

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

September 19, 2013

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

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

Public Present: Noemi Valdes, Patricia Cervantes, Suzanne Godinez, Claudia Arias

1. Welcome

Chair Dominguez opened the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from August 15, 2013 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Long, to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2013 Commission meeting. The motion passed with Commissioner Hatfield abstaining.

3. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets

Claudia Harrison provided an overview of the supplemental packet.

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

4. Public Comments/Correspondence

There was no public comment.

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

Claudia Harrison introduced Amy Mills, NfL Coordinator at the Rio Neighborhood for Learning, to present program highlights. Amy noted that the Rio Neighborhood for Learning (NfL) serves families with children living in the Rio School District. She highlighted NfL program accomplishments for FY 2012-13, reporting they have served a total of 210 children and 374 parents in the Rio area. She reviewed the family strengthening, early learning and services that the NfL provides to the Mixteco population. She provided an overview of Pre-K articulation offered to parents to aid them with their vital role in their child's healthy physical and academic development. Amy discussed how the Rio NfL sustains family success through providing a network of family support. She highlighted the vast array of partnerships the NfL works closely with to connect families to available services. She reviewed the work with the Mixteco community and how the NfL works with the promotores to create a bridge from the community to school systems along with assisting with family communication.

6. Presentation: Early Obesity Prevention Strategies for FY 2013-14

Robin Godfrey, Director of Communications, Education and Development, presented an overview of the Early Obesity Prevention project. She discussed staff's current strategies for "*making the healthy choice the default choice for local children and families.*" Robin discussed how obesity has become a widespread and costly issue and reviewed how obesity impacts children's physical and social health which lingers long into adulthood and can also affect children's performance in school. Robin highlighted First 5 Ventura County's investments in obesity prevention, reviewing the multi-faceted approach with outreach, systems improvements, capacity building, classes and programs, and working with multiple obesity prevention partners to align our work. She provided a snapshot of the Commission's in obesity inclusive of educational materials, educational campaigns, Public Health Educators, and grant funded projects. She highlighted First 5's role in Healthy Ventura County with website management, trainings for collaboration along with having dedicated in-house staff for support, communication and media.

Commissioner Gollub asked if staff will incorporate hotlinks to partner sites into the new website design. Robin answered that staff hopes to incorporate as many links as possible.

Commissioner Hatfield commented about research conducted that defines obesity as a disease. Robin commented that she hopes that this discovery will lead to funding to combat this disease.

Claudia commented that in addition to the significant investment of the Commission, leveraged funding has allowed First 5 to make substantial progress.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Recommendation to Change Location of Ventura Unified School District Preschool Program, funded by First 5 Ventura County in FY 2012-13

Claudia Harrison provided a brief overview of the Request for Application (RFA) for Preschool/Childcare Expansion, released back in September 2012, when the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) was awarded funding for a preschool session at Portola Elementary School and began serving 24 children in January 2013. She reported that the FY 2013-14 State Preschool program funding reduced in prior years was partially restored and the Ventura Unified School District was successfully awarded restoration funds for a previously eliminated State Preschool classroom at Portola Elementary. She added that since the restored State Preschool funds are site-specific, VUSD identified an alternative location at the Saticoy Elementary school, which would be co-located with the Ventura NfL's satellite Family Resource Center and the district's special education services for children from ages 3-5.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooh, seconded by Commissioner Hatfield, to approve the recommendation to change the location of the previously approved preschool program from Portola Elementary School to Saticoy Elementary School, as State Preschool funding for the Portola preschool site has become available to the district. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Review and Discussion of Evaluation Frameworks

Claudia Harrison presented changes to the evaluation system for review and discussion. She stated that the current frameworks are tied to each of the nine outcomes in our strategic plan, and each framework defines a set of evaluation questions and performance benchmarks that measure success toward achieving the desired outcomes. She added that these frameworks generally align with contractual service provisions which largely measure accountability for funded partners. She discussed the current data collection, GEMS, and the Annual Evaluation Report compiled by an external evaluator. Claudia reviewed the drivers for change: cost; limitations of outcome tools; and, better communication of results. She stated that it is staff's hope that coupling the current accountability frameworks with a few selected indicators could better enable the Commission to communicate progress in each of its three major goal areas.

Claudia continued her overview of staff recommendations on improving the data collection system, refining frameworks and revising outcome data collection. She commented that First 5 staff is currently working with other GEMS counties to develop a common platform in hopes of reducing overall long-term costs and developing a more user-friendly system. Claudia introduced Petra Puls to present the recommended changes to the current accountability frameworks. Petra highlighted proposed changes to decrease the number of benchmarks and to better align with funder partner service provisions. Claudia added that in addition to the changes to the accountability frameworks, staff proposes to develop an evaluation framework that tracks selected indicators in relation to the Commission's three key goals to communicate overall results more effectively. Staff also proposed revising outcome data collection by identifying which outcome tools yield the best measure of progress and eliminating other tools. She discussed revising the frequency of data collection and implementing "point in time" parent surveys and "exit" assessments for children entering Kindergarten. Finally, staff recommends implementing program improvement questionnaires. Claudia provided next steps for moving forward with the annual evaluation report. She asked the Commissioners to weigh-in on the proposed recommendations, adding that staff would need approval of the accountability frameworks to discontinue the outcome surveys that would not be used in the FY 2013-14 evaluation.

Commissioner Stenslie commented that he saw this new direction of evaluation as an improvement in communicating the work of First 5 to the general public. Chair Dominguez like the idea of simplifying the data collection process and the idea of quality improvement and changes to the outcome measures. Commissioner Hatfield commented that she would like to see certain quality standards across NfLs to ensure that there are no underlying factors that are insignificant but could skew the data. Commissioner Roy asked if there will be consistency across NfLs related to the types of data collected to have a countywide picture. Claudia commented that there could be differences because there are differences in some services but that generally this will allow the Commission to communicate what is core across programs. Commissioner Hatfield asked if staff has considered a mid-level assessment conducted by the Kindergarten teacher. Claudia discussed the various challenges in implementing Kindergarten assessments but she commented that she hopes this goal can be achieved in the future.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Hatfield, to approve the recommended changes to the accountability frameworks for FY 2013-14 with recognition that funded partners will no longer be required to collect many of the current outcome surveys. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Report from Executive Director

Claudia Harrison provided an update on Administrative Operations, reporting on the finalization of FY 2011-12 internal audits and also noted that the FY 2012-13 Annual Audit is underway. She provided an update on Commission initiatives with an overview of NfL activities and countywide strategies, inclusive of health educators, MICOP, obesity prevention and preschool quality rating and improvement. She stated that California has received a RTT-ELC supplemental grant award and it is anticipated that Ventura County will subsequently be eligible for a supplemental award of up to \$798,000.

She continued her report with an overview of County, Regional and National updates. She discussed the Fight Crime: Invest in Kids report and provided a legislative update. She provided highlights from Covered California who announced that insurers have signed contracts to offer pediatric dental coverage in 2014 in the Exchange's individual and small-group employer markets. Claudia concluded her report with an update of upcoming events and reference to provider anecdotes.

10. Commission Member Comments

There were no comments from the Commissioners.

The Commission went into closed session to discuss the performance evaluation of the Executive Director at 3:04 p.m.

11. Performance Review of Employee

The Commission returned to open session at 3:02 p.m.

12. Discussion and Consideration of Changes to Executive Director's Objectives, Performance Goals, and Compensation for Fiscal Year 2012-13

Chair Dominguez stated that the Commission discussed the performance evaluation. The Commission recommended a 5% increase in compensation for the Executive Director.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, and seconded by Commissioner Roy, to approve the Executive Director's objectives, performance goals and compensation for FY 2013-14. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2013, at the Ventura County Office of Education, on 5100 Adolfo Dr., in Camarillo.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.