

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

June 19, 2014

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

Commissioners Absent: Meloney Roy, Robert Levin, Kathy Long

Staff Present: Claudia Harrison, Kathy Rangel, John Anderson, Deanna Handel, Heather Hanna, Sam McCoy, Jennifer Johnson, Diana Arellano, Robin Godfrey

Public Present: Mary Linn Daehlin, Cindy Reed, Cathy Puccetti, Linda Bays

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2014

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Hatfield, to approve the minutes from the May 22, 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 Mantooh, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence

There was no public comment.

5. Presentation: Highlights of Ojai Valley Neighborhood for Learning (NfL) Programming

Claudia Harrison introduced Alisha Hicks, Director of the Ojai Valley Neighborhood for Learning (NfL), to present highlights of the NfL programming. Alisha stated that the Ojai NfL's mission is to ensure, through community partnerships, that the Ojai Valley's children aged from zero to five years start their lives in a nurturing, compassionate and thoughtful environment. She discussed the NfL programs in relation to the five protective factors. Alicia highlighted how the NfL builds social connections within the community through activities such as Ojai Valley Family Week. She discussed the focus on knowledge of parenting and child development through multiple family forums held throughout the year. She highlighted how the NfL addresses concrete supports in times of need through service outreach in partnership with numerous community organizations

and also with NfL-sponsored scholarships for tuition assistance. Alisha discussed their work on building the social, emotional competence of children through the kindergarten transition program, the READ program and Parent and Child Together (PACT) classes held throughout the school year. She reported on their work to build parent resilience through intensive parent education classes taught in monolingual Spanish. Alisha ended her presentation and commented how she sees the success of the NfL growing through the years and hears exciting and positive feedback from parents involved in the programs.

Commissioner Stenslie asked how many kids are reached through the tuition assistance program. Alisha stated that the program reaches approximately 50-60 kids annually and commented that many of the scholarships are partial assistance. Chair Dominguez asked what feedback has been received on the monolingual classes. Alisha stated that the Spanish speaking families are requesting that the NfL offer more monolingual classes and added that the majority of classes have both parents in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of April 30, 2014**
- 7. Recommendation to authorize extension of FY 2013-14 contract for Persimmony data system configuration and implementation.**
- 8. Recommendation to rollover funding for Commission’s website re-design**
- 9. Recommendation to rollover funding for evaluation consultant services to assist in refining Commission’s evaluation plan**

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

REGULAR AGENDA

10. Report of Committees

a. Program Committee

- (1.) Approval of funding, selection of a contractor and delegation of authority to Executive Director to enter into an agreement for the development of Help Me Grow Ventura County

Commissioner Hatfield briefed the Commission on the review process for the submitted applications and complimented the members of the review committee for their engagement. Commissioner Hatfield commented that the Committee discussed the strengths of the application and identified areas for further development. She turned the presentation over to Deanna Handel to present the recommendation.

Deanna reported that this RfQ will support the local development of the Help Me Grow model which connects children at risk for, or experiencing, developmental

delays with services they need. She noted that two applications were received. She stated that the applications were read and scored by independent readers, but only the application from the Landon Pediatric Foundation, in partnership with Ventura County Public Health, met the minimum score of 80 points required to be considered for funding by a review committee. She reported that a review committee met to discuss the Landon Pediatric Foundation application. She discussed the strengths of the application identified by the group along with a review of the identified needs for further development of strategies to reach populations outside of existing systems, engagement of new partners, training and capacity building for 211, and sustainability strategies.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hatfield, seconded by Commissioner Stenslie, to select Landon Pediatric Foundation as the contractor to support the development of Help Me Grow Ventura County and to grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into annual agreements with Landon Pediatric Foundation for July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015 in the amount of \$150,000. Contracts would be renewed on an annual basis subject to performance. No new allocations would be required as the increase is supported by Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant supplemental funds. The motion was approved unanimously.

11. Recommendation to Adopt Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Claudia Harrison briefed the Commission on the budget presentations to the Board of Supervisors and the Community Commission of Ventura County. She reported that an abridged version of the Family Strengthening video was shown to the Board of Supervisors and the Community Commission and was well received. She noted that the budget was received by both entities with great support for the work of First 5 and without any recommended modifications.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantoath, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to adopt the budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Review of First 5 Ventura County Strategic Plan, FY 2010-2015, in compliance with Health and Safety Code Section 130140

Claudia Harrison summarized the statutory requirements for an annual review of the current strategic plan. She noted the current plan was adopted in September 2010, with this being the third funding year. She reviewed the vision, mission, and guiding principles along with the identified outcomes, major investments and results in each of the areas. She reviewed the elements of the evaluation frameworks. She highlighted the allocation of resources for the Commission's initiatives and demonstrated the extensive leveraging that has taken place. She stated that staff feels the plan continues to reflect the needs in the county. She ended her presentation by stating that the Commission will be entering into strategic planning in the coming months for a new plan to be implemented in 2016.

Commissioner Gollub asked if the Commission is involved in parent literacy. Claudia answered that in the early years there were more adult literacy programs through the NfLs but many of these strategies have been discontinued due to funding constraints and the availability of other resources. Commissioner Gollub commented on the need to place more effort on prevention of fetal toxic effects to reduce developmental delays and he hopes to explore this strategy in future strategic planning sessions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to receive and file the First 5 Ventura County Strategic Plan, FY 2010-2015. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Strategic Planning Discussion

Claudia Harrison presented a proposed workplan for upcoming strategic planning based on feedback at the May Commission meeting. She commented that staff incorporated specific program areas that were mentioned at that meeting. She walked the Commission through the document, highlighting the target completion dates and discussing the planning process. She noted that staff would play a key facilitator role in the process with consideration for bringing on an outside facilitator when key decisions are being made. Staff is also recommending consultants with additional expertise in topical goal areas and in service delivery systems and sustainability. She asked for feedback on the proposed timelines. Chair Dominguez commented that the workplan reflects a nice balance and is looking forward to further exploration of the service areas with an outside consultant. Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill commented that she would like to see the word “prevention” and “trauma-informed care” implemented into the plan. Commissioner Mantooth commented that he feels that incorporating “proactive” into the wording would be beneficial, but the vision and mission should be simple and broad enough to incorporate many interpretations.

14. Report from Executive Director

Claudia Harrison referred to her written report and provided an update on contract renewal, reporting that all 23 funded partner contracts were issued by June 6, 2014. She noted that the new process for multi-year contracting which was implemented in FY 2013-14 has brought greater efficiencies to workflows for both funded partners and Commission staff. She provided an overview of contract changes. She highlighted ongoing activities and successful partnerships at the Neighborhoods for Learning. She provided a QRIS Implementation update, reporting an increase of participating early education sites from 75 in FY 2013-14 to 116 in FY 2014-15. She discussed how Regional Health Educators (Ventura County Public Health) in the Moorpark/Simi Valley region have been working to offer teen parents information on child development and developmental screenings. She reported on the Oxnard Good for Kids (GFK) Restaurant Week and Ventura’s Summerfest 2014, noting that staff interacted with 500 parents and gave out 450 *Lee the Bee Turn Off that TV* books at the event. In the area of Results Based Accountability, she discussed progress with the transition to the Persimmony data collection software system. She concluded her overview of Commission Initiatives with an update on developing a point-in-time parent survey along with a series of program survey tools to be used by funded partners for continuous quality improvement.

She continued with an overview of County, Regional and National updates. She reviewed the State Final Budget bill that proposes strategic investments in early childhood education in an amount of \$264 million to increase quality in existing programs and expand access. She noted that this represents the largest investment for young children and their education that California has had in over a decade. She reported on the ECE Coalition which is comprised of ECE stakeholders, representing labor, business, providers, early education groups, First 5 California and the First 5 Association, all of whom worked together to submit a set of recommendations to Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, Chair of Legislative Budget Conference Committee. She reported that in 24 hours, over 200 organizations had signed on to this united call for action. She concluded her report with upcoming events and highlights from provider anecdotes.

15. Commission Member Comments

Commissioner Gollub asked if staff could bring copies of the *Lee the Bee Turn Off that TV* book to the next meeting.

Commissioner Hatfield commented on her visit to the ABC Preschool in Fillmore and noted she was very impressed with the facility and the overall program environment.

16. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 17, 2014, at the Ventura County Office of Education, on 5100 Adolfo Dr., in Camarillo.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.