



## Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

**Members Present:** Beth Benjamin, Chair Toni Campbell, Cecilia Espinola, Vice Chair Rama Khalsa, Salem Magarian, Jim Marshall, Mark Stone

### 1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

Chair Campbell called meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

### 2. Review and Adopt Agenda

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Mark Stone /Commissioner Salem Magarian)**  
unanimously moved to adopt the agenda.

### 3. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Commission June 2009 Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of Commission June-August 2009 Financial reports

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Faris Sabbah/Commissioner Mark Stone)**  
unanimously moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

4. **Community Oral Communications** The community may address the Commission on items not listed on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of First 5 Santa Cruz County. If any member of the community wishes to address the Commission on any item that is listed on the agenda, they may do so when that item is called. Every item on the agenda welcomes public comment.

### B. Commissioner Oral Communications

Chair Campbell congratulated Commissioner Marshall on his appointment as the new director of the Cabrillo College Children's Center and Commissioner Stone who paddled the English Channel in 13 hrs. 7 minutes. Chair Campbell stated that while Commissioner Magarian had faced the recent Bonny Doon fires, he was also planning for his upcoming marriage. In addition, Chair Campbell announced the recent appointment of Commissioner Stone to the Coastal Commission. Commissioner Sabbah announced that he and his wife are expecting their second baby in February.

### 6. Early Childhood ARRA Funds – Information Item

A. An update regarding Head Start, Early Head Start and the Starlight Infant/Toddler Program, Cynthia Wells and Denise Gannon, Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center

Director True introduced Cynthia Wells, Director of Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center's Family and Child Development programs, and Denise Gannon, Head of the Starlight Infant/Toddler Program.

Ms. Wells stated that First 5 has funded 40 slots for infants and toddlers and 10 slots for pregnant women and have been full from the first day. Ms. Wells said they have made great strides in connecting with the Starlight Elementary School because of their goal to create a learning community. She stated they have reached out to kindergarten teachers and Starlight preschool so that families have a seamless

transition from the infant program, to the preschool program and to kindergarten. Ms. Wells said these children will be very prepared and stated that she is very excited when Starlight receives its first group of kindergarteners.

Denise Gannon announced a one-year birthday party to be held on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 PM to celebrate their first year of services for young children and expectant families.

Ms. Wells announced that they were awarded a \$1.64 million Early Head Start grant, with 44 Head Start slots and 130 Early Head Start slots for about \$2.1 million. Ms. Wells stated that one of the most exciting parts of the grant is the number of partners, with each model having a significant partner. Ms. Wells stated a few examples of the partners: PVUSD will be doing a teen parent program, Cabrillo will have both Early Head Start and Head Start programs, Mountain Community Resources will have a home visiting program in the San Lorenzo Valley serving both Head Start and Early Head Start children, and 20 early Head Start home visiting slots at Live Oak Family Resource Center. In addition, Ms. Wells said they would be working with 3 providers, the children's center in San Lorenzo Valley, the Santa Cruz Infant/Toddler Center, and the Mid-County Children's Center in Aptos.

**7. 2007-2008 Audit – Action Item**

**A.** The Commission will consider approving the revised 2007-2008 audit report

Director True stated that the State Controller's Office found our auditor's report was insufficient on testing for internal controls, and they were requiring additional language in the audit letter. The Santa Cruz County Auditor Controller has added the sentence as they requested, and this revised report will be sent to the State.

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Mark Stone /Commissioner Faris Sabbah) unanimously moved to approve the revised 2007-2008 audit report.**

**8. Evaluation Services Contract – Action Item**

**A.** The Commission will consider approving the following recommendation of the ad hoc committee to enter into a contract for evaluation services: Approval of contract with Applied Survey Research for evaluation services as described in the August 2009 Request for Proposals between October 1, 2009-October 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$624,000 and direction to staff to finalize, negotiate, and amend contract as necessary.

Director True expressed her appreciation to Commissioners Campbell, Khalsa, and Sabbah for serving as the ad hoc committee to help with developing the request for proposal that was released in early August and was due in September. Director True stated that Applied Survey Research unanimously was the highest scoring applicant by the subcommittee. Director True stated that the three ASR representatives present were local lead person, Monica Morales, Lisa Colvig-Amir, and Susan Brutschy.

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Salem Magarian /Commissioner Faris Sabbah) unanimously moved to approve the recommendations of the ad hoc committee to enter into a contract with Applied Survey Research for evaluation services as described in the August 2009 Request for Proposals between October 1, 2009-October 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$624,000 and direction to staff to finalize, negotiate, and amend contract as necessary.**

**9. Positive Parenting Program Pilot Project – Action Item**

**A.** The Commission will consider staff recommendation to contract with Triple P for training services, technical assistance, supplies and accreditation between October

1, 2009-June 30, 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$201,000 and direction to staff to finalize, negotiate, and amend contract as necessary.

Director True provided an overview of the family support system and local planning efforts. First 5 Consultant, Nicole Young, presented a detailed outline of the Triple P Pilot in Santa Cruz County, which covered the background of Triple P and the five population-based approach levels. Ms. Young added that after a year of discussion and learning, enough interest was generated to warrant a pilot project. Ms. Young stated that the first meeting of the Triple P Steering Committee was in June 2009 with First 5 Santa Cruz County, Health Services Agency-Children's Mental Health, and Human Services Department-Family & Children's Services. It was during this time the initial planning documents were developed, key agreements were made, and the scope of the pilot and pilot timeline were formed.

**Public Comment:** Cynthia Wells expressed her enthusiasm for the partners sharing the vision of working together to implement Triple P and stated that she senses this is what Santa Cruz County needs at this time.

**M/S/P: (Commissioner Mark Stone /Commissioner Salem Magarian) unanimously moved to approve the staff recommendation to contract with Triple P for training services, technical assistance, supplies and accreditation between October 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$201,000 and direction to staff to finalize, negotiate, and amend contract as necessary.**

#### **10. Multi Disciplinary Neurodevelopmental Assessment Clinic – Information item**

**A.** Commissioner Magarian will update the Commission on progress towards the opening of the center.

Commissioner Magarian stated that the basic plan of the assessment clinic focuses on children who are the most at risk for having neurodevelopmental health adverse outcomes. He stated that the goals are to try and identify what can be done for healthy kids to keep them on the right track, and for those most at risk to create an environment to get them back to the appropriate pathways. Commissioner Magarian added that the most at risk target population that needs attention are those children entering the foster system.

Commissioner Magarian gave special credit to Dominican Hospital for not only providing space, administration and organization, but also for providing the money to pay half of the professional model. The current model is to expand the pediatric clinic so that children entering the foster system would have a simultaneous evaluation (medical, mental health, and developmental).

Commissioner Magarian added that he sensed this would be very successful program which would be in high demand very quickly. He added that all partners would be committing to 3 years of support, and the launch date could be as early as February 2010.

Director True acknowledged the work of the all commissioners for their expertise in the effective spending of our First 5 dollars. Director True thanked Commissioner Magarian for being tenacious and fearless in his ongoing pursuit to launch the assessment clinic and making it a win for all of the partners.

#### **11. Executive Directors Report**

Director True announced that the FY 2008-09 audit has been completed and that there were no findings. Director True gave special thanks to Angela Cline and Barbara Dana for their work, and stated that this is First 5's fifth year of "no" findings.

Director True announced that Head Start received a “zero” finding after a federal review this year. Cynthia Wells added that this federal review occurs every 3 years, and that approximately 10% of the Head Start programs overall have “zero” findings.

Director True stated that the Childhood Matters post cards included in the packet provide background about the Bay Area parenting radio show. She stated that First 5 Alameda has coordinated an overall contract with ten Bay Area First 5 Commissions, and that this is the first year we have made a contribution to support coverage in Santa Cruz.

Director True stated that on September 22<sup>nd</sup> the Governor signed the bill that would provide full funding for the healthy families program. Ms. True stated that we were the first and only local commission to have money in our budget for it, and none of the \$500,000 allocated will be used, and these funds will be going back into our long-term financial plan.

Ms. True commented on the commission’s previous action in contributing to the waiting list diversion program in which a total of approximately 30 counties participated. Ms. True stated that we paid less than \$100,000 and we helped cover 67,000 children statewide between December and June.

Ms. True added that at this point there is no request from the Governor’s office or any other legislative leaders for First 5’s help in any other state program.

**12. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.