

FIRST 5 COMMISSION OF SAN DIEGO
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Commissioners Present:

Greg Cox, Chairman
 Carol Skiljan
 Nick Macchione
 Charlene Tressler
 Dr. Wilma Wooten

Staff Present:

Laura Spiegel, Executive Director
 Grace Young, Contracts & School Readiness Manager
 Lynn Eldred, Program & Evaluation Manager
 Martin Cherry, Fiscal Manager
 Steve Magruder, County Counsel
 Maddy Morris, Policy Adviser

Minutes for December 16, 2008

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Cox called the meeting of the First 5 Commission of San Diego to order at 2:07 p.m.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes - November 3, 2008

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Macchione, seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Commission approved the minutes of November 3, 2008.

AYES: Cox, Skiljan, Macchione, Tressler, Wooten
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

Opportunity for Public Comments

There were no public comments on non-agenda items. There was one public comment on Item 2, Responsive Fund Recommendations for Award; and five public comments on Item 10, Strengthening the Safety Net for Children Ages 0-5 and their Families.

Formation of Consent Calendar

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Tressler, seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Commission approved the formation of the consent calendar with Action Items 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7. Commissioner Macchione recused himself from voting on Items 2, 6 and 11. Commissioner Wooten recused herself from voting on Item 6.

AYES: Cox, Skiljan, Macchione, Tressler, Wooten
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

1. Revisions to Responsive Funds Request Policy FSC-016

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Tressler, seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Commission

- 1) Found that the proposed policy is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provides a public benefit.**
- 2) Received and approved the revised Responsive Funds Request Policy FSC-016.**

AYES: Cox, Skiljan, Macchione, Tressler, Wooten
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

2. Responsive Fund Recommendations for Award

The intent of responsive funds is to ensure projects that are not part of planned initiatives are promptly funded. Funds can be used for new opportunities, urgent needs, pilot projects or leveraging efforts that support the Commission's Strategic Plan. The Standing Committee for Responsive Funds, composed of Commissioners Tressler and Skiljan, reviewed the proposals and recommended funding for these projects:

1. County of San Diego/HHSA/Child Welfare Services' *Foster Parent Respite Support Services* program to provide respite services for foster families with children ages 0-5;
2. Horn of Africa's *Families Together* program to provide East African mothers and their children with health care assistance, education and support services; and
3. South Bay Community Services' *Mi Escuelita* program to provide therapeutic preschool for 18 children 3-5 years who have been traumatized by family violence and/or homelessness.

A total of up to \$1,419,770 will be allocated from the Responsive Funds line item in the approved FY 2008-09 budget. If approved, the balance of Responsive Funds will be \$9,016,058.

Public Comment:

Kathryn Lembo, Executive Director of South Bay Community Services (SBCS), said because of the current economic crisis, funding they have counted on in the past for the program is becoming less secure, while the need for their services is increasing. One of their major contributors was forced to layoff 74% of its workforce and will not be able to contribute to the program in January next year. SBCS' current request is for a three-year grant of \$135,000/year (plus an 8% increase in each of the following two years), which would allow 18 children to attend "Mi Escuelita." Ms. Lembo requested the Commission double the requested amount to allow fund for an additional 18 children, for a total of 36 children. As of October 1, SBCS has raised \$45,000 and received contributions from Verizon Hopeline, In-N-Out Burger, Office of Violence Against Women and TJ Maxx Foundation.

Commissioner Tressler said she and Commissioner Skiljan served on the subcommittee and she was impressed with the program. She recommended support for the request to increase funding.

Commissioner Skiljan said an arrangement should be made to inform the Commission in the event other funding sources are available. Commissioner Tressler asked that SBCS communicate with the Commission on the possibility of any more funds coming from the major contributor mentioned earlier.

Chairman Cox stated he had the opportunity to visit "Mi Escuelita" and saw the difference it has made in the lives of abused and neglected children ages 3-5. He would like to make a motion to support this item with an amendment to bullet 3 of recommendation to read: "\$878,400 over a three-year period to South Bay Community Services for the Mi Escuelita therapeutic preschool program."

In response to Commissioner Wooten's question on the outcomes for children who have gone through the program, Ms. Lembo said they have had two graduations already. Children are measured at the time they come in, at mid-year and at end of the year. Within the first 30 days, a baseline assessment of social-emotional skills is done. The majority of the children who come in to the program are at 71% of the level they should be at for social-emotional skills. At the time they come in, cognitive development is also measured. The children are at 59% of where they should be for cognitive development. At the time they leave, a 37% decrease in negative behavior and a 33% decrease in destructive behavior is seen. At the end of the year, children are again measured and the results have been: 135.7% improvement in cognitive development; 15.2% decrease in negative behavior; 21.3% decrease in destructive behavior; 41.3% improvement in positive behavior; 72.7% improvement in parent compliance; and 5.4% improvement in parent and child connectivity. She said they are also talking to school districts and are able to follow some of the children from kindergarten to first grade. The next step is to look at test results for these children. Previous results showed children who came out of the program had the lowest test results.

Executive Director Spiegel said there is a policy for Responsive Funds. She is concerned about setting a precedent and hoped this was a one-time exception. If the Commission considers the motion, the funds would have to be moved from Reserves to Responsive Funds.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Tressler, seconded by Commissioner Skiljan, the Commission

- 1) **Found the proposed grant activities are consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, further the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provide a public benefit.**

- 2) **Approved the recommendations of the Standing Committee for Responsive Funds and awarded up to:**
 - \$610,000 over a two-year period to the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency Child Welfare Services for the Foster Parent Respite Support Services program;
 - \$370,570 over a three-year period to Horn of Africa for the Families Together program; and
 - \$878,400 over a three-year period to South Bay Community Services for the “Mi Escuelita” therapeutic preschool program, as modified.
- 3) **Authorized the Commission’s Executive Director or her designee to negotiate and execute contracts with: (1) County of San Diego Health and Human Services-Child Welfare Services; (2) Horn of Africa; and (3) South Bay Community Services**

AYES: Cox, Skiljan, Tressler, Wooten
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Macchione
NOES: None

3. Annual Appointment of New Commission Member

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Tressler, seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Commission accepted Chairman Cox’s nomination of Commissioner Charlene Tressler to serve as the at-large member of the Commission for the 2009 and 2010 calendar years.

AYES: Cox, Skiljan, Wooten, Macchione, Tressler
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

4. Technical and Professional Committee (TPAC) Membership

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Tressler, seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Commission

- 1) **Approved the proposed appointees to serve on the Technical and Professional Advisory Committee for a two-year term commencing January 2009.**
- 2) **Appointed Commissioner Skiljan to chair the Technical and Professional Advisory Committee for the 2009 calendar year.**

AYES: Cox, Skiljan, Wooten, Macchione, Tressler
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

5. Finance Committee Member Appointments

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Tressler, seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Commission

- 1) **Appointed the following members to the Finance Committee for calendar year 2009:**
 - a. **Michael Van Mouwerik – HHSA FINANCE**
- 2) **Appointed the following members to the Finance Committee for calendar years 2009 and 2010:**
 - a. **Michael Carr – TPAC and SAY San Diego**
 - b. **Rob Castetter – Treasurer/Tax Collector**
 - c. **Fred Baranowski – 1st Pacific Bank**
 - d. **Ebony Shelton – Finance & General Government Group**
- 3) **Appointed Michael Carr as the Chairperson, and Fred Baranowski as the Vice Chairperson of the Finance Committee for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2009.**

AYES: Cox, Skiljan, Wooten, Macchione, Tressler
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

6. Support for the Childhood Obesity Initiative

The recommended action is to extend the contract with HHS Public Health for three years for a total of \$390,000; an estimated \$130,000 per year will be expended over the three year period. A portion of the estimated annual allocation will continue to be allotted for the position of the Childhood Obesity Coordinator, and the estimated balance per year will support the ongoing efforts of this Initiative on behalf of children 0-5 and their families.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Skiljan, seconded by Commissioner Tressler, the Commission

- 1) Found that the allocation is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provides a public benefit.
- 2) Authorized the Commission Executive Director or her designee to negotiate and execute an amendment to add a project-length budget of \$390,000 to the contract with HHS Public Health and extend the contract through March 31, 2012.
- 3) Amended the FY 2008-09 budget to establish appropriations in the amount of \$390,000 in the Contributions to Community Projects section as a new line item for the Childhood Obesity Initiative.

AYES: Cox, Skiljan, Tressler
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Macchione, Wooten
NOES: None

7. Contract Amendment: Evaluation Services

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Skiljan, seconded by Commissioner Macchione, the Commission

- 1) Found that the proposed contract amendment is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provides a public benefit.
- 2) Authorized the Executive Director or her designee to negotiate and execute an amendment to the current contract with Harder+Company Community Research for a project length budget of up to \$277,584 to be expended over the duration of the existing contract through June 30, 2011.
- 3) Amended the FY 2008-09 budget to 1) move \$88,400 from the line item for "Contract Management and Evaluation Data System Manager" and 2) \$189,184 from the line item for Community Engagement, to the line item for "Evaluation."

AYES: Cox, Macchione, Skiljan, Tressler, Wooten
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

8. Presentation on Evaluation Findings, Part 2

Jennifer James, Harder +Company, gave a presentation on Part 2 of evaluation findings and results in FY 2007-08 for each of the following First 5 initiatives and projects: School Readiness, Special Needs Demonstration Project, Preschool for All, and First 5 for Parents (Parent Education). The presentation highlighted key findings, results, recommendations, successes and opportunities. Some of key findings/results are:

- **School Readiness:** Children improved in each developmental domain; parents/caregivers increased in each of four parenting practice areas; 48.5% of children enrolled received developmental screenings (a decrease from last fiscal year). The greatest change this year is in safety and health.
- **Special Needs Demonstration Project:** This is one of only 10 demonstration projects in the State; evaluation is State-mandated and controlled. A total of 508 children were screened (an increase from last fiscal year) for developmental issues.
- **Preschool for All:** Children improved in each developmental domain; about 75.4% of children received developmental screening; parents reported high satisfaction/improved parenting skills; 84.3% of teachers are educated at or above associate's level, and 40.3% are educated at or above bachelor's level. The greatest change this year is in effective learning.
- **First 5 for Parents (Parent Education):** There were high levels of parental knowledge at the baseline; there was a positive incremental change in parental behaviors in several areas and

increased parent confidence in their parenting skills. The program is doing a good job in reaching the Latino population but not other ethnic groups.

- **Break-Out Projects:**
 - **2-1-1:** 38,696 families served (67.5% increase)
 - **Kit for New Parents:** 65,207 kits distributed (37.7% increase)
 - **CARES:** 534 stipends were received by early childhood education providers received stipends (2.9% decrease)
 - **Reach Out and Read:** Seven new sites established; 8,329 books purchased
 - **3rd Cycle Capital Projects:** 17 projects funded

Discussions:

In response to Commissioner Wooten's question on the definition of physical activity, Ms. James stated physical activity is defined as an activity that promotes the development of cardio-respiratory fitness: 20 minutes of physical exercise per day, two to three times a week.

Commissioner Macchione said the evaluation analysis was impressive. He wanted to know the number of unduplicated children in all of the domains. Ms. James stated that in the absence of a database, the team was not able to provide unduplicated data with certainty. She said that with the implementation of CMEDS, they will be able to track the number of unduplicated children and hope to provide this data next fiscal year.

Commissioner Macchione asked how to relay the message of all of the initiatives' successes in a manner that people can understand, given the criticism First 5 Commissions have received locally and statewide. Ms. James stated the evaluation report serves multiple purposes. She acknowledged it is a rather large report. Harder+Company has partnered with MJE Communications on how to package the report in a way that can be more easily understood by the public. Commissioner Wooten stated there is a need to develop a message that is understandable by the public for each of the domains.

Staff Recommendation: None. For information only

9. Finance Committee Report

Fred Baranowski reported as of October 31, 2008, the Commission's total operating fund was \$126,016,187 and the sustainability fund was \$73,224,402, for a total balance of \$199,240,589. He said those numbers will come down because the Commission is investing for longer terms. He acknowledged Executive Director Spiegel and the staff for operating within the approved budget. He walked the Commission through scenarios of what will happen with the uncertainty of current State budget. He said if the Commission kept on spending at the same level it is spending now, the money will run out in 2014. If the Commission gets additional funding and adjusts its spending accordingly, it can provide services until 2017.

Staff Recommendation: None. For information only.

10. Strengthening the Safety Net for Children Ages 0-5 and their Families

On November 3, the Commission approved: (1) retention of current safety net services by extending the contracts through FY 2009-10 at an estimated cost of \$6,623,389; (2) implementation of multiyear contracting for projects the Commission has committed to fund in FY 2009-10 in the 5 Year Allocation Plan, for an estimated cost of \$31,018,139; and (3) an adjustment to the FY 2008-09 budget and added appropriations of \$37,641,528 (total of actions 1 and 2).

In today's meeting, the Commission will consider making additional investments from its sustainability reserve to further strengthen the safety net services. Approving these actions will increase the FY 2008-09 budget by \$14,117,000 from the Commission's Sustainability Funds.

Public comments:

The following people publicly spoke in support of Strengthening the Safety Net – Oral Health and Water Fluoridation, and thanked the Commission:

- Nicole Howard and Kimberly Thomas, Council of Community Clinics – Health Network
- Michael Koonce, Executive Director, San Diego County Dental Society
- Dr. Lester Machado, San Diego County Dental Society

- Cindy Muehleisen, San Diego County “Smiles” Program
- Ellie Nadler, San Diego Fluoridation Coalition
- Susan Lovelace – Submitted a request to speak but had to leave the meeting.

Chairman Cox acknowledged receipt of the following letters in support of water fluoridation:

- Chicano Federation of San Diego County, Inc.
- San Diego County Dental Society
- University of California, San Diego, Medical Center
- Sharp Healthcare
- The San Diego Fluoridation Coalition

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Macchione, seconded by Commissioner Skiljan, the Commission

- 1) Found that the proposed safety net projects are consistent with the Commission’s Strategic Plan, further the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provide a public benefit.
- 2) Approved up to \$5,432,000 from the sustainability reserve for the following high priority safety net projects, to be encumbered in project-length contracts.
 - a. **Healthy Development Services (HDS) – through 2009-10:** Up to \$2,496,000 for care coordination, and \$2,496,000 for behavioral screenings and treatment to be allocated as follows:
 - i. Up to \$804,096 for Rady Children’s Hospital (North Coastal Region)
 - ii. Up to \$748,704 for Palomar Pomerado Hospital (North Inland)
 - iii. Up to \$1,092,912 for Family Health Centers (Central Region)
 - iv. Up to \$665,664 for Family Health Centers (East Region)
 - v. Up to \$829,296 for South Bay Community Services (South Region)
 - vi. Up to \$659,328 for Rady Children’s Hospital (North Central Region)
 - vii. Up to \$192,000 for the American Academy of Pediatrics (countywide)
 - b. **2-1-1 San Diego – through 2009-10:**
 - i. Up to \$200,000 for technology upgrades
 - ii. Up to \$240,000 for capacity building for fund development
- 3) Authorized the Executive Director or her designee to negotiate and execute project-length budgets and contracts with Rady Children’s Hospital, Palomar Pomerado Hospital, Family Health Centers, South Bay Community Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and 211 San Diego in accordance with the recommendations requested in recommendation 2 above.
- 4) Approved an allocation of up to \$7,085,000 from the sustainability reserve to strengthen the oral health safety net for children 0-5 and pregnant women, starting in FY 2008-09. Options that have been formerly presented to the Commission include:
 - a. Mobile dental and health clinics – East and North regions
 - b. Fluoridation
 - c. Treatment services for pregnant women
 - d. Expanded care coordination services
- 5) Approved funding of up to \$1,600,000 from the sustainability reserve to ensure all eligible children in San Diego are able to enroll in Healthy Families insurance coverage in FY 2008-09.
- 6) Authorized the Executive Director or her designee to negotiate and execute a contract with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board or its designee, not to exceed \$1.6 million.
- 7) Amended and established appropriations in the FY 2008-09 budget in the amount of \$14,117,000 (total of 2, 4 and 5).

AYES: Cox, Macchione, Skiljan, Tressler, Wooten
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

11. Foster Care Safety Net

Responsive Funds in the amount of \$9 million for a three-year period were requested to establish therapeutic services at the Polinsky Children's Center, provide services that support and stabilize placements in foster care homes, and services that support timely reunification of children with their families. The target population is the 2,949 dependent children 0-5 in the child welfare system.

Mary Harris, Child Welfare Services Director, spoke in support of the recommendation and thanked the Commission for stepping up to provide services to children ages 0-5, who are the most vulnerable victims of physical abuse and neglect.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Skiljan, seconded by Commissioner Tressler, the Commission

- 1) Found that the proposed CWS foster care safety net project is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provides a public benefit.
- 2) Approved an allocation of Responsive Funds of up to \$9 million for three years to provide therapeutic services for abused and neglected children ages 0-5 who enter the Child Welfare System. Appropriated and encumbered the funds in a project-length contract in the FY 2008-09 budget.
- 3) Amended the FY 2008-09 budget to add appropriations of \$1.5 million to the Responsive Fund line from the sustainability reserve.
- 4) Authorized the Executive Director or her designee to execute an agreement for \$9 million over three years with the County of San Diego HHS Child Welfare Services with an effective date of January 1, 2009.

AYES: Cox, Skiljan, Tressler, Wooten
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Macchione
NOES: None

12. Executive Director Monthly Report

The Commission was provided with written status updates on current projects, legislation, the State First 5 Commission, and other matters involving county First 5 commissions. Executive Director Spiegel reported:

- First 5 California approved funding to help ease the Healthy Families program's budget shortfall at a special meeting on December 15. The State Commission allocated \$16.7 million to pay for healthcare premiums for new enrollees ages 0-5 for the period December 18, 2008, through June 30, 2009. To date, a total of 48 county commissions have committed to help Healthy Families. There have been press releases and media coverage on this effort.
- Assembly and Senate budget committees heard the Republican budget proposals. The proposals divert funding from both Prop 63 and Prop 10.

Staff Recommendation: None. For information only.

13. Future Agenda Items

- First 5 San Diego 2008 Year in Review
- Strategic Plan Presentation
- Innovative Grant Request
- Appointment of Commission Vice Chairperson

14. Adjournment

The Commission acknowledged Chairman Cox's last Commission meeting and thanked him for his leadership and support in advancing the Commission's mission of protecting and providing for this County's most vulnerable population, children ages 0-5 and their families. Chairman Cox confirmed he will attend the January 12 Commission meeting, where he will be presented with this year's accomplishments.

Chairman Cox thanked the Commission and staff for work well done, and acknowledged Maddy Morris and the rest of the team for all the support they provided him and the Commission. He announced Supervisor Dianne Jacob will be next year's Commission Chairperson.

Chairman Cox adjourned the Commission meeting at 3:40 p.m. noting that the next combined Commission and TPAC meeting is Jan. 12, 2008 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Notes by: Nila Breuhan

Respectfully submitted for your review and approval:

Charlene Tressler, Secretary

Date