



Children & Families Commission
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COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 18, 2008
Petersen Event Center
720 12th Street, Modesto, CA 95354

Members Present: Vicki Bauman, David Cooper, Mary Ann Lee, Nelly Paredes-Walsborn, George Skol, Dan Souza (Chair), and John Walker.

Members Absent: Denise Hunt and Dick Monteith.

Staff Present: John Sims, Executive Director; Erica Inacio, Administration; Tina Jamison, Accountant; Kirsten Jasek-Rysdahl, Program Evaluator; Luis Molina, School Readiness Coordinator; Dan Rosas, Program Monitor; and Marc Hartley, Counsel.

I. Chair Souza called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Chair Souza welcomed those in attendance. Commission and staff members were introduced.

II. Public Comment Period
None.

III. Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar was approved.

Moved Skol, Seconded Paredes-Walsborn. – Unanimously approved.

IV. Agenda Items

A. The Commission approved the Commission Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2007.
Approved on consent.

B. Executive Director's Office

1. The Commission was presented with a Sustainability Training Proposal submitted by Social Entrepreneurs. The proposal is designed to support programs' efforts to continue services after the loss of Commission financial support and is a part of the Commission's priority to support programs' internal capacity by focusing programs on sustainability efforts.

The 2007/2008 scopes of work for all programs included a provision that Contractors would participate in sustainability training provided through the Commission and that all programs were to develop a sustainability plan by June 30, 2008.

Commission staff interviewed three consultants, who are qualified to provide sustainability training and staff recommended Social Entrepreneurs to provide the training.

The Commission approved the agreement with Social Entrepreneurs in the amount of \$13,355 to provide sustainability training to contractors and approved the transfer of \$13,355 from the Contracts Adjustment line item to fund this agreement.

Moved Paredes-Walsborn, Seconded Skol. Unanimously approved.

2. The Commission held a Public Hearing on the First 5 California's 2006-2007 Annual Report as required by Section 130140(a)(1)(H) of the California Health and Safety Code.

The Public Hearing was opened at 4:18 p.m. and hearing no comments, the hearing was closed at 4:19 p.m.

3. The Commission heard a presentation on the Local Program Evaluation Report for FY 2006/2007. Based on Section 130100 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission is required to “use outcome based accountability to determine future expenditures”. It has been interpreted to require evaluations to be conducted of programs funded with Proposition 10 funds.

The evaluation report is designed to provide the Commission with information about the effectiveness of 22 programs, and recommendations regarding program changes and continued funding. The report outlined the four result areas, geographic areas served by the programs, distribution of the funds, distribution of participants served, and overall conclusions and recommendations. The highlights identified that the Commission’s emphasis is on Result Area 1 (Improved Family Functioning) and that the Family Resource Centers have completed their second year of operations.

The report also highlighted outcomes accomplished by each of the programs, along with the successes and challenges. The report identified that participation in specific services need to be increase; accurate and meaningful data needs to be collected; and more effective measurements and outcomes need to be developed to portray impacts of the programs.

The overall recommendations were to examine service delivery and to develop plans to increase participation in services; to review and revise indicator data, strategies, and/or expected outcomes to better represent impacts of programs.

The Differential Response Family Resource Centers have established an extensive network of collaborations and have improved data gathering techniques and outcomes for all four result areas. As a result, FRC’s have played a major role in the county’s drop in recurrence of child maltreatment rates. The FRC’s also faced challenges such as inconsistencies in data collection, utilization of best practices to increase outcomes, and allocation of resources.

The recommendations for the FRC’s consisted of reissuing a Request for Proposal for FY 2009-2010 and reallocate resources; continue to refine data gathering techniques, and encourage contractors to share and adopt best practices.

Recommended future activities were:

- Programs need to create a sustainability plan
- Outreach to a more ethnically diverse population
- Continue to implement customer satisfaction and staff surveys
- Provide services to underserved areas
- Consolidate service delivery.

After the presentation, some of the contractors present stated that they were glad to see that the data being collected is being looked at and also asked the commission to consider an evaluation team (such as the School Readiness Evaluation Team) to provide assistance to the programs. Others expressed appreciation for asking for feedback from the contractors and making changes to the report.

The Commission commended staff for their efforts in completing the evaluation and a job well done and moved to accept the report. Contractors were urged to review their outcomes and set more realistic goals.

Moved Walker, Seconded Lee. Unanimously approved.

4. The Commission approved a budget amendment for the Families in Partnership Program to reallocate \$5,015 from salaries and benefits to indirect costs.
Approved on Consent.

5. The Commission authorized the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Community Services Agency, effective November 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, in an amount not to exceed \$48,811 for administrative support of differential response/family resource center contracts. In addition, staff was authorized to make the necessary budget amendments.

Approved on Consent.

6. The Commission adopted a response to the Purchasing Card Audit for July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2005 and the Payroll Reimbursement Audit for 2004-2005. In the Purchasing Card Audit for July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2005, two material findings were noted; in the Payroll Reimbursement Audit for 2004/2005, one material finding was noted; and in the Payroll Reimbursement Audit for 2006/2007, no findings were noted.

Approved on Consent.

C. Committee Reports

1. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Operations Committee meetings of January 19 and March 5, 2008.

Approved on Consent.

2. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Administrative & Finance Committee meetings of January 7 and March 3, 2008, including monthly financial reports.

Approved on Consent.

3. The commission accepted the minutes for the Executive Committee meetings of January 14 and March 10, 2008.

Approved on Consent.

D. Program Reports

1. The Commission accepted the monthly reports from the CARES Project of the Child Development Training Consortium for the months of November 2007 through February 2008.

Approved on Consent.

V. Correspondence - None.

VI. Commissioners' Reports

1. Commissioner Cooper informed the Commission that he and Supervisor Monteith attended the Family Resource Center celebration and saw how proud the FRC members were of their work. Commissioner Cooper acknowledged and complimented the efforts of all the FRCs.

VII. Staff Report

John Sims, Executive Director, shared with the Commission that:

- Impacts of the State budget crisis may result in possible legislative responses that could impact Stanislaus County Proposition 10 Programs. Some Commissioners wanted to continue with business as usual while other members indicated that a conservative approach should be taken. The staff informed the Commission that a planning session to discuss this further would be scheduled in the month of April.
- Dan Rosas presented on the evaluation responses for the Annual Provider Meeting held on February 9, 2008 at the Modesto Junior College. There was a total of 284 attendees, 27 partner exhibits at the conference that focused on "Taking Care of Yourself on the Outside" and "Taking Care of Yourself on the Inside". The feedback obtained on the conference identified it as an excellent to very good conference. The feedback ranged from the keynote presenters, to the food, to the facility. Of the 284 attendees and of those that completed the evaluation, 56 stated that they attended last year's conference. The majority of the attendees indicated that their expertise was that of a "teacher".

Dan indicated that the total cost of the conference was \$17,274 or \$57 per attendee. The Conference key note addresses will be broadcasted on the county web and cable. Staff is looking forward to preparing the event for next year.

The Commission commended staff for a job well done on arranging the conference. The Commission also commented on the networking that took place among the vendors, keynote speakers, and those in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.