

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

August 15, 2013

Commissioners Present: Reyna Dominguez, Meloney Roy, Robert Levin, Stan Mantooth, Michael Gollub, Kathy Long, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill

Excused Absence: Ida Hatfield, Bruce Stenslie

Staff Present: Claudia Harrison, Kathy Rangel, Charlotte Torres, John Anderson, Deanna Handel, Heather Hanna

Public Present: There were no sign-ins.

1. Welcome

Chair Dominguez opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

2. Welcome Barbara Marquez-O'Neill as the New Commissioner Appointed by Supervisor Steve Bennett

Chair Dominguez introduced Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, appointee of Supervisor Steve Bennett. She discussed Barbara's involvement with First 5 since the original strategic planning days in 1999. She noted that Barbara was an original member of the Program Committee and has continuously served on our Program and Family Strengthening Committees as well as participated on countless review committees. She highlighted Barbara's strong partnership with First 5 while working as an independent consultant for violence prevention and her work as a long-time active leader in the Partnership for Safe Families and in the Oxnard Alliance. Barbara expressed that she was excited to be involved with an organization that mirrors her commitment to strengthening families. The Commissioners expressed their delight in having Barbara join the Commission and how they all look forward to her participation.

3. Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2013

A motion was made by Commissioner Roy, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2013 Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets

Claudia Harrison provided an overview of the supplemental packet.

Chair Dominguez announced that the agenda will need to be re-ordered due to time constraints, and that Items 8 through 12 would be heard prior to the presentations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roy, seconded by Commissioner Mantooth, to approve the agenda as re-ordered. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments/Correspondence

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 8. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of May 31, 2013**
- 9. Recommendation to allow extension of one-time use of funds for early learning resource materials for homeless shelters**

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

REGULAR AGENDA

- 10. Recommendation to approve revised FY 2013-14 allocation amount for the Santa Clara Valley Neighborhood for Learning (NfL)**

Claudia Harrison stated that in FY 2011-12, the Commission had updated the data used in the NfL allocation formula. She commented that by using the updated data, there were proportional shifts in allocations among NfLs, with 4 of the 11 NfLs demonstrating the need for additional funding. Increased allocations were approved for three of the four NfLs: Conejo, Hueneme and Rio. She added that the allocation for the fourth NfL, Santa Clara Valley, was not increased pending a determination of their capacity to fully utilize their existing allocation. She noted that there has been an increase in the NfL's utilization; they utilized 91% of their allocation in FY 2011-12 and, based on recent expenditure reports, the total expenditures for FY 2012-13 are anticipated to be 95% or higher. She commented that staff has been working with the NfL to determine how additional funding would be used to support higher needs in the Santa Clara Valley.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to increase the FY 2013-14 allocation amount for the Santa Clara Valley NfL by \$45,225 to support programming that addresses higher levels of need. The approval of the recommendation also authorizes the Executive Director to enter into an amended FY 2013-14 contract with the Fillmore Unified School District for a total amount up to \$599,540. The motion carried with Commissioner Dominguez abstaining.

- 11. Recommendation to approve revised FY 2013-14 funding allocation for Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) for the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Program**

Claudia Harrison stated that in December 2012, the Commission approved a FY 2013-14 program funding allocation for VCOE in the amount of \$1,580,000. She explained that there are unspent funds from FY 2012-13 as a result of delays on behalf of the state and, because of this, the participating programs were not able to fully utilize their quality improvement incentives. She stated that the approved rollover of state and federal funds would increase the line items for program participation and quality improvement incentives, training, and technical assistance. She added that staff anticipates some additional prior year unspent federal and state funds, which would be brought to the Commission at a later date.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Levin, to increase the FY 2013-14 allocation amount for the Ventura County Office of Education for implementing the QRIS Program. The approved action also gives authority to the Executive Director to enter into an amended FY 2013-14 contract with the Ventura County Office of Education, in an amount not to exceed \$1,940,000.00. No new allocation of funds would be required as the increase is supported by prior year unspent federal and state grant funds. The motion carried with Commissioner Mantooth and Commissioner Dominguez abstaining.

12. Recommendation to authorize extension to evaluation contract with EMT Associates, Inc.

Claudia Harrison stated that in 2010, the Commission selected Evaluation, Management, and Training Associates, Inc. (EMT) as the contractor to produce the First 5 Ventura County annual evaluation reports for FY 2009-10 through FY 2011-12 and that the current agreement with EMT ended on June 30, 2013. She added that a six month extension is sought to allow EMT's completion of one outstanding deliverable relative to the Preschool for All evaluation, and to fully implement the scope of work related to evaluation consultation services.

Commissioner Mantooth asked if staff anticipates working with this consultant in the future and if there were any concerns around project deadlines or any other underlying circumstance. Claudia answered that there could be considerations for future work but that the completion of deliverables would be taken into account.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Levin, to authorize an extension of the FY 2012-13 agreement with EMT through December 31, 2013 to complete all contract deliverables. No new allocations would be needed. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Presentation: Oral Health Services

John Anderson introduced Betty Lane, DDS, Executive Director, and Mark Lisagor, DDS, Board President, of the Santa Barbara-Ventura Counties Dental Foundation to present an overview of the Oral Health program and Oral Health Collaborative. Betty highlighted services provided in the oral health program and spoke about the collaboration between the Foundation and First 5 Ventura County with the purchase of the mobile dental van that allows dentists to give treatment at the school sites. She briefed the Commission on the two most common dental diseases, tooth decay and gum disease, which are both preventable and she reviewed the consequences of poor oral health in children. She highlighted services provided by the Mobile Dental Clinic commenting that the staff works with each Neighborhood for Learning to customize the services and schedules for each site. She indicated that the Foundation's goal is to recruit more general dentists to see young children ages 0-5 years, particularly children at one year of age or when the first tooth erupts, with the hope of developing a dental home for the child. She reported on services funded by First 5 Ventura County in FY 2012-2013 with 349 parents having received oral health education, 1,240 screenings provided, 294 prevention and restorative services completed, and, 3,456 fluoride varnish applications completed. Betty concluded her report noting that prevention is the key to children's oral health and turned the presentation over to Dr. Lisagor.

Dr. Lisagor summarized the establishment of the Ventura County Children's Oral Health Collaborative. He provided an overview of the goals to address the lack of education about oral health and to improve access to oral health care in the county. He stated that First 5 was a pioneer in recognizing that resources are needed to fund education and prevention and he added that First 5 was crucial in establishing oral health education at birth. He commented that this effort has spotlighted oral health as an integral part of a child's overall wellness. He reported on the first Children's Oral Health Summit held in collaboration with United Way of Ventura County, First 5 Ventura County, Ventura County Health Care Agency, and Ventura County Public Health along with a broad spectrum of non-profits. He discussed the development of a strategic plan and also workgroups which focus on developing the various areas of the plan. He concluded his report by thanking First 5 for championing children's oral health in Ventura County.

Commissioner Levin commented that he had been ambivalent about the purchase of the dental van in the beginning and thanked them for the immense utilization of the vehicle.

Commissioner Gollub asked if the van's utilization could be increased to five days-a-week, with one day in East County. Dr. Lisagor stated that the fifth day is necessary for maintenance and stocking of the van. Commissioner Gollub asked if there were possibilities to encourage more dentist participation. Dr. Lisagor stated that there are ample amounts of dentists and the program could benefit from additional vehicles and/or sites.

Commissioner Mantooth asked if there was data to show the unmet need currently prevalent in the county. Dr. Lisagor and Betty Lane answered that an accurate oral health needs assessment has not been conducted.

Commissioner Long commented on exploring ideas of reaching more at-risk populations through involvement with Ventura County Boys and Girls Clubs.

Claudia Harrison thanked the two presenters for their wonderful partnership over the years and through the Oral Health Collaborative. She commented that First 5's investment in oral health services also includes funding for programs provided by Clinicas Del Camino Real and the Ventura County Public Health Department.

7. Presentation: Highlights of Pleasant Valley Neighborhood for Learning (NfL) Programming

Charlotte Torres introduced Rafaela Frausto, NfL Director for the Pleasant Valley Neighborhood for Learning, to present highlights of their programming. Charlotte commented on Rafaela's exceptional communication and promotion of the NfL and its services. Rafaela stated that the Pleasant Valley Neighborhood for Learning (PV NfL) serves all of Camarillo and Somis with a staff of five. She noted that although the NfL does not operate a preschool, the NfL partners with the Pleasant Valley School District and provides 48 preschool scholarships. She stated that the PACT (Parent And Child Together) program is the main focus of the NfL and provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. She highlighted that the PV NfL served 523 parents and children in FY 2012-13, and of those, 71% of children served were under the age of 3. She discussed infant/toddler support services which include: prenatal classes; new parent support groups; resources and child development information; infant massage; baby sign language; and, lactation support. She highlighted the NfL's parent support and education sessions and discussed various partnerships with Interface Children & Family Services, Public Health, Amigo Babies, Preschool Early Education Program (PEEP), and Clinicas del Camino Real. She commented on the NfL Family Fun Nights which are offered in the evenings at different schools for the entire family. She concluded her presentation with a video of testimonials from 2 parents who reflect on their experiences with the PV NfL program.

Commissioner Long complimented the NfL for all the wonderful work that is generated from a small to mid-size NfL and commented on how pleased she is to see the community embracing this program.

13. Report from Executive Director

Claudia Harrison referred to her written report and provided an update on administrative operations. She congratulated Heather Hanna, Resource Development Manager, who will be a recipient of this year's Young Leaders Society award at the United Way awards luncheon, in recognition of her community service. Claudia also reported on new additions to First 5 staff: Community Education Coordinator, Diana Arellano, and Communications Assistant, Nani Oesterle. She stated that the Commission's pre-audit meeting was held with the Auditors and Administration/Finance Committee, established as the Commission's Audit Committee, to prepare for the Commission's annual audit scheduled to begin in September. She provided an update on Commission Initiatives with an overview of NfL activities. She reported on the conclusion of a year-long 5 Protective Factors training and peer review process at local Neighborhoods for Learning. She highlighted countywide strategies, noting that Landon Pediatric Foundation plans to submit an application to become a Help Me Grow site, affiliated with the national

network. She reported on planning efforts underway at Ventura County Public Health to implement the 4Ps Plus into the prenatal care setting at Kaiser. Claudia reported on the continued work in Obesity Prevention commenting on the hospital consortium for breastfeeding promotion, provider trainings, and the Good for Kids restaurant program on Ventura Avenue. She provided a QRIS Implementation update noting that 84% of participating programs achieved a Tier 3 or higher rating which demonstrated that a vast majority of the programs are of good to excellent quality. She reported that a second Community Investment Loan Fund is being finalized which would enable the Princeton Montessori School in Moorpark to add a new infant/toddler classroom for 14 children.

Claudia continued with an overview of County, Regional and National Updates. She reported on the final State budget which saw very modest restorations for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) sector which has experienced over \$1 billion in cuts since the recession began in 2008. She concluded her report with upcoming events scheduled and highlights from provider anecdotes.

14. Commission Member Comments

There were no comments from the Commissioners.

15. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, September 19, 2013, at the Rio School District, at 2500 Vineyard Ave., in Oxnard.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.