

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY  
COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES**

**October 16, 2014**

Commissioners Present: Bruce Stenslie, Michael Gollub, Ida Hatfield, Robert Levin, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Kathy Long

Excused Absence: Meloney Roy, Stan Mantooth, Reyna Dominguez

Staff Present: Claudia Harrison, Kathy Rangel, Jennifer Johnson, John Anderson, Deanna Handel, Petra Puls, Heather Hanna, Diana Arellano

Public Present: Linda Bays, Cindy Reed, Rafaela Frausto, Noemi Valdez

**1. Welcome**

Vice Chair Stenslie opened the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2014**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2014 Commission meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets**

Claudia Harrison provided an overview of the supplemental packet.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hatfield, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Public Comments/Correspondence**

There was no public comment.

**5. Presentation: First 5 Ventura County's Breastfeeding Project**

Claudia Harrison introduced Heather Hanna, First 5 Ventura County Resource Development Manager, to present highlights of the breastfeeding project, commenting that breastfeeding is one component of the Commission's Obesity Prevention strategy. Heather recapped the benefits of breastfeeding and noted that average in-hospital breastfeeding rates in Ventura County are at 63%, but by the age of 6 months the rates drop to 15%. She reported that in 2012, the Commission embarked on a multifaceted breastfeeding project with the primary goal of exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of a child's life. She commented that the project strives to achieve this goal through partnership building, capacity building, and community outreach.

Heather discussed efforts to increase parental knowledge on the benefits of breastfeeding and connect them with local resources for support. She reported that over 5,000 breastfeeding bags have been distributed to families through partnerships with both Community Memorial Hospital and Ventura County Medical Center. She discussed staff's work with the Breastfeeding Coalition of Ventura County. She highlighted the partnership with UCSD Extension and Healthy Children's Center for Breastfeeding to conduct annual certified lactation counselor trainings which have resulted in 83 new certified lactation consultants (CLCs) working in hospitals, clinics, and public health settings.

She discussed First 5's work in forming the Ventura County Breastfeeding Hospital Consortium to collaborate, identify areas for improvement, and share best practices to increase breastfeeding rates in Ventura County. She stated that during the first 18 months, the Consortium has focused on building relationships between hospital leaders, assessments of current policy and practice, and development of recommendations for quality improvement. She highlighted next steps to add increased technical support, maintain the consortium as a peer-to-peer network for leaders, and focus on assisting hospitals to move toward Baby-Friendly certification. She added that First 5 Ventura County is viewed as a valued partner, leader, and convener to support increased breastfeeding rates and awareness in the county.

Commissioner Stenslie asked how our local breastfeeding rates compare to the national average. Heather reported that locally we are higher than the national average, and that overall California is an innovator in breastfeeding policy. Commissioner Gollub asked if the breastfeeding bags are distributed to patients at other hospitals within the county. Heather commented that staff is working on expanding this to larger hospitals but it has been harder to implement as many of the policies are governed by corporate offices. Commissioner Long commented on updates to the County of Ventura's lactation policy that includes lactation information added to the new hire orientation process, addition of county lactation rooms, and public breast pumps for lactating mothers.

**6. Public Hearing on Annual Audit and Year-End Report to the First 5 State Commission for FY 2013-14, in compliance with Section 130150 of the Health and Safety Code**

Claudia Harrison briefed the Commission on the statutory requirements for the Annual Audit and Year-End Report and thanked staff and funded partners for all of their hard work and collaboration. Claudia introduced Jennifer Johnson to present the results of the audit. Jennifer noted that the Commission completed implementation of the third funding year of the current five year strategic plan. She reported that most programs expended or nearly expended their annual allocation; she indicated that the Neighborhoods for Learning reached a record spending level of 98% overall. She stated that programs funded under Countywide Strategies continued to play a critical role in the delivery of regional-based family strengthening and health-focused programming. She reported that through blending local funding with Federal Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant dollars and First 5 California's Child Signature Program and CARES Plus, it is estimated that the Commission will receive over \$5.7 million in federal and state grant revenue for preschool quality efforts over a 4 year period. She also reported on enhanced funding received to expand obesity prevention strategies. She added that in an effort to reduce long-term costs and implement a common evaluation data system for multiple First 5 counties, the Commission participated in a collaborative and selected a new evaluation software vendor which was successfully implemented in July 2014.

Jennifer reported that the Commission received \$7.4 million in tobacco tax revenues, a decrease of \$496,000, or 6.3% compared to the prior fiscal year. She explained that the decrease was realized for Ventura County due to a lower percent distribution of statewide births and overall lower state Proposition 10 revenues in FY 2013-14. She reported that administrative expenses were 4.6% of the operating budget, well below the established target of 5.5%. She noted that local Prop 10 funds were successfully leveraged resulting in \$1.7 million in external funding for preschool strategies and obesity prevention efforts in FY 2013-14.

Jennifer reported that the auditors issued an unqualified opinion, commonly referred to as a “clean” opinion, on the General Audit of the Financial Statements and the Report on Internal Controls. The auditors also issued a clean opinion on the Expanded Audit. She noted that a commentary letter was not included in this year's audit due to the new configuration of the fiscal administrator position as a job share arrangement, which has provided further segregation of duties and an additional person to review financial matters. The auditors felt this sufficiently addressed the issue. She added the Single Audit for expenditures over \$500,000 in federal funding is still in process, but is not due until nine months after the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Stenslie noted that the auditors praised staff's work during the conversation held with the Administration and Finance Committee when staff is not present.

Petra Puls provided an overview of the Annual Report to the State and walked the Commission through the report components along with highlights from each section. She reviewed the demographic worksheets which summarize the participants served for each of the outcome areas. She highlighted several areas with increases or decreases as a result of programmatic changes in health access, family literacy, and parent education.

Petra highlighted several of the Commission's most compelling outcomes, including Triple P, partnerships with MICOP in the general parenting education program, and the Abuela story time model piloted in the Hueneme area for the adult and family literacy program. She commented on quality efforts for preschool and highlighted the Community Investment Loan Fund (CILF) which has resulted in \$606,000 in loans for 224 new preschool spaces and 38 new jobs. She commented on efforts to create an integrated, coordinated approach to oral health through the Children's Oral Health Collaborative. She discussed multifaceted approaches in the area of breastfeeding, and comprehensive developmental screening efforts with Help Me Grow, and the parent leadership projects. Petra discussed efforts to streamline the evaluation system along with the transition to the new Persimmony software.

Vice Chair Stenslie commented on the consistent emphasis on evaluation and quality in the report. Commissioner Hatfield commented on the high number of families who reported receiving the services needed and that she was happy to see the Mixteco population represented. She also commented on the obvious progress that can be seen in the current report when comparing it to past years. Commissioner Levin was pleased with the increased number of preschool spaces reported. Commissioner Long commented that it was a thorough report and found it useful for communicating accomplishments to the general public.

Vice Chair Stenslie opened up the meeting for public comments.

There were no comments from the public.

Vice Chair Stenslie closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill, to receive and file the Annual Audit and the Year-End Report to the First 5 State Commission for FY 2013-14, in compliance with Section 130150 of the Health and Safety Code. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **7. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of August 31, 2014**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hatfield, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **8. Election of new officers to be seated in January**

Vice Chair Stenslie opened up the meeting for nominations.

Commissioner Hatfield nominated Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, as Chair of the Commission.

Commissioner Stenslie nominated Commissioner Mantooh, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, as Vice Chair of the Commission.

Vice Chair Stenslie closed the nominations.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Levin, to accept the presented nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for calendar year 2015. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **9. Review and File Presentation of Program Evaluation Framework**

Claudia Harrison provided an overview of the Program Evaluation Framework, which had previously been presented at the February meeting. She walked the Commissioners through the framework and the minor changes. She discussed the addition of new indicators.

Commissioner Gollub commented on adding fetal health parent education into the framework. Claudia commented that the framework presented reflects investments in the current strategic plan, but suggested that as the Commission enters into strategic planning for the next plan, prenatal education should be added to the discussion. Commissioner Gollub commented that he would like to make sure that parents are getting the most up-to-date information in the parent education programs.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Hatfield, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill, to receive and file the Program Evaluation Framework. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **10. Report from Executive Director**

Claudia Harrison referred to the written report and provided an update on Administrative Operations. She informed the Commission on upcoming ethics trainings required by the Clerk of the Board’s office. She also provided an update on strategic planning. She provided an overview of activities at local Neighborhoods for Learning. She continued with an update on Countywide Strategies, noting that Ventura’s local efforts to integrate Help Me Grow and QRIS were showcased at the annual California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA) conference in Sacramento. She added that 2-1-1 staff is working to develop ways to support Help Me Grow efforts through their centralized resource and referral services. She highlighted the expanded work in developmental screenings through Ventura County Public Health (VCPH). In the area of Communications, Education and Development, she discussed the upcoming Parent Leadership Training Series and provided an overview of local literacy events.

She continued her report on County, Regional and National updates. She noted the Governor recently signed AB 1787 for lactation accommodation in California airports and AB 1174 which expands the innovative Virtual Dental Home (VDH) model and the scope of practice for dental hygienists and dental assistants. She reported that Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson was presented with the 2014 Early Learning Champion award by Early Edge CA in recognition of her outstanding leadership on behalf of young children and early education. She highlighted the Gorell-Brownley debate that showed bipartisan support for universal preschool. Claudia reported that the state legislature has asked the Board of Equalization for detailed reports of expenditures and the methodology for allocating costs related to tobacco funded programs. She ended her report with a review of upcoming events.

#### **11. Commission Member Comments**

Commissioner Hatfield distributed an outreach flyer from Children’s Home Society for assistance for families in CalWorks.

Commissioner Levin commented on his initial work on a project for improving life in Ventura County and would like to collect any ideas or suggestions via email from the Commissioners and First 5 staff.

Commissioner Long commented on an upcoming health conference sponsored by VCEDA. She also noted that it is Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Vice Chair Stenslie commented on the release of the Business and Community Leaders Alliance newsletter which includes an opinion piece by Jeffery Lacquer on the “Economics of Human Capital” and discusses returns on investments in early education. He also commented on Tim Bartik’s blog, which provides updated information on investments in early education on a weekly basis.

**12. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at the Ventura County Office of Education, at 5100 Adolfo Dr., in Camarillo.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.