

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

December 18, 2014

Commissioners Present: Reyna Dominguez, Michael Gollub, Stan Mantooth, Bruce Stenslie, Kathy Long, Bob Levin, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill

Commissioners Absent: Ida Hatfield, Meloney Roy

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

Public Present: Alisha Hicks, Cindy Reed, Linda Bays, Cathy Puccetti, Gloria Valdez, Dawn Anderson, Mary Linn Daehlin, Patty Chan

OPENING

1. Welcome

Chair Dominguez opened the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2014 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill, to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2014 Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets

Claudia Harrison provided an overview of the supplemental packet.

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

4. Public Comments/Correspondence

There were no comments from the public.

5. Presentation: – California ACEs Summit: Children Can Thrive

Claudia Harrison introduced Deanna Handel, Program Manager for First 5 Ventura County and Randy Ahn, Director at Triple P America, to present highlights from the ACEs Summit held in November. Deanna Handel stated that this was the first-ever state summit on the impacts of early childhood trauma with its key purpose to increase awareness of ACEs as one of the largest unaddressed public health threats facing the state today. Deanna reported that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic experiences, such as abuse, neglect and household dysfunction, which can result in toxic

stress and have a profound effect on children's developing brains and bodies. She stated that early exposure to adverse experiences is linked to increased risk for lifelong health and behavior problems, including chronic diseases such as diabetes, stroke, heart disease and cancer as well as behavioral health risks such as alcoholism, drug use, and suicide. She reviewed national data and the prevalence of ACEs noting that children with two or more ACEs are two and a half times more likely to repeat a grade and are more likely to experience chronic health problems. She discussed toxic stress as the mechanism by which ACEs are thought to generate long term health impacts and the multiple system impacts within the body in terms of brain development, behavior, immune function and gene expression.

Randy Ahn presented information on building trauma informed communities and provided examples from Walla Walla, Washington and Tarpon Springs, Florida. He provided an overview of human service systems in California transitioning to providing trauma informed care, including San Diego and San Francisco, both of which have provided workforce-wide training. He discussed efforts to integrate ACEs screening and interventions into primary care, such as the trauma informed toolkit recently launched by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and a demonstration project at the Children's Clinic of Long Beach. He discussed key learnings from the summit relevant to our local work and steps to bring about change.

Commissioner Long asked how the program deals with privacy and consent issues. Randy Ahn responded that much of the information is collected through voluntary telephone surveys and noted the importance of aligning informed consent. Commissioner Stenslie inquired about the means for introducing local leadership into the different models that have been implemented and the process for learning about their curricula. Randy Ahn stated that the local child welfare departments are the key and they should be at the table with local stakeholders to develop a road map for approaching this work for Ventura County. Commissioner Levin commented that Ventura County Public Health would like to be more involved as 3 the top 10 causes of premature death can be directly linked to toxic stress. Commissioner Mantooth asked if there are offsets in the numbers in regards to kids in preschool or Head Start programs. Deanna stated that there is data that shows a decrease in risk if the children were involved in early education programs.

Claudia noted that the Commissioners will each receive copies of a larger report produced by the Center for Youth Wellness on ACEs at a future meeting. There was a discussion about including paraprofessionals in the training. Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill commented that the San Francisco Public Health Department has been trained in ACEs with tremendous results and she is very happy to hear that Ventura County Public Health wants to be involved.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of October 31, 2014

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

REGULAR AGENDA

**7. Report of Committees
a) Health Committee**

(1.) Progress Report

Commissioner Gollub provided an overview of the November meeting of the Health Best Practices Committee. He reported on the Prenatal Convening and the continuum of care approach for gathering input on prenatal best practices and gaps in our county. He stated that the Committee discussed barriers to childbirth education and prenatal care along with the role of health insurance as key areas to consider. He stated that the Committee also reviewed the Strategic Planning timeline and indicators and rates of flu shots with preschoolers. He commented that the NFLs were provided with a list of participating Flu Shot Clinics to share with parents.

8. Recommendation to authorize no-cost extension of FY 2014-15 contract with United Way of Ventura County to support the Ventura County Children’s Oral Health Collaborative

Sam McCoy discussed the Commission’s approval to reallocate \$20,000 of the FY 2014-15 funding for oral health to the Ventura County Children’s Oral Health Collaborative through the United Way of Ventura County. He commented that this funding is for a part-time staff person to support the work of the Oral Health Collaborative and to help manage Collaborative projects in education and messaging, coordination and referral, and evaluation. He reported that the current agreement with United Way of Ventura County, in the amount of \$20,000, began on December 1, 2014 and runs through June 30, 2015, but it has since been determined that the activities and deliverables would be most effectively implemented in a one year timeline.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Long, to authorize a no-cost contract extension with United Way of Ventura County through December 31, 2015, for a part-time staff person to support the Ventura County Children’s Oral Health Collaborative. No new allocation would be needed. The motion carried with Commissioner Stenslie and Commissioner Mantooth abstaining.

9. Recommendation to modify the existing Preschool Expansion program

Petra Puls commented that in FY 2012-13, the Commission awarded funding for preschool expansion to three agencies, for a total of 95 spaces. She added that the preschool expansion contracts were modeled in alignment with State Preschool guidelines to provide maximum reimbursement of \$21.22 per space per day, for 175 days per year. She stated that through changes to State Preschool guidelines the reimbursement rates have increased to \$22.28 per space per day, for up to 180 days. Petra reported that due to start-up implementation delays and the relocation of a classroom, unspent funds of \$77,949 were realized in FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Levin, to approve an increase of the daily reimbursement rate and maximum number of operating days for existing Preschool Expansion programs, to align with a revised State Preschool model in the amounts of up to \$196,338 for Continuing Development Inc.; \$96,250 for El Centrito Family Learning

Centers; and, \$96,194 for the Ventura Unified School District, effective July 1, 2014. The recommended action would grant authority to the Executive Director to amend contracts for FY 2014-15 with designated Preschool Expansion contract agencies. Prior year unspent preschool expansion funding of up to \$26,044 would be needed for FY 2014-15. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Recommendation to approve funding allocations for FY 2015-16

Petra Puls reported that in December of each year, the Commission approves funding allocations for the next fiscal year in order to provide funded partners with sufficient notice of any changes in funding. She discussed the overall FY 2015-16 proposed allocation of \$10.4 million in program dollars for NfLs, Countywide Program Strategies, Countywide Preschool Efforts and CARES. She noted that in December 2013, the Commission had approved adjustments to allocations for FY 2015-16, pending available resources, to mitigate some of the anticipated incremental cuts for Countywide Program Strategies in oral health and obesity. Petra reported that unspent funds from FY 2013-14 can fully fund the adjusted allocations and have been incorporated into the FY 2015-16 proposed allocations.

Petra commented that the proposed allocations for FY 2015-16 are similar to prior years with a few exceptions. She explained that in the area of preschool expansion, proposed allocations have been increased to align with the State Preschool funding model. She discussed the Countywide Preschool Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) which is administered by the Ventura County Office of Education. She noted that the First 5 California Child Signature program funding is slated to end in June 2015, but First 5 California has expressed intent to provide one year bridge funding at up to 50% of the current county allocation. She stated that the proposed FY 2015-16 allocation for QRIS reflects these changes to leveraged funds, but she added that when more information about potential state funding for quality and preschool spaces becomes available in early 2015, the QRIS allocation will be revisited.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Mantoath, to approve FY 2015-16 allocations for the following Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL): \$664,255 to the Conejo Valley Unified School District for the Conejo Valley NfL; \$1,045,385 to the Boys and Girls Club of Simi Valley for the Moorpark/Simi Valley NfL; \$65,096 to the Oak Park Unified School District for the Oak Park NfL; \$311,440 to the Ocean View School District for the Ocean View NfL; \$200,365 to the Ojai Valley Unified School District for the Ojai Valley NfL; \$431,220 to the Pleasant Valley School District for the Pleasant Valley NfL; \$438,990 to the Rio School District for the Rio NfL; and, \$810,174 to the Ventura Unified School District for the Ventura NfL. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantoath, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the allocation for FY 2015-16 in the amount of \$745,985 to the Hueneme School District for the Hueneme/South Oxnard NfL; \$1,467,855 to the Oxnard School District for the Oxnard NfL; and, \$599,540 to the Fillmore Unified School District for the Santa Clara Valley NfL. The motion passed with Commissioner Dominguez abstaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Stenslie, to approve the allocation for FY 2015-16 in the amount of \$1,100,166 to the Ventura County Office of Education for the Preschool Quality Improvement Rating System (QRIS). The motion passed with Commissioner Mantooth and Commissioner Dominguez abstaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to approve the allocation for FY 2015-16 in the amount of \$196,510 to Continuing Development, Inc. for Preschool Expansion for South Oxnard CDC Twilight spaces; \$96,250 to the Ventura Unified School District for Preschool Expansion for Portola Elementary School; and, \$96,250 to El Centrito Family Learning Centers for Preschool Expansion for Ocean View Early Education Center. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Stenslie, to approve the allocation for FY 2015-16 in the amount of \$ 475,791 to the Ventura County Office of Education for the CARES Plus program. The motion passed with Commissioner Mantooth abstaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill, seconded by Commissioner Mantooth, to approve the allocation for FY 2015-16 in the amount of \$497,500 to Ventura County Behavioral Health for the Triple P Program. The motion passed with Commissioner Long abstaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to approve the allocation for FY 2015-16 in the amount of \$630,000 to Ventura County Public Health for Regional Health Educators, and \$60,000 for Fluoride Varnish-Medical Providers. The motion passed with Commissioner Levin and Commissioner Long abstaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Stenslie, to approve the allocation for FY 2015-16 in the amount of \$80,000 to Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project for the Puentes Program serving Mixtec Children and Families. The motion passed with Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill abstaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill, to approve the allocation for FY 2015-16 in the amount of \$100,000 to Interface Children & Family Services for 2-1-1. The motion passed with Commissioner Mantooth, Commissioner Stenslie and Commissioner Long abstaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Mantooth, to approve the allocation for FY 2015-16 for the following programs: \$60,000 to the Santa Barbara-Ventura Counties Dental Care Foundation for Fluoride Varnish-Dental Providers; \$130,000 to the Santa Barbara-Ventura Counties Dental Care Foundation for the Mobile Dental Clinic; \$50,000 to the Landon Pediatric Foundation for Help Me Grow; and, \$80,000 to Clinicas del Camino Real for Oral Health Treatment Services. The motion carried unanimously.

These actions also grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into contracts for FY 2015-16 with the designated contract agencies.

11. Strategic Planning Discussion

Claudia provided an overview of the second half of the literature review prepared by staff, thanking staff for their hard work and collaboration. She stated that staff would like feedback from the Commission on additional data needed to help with strategic planning. Claudia walked the Commission through the document that highlighted issues pertaining to early childhood education, developmental screenings, Mixteco population, children facing hardship, child homelessness, child abuse and neglect, and children in foster care.

Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill requested additional data on domestic violence, both locally and nationally.

12. Recommendation to adopt a resolution per Government Code 54954 (a) to establish a time and place for holding regular Commission meetings for Calendar Year 2015

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantoath, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to adopt the resolution to establish a time and place for holding regular Commission meetings for calendar year 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Report from Executive Director

Claudia Harrison referred to the written report and provided an update on Administrative Operations. She stated that the configuration of the fiscal module in Persimmony Software System is currently underway with implementation targeted for January 2015, coinciding with the submission of Quarter 2 invoices/expenditure reports. She reported on Commission initiatives, highlighting ongoing activities at local Neighborhoods for Learning and provided an update on countywide strategies. She discussed that First 5 staff has worked closely with VCOE and the Higher Education Advisory Panel to identify barriers students face when trying to complete an AA or BA degree in early education and to review programmatic approaches to reduce these barriers. She highlighted the 2-1-1 Pilot in partnership with the Help Me Grow Collaborative, reporting that 2-1-1 is piloting a centralized call function for early identification and referral of children exhibiting developmental concerns. Claudia discussed the expanded early literacy campaign, partnerships with the Pacific View Mall for educational messaging and the Parent Leadership training, commenting that a Hueneme NfL parent, who had participated in the most recent training sessions, will be heading to Sacramento in early January for a "train the trainer" session. She mentioned that through First 5's partnership with EC-LINC, an overview of this parent leadership work has been shared nationally to inspire other communities.

Claudia continued her report with an update on county, regional and national events. She mentioned the White House Summit on Early Education held in early December and President Obama's new campaign, "Invest in US", which challenges policymakers, public and private partners to build a better nation through high-quality early childhood education. She reported that Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc. (CDR) is on the preliminary list for an \$800,000 federal Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grant, expanding the number of high-needs infants and toddlers served in Ventura County. She reported on the Countywide Prenatal Convening hosted by First 5 Ventura County in which approximately 25 professionals from organizations concerned with prenatal health and the continuum of care looked at best practices, resources and gaps that impact pregnancy

outcomes in Ventura County. She highlighted a pilot project led by the Ventura County Office of Education to assign unique identifiers to children enrolled in preschool in the Rio School District. She concluded her report with upcoming events and provider anecdotes and showed a video from the Ventura County Star website on early childhood development.

14. Commission Member Comments

Commissioner Gollub commented that the Triple P anecdote in today's report from the Executive Director relates to recent studies on how the use of technology places obstacles in parental involvement with children.

Commissioner Stenslie commented that the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County (EDC-VC) has adopted a regional development economic strategy with emphasis on early childhood education and will be tracking how investments in childcare slots can be an indicator of economic health.

Chair Dominguez commented on an upcoming environmental health and safety visit from the federal government at the Head Start program in the last week of January. She thanked Carrie Murphy, Michele Henry and Claudia Harrison, acknowledging their collaboration on the federal grant application.

15. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2015, at the Ventura County Office of Education, on 5100 Adolfo Dr., in Camarillo. *(This meeting was subsequently cancelled.)*

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.