

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

June 16, 2016

Commissioners Present: Bruce Stenslie, Stan Mantooth, Dr. Michael Gollub, Barry Zimmerman, Dr. Carola Matera, Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Dr. Robert Levin

Excused Absence: Kathy Long, Dr. Cesar Morales

Staff Present: Claudia Harrison, Amy Schroeder, Deanna Handel, Nani Oesterle, Heather Hanna, Petra Puls, John Anderson, Sam McCoy

Public Present: Rafaela Frausto, Cindy Reed, Linda Bays, Dawn Anderson

OPENING

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2016

A motion was made by Commissioner Stenslie, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2016 Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets

Chair Stenslie noted that two items were inadvertently left off of the noticed agenda, the Report from the Executive Director and Commissioner Comments. He indicated that following Item Number 9, the Executive Director will present a brief overview of her written report and we will subsequently move to Commissioner Comments.

Claudia Harrison provided an overview of the supplemental packet.

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

4. Public Comments/Correspondence

There were no comments from the public.

5. Presentation – Help Me Grow Ventura County Poster Session and Current Activities

Claudia Harrison introduced Cindy Reed, Program Coordinator, Help Me Grow Ventura County (HMG), Landon Pediatric Foundation, and recognized Cindy for her leadership of the HMG collaborative. Cindy provide a brief overview of HMG, stating that Ventura has been an affiliate since 2013. She commented that the major goal of HMG VC is to locally promote best practices

around developmental screening to build capacity throughout the county. Cindy provided an overview of the Developmental Screening Tool Kit created for early education settings.

Cindy reported on the HMG poster session at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs National Conference held in DC, one 20 posters presented to over 800 attendees. She highlighted the dual messaging in the poster, about our local collaborative work and the toolkit. Cindy indicated that attendees commented on Ventura's ability to collaborate with the Office of Education and local school districts.

Cindy reviewed next steps for HMG which include evaluation, a tool kit for medical settings and Spanish translation. She commented on the ongoing performance improvement project with Gold Coast Health Plan and Community Memorial Hospital and the collaborative's work in involving parents and creating a centralized access line. Cindy recognized Linda Bays and her team from Ventura County Public Health for their continued support and hard work.

Chair Stenslie congratulated Cindy on her leadership and recognitions. Commissioner Mantooth referenced a recent article in the Atlantic Magazine about toxic stress, inquiring whether this was a component of the screenings. Cindy replied that they are exploring increased use of the ASQ:SE which screens for social-emotional development, as this has been underutilized in the past.

Commissioner Matera asked if there were any "Reach Out and Read" programs in Ventura clinics. Claudia replied that for a number of years the Commission had funded the Reach Out and Read program through the Landon Pediatric Foundation. She indicated that they had been able to sustain the program for a while but that it eventually become more challenging to do so and that we need to look into what kinds of supports are needed to grow it again.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of April 30, 2016

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

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Report of Committees

a. Administration and Finance Committee

- 1) Recommendation to provide employer contributions up to 7% for employee retirement plan

Chair Stenslie reviewed the Commission's current employee retirement plan which is a SIMPLE IRA with an employer matching contribution of up to 3% of salary. He noted that in this plan the employee maximum contribution is \$12,500 - \$15,500, depending on the age of the contributor. Chair Stenslie stated that staff was asked to look at other options which might have more flexibility in maximum contributions by percent and total dollars committed. He reported that staff identified several options available to us as a

public entity which would allow a higher employer contribution and higher pre-tax levels of contributions by employees. The recommendation is to increase employer contributions to a maximum of 7% whereby the Commission would provide a 3% contribution, regardless of the employee amount, and match an additional amount up to 4% for a total of up to 7%. He noted that this would require a revision to the Employee Handbook. Chair Stenslie indicated that any changes would not take place until the next calendar year with staff being notified later this year. Chair Stenslie complimented Jennifer Johnson on her comprehensive research which can be shared with anyone who would like additional information.

Commissioner Mantooth noted that this is another indicator of how we need to value our staff. He did note that while the maximum on First 5's side is 7%, the employee can contribute whatever amount they elect. Chair Stenslie stated that the proposed change has been budgeted. Commissioner Mantooth also commented on how this will serve as an incentive for staff to save their own money. Chair Stenslie echoed the importance of this action in valuing our employees and aiding in retention.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Matera, to increase the employer contribution to a maximum of 7% and revise the "Employee Retirement Plan" section of the Employee Handbook, effective 1/1/2017. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Program Committee

2) Progress Report

Commissioner Matera reported that the Program Committee met on May 31, 2016, and decided on three meetings per year, with meeting topics changing based on current needs. She noted that this first meeting focused on early learning and had two major topics, the first of which was Parents and Child Together (PACT) best practices, with committee members providing input on the proposed frameworks and categories. Commissioner Matera stated that the committee also discussed in detail barriers to preschool expansion and the current lack of spaces. She commented that First 5 Ventura staff are currently working with a consultant to analyze current preschool data and examine the gaps and potential opportunities for new facilities.

8. Recommendation to Adopt Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17

Claudia Harrison stated that in accordance with our ordinance, the budget was presented to the Community Commission for Ventura County and to the Board of Supervisors for their review and input, on May 23, 2016 and June 7, 2016, respectively. Claudia noted there were no recommended changes or input on the actual budget but that both groups were very supportive of First 5. She stated that Mark Varela, Director of the County Department of Probation, gave a great testimonial on the historically low numbers of juveniles entering the justice system, which he attributed to several reasons, including First 5's work on community engagement and focus on the whole family. She noted that Judge McGee asked that we share our best practices for engaging families with the juvenile justice system. Finally, Claudia reported that the Board of Supervisors

was very interested in the preschool facilities issue. She presented the final budget to the Commission for approval, with no changes from the May budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Matera, seconded by Commissioner Marquez-O’Neill, to adopt the final budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Review of First 5 Ventura County Strategic Plan, FY 2015-2020 in compliance with Health and Safety Code Section 130140

Claudia Harrison summarized the statutory requirements for an annual review of the strategic plan. She noted that the current plan was adopted in June 2015 with the first year of implementation beginning on July 1, 2016. Claudia noted that this is First 5’s first hybrid plan, with an initial three-year funding cycle and significantly different funding levels for years four and five. She reviewed the vision, mission, and guiding principles. Claudia reviewed the goals and the overall progress the Commission has made in these areas. She also highlighted the many needs that exist in the county. Claudia noted that as we move forward in implementing this plan, it will be important to focus on building strong communities that support young children and families. Claudia reviewed the funding framework for the strategic plan. She provided an overview of the evaluation framework, outcomes and indicators which will be used for the first three years of the plan. Claudia indicated that staff is not recommending any changes to the plan and invited comments and questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Mantooth commented on the importance of understanding the impact of stress and trauma, noting that only 3% of children with ACES scores of “0” tend to have learning problems, while children with higher trauma/ACES scores are 70-80% more likely to have learning problems. He noted that 51% of children in the US now qualify for free or reduced lunches. Commissioner Levin reminded the Commission of the large number of preschool slots needed in the county. Commissioner Zimmerman commented that the entire Child Welfare System has evolved to utilizing trauma informed practices. Commissioner Mantooth also noted that having these items imbedded in the plan speaks well for the course charted for the future.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman, to receive and file the First 5 Ventura County Strategic Plan, FY 2015-2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Claudia submitted her written Executive Director’s report and pointed out a few brief highlights relative to 2-1-1, Triple P, Neighborhoods for Learning and the State Budget. She encouraged Commissioners to review the two provider anecdotes.

Chair Stenslie asked for Commissioner comments on the State Budget. Commissioner Mantooth commented that educators were pleased with many of the outcomes, and also pleased that a couple of the Governor’s proposals were rejected. Commissioner Levin commented that major funding was cut from the Adolescent Family Life Program. Commissioner Zimmerman commented that most of the programs have been realigned and that the big debate is in childcare, subsidized

childcare and childcare capacity. Commissioner Matera commented that TK is still on which is very important for all of us.

Commissioner Gollub noted a typo in the article from Limoneira and asked that it be addressed on their website.

10. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2016 at the County Office of Education, at 5100 Adolfo Dr., in Camarillo.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.