

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

November 20, 2014

Commissioners Present: Reyna Dominguez, Michael Gollub, Ida Hatfield, Bruce Stenslie, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Meloney Roy

Excused Absence: Kathy Long, Stan Mantooth, Bob Levin

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, Patty Chan, Dawn Anderson, MaryLinn Daehlin, Gloria Valdez, Rafaela Frausto

OPENING

1. Welcome

Chair Dominguez opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2014 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Hatfield, to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2014 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 Hatfield, seconded by Commissioner Stenslie, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of September 30, 2014

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

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Review and Discussion of Accountability Frameworks

Claudia Harrison provided a brief overview of the high level evaluation framework reviewed at last month's meeting and the accountability frameworks. She introduced Petra Puls to walk the Commission through the proposed document. Petra briefed the Commission on the proposed targets for FY 2014-15 and highlighted new areas along with those that showed significant increases from the prior fiscal year.

Commissioner Roy commented on the noticeable increase in targets for developmental screenings. Petra stated that the new goals will be achieved through the QRIS program which is incorporating screenings in preschools through the Help Me Grow program. Claudia commented that these newly presented targets will form the basis for the next evaluation report to be presented early next year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roy, seconded by Commissioner Hatfield, to approve the accountability frameworks for FY 2014-15. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Strategic Planning Discussion

Claudia Harrison introduced Dr. Jamshid Damooei, Ph.D, Co-Director of the Center for Leadership and Values School of Management at Cal Lutheran University, to present data trends on the key indicators selected by the Commission. Dr. Damooei highlighted increases in mother's education, which is vital to the betterment of the lives of children. He discussed a decline in infant mortality, childhood accidental death rates, numbers of uninsured children and teen birth rates. He highlighted decreased overall rates of food insecurity, but clarified that rates remained stagnant for children from lower income families. He reported that fundamental and structural problems prove to be a challenge and the origins lie in the prevailing socio-economic inequalities found among families. He commented that the largest problem children face is being raised in a lower income household and reviewed data showing that poverty among children is growing. He further reviewed data trends to be concerned about, including spaces for early education/preschool, which are stagnant despite the increase in population, as well as elementary reading scores which have also remained stagnant and are much lower for economically disadvantaged children. He reported on child abuse and neglect rates, noting differences by race. He discussed the hidden reality of homelessness among public school students and the rise in the percentage of homeless children attending public schools. He discussed high rates of domestic violence calls noting that they have remained unchanged over the last decade. He reported on high rates of childhood obesity, noting they have remained high and/or have increased and are much higher among Hispanics. He discussed how prenatal care has declined and is relatively lower among Hispanics. Dr. Damooei stated that poverty and social mobility are pressing problems which require greater resources, better coordination of efforts to increase efficient utilization of collective efforts and that more information must be available to all stakeholders within the county.

Commissioner Stenslie asked if the data trends for Ventura are being matched in surrounding areas of the state. Dr. Damooei stated that the trends are not matched. Commissioner Stenslie

questioned whether the of data pertaining to Poverty and Access to Prenatal Care could be directly linked to the recession drag. Dr. Damooei commented that he believes the stagnant areas are structural and not tied to business cycles. Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill commented that Commission will need to focus on what First 5 does best and work with others through a collective impact model. Dr. Damooei stated that First 5 is right on target, but the underlying issue is limited resources. Claudia commented that staff will distribute a full set of the data to the Commission.

Claudia Harrison continued the strategic planning discussion with an overview of the literature review prepared by staff, thanking staff for their hard work and collaboration. She commented that the data presentation and the literature review are companion pieces and will be valuable reference documents. She added that additional pieces of the literature review will be brought to future meetings. She stated that staff would like feedback from the Commission on what additional data is needed to help with strategic planning. Claudia walked the Commission through the document that highlighted issues pertaining to immunizations, food insecurities, oral health, prenatal care, low birth weight, teen birth rate, early literacy, breastfeeding and childhood obesity.

Commissioner Roy commented on the Affordable Care Act and suggested it should have an effect on benefits. She stated that there is an opportunity to look at the social determinants of health, poverty and education along with the county’s lack of affordable housing, handicapped-accessible housing, and care for mental illness. Commissioner Hatfield commented on social issues relative to early learning and literacy of parents. She asked if there is data on parental literacy and its effect on reading scores due to a possible lack of support at home when parent literacy levels are low. Claudia stated there has been limited data in this area, but that Dr. Damooei could take a further look. Chair Dominguez commented on how the Early Head Start Program is focusing on parent and child engagement to target families as learners. She stated that this approach looks at structural ways of collecting data while helping families reach family goals. Commissioner Hatfield commented on issues of nursing babies while sleeping and the dental problems that have arisen. The Commissioners were in support of the current process for presenting the literature review. Claudia noted that staff will present the second part of the literature review at the next scheduled meeting.

8. Report from Executive Director

Claudia Harrison provided an update on Administrative Operations with the implementation of the fiscal and contract management modules in the Persimmony Software System. She highlighted ongoing activities at local Neighborhoods for Learning and provided an update on Countywide Strategies. She noted that the Ventura County Human Services Agency (HSA) has implemented a series of specific changes to the Child Welfare System around the needs of the 0-5 population, with specific policy changes adopted for young children around relative placement, visitation, and work with CASAs. She reported on the Help Me Grow/2-1-1 Pilot to explore how to utilize the existing 2-1-1 infrastructure to support centralized call functions envisioned by the Help Me Grow model. She stated that Ventura has been praised by the state consultants on local QRIS and CARES, citing our strong collaboration, relationships, hard work and dedication to Ventura County’s children. She reported on the ABC Learning Preschool and Child Care Grand Opening in Santa Paula which has created 90 new licensed spaces for infants, toddlers and preschool aged children as a result of the First 5 Ventura County Community Investment Loan Fund in partnership with EDC-VC. She highlighted staff’s work to expand the Born Learning Trails to

other communities and referenced a toolkit developed to better communicate the benefits of installing a Born Learning Trail in a community. She discussed the Leaders for Change: Parent Leadership Training Series, commenting that 20 parents recently completed a three-session parent leadership training hosted by the Parent Services Project.

Claudia continued her report with county updates. She highlighted the Strengthening Families Leadership Group comprised of First 5 staff, members of Oxnard Alliance and other agencies, including Triple P America, City Impact, and the Human Services Agency of Ventura County, which has developed a community-wide model for strengthening families and has plans for an ongoing learning collaborative to increase education and awareness on adverse childhood experiences and trauma informed care. She reported on an upcoming Prenatal Convening scheduled for the beginning of December to bring together prenatal providers from across Ventura County to look at the local prenatal landscape, discuss best practices, strengths, opportunities and gaps. She concluded her report with an update on upcoming events, including the First 5 Ventura County Annual Holiday Open House to be held on December 18, 2014, immediately following the Commission meeting.

9. Commission Member Comments

Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill expressed interest in a presentation on the ACES summit, which was attended by staff.

Commissioner Gollub commented on the outstanding collaboration and team effort he witnessed during his attendance at the prenatal workgroup meeting recently held by staff.

10. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2014, at the County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Dr., in Camarillo.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.