

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY  
COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES**

**October 20, 2016**

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

Staff Present: Amy Schroeder, Jennifer Johnson, Petra Puls, Deanna Handel, John Anderson, Sam McCoy, Leah Moore

Public Present: Rafaela Frausto, Linda Bays, Cindy Reed, Noemi Valdez, Lauren Arzu, Mary Linn Daehlin, Patricia Cervantes, Sloane Burt

**OPENING**

**1. Welcome**

Chair Stenslie opened the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2016.**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Matera, to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2016 Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets**

Jennifer Johnson provided an overview of the supplemental packet.

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

**4. Public Comments/Correspondence**

There were no comments from the public.

**5. Presentation: Preschool Gap for 3 and 4 Year Old Children – Jamshid Damooei, Ph.D.**

Petra Puls introduced Jamshid Damooei, PhD who was engaged by First 5 Ventura County to update data from 2008 on preschool supply and demand in Ventura County in order to strategically partner with districts and service providers. Petra noted that while many publicly funded spaces had been cut during the recession, new funding for State Preschool programs became available in the past two years.

Dr. Damooei thanked First 5 for the opportunity to present a summary of his findings and advised that Commission staff has the detailed data file and the full study. He stated that “demand” implies willingness and ability to buy, while “need” does not take into account willingness or ability to buy. Dr. Damooei analyzed the supply within three categories: Head Start, California State Preschool

Program; programs for working poor. He advised that for the purpose of this study, the focus was on the three and four year old population by income categories, as compared to supply to calculate the gap.

Dr. Damooei presented a series of maps that show the existing gaps across zip codes countywide for each particular income category. He then explained that combining the need and supply data for each income category represents an accumulated gap of approximately 11,000 children. Dr. Damooei also analyzed the preschool gap by looking at the overall ratio of unavailable spaces per unit of availability across groups in need. Dr. Damooei presented the graphs and advised that he felt it better illustrated the gap. He presented his analysis on costs as a percentage of family income and information on the return on investment (ROI). In closing, Dr. Damooei offered a summary of his conclusions and possible policy implications.

Commissioner Stenslie thanked Dr. Damooei, and commented on the lack of supply and the extraordinary need. Commissioner Stenslie stated that this study provides guidance for targeting Community Investment Loan Funds to increase the preschool supply in Ventura County. He then asked Dr. Damooei whether there were any findings that were unexpected. Dr. Damooei commented that it was useful to look at income categories that align with publicly funded preschool program eligibility criteria to determine the gap. He stated that it is importance to remember that needs exist for other income levels and that we need to find solutions for all families, including working poor.

Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill asked how often the data should be updated. Dr. Damooei recommended to revisit the data every three years. He also advised that benefits to businesses, such as lower turn-over, need to be considered as part of ROI. Commissioner Mantooth commented on the importance of preschool quality and educating families about quality, especially when their access is limited. Commissioner Matera referenced studies on the benefits of Head Start or full-day programs as compared to programs operating 3 hours per day. She also suggested looking at non-profit partnerships versus private programs. Commissioner Long asked whether this information will become part of the Civic Alliances' State of the Region report. Dr. Damooei indicated that it is at the discretion of First 5 to share the data.

## **6. Public Hearing on Annual Audit and Year-End Report to the First 5 State Commission for FY 2015-16, in compliance with Section 130150 of the Health and Safety Code**

Commissioner Stenslie introduced Jennifer Johnson to present the results of the audit. Jennifer provided an overview of key programmatic activities in FY 2015-16. She noted that the Commission completed implementation of the fifth funding year of the five year strategic plan that was adopted in September 2010, with most program allocations similar to the previous year. She commented that over the 5-year period, the Commission's investment totaled nearly \$60 million dollars.

Jennifer reported that the Commission received \$7.3 million in tobacco tax revenues in FY 2015-16, an increase of \$75,000, or 1% compared to the prior fiscal year. She noted that local Prop 10 funds were successfully leveraged, resulting in \$1.2 million in grant funding. She reported that administrative expenses were 5.1% of operating expenses, well below the established target of 5.5%.

She reported that resources from the Sustainability Fund were drawn upon for the first time, as planned, in order to maintain program services.

Jennifer reported that the auditors issued an unmodified opinion, commonly referred to as a “clean” opinion, on the General Audit of the Financial Statements and Internal Controls. The auditors also issued a clean opinion on the Expanded Audit.

Petra Puls walked the Commission through the components of the Annual Report to the State along with highlights from each section. She reviewed the demographic worksheets which summarize the participants served for each of the outcome areas and shared the breakdown of ethnicity and primary language of participants served. She made note of comparison data from last year in the areas of improved health, improved family functioning, and improved child development.

Petra highlighted several of the Commission’s most compelling outcomes and program accomplishments. She highlighted the Early Learning for Parent and Child Together programming (PACT) and First 5’s national partnership with the Center for the Study of Social Policy to define programmatic standards and best practices. Petra noted the success of the CARES stipends, completing the final year of this early education workforce project in partnership with First 5 California, and preschool quality rating and improvement efforts. She commented on the Children’s Oral Health Collaborative and their efforts to create an integrated, coordinated approach in which existing services have been mapped to inform where any new services should be directed. She highlighted funded partner efforts to convert First 5-funded preschool spaces to State preschool spaces, resulting in the reallocation of funding for setting up new classrooms some to add new spaces. She commented on training and capacity building efforts for funded partners, including shared best practices and learnings. She concluded her overview with highlights from the Commission’s evaluation framework and data collection methods. Commissioner Gollub inquired about the numbers of children served. She explained the extent to which there is duplication in the numbers served, and clarified that the unduplicated counts will be reported in the Commissions' annual evaluation report.

Chair Stenslie opened up the meeting for public comments.

There were no comments from the public.

Chair Stenslie closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Matera, to receive and file the Annual Audit and approve the Year-End Report to the First 5 State Commission for FY 2015-16, in compliance with Section 130150 of the Health and Safety Code. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **7. Review of Highlights from Resource Development Assessment and Consideration of Next Steps**

Commissioner Stenslie discussed First 5 Ventura County’s commitment to expanding partnerships with foundations, businesses, parents, and local leaders in order to make lasting investments in children. He stated that as a result of declining revenues and the depletion of the Sustainability Fund by FY 2018-19, Netzel Grigsby Associates, Inc. was engaged to conduct a resource development assessment and develop a five-year plan. The goals of the plan were to address the sustainability of investments in children, identify First 5 Ventura County’s strengths, challenges and opportunities for

resource development, and to recommend specific actions to build a robust, diverse fund development program. Commissioner Stenslie introduced Commissioner Long and thanked her for serving as the chair of the resource development assessment committee.

Commissioner Long provided an overview of the composition of the assessment committee, data gathered and interviews conducted by the Netzel Grigsby team, and input that was provided throughout the process by the assessment committee. Commissioner Long reported on the key findings of the assessment, conclusions, and recommendations. She noted the potential for resource development and while the probability of securing local tax appears very low, corporate giving appears to provide the best opportunity to expand resources, in addition to gradually building an individual donor base. She highlighted some of the strategies that were recommended, which included: recruiting community volunteers who will partner with staff in building relationships and securing financial support from corporations, foundations, and individuals; preparing an annual case for support and developing a communication plan; and building an organizational culture of philanthropy along with devoting the necessary resources for these efforts. The plan proposed a target goal of \$450,000 in the first year, building to \$1.2 million in year five.

There was a brief discussion on the impact of the pending legislation to increase the tobacco tax and Commissioner Zimmerman inquired about the exploration of other grant opportunities. Commissioner Stenslie recommended the Commission plan a retreat to further discuss the findings, recommendations, and next steps. Staff will survey the availability of Commissioners for a retreat in November or December.

#### **8. Election of new officers to be seated in January – Chair Stenslie**

Chair Stenslie commented that the Chair and Vice-Chair are chosen annually by an election held in October and seated in January of the following year. He noted that the Commission's bylaws call for one-year terms but do not have any term limits.

Chair Stenslie opened up the meeting for nominations.

Commissioner Stenslie nominated Commissioner Mantooth, seconded by Commissioner Long, as Chair of the Commission.

Commissioner Mantooth nominated Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, as Vice-Chair of the Commission.

Chair Stenslie closed the nominations.

**The motions to accept the presented nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for calendar year 2017 passed unanimously.**

#### **9. Report from Commission Staff**

Petra Puls referred to the written report and provided an update on Commission Initiatives. She introduced Leah Moore, F5VC's AmeriCorps VIP Fellow who will set up volunteer programs and opportunities. Petra highlighted the many NFL efforts to link families to resources, including food distributions, developmental screenings, and utility assistance. She reported on PACT program

expansion at the Ojai NfL and on the opening of a new preschool facility by the Hueneme/South Oxnard NfL. Petra noted that the Kit for New Parents is now customized with local early literacy and prenatal resources. Petra reported that an application was submitted for a federal Pay For Success Preschool Feasibility pilot in partnership with the Ventura County Office of Education to determine the viability of a PFS financing model. A Letter of Inquiry was submitted to the Caplan Foundation to continue the development of best practice frameworks for playgroups currently funded through the EC LINC Research to Action grant.

Petra highlighted several community initiatives, including the launch of the prenatal portal website, an update on the parent leadership network, and several events and activities to promote early literacy. Petra continued her report with an update on county, regional and national events. She noted that AB 2770 was signed into law, which limits the Board of Equalization's ability to use Prop 10 funding. She updated the Commission on Proposition 56, which would increase existing tobacco tax by two dollars and implement an excise tax on e-cigarettes. She concluded her report with upcoming events and highlighted provider anecdotes.

#### **10. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at the County Office of Education, at 5100 Adolfo Dr., in Camarillo.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.