

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

August 20, 2015

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

Excused Absence: Bruce Stenslie

Staff Present: Claudia Harrison, Kathy Rangel, Robin Godfrey, Nani Oesterle, Sam McCoy, Petra Puls, Heather Hanna, Deanna Handel, Diana Arellano

Public Present: Shar Busch, Cindy Reed, Claudia Arias, Linda Bays, Rafaela Frausto, Noemi Valdes, Nancy Kreiselmeyer

1. Welcome

Vice Chair Mantooth opened the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from June 18, 2015

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill, to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2015 Commission meeting. The motion carried with Commissioner Gollub abstaining.

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. Recognition and Appreciation of Commissioner Hatfield for her work on behalf of First 5 Ventura County

Vice Chair Mantooth announced Commissioner Hatfield's retirement and stated that this will be her last meeting. He commented that Commissioner Hatfield has been a member of the Commission since 2006. He recognized her work as a prior Chair and Co-Chair of the Commission, and mentioned that she has also served as Co-Chair of the Commission's Program Committee and Early Learning Committee, along with numerous review committees. He commented on Commissioner Hatfield's passion about the needs of young children and families and noted that she has been a strong supporter of family child care. Vice Chair Mantooth stated that Commissioner Hatfield inspired the First 5 Ventura County tagline, "Because the first 5 years impact a lifetime!" He concluded his recognition and thanked Commissioner Hatfield for her strong early childhood and family strengthening advocacy and her engaging commitment to First 5 for almost 10 years. Each Commissioner shared moments of working with Commissioner Hatfield and wished her success.

Commissioner Hatfield thanked the Commission and staff for all their excellent work during her time as a Commissioner.

5. Public Comments/Correspondence

There was no public comment.

6. Presentation: Implementation of Unique Student Identifiers for Preschoolers in Rio School District

Claudia Harrison introduced Amy Mills, Director of Rio Neighborhood for Learning, and Carrie Murphy, Director of Early Childhood Programs at Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), to present the Preschool Student Unique Identifiers Project. Carrie Murphy discussed the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) used statewide to assign identification numbers to students to track data for state and federal reporting. Carrie commented that all public K-12 schools are required to use the CALPADS system, but there are no requirements to assign unique identifiers to preschoolers. She reported that in January 2015 a collaborative group was convened, championed by Dr. Valerie Chrisman, Associate Superintendent at VCOE, along with VCOE staff, First 5 staff, Rio School District staff, and additional county organizations, to develop protocols for generating a state-issued unique identifier for all preschool students. She added that the program would assist in conducting short and long-term studies of the quality and efficacy of preschool. She stated the intent of the project was to develop and pilot the protocol in the Rio School District and then implement the protocol at other school districts. She commented that the biggest challenge was bringing together multiple agencies with varied protocols for gathering personal information. She noted that the team developed simple and accessible registration documents, including a common parent consent form.

Amy Mills discussed the implementation process on the local level from conception to completion. She noted that the FY 2015- 2016 enrollment data is currently being gathered by preschool programs and there is ongoing analysis of kindergarten benchmark assessments that compares students who attended preschool to those who did not. She discussed new reports generated from FY 2014-15 that highlighted kindergarten benchmarks and could compare data from FY 2013-14. She reported that Pleasant Valley School District will pilot the protocol in FY 2015-2016. Amy concluded her presentation and commented that the Unique Identifiers Collaborative will continue to meet and support the rollout of protocols throughout Ventura County and streamline the process so fewer numbers of completed forms will be required from parents.

Vice Chair Mantooth asked about expediting implementation to all schools countywide. Carrie replied she is hoping the enthusiasm resulting from the successful launch at the Rio School District will spread countywide. Commissioner Levin asked if this program will identify subsets of preschool children needing additional attention in school. Amy stated that currently the identifiers are for demographic information only and is not attached to any school readiness component yet, but staff is hoping to collect DRDP data that can help to show patterns in school

readiness data through first or second grade. Commissioner Hatfield commented that she is impressed with all the hard work to implement this project.

7. Presentation: Help Me Grow Ventura County

Claudia Harrison introduced Cindy Reed, Program Coordinator for Help Me Grow Ventura County (HMG) at the Landon Pediatric Foundation. Cindy reviewed the core components of HMG which include child health care provider outreach, community outreach, a centralized telephone access line, and data collection. Cindy briefed the Commission on their beginnings as a developmental screening collaborative which then attained Help Me Grow affiliate status in 2013. She reviewed the areas of focus for Ventura County, which include universal screenings, sharing of best practices, strengthening partnerships, increasing countywide data collection and analysis, and building a centralized phone access line through 2-1-1. Cindy presented the Developmental Screening Tool Kit, created in partnership with Ventura County Public Health, Ventura County Office of Education and Oxnard School District, to create an easy-to-read document of best practices for implementing screenings in the early care and education setting. Cindy also reviewed the Parent Flyer and HMG website that links to the electronic version of the kit, the flyer and available resources. She reviewed distribution strategies for the Toolkit and Parent Flyer with early childhood education community organizations and QRIS sites. Additionally, Cindy announced that Help Me Grow had a published article in the American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter Two, offering HMG certifications for medical providers and that a local doctor at Clinicas del Camino Real has expressed interest in trainings for screenings and referrals.

Commissioner Gollub asked if the unique identifier could be assigned to children through the developmental screenings. Cindy answered that it would be beneficial for HMG Ventura to start a discussion with VCOE about partnering in this effort. Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill commented on incorporating the Toolkit into the ACEs efforts currently underway in Ventura County. Commissioner Levin asked about the possibility of incorporating several of the questions about developmental screenings into the age-appropriate well-child forms, suggesting it would be a good way to institutionalize the screenings. Cindy discussed work currently in progress by a group in Boston to produce a simpler, evidence-based version of the tool to be integrated into well-child visits.

CONSENT AGENDA

8. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of May 31, 2015

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

REGULAR AGENDA

Vice Chair Mantooth recused himself from agenda item #9 due to a conflict of interest. The Chair duties were turned over to Commissioner Hatfield.

9. Recommendation to receive a revised First 5 California CSP 1 Extension allocation of up to \$315,275

Commissioner Hatfield introduced Petra Puls to present the recommendation. Petra stated that in May, the Commission approved a recommendation to receive a CSP 1 Extension allocation from First 5 California, for an amount up to \$311,875 for FY 2015-16, and granted authority to the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with First 5 California. She reported that First 5 California has subsequently informed First 5 Ventura County that there is an additional \$3,400 in incentive funding that First 5 Ventura County is eligible to receive for the infant/toddler classroom that participated in the original CSP program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Long, to grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into a contract with First 5 California to receive a revised allocation of up to \$315,275 in Child Signature Program (CSP) 1 Extension funds for a one year period, from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, to support First 5 Ventura County Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) efforts. The motion carried with Commissioner Mantoath abstaining.

Commissioner Hatfield passed the chair duties back to Vice Chair Mantoath.

10. Recommendation to Release Request for Applications for Facilitating AA/BA Degree Attainment

Petra Puls provided an overview of the RfA, its purpose and how it was developed. She stated that the goal of the proposed RfA is to address barriers to degree attainment for students with a major in Early Childhood Education (ECE) or a closely related field, and to create new and innovative educational pathways, or further build on programs or course work that facilitate degree attainment. She stated that this funding opportunity is not intended to provide one-time, direct services to students, but rather to design, develop, or coordinate sustainable strategies or programs that reduce barriers to higher education degree attainment. She added that Institutions of Higher Education are invited to submit applications that articulate how one-time investments might help to implement systemic solutions or build internal capacity with long-term impacts beyond the grant period. She walked the Commission through the RfA and reviewed the key points and important timelines. Petra finished her overview, indicating that staff hopes to bring forth a recommendation in October.

Commissioner Hatfield asked if AA or BA only institutions would be weighted equally. Petra stated that they would be equally considered.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hatfield, seconded by Commissioner Levin, to grant authority to the Executive Director to release a Request for Applications for the implementation of strategies that facilitate AA and BA degree attainment. The total maximum funding available for degree attainment capacity building is \$75,000 for the funding term November 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Mantooth recused himself from agenda item #11 due to a conflict of interest. The Chair duties were turned over to Commissioner Hatfield.

11. Recommendation to Apply for First 5 California IMPACT Funding

Petra Puls stated that First 5 California released a Request for Application (RfA) announcing the availability of First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) funds to work in cooperation with other quality improvement efforts and investments to support the implementation of the QRIS Framework, including strengthening family participation in early learning settings. Petra said that First 5 IMPACT is designed to align with and leverage other initiatives and funding sources and local quality projects to expand efforts and reach more diverse settings. She stated that based on the state's allocation formula, First 5 Ventura County is eligible to receive up to \$2,760,317 over a five year period. Petra reviewed the requirements for a three-to-one match, and to serve a minimum of 111 sites annually, of which ten percent must serve infants and/or toddlers (ages 0 to 3) and fifteen percent must be family child care homes. She added that First 5 County Commissions were given the first right of refusal to apply for First 5 IMPACT funds and to serve as the lead agency. First 5 Ventura County submitted a Letter of Intent.

Petra discussed the two-phase application process and stated that the first phase determines eligibility for Base Layer funds and is due in August. She added that the second phase of the application determines eligibility for First 5 IMPACT Implementation Step Layer funds and is due in November 2015.

A motion was made by Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the recommendation to apply for First 5 IMPACT funds to support local Quality Rating and Improvement System efforts for Fiscal Years 2015-16 through 2019-20. The motion carried with Commissioner Mantooth restating that he has recused himself.

12. Recommendation to Amend Resolution No. 15-01 adopted per Government Code 54954 (a) to change the start time for the September 17, 2015 Commission meeting

Commissioner Mantooth reported that the proposed resolution is to delay the start-time of the September meeting to accommodate travel from United Way's annual Spirit of Community event that is being held in Thousand Oaks this year. He also made note that the September Commission meeting will be held at the Ventura County Community Foundation, in Camarillo.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Hatfield, to approve Resolution No. 15-02, to change the start time for the September 17, 2015 meeting to 2:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Report from Executive Director

Claudia Harrison referred to her written report and provided an update on administrative operations. She reported that three new First 5 Commissioners are pending appointment by the Board of Supervisors: Dr. Carola Matera, Assistant Professor in Early Childhood Studies at

California State University Channel Islands; Dr. Cesar Morales, Superintendent of Oxnard School District; and, Barry Zimmerman, Director of Ventura County Human Services Agency. Claudia highlighted a successful first full year of utilizing Persimmony for data collection on participants, services and outcomes and for funded partner invoice submission. She announced that the Commission's FY 2014-15 Annual Audit is scheduled to begin in September. She provided an update on Commission Initiatives, with on-going progress at Neighborhoods for Learning, updates on oral health prevention and education, and successes achieved in developmental screenings. She reviewed the Preschool Pilot Project with the University of Washington and Cal State University Channel Islands. She commented on QRIS through the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) mentioning that 64 of the 89 sites rated in FY 2015-15 were rated at Tiers 4 or 5 in the QRIS matrix, including 12 family child care homes. She reported that Social Policy Research Associates (SPR) has been selected as the consultant to prepare the FY 2014-15 Annual Evaluation report to be presented at a future meeting. She reported that funded partners have begun collecting and entering program improvement surveys. In the area of Communications, Education and Development, Claudia commented on the sixth Born Learning Trail in Ventura County to be located at Las Piedras Park near the Santa Paula NFL. She reviewed the McCune Foundation Support of the 'Leaders for Change' series, commenting that the event was a huge success with 16 new parent leadership graduates, among the 57 already trained.

Claudia continued with County, Regional and National Updates. She reported the VC STEM Early Learning Action Group is working to develop strong partnerships between early childhood educators and K-3 teachers to build aligned experiences and curricula for STEM learning and to develop a network of shared learning opportunities. She reviewed six new tobacco-related bills legislation under consideration in the Legislative Special Session. She stated the Preschool for All Act of 2015 passed last month with bipartisan support. She announced that First 5 Ventura County was one of 4 communities invited to Washington, D.C., to participate in a day-long EC-LINC Communities learning session on early childhood strategies and systems to help various foundations better understand what it takes to develop an effective early childhood system at the local level. She concluded her report with upcoming events and highlights from the provider anecdote.

14. Commission Member Comments

Commissioner Hatfield commented on how proud she is of all the work being done by staff.

15. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2015, at the Ventura County Community Foundation, on 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Ste. A, in Camarillo (*This meeting will start at 2:00 p.m.*)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.