

**FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY  
COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES**

**February 16, 2017**

Commissioners Present: Bruce Stenslie, Stan Mantooh, Kathy Long, Dr. Michael Gollub, Barry Zimmerman, Dr. Carola Oliva-Olson, Dr. Cesar Morales

Excused Absence: Barbara Marquez-O'Neill, Dr. Robert Levin

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

Public Present: Noemi Valdes, Alicia Villicana, Sharon Elmensdorp, Carrie Murphy, Sloan Burt, Alicia McFarland

**OPENING**

**1. Welcome**

Chair Mantooh opened the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2017 Commission Meeting**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Stenslie, to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2017 Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Petra Puls provided an overview of the supplemental packet.

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

**4. Public Comments/Correspondence**

There were no comments from the public.

**5. Presentation: Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) in Ventura County –**

Petra Puls gave a brief history of First 5 Ventura County's investment in Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). She then introduced Carrie Murphy, Director, Early Childhood Programs for Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE). Carrie thanked the Commission for being included on the agenda and provided an overview of the QRIS implementation. Carrie then introduced Sloan Burt, Operations Specialist for (VCOE) to give details on how sites are rated via

the rating matrix. Sloan explained the various elements sites are rated on to receive their overall tier rating. Sloan then introduced Alicia McFarland, Operations Specialist.

Alicia gave an overview of how sites are being supported to advance to higher levels of quality. She showed the Commission the Pathways document that outlines additional resources available to participating sites. She noted that at the December Commission meeting, Commissioners commented on the importance of children's social and emotional development. Alicia described The Teaching Pyramid, an evidence based model with tools and strategies to promote social/emotional development. She noted that Race to the Top funding enabled Ventura County to train 341 preschool teachers to date and that they are now building capacity for infant/toddler teachers.

Carrie stated that the end goal of QRIS is children ready for school by age 5. She noted that currently, 98% of subsidized early education programs, including State Preschool, Head Start and First 5 Ventura County funded preschools, are participating in QRIS. Carrie thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present.

Commissioner Oliva-Olson commented that a Children Now report found a decrease in the number of parents that daily read to their children. She commented on the importance of First 5 Ventura County's work with QRIS and that the investment is worthwhile. Commissioner Stenslie thanked Carrie and her team for the presentation, and asked for more information on the qualifications for Family Child Care participation. Carrie explained that VCOE recruits from established facilities that are more advanced. Commissioner Long asked about the implementation timeline and what the future holds. Carrie advised that she believes 100% of all children need quality childcare, but the challenge is reaching that goal with current levels of funding. Commissioner Mantooth asked, what participation would look like in five years if additional funding was available. Carrie advised that the ideal goal would be participation by all infant/toddler and preschool programs in Ventura County. Petra Puls commented that while our goal is to reach all children, without additional funding we will be at the current participation rate in 5 years. Commissioner Mantooth commented that 25% of programs rated at a Tier 3, and asked how these sites can reach a 4 or 5 quality rating. Carrie advised that sites rated at Tiers 1 through 3 receive more support and coaching to help achieve a higher tier rating. Sloan commented that teacher education level often plays a large part in a program's rating. Commissioner Oliva-Olson noted that this is a common issue nationally. Commissioner Mantooth asked about re-rating and if certain sites are given priority. Carrie stated that ratings are valid for two years.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 6. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of December 31, 2016.**
- 7. Ratification of Committees.**
- 8. Recommendation to Grant Authority to the Acting Executive Director to Enter into a Contract with Persimmony for a Program Management and Evaluation Software System.**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Oliva-Olson, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

## REGULAR AGENDA

### **9. Review and Discussion of Key Recommendations and Findings from the First 5 Ventura County Annual Evaluation Report, Fiscal Year 2015-16**

Petra Puls introduced Dr. Rachel Estrella, Senior Associate, and Mica Clark, Data Analyst, of Social Policy Research Associates to present findings from the Annual Evaluation Report for FY 2015-16. Petra noted that the parent survey was slightly modified to address concerns raised from the 2014-15 report. She also noted that the Commission expressed interest in analyzing findings by ethnicity and/or income, and those items were also addressed in this year's evaluation. Dr. Estrella noted that 2,422 surveys were returned for the analysis. She described the six sources of data that were utilized in the evaluation report. Dr. Estrella reviewed the demographic data that provided a snapshot of the First 5 service population. She reported that the most utilized service is Parent and Child Together classes, at 33% participation. Dr. Estrella reported that the majority of the service population engaged in services at 5 hours or less.

Dr. Estrella highlighted major findings in each outcome area and identified areas posing challenges or needing further support. She stated that funded partners have been extremely successful in ensuring families who receive First 5 services have access to health and dental care. Commissioner Mantooth asked if the result was due to targeted service locations, and Dr. Estrella confirmed this possibility. She reported that the survey was modified to better capture eating habits of children, and explained those results. Dr. Estrella highlighted several additional areas that may warrant further attention, including screen time, sugary drink consumption, home literacy practices, demographic discrepancies related to developmental screenings, and neighborhood support for families to reduce isolation. She reported that 97% of parents show confidence in their parenting skills and explained demographic differences in parent confidence. Dr. Estrella thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present and asked for questions/comments.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked if adult literacy levels affects the outcome of the child literacy data, and Dr. Estrella advised that information is not gathered to measure this. Commissioner Gollub thanked Dr. Estrella and requested that next year's findings show results change over time. Commissioner Oliva-Olson commented that these findings are important to share with local school districts in light of new ESSA regulations. Commissioner Stenslie asked whether we have long-term data on participant's access to health insurance. Petra noted that health insurance information is gathered at intake, and staff will look into preparing this information. Commissioner Long asked about material and resources to encourage utilization of library services. Dr. Estrella noted this is also related to creating spaces for social connections for families. Commissioner Mantooth noted the importance on the data with diminishing resources and that going forward, we can see more granularity in the questions needing to be asked.

### **10. Report from Acting Executive Director – Petra Puls**

Petra Puls updated the Commission on the upcoming deadline for Form 700 of April 1<sup>st</sup>. She noted reappointments of Commissioners Dr. Morales and Marquez-O'Neill. Petra updated the Commission on staffing changes, including Deanna Handel has left her position and the upcoming departure of Heather Hanna, thanking both for their service. She announced that the recruitment for two Program Manager positions is under way. Petra updated the Commission on

Neighborhoods for Learning activities. She noted that the Santa Clara Valley NfL has been able to convert 31 of the 36 NfL-funded preschool spaces to State funded preschool. Petra discussed Countywide Strategies, noting that Clinicas has educated over 292 parents this year, targeting families from areas identified with greatest need.

Petra updated the Commission on Community Initiatives, commenting that 2-1-1 is celebrating their 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She noted that the prenatal portal has been updated with additional information on staying healthy and substance use before pregnancy, as well as information on postpartum depression. She continued by updating the Commission on County, Regional and Nationwide initiatives. She advised of a new Poverty Fact sheet released by the California Budget and Policy Center. She then updated the Commission on upcoming events and referred to media included in the packet

#### **11. Commission Member Comments**

Commissioner Gollub thanked staff for updating the Prenatal Portal with the new information. He also thanked Heather Hanna for her service. Commissioner Long thanked staff for bringing her up to speed on Commission activities.

#### **12. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at the Ventura County Community Foundation, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, in Camarillo.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.