

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

March 21, 2013

Commissioners Present: Meloney Roy, Stan Mantooh, Bruce Stenslie, Robert Levin, Michael Gollub, Kathy Long, Ida Hatfield

Excused Absence: Reyna Dominguez

Staff Present: Claudia Harrison, Kathy Rangel, Charlotte Torres, Deanna Handel, Jennifer Johnson, Robin Godfrey, Petra Puls, Heather Hanna

Public Present: Linda Bays, Rafaela Frausto, Jack Hinojosa, Mary Linn Daehlin, Cindy Reed, Luann Rocha, Joseph Castañeda

1. Welcome

Vice Chair Stenslie opened the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from February 21, 2013

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Hatfield, to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2013 Commission meeting. The motion carried with Commissioner Roy abstaining.

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 Roy, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence

There were no comments from the public.

Vice Chair Stenslie announced that the agenda would be re-ordered, with the presentation moved to Item 8 to accommodate the presenter's arrival.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of January 31, 2013

6. Ratification of Committee Members

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

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Public Hearing on the First 5 California (State Commission) Annual Report for FY 2011-12

Claudia Harrison presented an overview of the report and reviewed key findings. She briefed the Commission on First 5 California's goals and highlights from fiscal year 2011-12. She reported that State Commission revenues totaled \$93.4 million for the fiscal year and noted that the State audit was free of any negative findings. Claudia presented an overview of First 5 California programs including: Child Signature Program, Teacher Signature Program and the Parent Signature Program. She noted that the State reported that more than 4,200 teachers in 34 counties participated in the CARES Plus program. She moved onto the First 5 County Commission program result areas: Family Functioning, Child Development, Child Health, and Systems of Care. She mentioned that First 5 Ventura County services mirror those across the state although Ventura County implements the services in a slightly different way.

Commissioner Gollub asked about the mention of adults being served in the report, particularly in the area of oral health. Claudia noted that parent services under oral health would generally refer to parent education.

Commissioner Mantooth commented that some of the graphs or graphics can be confusing when referring to services for adults and that some members of the public could misconstrue the information to say that children are not being fully served so greater explanation should be taken to educate the public.

Vice Chair Stenslie opened the public hearing on the First 5 California Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12. There were no public comments. Vice Chair Stenslie closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Mantooth, to receive and file the First 5 California Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Presentation on The Children's Movement of California

Claudia Harrison introduced Kate Anderson, Los Angeles Director for Children Now to present on The Children's Movement. Kate stated that Children Now is a statewide research, policy and advocacy organization which deals exclusively with the umbrella of issues that impact our children. She noted that Children Now's policy and advocacy expertise has led to significant, tangible changes that have improved millions of children's lives. She stated that they are non-partisan in order to harness the full power of the universal support for children. She discussed their goal to align opposing viewpoints on the powerful platform of doing what's best for children by means of The Children's Movement. She highlighted what it means to join The Children's Movement, how policy updates are provided and emphasized that all participating members have the ability to opt-in to the campaigns they want. She concluded her presentation and asked that

the Commission give consideration to joining the movement and partnering to build the critical mass needed to move issues in the legislature that affect our children.

Commissioner Long asked if there have been any organizations that want to participate but might not be considered appropriate. Kate discussed how they have not found an organization that is inappropriate as of yet and how they have gained traction through the “non-traditional” members of the community who have contributed to their success. Commissioner Mantooth asked how the organization respects an individual agency’s right to step away from certain platforms they disagree with. Kate answered that a ten point agenda has been structured for this reason so that agencies can choose which issues they could take positions on.

9. Recommendation to Apply for First 5 California CARES Plus Program Funding

Petra reviewed First 5 California’s Request for Application announcing the availability of matching funds for Round 2 of the Comprehensive Approach to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Plus program. She briefed the Commission on the original CARES program that was launched in FY 2000-01 and noted that First 5 Ventura County has participated in this matching funds program since its inception. She reported that in December 2012, the First 5 Ventura County Commission approved a \$265,000 CARES Plus annual allocation for FY 2013-14 through FY 2015-16 in anticipation of the State matching fund leveraging opportunity. She added that with this new RfA, First 5 California would continue to match local county investments for that same time period, up to \$300,000 per year; it is anticipated that First 5 Ventura County could leverage up to \$90,000 per year for the next three years in matching funds. She stated that a Letter of Intent is due to First 5 California by March 26, 2013 and a full application is due on May 10, 2013. She noted that staff will work closely with the current CARES Plus implementation partner, the Ventura County Office of Education, to develop the CARES Plus application.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hatfield, seconded by Commissioner Levin, to apply for CARES Plus Round 2 program funds to support local CARES Plus programming for July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016. The motion passed with Commissioner Mantooth abstaining.

10. Recommendation to grant authority to Executive Director to continue contract with Economic Development Collaborative - Ventura County to manage and implement the Community Investment Loan Fund

Petra Puls stated that in 2009 the Commission approved the initial recommendation to select the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County (EDC-VC) as the implementation partner for the Community Investment Loan Fund (CLIF). She stated the administrative costs associated with managing and implementing the Community Investment Loan Fund for FY 2013-14 are projected to be \$29,656. She reviewed the previously approved allocation of \$1,125,000 in loan funds for the CLIF. She stated that one loan was issued last fiscal year, which created 64 new early education spaces for children ages 0-5 in Fillmore. Staff is anticipating that additional loans will be approved in FY 2013-14.

Commissioner Levin asked how many new preschool spaces are generated by this fund. Petra answered that this loan fund recently assisted an individual in opening a center-based program in

an under-served area which contributed to 64 new spaces in Fillmore. She added that in recent years, there has been a decrease in spaces due to state budget cuts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Levin, to grant authority to the Executive Director to continue to contract with the Economic Development Collaborative - Ventura County (EDC-VC) to administer and implement the Community Investment Loan Fund for FY 2013-14, not to exceed \$1,154,656. The contract amount would provide funds for EDC-VC to issue up to \$1,125,000 in loans to eligible Community Investment Loan Fund applicants under the previously approved loan guidelines. The motion passed with Commissioner Long and Commissioner Stenslie abstaining.

11. Review of funding award for El Centrito Family Learning Centers for Preschool Expansion

Claudia briefed the Commission on the review process for the Request for Application (RFA) for Preschool/Childcare Expansion released in September 2012. Following the review process, the Commission approved funding for 96 new preschool spaces, with 48 spaces to be operated by El Centrito Learning Center in an existing classroom at the Ocean View School District's Early Education Center. She stated that during the contract negotiation process, El Centrito staff was informed that circumstances relative to the facility had changed and that the implementation partner, the Ocean View School District, required that El Centrito only serve 2 year olds in this new program. She noted that several discussions had been held with El Centrito and the Commission's legal counsel to determine the impact of this change. She added that as the original application was written for preschool services, the proposal to serve only 2 year olds represents a change in scope. Legal counsel determined that this is a material change which would need to be reconsidered by the Commission.

Commissioner Hatfield asked if the applicant is capable of serving the two year old population and if they will have parent involvement. Luann Rocha, Executive Director of El Centrito, discussed how the organization is prepared to serve 2 year olds and their plans for parent involvement and education.

A motion was made by Commissioner Levin, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to approve the operation of one classroom (24 spaces) which would serve only 2 year old children. The recommended action would also grant authority to the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with El Centrito Family Learning Center of up to \$89,124 annually for July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Report from Executive Director

Claudia referred to her written report and highlighted administrative operations, mentioning the April 1, 2013 deadline for filing the Form 700 Annual Statements of Economic Interest. She provided an update on the funded partners convening where improvements to contracting practices and review processes were very well received. She reported on continued progress with Commission initiatives. She highlighted ongoing activities at local Neighborhoods for Learning. She reported on the Countywide Strategies noting the breastfeeding project held a second regional hospital consortium meeting in February with representatives from St. Johns, Ventura County Medical Center, Community Memorial Hospital and Los Robles, all of whom are actively driving

the process at their facilities. She updated the Commission on Healthy Ventura County and progress in Oral Health Preventive Care. She reported that the FY 2011-12 Evaluation Report findings are being used to inform changes to FY 2012-13 Evaluation Benchmarks and Frameworks and staff is considering how the evaluation process can be simplified to better inform the Commission, funded partners and the public on the reach and impact of First 5 Ventura County investments.

She continued her report with an update on County, Regional and National events. She highlighted the launch of a fourth Born Learning Trail in the county which will be located at the Westpark Community Center in Ventura. She commented on the appointment of Heather Hanna, First 5 Resource Development Coordinator, to the Board of the United Way of Ventura County, as the Young Leaders Society representative. She reported on SB 402 which would require all California hospitals to become Baby Friendly by 2020, or adopt an equivalent process recognized by the California Department of Public Health. She ended her report with an update on upcoming events, current media and referred to the provider anecdotes.

13. Commission Member Comments

Commissioner Roy distributed growth charts and encouraged people to visit Ventura County Behavioral Health's website www.wellnesseveryday.org.

Commissioner Hatfield distributed the Children's Home Society Spring Newsletter.

Commissioner Mantooth commented on the Ventura County Star's insert *Focus on Education* that highlights the linkages of agencies in our county. He also thanked El Centrito for the invitation to read to the children in the program.

14. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2013, at the Oxnard School District, at 1051 South A Street., in Oxnard.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.