

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY  
COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES**

**November 19, 2015**

Commissioners Present: Bruce Stenslie, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Dr. Michael Gollub, Kathy Long, Stan Mantooth, Dr. Bob Levin, Dr. Cesar Morales

Excused Absence: Carola Matera, Barry Zimmerman

Staff Present: Claudia Harrison, Kathy Rangel, Jennifer Johnson, Deanna Handel, John Anderson, Petra Puls, Heather Hanna, Robin Godfrey, Nani Oesterle, Sam McCoy

Public Present: Linda Bays, MaryLinn Daehlin, Rafaela Frausto, Noemi Valdes

**OPENING**

**1. Welcome**

Chair Stenslie opened the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes from October 17, 2015 Commission Meeting**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Mantooth, to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Chair Stenslie stated that Item #5 will be pulled from the agenda.

Claudia Harrison provided an overview of the supplemental packet.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Mantooth, to approve the agenda as modified. The motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Public Comments/Correspondence**

There were no comments from the public.

5. **Presentation:** Oral Health Prevention: Parent Education and Engagement of Medical Providers

This item was pulled from the agenda.

### CONSENT AGENDA

6. **Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of September 30, 2015**
7. **Recommendation to Waive Penalty for Late Final Year-end Expenditure Report from Ojai Valley Neighborhood for Learning**

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

### REGULAR AGENDA

#### **8. Report of Committees**

##### a. Administration and Finance Committee

- 1) Recommendation to Grant Executive Director Authority to Enter into a Lease Agreement with Don Carlton Realty Company for Renewal of Current Lease

Chair Stenslie reported that the Commission's lease for office space will end on December 31, 2015. He provided an overview of the lease renewal terms that were established through negotiations with the Don Carlton Realty Company and reviewed by the Administration and Finance Committee.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to renew the lease for office space for an additional five (5) years at the current location and grant the Executive Director authority to enter into a lease agreement with the Don Carlton Realty Company. No new allocation of funds is needed for the current fiscal year, as expenditures were budgeted in the approved FY 2015-16 budgets for internal cost centers. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **9. Review and Discussion of Key Recommendations and Findings from the First 5 Ventura County Annual Evaluation Report, Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

Petra Puls introduced Dr. Rachel Estrella, Senior Associate, and Lydia Nash, Data Analyst, of Social Policy Research Associates, to present findings from the Annual

Evaluation Report for Fiscal Year 2014-15. Dr. Estrella noted the First 5 parent survey was distributed to 7,000 parents with a 40% response rate. Lydia Nash provided an overview of the demographic data that provided a snapshot of the First 5 service population. She reported that First 5 programs provided services to over 11,000 unique participants last fiscal year with 60% being children ages 0-5. She stated that early learning and family literacy programs were the most frequent service received (51%), followed by preschool (21%) and service coordination/case management (13%).

Dr. Estrella highlighted major findings in each outcome area and identified areas posing challenges or needing further support. She stated that funded partners have been extremely successful in ensuring that families who receive First 5 services have access to health insurance and a regular place for care and feel their children are experiencing strong developmental growth as a result of participation in preschool services. She also reported that families feel they are properly nourishing their children and providing opportunities for physical activity, and report a high confidence level with parenting skills. She commented that the indicator of parent confidence seems uncommonly high at 95% and suggested staff revisit this indicator as it warrants further research. She highlighted several additional areas that may warrant further scrutiny or support, including screen time, oral health care, home literacy practices, demographic discrepancies related to developmental screenings, overall meeting of preschool readiness standards, and neighborhood support for families to reduce isolation. She reported challenges related to matching 3 different levels of client data and the comprehensive nature and timing of the survey. Dr. Estrella discussed future considerations for re-mapping of indicators within the access to care outcome area, reviewing the language of intake and parent survey questions, addressing data association challenges and checking the results against experience. Dr. Estrella thanked the Commission and staff for an opportunity to work on this project.

Chair Stenslie asked if there is comparative data on health insurance access prior to the Affordable Care Act. Claudia commented that there is available data prior that staff can review. She also noted that Ventura County has always done an incredible job of ensuring there is a medical home for everyone. Commissioner Long echoed these comments and reviewed the numerous programs available for Ventura County residents. Commissioner Gollub asked about the validity of certain survey questions and asked if there is any general information about the accuracy of these types of parent surveys. Dr. Estrella commented that the Commission has an opportunity to talk to providers about the validity of responses as there are a several responses that seemed to be extraordinarily high.

The Commissioners discussed challenges of getting direct and honest answers to certain questions due to people's comfort levels and cultural beliefs. Commissioner Levin questioned a few results in developmental screening rates that seem to vary between ethnicities and suggested further investigation. Dr. Estrella added that on a national level, Latinos seem to be over-represented in screenings and special education referrals though she is unsure as to the exact variables that contribute to this. Dr. Morales would like to

see results correlated with income levels as well as ethnicities. He added that he would also like to view several years of continuous data for comparison. Dr. Estrella commented on how helpful it would be to also include a qualitative study component.

Claudia discussed next steps indicating that staff will come back to the Commission with a plan for follow-up on evaluation findings and Commissioner questions.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to receive and file the First 5 Ventura County Annual Evaluation Report for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. The motion passed unanimously.**

**10. Recommendation to release a Request for a Letter of Interest for providing early learning PACT and family support services to the Ocean View Neighborhood for Learning geographical area**

Petra Puls presented an overview of the Request for Letters of Interest for providing early learning PACT (Parent and Child Together) and family support services to the Ocean View Neighborhood for Learning (NfL) area. She commented that a recent conversion of First 5 funded preschool spaces to new California State Preschool Programs (CSPP) funding has resulted in significant NfL savings that could be directed towards early learning PACT (Parent and Child Together) and family support services in the geographical area of the Ocean View NfL. However, the Ocean View NfL does not have the capacity to implement these programs. Petra reported that First 5 is seeking to identify an entity or entities with extensive PACT and family support experience to implement the scope of work.

Commissioner Mantooth asked about the types of entities that might respond. Petra answered that neighboring NfLs are expected to respond, and added that there are other community-based organizations that could implement this work as well.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the release of a Request for Letter of Interest to determine if there are entities interested in providing early learning PACT (Parent and Child Together) and family support services to families with young children, prenatal – 5, living in the geographical area of the Ocean View NfL. The amount available for services is \$78,000 through June 30, 2016. No new allocation of funds would be required as the funds are currently included in the overall allocation for the Ocean View NfL. The motion passed unanimously.**

**11. Recommendation to release a Request for a Letter of Interest for facilitating AA/BA degree attainment**

Petra Puls reviewed the Request for Letters of Interest to determine whether one or more entities with appropriate qualifications are interested in managing the scope of work relative to facilitating Early Childhood Education AA/BA degree attainment. She

reported that the Commission did not receive any applications in response to the original RfA released in September. She stated that staff had conducted follow-up discussions with higher education partners to identify the barriers in responding to the RfA. She added that depending on the response to the Request for a Letter of Interest, First 5 may develop and release a Request for Application or may choose to develop a sole source agreement that will be brought back to the Commission for approval in December. Claudia Harrison remarked that staff removed the matching funds requirements in the revised release as this was an identified barrier and not something we regularly have required in projects of this type.

Commissioner Mantooth asked if there are in-kind contribution requirements. Claudia answered that in-kind contributions are generally contemplated as part of matching funds and while there was no required match, in-kind contributions are always encouraged. Commissioner Mantooth commented that the value of preschool is questionable without quality, and quality preschool can't be achieved without properly educated and trained staff.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to approve the release of a Request for Letters of Interest to determine whether one or more Institutions of Higher Education are interested in the implementation of strategies that facilitate AA and BA degree attainment in Early Childhood Education (ECE) or a related field. The total funds available are \$75,000 through June 30, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **12. Recommendation to Consider Implementation Strategies for the Commission's New Strategic Plan and to Approve Allocation Plan for FY 2016 – 19**

Claudia Harrison provided background information on the Commission's recently adopted five-year Strategic Plan and the Commission's Financial Plan, adopted May 2015. She highlighted the Commission's intent to invest approximately \$11 million per year for the first three funding years of the new plan with investments of approximately \$6 million per year for years four and five when the Commission's sustainability fund is exhausted.

Claudia stated that at the conclusion of FY 2014-15, \$845,000 in local unspent funds were identified in cost savings from the Commission's administration and internal program areas and funded programs that did not utilize their entire allocation. She recommended the use of unspent funds over the next three year period to mitigate reductions in funding levels that were initially anticipated for Neighborhoods for Learning, Regional Health Professionals and Help Me Grow. She reviewed proposed changes in programmatic investments in countywide preschool efforts and countywide specialized strategies inclusive of Help Me Grow and Oral Health.

Claudia reviewed proposed contracting changes, with one multi-year contract issued with service provisions and budgets for all three years with the ability to amend budgets and service provisions if needed.

Claudia stated that the staff will bring the plan to a Joint Committee meeting in December to receive any additional input, and would come back to the Commission with specific contractual recommendations.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill, to approve an allocation plan for the first three years of the new strategic plan, which utilizes \$783,315 in prior year unspent funds over a three year period; maintains current funding levels for Neighborhoods for Learning, Countywide Preschool Efforts, Regional Health Professionals, Oral Health, 2-1-1, and for specialized services for the Mixtec population; provides local funds for Help Me Grow; implements direct contracting for preschool spaces that were previously contracted under the QRIS contract; and, establishes a multi-year contract for years one through three of implementation. The motion carried unanimously.**

Claudia continued the discussion with a proposed implementation plan for considering initial strategies and allocations for years four and five. She also discussed proposed revisions to the current committee structure which would consider only 2 standing committees with the ability to form ad hoc groups as needed. She indicated the plan would also address revisions to the Commission’s advocacy policy, contracting structure and implementation of challenge grants.

### **13. Report from Executive Director**

Claudia Harrison updated the Commission on changes to the employee health plan to achieve compliance with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). She highlighted ongoing activities at local Neighborhoods for Learning and provided an update on Countywide Strategies. She reported that November is Early Literacy Month and highlighted countywide outreach, partnerships and ongoing media efforts.

Claudia continued her report with county updates. She highlighted Ventura County Together’s presentation of United Way of California’s new report “Struggling to Get By: The Real Cost Measure in California 2015” which measures the true cost of living in California communities, and introduces the Real Cost Measure to better understand the challenges facing households. She concluded her report with an update on upcoming events and referenced the provider anecdote.

Claudia stated that the annual holiday event which usually takes place at the conclusion of the December Commission meeting will be rescheduled for an alternate date in 2016.

**14. Commission Member Comments**

There were no comments from the Commissioners.

**15. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2015, at the County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Dr., in Camarillo.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.