved: Commissioner Bass

Seconded: Commissioner Braia

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

2. Consideration of a contract extension for the Tuolumne Me Wuk Indian Health Center’s Infant and Pediatric Oral Care Program through FY 10-11.

Commissioner Kearns recused herself and left the room. Commissioner Alford provided a review of the item. Sheila Kruse noted that the benefit to the Commission would be that additional evaluation data would be available to the Commission. Commissioner Braia noted that she had been to a conference with Erika Hagstrom-Dossi and had learned of the importance of preventing bacterial transmission from the caregivers to the child, and noted that this program addressed this issue.

Motion: To extend the contract with the Tuolumne Me Wuk Indian Health Center to June 30, 2011, with all other contract stipulations remaining the same.

Moved: Commissioner Braia

Seconded: Commissioner Bass

Motion carried: 4 ayes: Commissioner Kearns recusing herself, Commissioner Denney being absent from the vote

Commissioner Kearns re-entered the meeting.

3. Re-adoption of Commission Conflict of Interest Code, as required every two years.

Motion: To re-adopt the Current Conflict of Interest Code, with no changes.

Moved: Commissioner Bass

Seconded: Commissioner Kearns

Motion carried: 5 ayes: Commissioners Denney being absent from the vote

Discussion Items, Reports, and Information Items

4. Update on status of Summerville Parent Nursery School.

Sheila Kruse stated that this discussion would inform whether there would need to be a future action item. She reviewed the history of the Intent to Award with the Summerville Parent Nursery School, and the recent correspondence requesting a contract extension into FY 11-12. Commissioner Ashton noted that extending the contract was not consistent with the current community planning process that was underway for FY 11-12, and that making decisions such as contract extensions could set a precedent that would undermine that process. Commissioner Bass noted that Sonora Parent Nursery School was also struggling and that there would be a fairness issue with a contract extension if funds were not made competitively available to other entities. Commissioner Braia noted that she was in agreement, and that there was a fairness issue in allowing only one grantee to extend a funding decision. Commissioners directed Sheila Kruse to inform school representatives that the Commission was not interested in a contract extension, and to explain that there would not, most likely, be a community grant cycle for funding in FY 11-12.

5. Library Spanish Language Collection report.

Sheila Kruse explained that she had brought this information to the Commission to explore ways to broadcast information about this resource through their own agencies. Commissioner Kearns asked if the library was doing outreach. Sheila Kruse noted that the report stated they had run newspaper ads, had advertised on their website, and had been in contact with community agencies. Adrienne Seegers stated that she would share this information with Ms. Devine-Jonas as the Columbia College ESL program. Commissioner Kearns suggested getting this information to the Head Start Parent Policy Council.

6. Treasurer vacancy.

Sheila Kruse noted that Commissioner Branscum had held the Treasurer position and that the Commission was without a Treasurer this fiscal year. She reviewed the position duties. She asked if the Commission wanted to fill the position in September, or to wait for the elections in October. Commissioner Kearns volunteered her willingness to serve. The item will be addressed at the September meeting.

7. Update on Commissioner vacancy.

Sheila Kruse noted that this item would be covered in agenda Item 10.

8. Financial Report: June 2010

Sheila Kruse stated that the report reflected the final year-end financial information that was audited last week. Revenues came in a little higher than budgeted, and expenditures came in a little lower

than budgeted. She noted that the dip in revenues, a 14% decline compared to the previous year, was attributable both to a significant statewide decline in tobacco tax revenues, but also reflected a smaller allocation due to a low birth-rate year. She reported that the audit went well. The county implemented a new system for reporting out fund balances. Commissioner Alford noted that she had an interview with the outside auditor and that he reported favorably on the Commission systems. Commissioner Bass asked Commissioner Alford to relay that information to her so that she could share it with the Board of Supervisors.

9. Reports from Executive Director, Commissioners and Ex-Officios
Executive Director Report:

Sheila noted that the state budget decisions are still in progress but that latest reports showed that First 5 funds were not being considered as a revenue solution.

She reported that she will be meeting with Susan Deax-Kearns from Mind Matters to discuss outreach, and asked that the Commissioners contact her if they had ideas to better promote Mind Matters services in the community.

She reported that the First 5 CA van had been scheduled to be in Sonora on Sep 11th for a Food Bank event, but that it had been cancelled, and that the state program was considering a visit to another event, Cirque du Sonora, a fundraising event for local non-profits sponsored by Sonora Subaru and Sierra Non Profit Center.

She reminded Commissioners that most of them were due for Ethics Training this fall, either online or in person at the county.

Nominations for Commission officer positions will be accepted prior to the election in October. Sheila asked the Commissioners to relay their interest in serving.

The following change in meeting schedule was addressed: (1) December 14th (Tuesday) should be December 15th (Wednesday); and (2) September 15th (3rd Wednesday) will be changed to September 8th (2nd Wednesday).

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Alford reported that she would be unavailable to attend meetings during three winter months, and wanted to inform the Commission early. She reiterated how much she enjoyed her work on the Commission.

Commissioner Ashton reported on a strategic planning process underway by Child Welfare Services and the Probation Department, who both deal closely with their State Oversight and Accountability Department. In synch with the Child Abuse Prevention Council they are working hard on their System Improvement Plan, which requires community engagement and input. This process is the second phase of a 4-phase process for improvement, and the current work follows a recent County self-assessment outlining where they have done well, and where there are areas for improvement. The current work is focusing on strategies to employ in this regard. There is an engaged group of key community representatives currently meeting to focus on 8 outcome measures that have been preset, with a goal to narrow in on 3 of them for improvement. The resulting decisions will become elements of their 3-year contract for services to clients and for prevention efforts. Commissioner Ashton invited

interested First 5 Commissioners to the third meeting on August 18, 9am-11am, at the Striker Court Ambulance facility conference room.

Commissioner Bass reported on the formation of a County Youth Commission for young people ages 13-18. Youth Commissioners will learn about government processes, both by doing and by listening. She observed that there was a lot of interest by service clubs and other community members in assisting with the process. The current closing date for applications is August 31st but it may be extended. Currently there are 6 applications in for 9 openings, and there will probably be alternate positions available. She encouraged Commissioners to spread the word and to invite interested youth to submit applications, which can be accessed by contacting Alicia Jamar at the Board of Supervisors office.

Ex-Officio Reports: Adrienne Seegers updated the Commission on the new Child Development facility at Columbia College. The facility will open on August 30th for children and adult students. Adrienne extended an invitation to Commissioners to show them the facility. She expressed her awe over the state-of-the art facility and her excitement over how it would benefit local children. She noted that the Tuolumne Quilt Guild donated over 30 quilts which will be used by the children and for display. She noted that she teaches Wednesday afternoon during the Fall term and will only be able to attend the first part of the meetings.

Additional Action Item

10. Consideration of an application for the Commissioner vacancy for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Sheila Kruse reviewed the application from Susan Sells and the process for the Commission to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. She noted that Ms. Sells was a long-time resident of the county, that she was very familiar with local systems for families, that she meets the legislative requirements for a First 5 Commissioner, and that she has experience with Commission operations through her tenure as an ex-officio member.

Motion: To recommend, to the Board of Supervisors, that Susan Sells be appointed to the First 5 Commission.

Moved: Commissioner Ashton

Seconded: Commissioner Kearns

Commissioner Bass elected to abstain, noting that she would be voting as a member of the Board of Supervisors regarding this appointment.

Motion carried: 4 ayes: Commissioner Bass abstaining, Commissioners Denney being absent from the vote

2:00 pm

11. Collaborative community working session for First 5 future initiatives.

Additional Community Members Present: Marcia Williams, Tara Parker, Susan Marvel, Evelyn Thompson, Erin Pollen, Lisa Edwards, Donna Meiss, Liz Bryun, Erika Hagstrom-Dossi, Laurie Perry, Bill Sullivan, Ruth Caldwell, Bette Axiak

Sheila Kruse led the group through a process of: (1) reviewing results of the last working session; (2) reviewing the draft gap list and adding services identified by the group; (3) summarizing the services listed on the draft gap list; and (4) prioritizing the list to identify the top ranked services. The results will inform the work that will commence at the September 8th meeting.

Time and location for next meeting: September 8, 2010, Tuolumne County Health Department Conference Room, 1 p.m. (or as noticed).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.