

**First 5 San Mateo County
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
November 29, 2010**

Present:

- Commission Members: Beverly Beasley Johnson, Anne Campbell, Jorge Glascock, Rich Gordon, Harvey Kaplan, and Laura Walker
- Staff: Debby Armstrong, Michelle Blakely, Jenifer Clark, David Fleishman, Jason Gordon, Karen Pisani, Emily Roberts, Chonne Sherman, Maricela Watt, and Mey Winata
- County Counsel: David Silberman
- Youth Commissioners: Sylvia Chen and Jacqueline Cortez

Absent: Angel Barrios and Jean Fraser

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Commissioner Kaplan called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with changes reflecting the reordering of agenda items.

MOTION: A motion for approval of the November 29, 2010 Agenda, with changes reflecting the reordering of agenda items, was made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Gordon. Unanimously Approved.

3. Oral Communication from the Public

SEIU representative Evelyn Gutierrez distributed information packets to Commission members that will be discussed during the closed session.

4. Oral Communication from the Commission

Commissioner Beasley Johnson shared information on the kickoff gala for the Heart Gallery at the San Mateo Public Library being held on Tuesday, November 30th at 6:30 pm. The Heart Gallery will feature photos of San Mateo County children and youth who are awaiting adoption.

5. Approval of Minutes for the October 25, 2010 Commission Meeting and the Special Meeting for October 29, 2010

There being no additions or comments to the minutes, the October 25, 2010 Commission Meeting minutes and October 29, 2010 Special Meeting minutes were approved.

MOTION: A motion for approval of the October 25, 2010 Commission Meeting Minutes and October 29, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes was made by Commissioner Beasley Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Campbell. Unanimously Approved.

6. Executive Director's Report

Debby Armstrong provided the following verbal update:

- All bridge loans to the approved child care providers have been repaid. In addition, the grant from Silicon Valley Community Foundation was received in order to offset administrative charges related to the bridge loans.

- A town hall, coordinated by County of San Mateo, Human Services Agency, the Child Care Coordinating Council, First 5 San Mateo County, and the Professional Association for Childhood Education Alternative Payment Program, was held on November 8th focusing on the effects of cuts to CalWorks Stage 3 child care services.
- “Bridges to Success” inclusion groups are currently in progress in North County and will be occurring in South and Mid County soon. The 10-12 week workgroups are geared to support families with children with special needs.
- F5SMC has been contacted by the media for several articles relating to cuts in childcare services and the approved bridge loans.
- Two reminders for Commission members: The conflict of interest form (Form 700) will be available in January and will be due on April 1st. On December 7th, the County will be hosting an event recognizing all boards and commissions at the History Museum in Redwood City from 5:00-6:30 pm.

Commissioners asked whether there will be a document provided with highlights from the Town Hall meeting held on November 8th. Debby Armstrong said that Chonne Sherman is working with the Human Services Agency on developing a fact sheet resulting from the Town Hall.

7. Approve Contract Amendment for San Mateo County Health System, Children’s Health Initiative to Change Fiscal Agents from Silicon Valley Community Foundation to the County of San Mateo Healthy Kids Trust Fund

The contract amendment presented today reflects the decision of the San Mateo County Health System to move the management of funding for the Healthy Kids Program from Silicon Valley Community Foundation to the San Mateo County Health System; effective September 23, 2010. The change does not have a fiscal impact. The Commission did not have any comments or discussion.

MOTION: A motion for approval of the Contract Amendment for San Mateo County Health System, Children’s Health Initiative to Change Fiscal Agents from Silicon Valley Community Foundation to the County of San Mateo Healthy Kids Trust Fund was made by Commissioner Gordon and seconded by Commissioner Walker. Unanimously Approved.

8. Approval of 2011 Commission/Committee Meeting Calendar

The Commission received the Commission/Committee (Commission, Program and Planning, Finance, Evaluation, and Prenatal to 5 Partnership) meeting calendar for 2011 for scheduling purposes. There were no comments or discussion from Commissioners.

MOTION: A motion for approval of the 2011 Commission/Committee Meeting Calendar was made by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Glascock. Unanimously Approved.

9. Authorize submission of response to First 5 California’s CARES Plus Request for Applications (RFA) and consider forming a F5SMC CARES Plus Ad-Hoc Committee

On November 4, 2010, F5CA released an RFA for CARES Plus, which reinstates matching funds to support workforce development. The CARES Plus program includes more guidance to help participants develop their skills and knowledge in specific areas. Unmatched F5CA funding is available from February through June 2011 for program planning, and matched funds to support implementation are available from July 2011 through June 2013. F5SMC staff request the formation of an ad hoc committee to guide staff and authorize submission of response to First 5

California's CARES Plus Request for Applications (RFA). Commissioner Campbell recused herself from the discussion due to a potential conflict of interest.

Commissioners had the following questions/comments:

- What amount of funding is available for the CARES Plus program?
 - There is \$75,000 available for planning through June 30th and then \$150,000 for each of the next two program years (\$300,000 over two years). The SamCARES contract is currently for \$1.5 million dollars.
- What classes are teachers enrolling in, what are they able to pay for, and what is the average award per teacher?
 - The stipends are for early childhood education or related areas. Stipends are provided for successful course completion or professional development hours and vary by level. The average award is over \$1000.
- What are the major changes between SamCARES and CARES Plus?
 - CARES Plus focuses on specific skills that are known to help improve child outcomes and to help early child education students attain their degree. SaMCARES focused primarily on helping teachers move up the teacher credentialing matrix.

Debby Armstrong explained that the deadline to submit a letter of intent to First 5 California is December 13th and the application would be due the middle of January. The Commission noted the application due date is a week before the Commission meeting on January 24th therefore it would have to be deferred to either an ad hoc committee or a special meeting of the commission to review the application itself. Commissioner Walker volunteered to participate in the ad hoc committee.

MOTION: A motion to authorize First 5 San Mateo County staff to submit a letter of intent, form an ad hoc committee, prepare an application which would be referred to the two subcommittees meeting in early January and move forward without the full commission consideration pending no major objections at the subcommittee level was made by Commissioner Gordon and seconded by Commissioner Beasley Johnson.

10. Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Executive Director

Commissioner Kaplan announced that the Commission would meet in closed session for agenda item #3 Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Executive Director. When the closed session concluded, Commissioner Kaplan informed the public that there were no reportable action items from the closed session.

11. Presentation: First 5 San Mateo County Strategic Decisions and Community Investments: 2000-2010

Debby Armstrong provided a presentation on First 5 San Mateo County strategic decisions and community investments from 2000-2010. The following are highlights from the presentation:

- In 2001, the F5SMC Commission focused on three strategic funding initiatives: child care and early learning, children nurtured in stable, caring environments, and health and well-being; each initiative coinciding with research and emphasis placed on early brain development, universal health coverage, and quality care.
- The Commission prioritized funding by investing \$6 million dollars a year over a period of ten years. Additionally, an ad hoc committee was formed to prioritize the funding of programs and strategically outlined initiatives with sustainability in mind.

- Preschool for All (PFA) was initially launched five years ago in two schools/communities with an investment of \$2.5 million dollars a year and matching funds from First 5 California. PFA transitioned to EQUiP (Early Childhood Quality Improvement Project) that promotes quality care countywide for children birth to age 5.
- In 2007, discussions surrounding F5SMC's strategic framework included the focus area of communications and systems change. Investments were at \$14 million dollars recognizing that a decline in investments would occur for FY10-11. During this time frame, the Watch Me Grow special needs project was launched which is an extension of prevention and early intervention and enhanced county wide care coordination.
- During F5SMC's update of the strategic plan in 2008, 8 outcomes and 12 strategies were identified through the work of an ad hoc committee. Evaluation has also transitioned from individual program evaluations to a comprehensive evaluation designed for all programs.
- The Bridges to Success school readiness initiative was also approved for a \$4 million dollar investment over the next 2 ½ years to be implemented in identified targeted communities with Silicon Valley Community Foundation and Youth and Family Enrichment Services serving as co-leads.
- What's next: new F5SMC Commission members, results for the first 18 months of our comprehensive evaluation, updating of F5SMC's financial plan, review of the strategic plan which is an annual requirement, and review of investments for Cycle 2 funding.

12. Farewell to Commissioner Gordon

Commissioner Kaplan led the farewell to Commissioner Gordon, who will be serving in the California State Assembly in Sacramento, and thanked him for his work and advocacy on behalf of children. Debby Armstrong followed with a reading from a letter from former San Mateo County Youth Commissioner Sonya Chaudry who shared her experiences as a former SMCO Youth Commissioner, involvement with the Children's Bill of Rights, and her current work at Stanford University.

13. Meeting Adjournment

Commissioner Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gordon seconded.