



**Children & Families Commission**  
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**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, October 28, 2008**  
*Petersen Event Center*  
720 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto, CA 95354

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

**Members Absent:** Dick Monteith.

**Staff Present:** John Sims, Executive Director; Erica Inacio, Administration; Tina Jamison, Accountant; Kirsten Jasek-Rysdahl, Program Evaluator; Dan Rosas, Program Monitor; and Jack Doering, Counsel.

I. Chair Hunt called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Chair Hunt welcomed those in attendance. Commission and staff members were introduced.

II. Public Comment Period

John Uolanda, CARES Project participant and resource teacher with Modesto City Schools, expressed his gratitude to the Commission for funding the CARES Project.

III. Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar was approved.

**Moved Skol, Seconded Cooper. – Unanimously approved.**

IV. Agenda Items

A. The Commission approved the Commission Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2008.

**Approved on consent.**

B. Executive Director's Office

1. The Commission approved a response to the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008 credit card (purchasing card) audits. The use of Commission credit cards is the preferred method of paying for employee travel costs (mileage, meals, parking, bridge tolls, etc) and for the purchase of supplies (office materials, meeting materials, newspaper ads, etc).

The credit card audits for this three year period contain one recommendation. It was recommended that the Purchasing Card Clerk not reconcile her own credit card charges. Commission staff has implemented the recommendation.

**Approved on consent.**

2. Commission staff annually reviews the Policies and Procedures Manual and recommends annual readoption of the Manual to ensure that its provisions have been reviewed and to remove any question about what is the most recent version of the document.

A brief summary of the Policies and Procedures Manual changes were presented at the Commission meeting. The changes fell into two categories:

- Language changes that serve to enhance readability and consistency, but do not change the meaning of the section.
- Language changes involving more significant policy amendments (Section 406 – Budget Amendments by Contractors and Section 600 – Monitoring and Evaluation of Contractors).

At 4:15 PM, after presenting and discussing the suggested revisions, the Commission Chair, Denise Hunt, opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 4:16 PM. A motion was made to adopt the manual and to instruct staff to place the manual on the Commission website.

**Moved Bauman, Seconded Walker. Unanimously approved.**

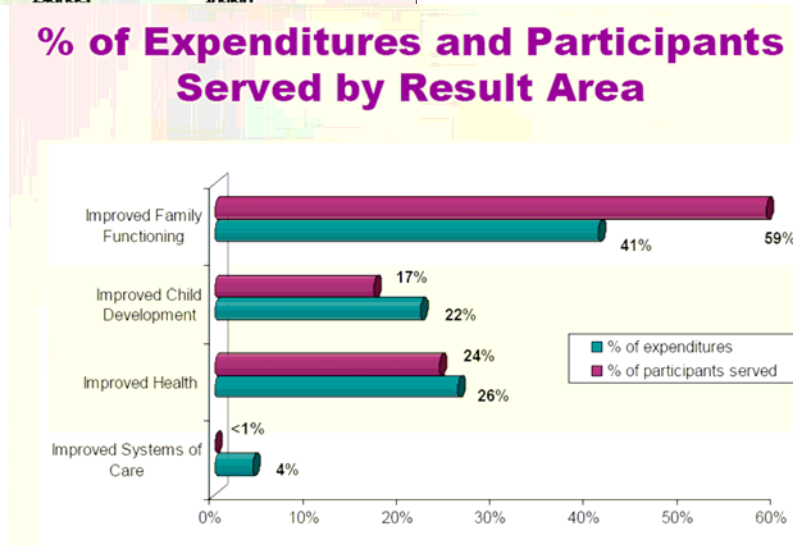
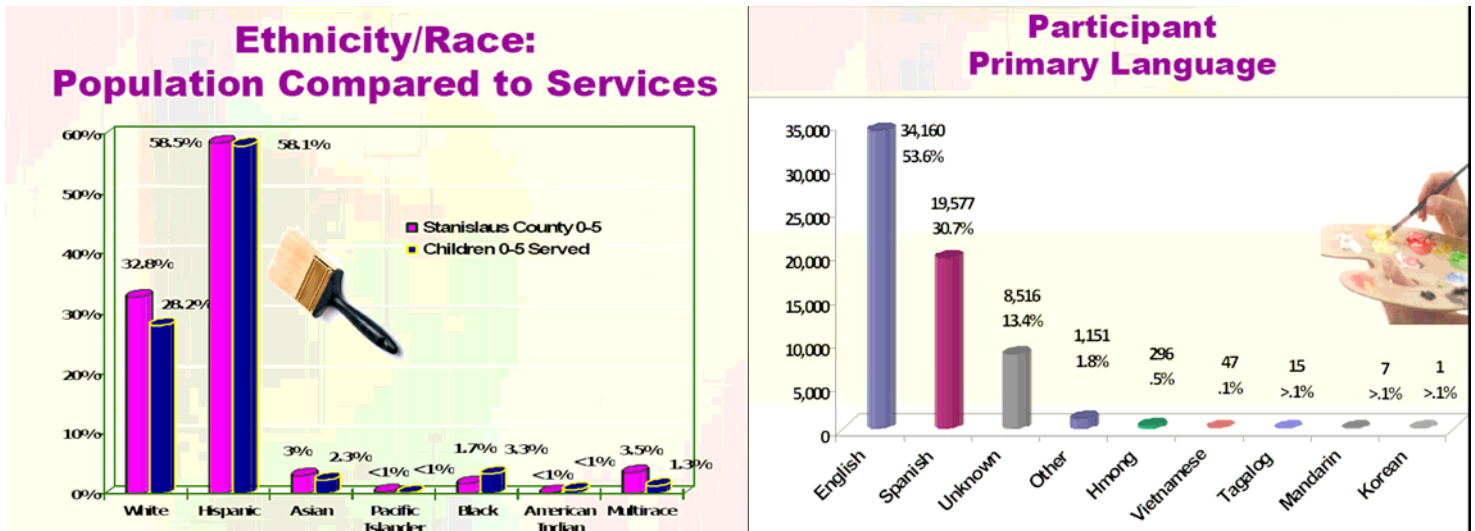
- The Commission, in accordance with Section 130150 of the Health and Safety Code (which requires local Children and Families Commissions to conduct a public hearing on an Annual Report and to submit the Annual Report to the State by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year), heard a presentation on the 2007-2008 local annual report.

As in previous years, the Commission completed a questionnaire provided by the State First 5 Commission. The State uses the 58 local reports to compile a statewide report that must be submitted to the Legislature by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

The presentation by Kirsten Jasek-Rysdahl summarized the revenues and expenditures used to provide services to 0-5 children in Stanislaus County. In FY 07-08, there was approximately \$8,924,285 in revenues and \$9,646,564 in expenditures – leaving the fund balance at \$20,714,988.

Of the \$9,646,564 in expenditures, 5% was expended in administration; 2% in evaluation of the programs; 41% in improved family functioning; 22% in improved child development; 26% in improved health; and 4% in improved systems of care. There were a total of 28,404 children 0-5, 26,923 parents/guardians, and 8,443 other family members who participated in Prop 10 funded programs in FY 07-08.

The following charts summarize other details of the presentation:



Some highlights of accomplishments under Improved Family Functioning include:

- Behavioral, substance abuse, and mental health services
  - 85% reported improved relationships
  - Decrease in risk factors for 95% of families served
- Resource and Referrals
  - 7,266 children and families
- Targeted intensive parent support services
  - 98% of child kept safe

#### Improved Child Development

- School Readiness Programs
  - The # of SR children receiving screenings increased 18.8%
  - The % of SR children with age appropriate literacy skills increased by 8.5% and 17.8% in first grade
- Early Education Provider Program
  - 943 early learning providers were trained to better care for children

#### Improved Child Health

- Breastfeeding Assistance
  - 9 Baby Friendly Awards
- Health Access
  - 2,592 children received medical care
  - 63.5% converted to health insurance
- Prenatal Care
  - 93.5% of pregnant women had full-term births
- Primary Care Services
  - 917 health care visits and 376 Well Child Exams through mobile service
- Safety Education and Injury Prevention Programs
  - 4,279 new parents were educated in hospitals about Shaken Baby Syndrome with only 1 documented case.

#### Improved System of Care

- Outreach, Support, and Management
  - 100% of programs receiving site visits and attending countywide meeting found the services beneficial.
- Provider Capacity Building and Training
  - 98% of children 0-5 are entered in the immunization registry

At 4:37 p.m. the Public Hearing was opened. Hearing no comments from the public, the Public Hearing was closed at 4:38 p.m.

The Commission appreciated the staff's efforts to summarize the great accomplishments of funded programs and made a motion to accept the 2007-2008 local annual report and to authorize the Executive Director to submit the annual report to the State First 5 Commission.

**Moved Paredes-Walsborn, Seconded Souza. Unanimously approved.**

4. The Commission heard the first half of a presentation on the Stanislaus County School Readiness Evaluation for 2007-2008. The presentation covered access to school readiness services and general outcome trends. There were a total of 3,134 participating children and families (including the baseline (non-SR) children) who are to be tracked through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

The school districts participating are: Modesto (8 school and no new participants), Patterson (Grayson Charter), Riverbank (Rio Altura and California Avenue), Turlock (Osborn, Wakefield, and Cunningham), Waterford (Moon), Chatom (Chatom), Keyes (Keyes), and Newman-Crows Landing (Von Renner).

Harold Stanislaw, PhD and Belle Jarrett, MA presented on the different services provided by the school districts; health services, health and safety classes, parent/family support services, and early childhood education.

Of the children served, 75% of children received all 5 health screenings (physical health checks/services, hearing checks/services, vision checks/services, dental checks/services, and behavior/emotional checks). However, behavioral screenings were down in most districts.

Of the Health and Safety Classes provided (nutritional classes, health fairs, safety programs, healthcare classes, home visits for healthcare, and behavioral counseling), participation in most programs declined compared to the previous year and districts tended to focus on one type of program.

Of the Parent / Family Support Services (family counseling, adult education, vocational education, parenting classes, father/male involvement), parenting class had good attendance and other parent/family support services were underutilized - which is no change from the previous year.

Of the Early Childhood Education services provided (summer transition, free book programs, literacy fairs, pre-literacy programs, kindergarten enrichment programs, home visits for ECE, and parent-child classes), participation in most programs declined since last year, preschool access remained unchanged, and literacy activities were poorly coordinated with free book programs.

The Evaluation Team analyzed participant data and identified the following:

- Health checks increased among English learners
- Mental health support dropped among children who attended preschool
- Parent involvement dropped among English speaking parents whose children did not attend preschool
- Home literacy practices were strong and improved since last year
- Readiness to learn declined since last year
- Readiness scores were especially low for English learners
- Control over negative behavior remained strong overall, but declines were seen in English learners with no preschool experience
- Positive social skills declined, especially in English speakers with no preschool experience
- Waterford programs targeting social skills seem to be working
- Literacy Skills - English speakers did better than English learners
- School readiness children have a literacy advantage and the SR programs may close the literacy gap for English learners.

Dr. Harold Stanislaw presented the School Readiness Evaluation team's recommendations:

- Promote greater parental involvement in schools
- Target kindergarten readiness and literacy development in English learners
- Consider Grayson Charter a model for literacy development in English learners
- Consider Richard moon a model for development of social skills.

At the end of the presentation two questions were presented:

1. How many programs are needed to achieve academic success?
2. What combination of programs is needed for academic success?

The Commission was impressed with the data and asked that staff present the results not just to the SR representatives but to policy making and decision making members (to District Boards and to Superintendents).

Staff is in the process of trying to tie these results to participant's STAR Scores and will try to coordinate meetings with the superintendents of the participating school districts.

Dr. Stanislaw informed the Commission that at their December Commission meeting there would be a presentation linking outcomes to services and best practices.

## C. Committee Reports

1. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Operations Committee meeting of October 20, 2008.  
**Approved on Consent.**
2. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Administrative and Finance Committee meeting of October 13 2008; including the September Contract Financial Report.  
**Approved on Consent.**
3. The commission accepted the minutes for the Executive Committee meeting of October 20, 2008.  
**Approved on Consent.**

D. Program Reports

1. The Commission accepted the monthly report from the CARES Project of the Child Development Training Consortium for the month of September 2008.  
**Approved on Consent.**

V. Correspondence - **NONE**

VI. Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Skol complimented staff on their effort to put the report together and Commissioner Hunt concurred with the compliments.
- Commissioner Souza highlighted that there is a lot of capacity building taking place beyond specific programs that does not show up on the local annual reports.
- Dr. Walker shared that the Community Health Assessment for 2008 has been completed and that it will be published in November. He thanked the Commission for their funding contribution and also thanked Kirsten and Dan for their participation in the process. Dr. Walker asked the Executive Committee to consider having a presentation on the report.
- Commissioner Cooper shared that he attended the Health Fair at Hanshaw and was very impressed.

VII. Staff Report

- The Commission received a memo from John Sims on encumbrances and the school's priority on County Treasury funds. This was as a follow up to the Administrative Committee to research the schools' access to the treasury.
- The Committee was informed that the Quarterly Financial Report was included in their packet.
- Sustainability planning has begun with contractors.
- The Kits for New Parents will begin to be publicized in Korean, Vietnamese, and Mandarin.
- The Family Justice Center will be presenting at Committee or Commission meetings in the future (December or January).
- The customer survey is in process and results should be presented at the December Commission meeting.
- The Report to the Community will be distributed to the Modesto Bee.

**Moved Skol, Seconded Cooper to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.**