



**Children & Families Commission**  
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## **COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2010**

**West Modesto Community Center – Finley Conference Room  
401E Paradise Road, Modesto 95354**

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

**Members Absent:** Dan Souza

**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 Jack Doering, Counsel.

- I. Chair Cooper called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Chair Cooper welcomed those in attendance. Commission and staff members were introduced.
- II. Commission members and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Public Comment - None.
- IV. Consent Calendar  
The Consent Calendar was approved.  
**Moved Skol, Seconded by Commissioner Bauman. Unanimously Approved. Commissioner Walker was not present during the motion.**
- V. Agenda Items
  - A. Chairman Cooper presented Tina Jamison with a five-year recognition pin. Tina has been employed with the County for five years and is currently the accountant for the Commission. The Commission commended her on her success of zero findings in recent audits and thanked her for continued support.
  - B. The Commission approved the Commission Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2009 and Planning Session Minutes of January 30, 2010.  
**Approved on consent.**
  - C. Executive Director's Office
    1. The Commission heard a presentation on the proposed revisions to the Strategic Plan. The Plan was originally adopted on April 28, 2009 for fiscal years 2009-2011. The revision added a new objective to the plan:  
Result Area 3: Improved Child Health  
Goal 3: Children are born healthy and stay healthy  
3.4: Maintain access and maximize utilization of children's preventive and ongoing health care.  
*At 4:08 p.m. Commissioner Walker joined the meeting.*  
After the presentation, Chairman Cooper opened the Public Hearing to receive comments from the community.  
Public Hearing: Open at 4:09 p.m. Hearing no comments, the hearing was closed at 4:10 p.m.  
**Commissioner Skol made the motion to adopt the 2009-2011 Revised Strategic Plan, and Supervisor Vito seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.**
    2. The Commission heard a presentation by Commission staff on the 2008-2009 Local Evaluation Report.

Per Section 130100 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Children and Families Commission is required to “use outcome based accountability to determine future expenditures.” An internal evaluator has reviewed all programs, except for school readiness programs. The school readiness programs continue to be reviewed by a team led by Dr. Jamie McCreary.

The report is designed to provide information on the effectiveness of 26 different contracts; provide a summary of 7 school readiness programs; and make any recommendations regarding program changes.

The presentation pointed out that over 47,000 participants obtained services through Prop10 funded programs and the following are some of the highlights from the report.

- 1,652 children 0-5 and their families were referred to a Family Resource Center through Differential Response
- 246 children and families received mental / behavioral health services
- Caregivers of 2,418 children 0-5 received school readiness information from community based school readiness programs
- 2,991 children and pregnant women received medical access and attention

The report also highlighted that 70.8% of the Federal Stimulus Presentation attendees, will be applying for some type of Federal funding.

In addition, the report included the following recommendations:

- Review / support programs' progress toward their Sustainability Plan goals
- Utilize information to guide decisions about priorities and focus
- Continue to provide trainings
- Review funding allocated to Improved Systems of Care / Sustainable Systems
- Consider additional evaluation capacity building
- Consider data / information management system
- Utilize the Strategic Plan as a guide for future funding allocations.

Once the presentation concluded, the Commission invited questions and feedback from the public and Commission members.

**Commissioner Hunt made the motion to accept the report and Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.**

3. The Commission heard a presentation on the staff recommendation for the Commission to approve the discontinuation of contract funding after June 30, 2010 for five different programs.

Commission staff explained how the Long Range Financial Plan approved by the Commission in May of 2009 identified reductions in contract values for 2010-2011. Based on previous Committee and Commission meetings, the members of the Commission made it clear that they wished to provide contractors at least a 120 days notice if contracts would not be continued into the following fiscal year.

Following the discussion at the January 30, 2010 Planning Session, the staff utilized a variety of criteria to arrive at recommended program changes, including:

- The Commission's strategic plan
- The scope of work of contractors
- The cost of providing services
- The needs of the community
- The economic challenges facing the target community
- Duplication of services
- The coordination of service delivery systems for children aged 0-5

- The Commission's Local Evaluation Reports
- The Commission's financial health and its Long Range Financial Plan
- The allocation of funds to Result Areas

In staff's final analysis, the Commission's priorities as identified in its Strategic Plan formed the basis of recommended program changes.

Chairman Cooper reminded the public in attendance that comments on specific programs would be heard as the program is being discussed and reminded Commission members that to avoid any perception of or conflict of interest the motions for each program would be taken separately.

The first contract recommended for discontinuation was the On the Safe Side program. Staff presented information on the success of the program's activities despite being a lower Commission priority.

**Commissioner Lee made a motion to:**

- authorize the Executive Director to send a letter to the On the Safe Side program representative to notify him or her that Prop 10 financial support would be discontinued after June 30, 2010
- authorize the Executive Director to send a letter to programs no longer receiving State financial support (CARES and School Readiness) indicating that scope of work changes and allocation reductions are likely. As both programs are operated through educational institutions, with a statutory obligation to provide employees with employment status change notices by March 15th, the programs are to be advised to issue such notices to employees in the event 2010-2011 Prop 10 allocations require staffing changes.
- instruct staff to place adoption of the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget on the Commission's April regular meeting.
- have the Commission consider by its April regular meeting, adjusting the contract values of all remaining contracts in order to increase funding for priority programs, and/or fund unsolicited proposals, and/or increase the Commission's reserves.
- provide direction to staff, if any, regarding staff work to be completed on unsolicited proposals.

**Commissioner Skol seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Paredes-Walsborn left the room before discussions on El Concilio's contract. Staff presented information on El Concilio such as 95% of clients served are Hispanic, no accounting is available by program component and similar culturally competent services are available within a reasonable proximity.

Chairman Cooper welcomed questions and comments from the public.

The following expressed their concerns for discontinuing Prop 10 support for El Concilio and asked the Commission to reconsider the recommendation and consider other options.

- Michael Glavner
- Ruben Piña
- John Ervin
- Rebecca Ortega Harrington
- Oscar Fierros
- Dale Butler
- Jose Rodriguez
- Arturo Flores
- Jorge Perez
- Annette Sanchez
- Elidia Rodriguez

In addition, the Commission had received phone calls from Raul Mora, Juan Garcia, Jackie Marroquin, Ramon Rosales, Claudia Vega, Alan Patterson, Christine Mellandro, and Maxine also expressing concerns about the loss of Prop 10 funding for El Concilio.

After much deliberation and discussion, Supervisor Chiesa made the motion to authorize the Executive Director to send a letter to El Concilio notifying them that Prop 10 financial support will be discontinued after June 30, 2010. Seconded by Lee.

**Motion passes 5 – 2. Ayes: Chiesa, Cooper, Hunt, Lee, and Skol. Noes: Bauman and Walker. Abstained Commissioner Paredes-Walsborn.**

Commissioner Paredes-Walsborn rejoined the meeting and a five minute break was taken from 6:10 to 6:15 p.m.

Commissioner Hunt left the room prior to any discussions on the Laura's House contract. Brief information was provided on Laura's House such as the program being funded for seven years, the emphasis on craft material purchases for mother/child bonding, and outcome measurement being difficult to track.

Chairman Cooper asked the public and Commission members for any feedback or discussion. Hearing no comments, Commissioner Walker made the motion to authorize the Executive Director to send a letter to Laura's House notifying them that Prop 10 financial support will be discontinued after June 30, 2010.

**Seconded by Bauman. Unanimously approved. Abstained Commissioner Hunt.**

Commissioners Lee and Walker left the room prior to discussions on the SAFE Court and Families in Partnership Aftercare contracts. Brief information was provided on the two programs, such as the length of funding, costs, and the low number of direct services provided.

Chairman Cooper asked the public and Commission members for any feedback or discussion on the program. No comments were made. Supervisor Chiesa made the motion to authorize the Executive Director to send a letter to SAFE Court and Families in Partnership notifying them that Prop 10 financial support will be discontinued after June 30, 2010.

**Seconded by Commissioner Paredes-Walsborn. Unanimously approved: 5-0. Abstained Commissioners Hunt, Lee, and Walker.**

Commissioners Hunt, Lee, and Walker rejoined the meeting after the vote.

4. The Commission approved the 2010 Commission and Committee meeting calendar.  
**Approved on Consent.**

#### D. Committee Reports

1. The commission accepted the minutes for the Administrative Committee meeting of December 14, 2009 and February 8, 2010, including a monthly contract financial report as of January 31, 2010.  
**Approved on Consent.**
2. The commission accepted the minutes for the Operations Committee meeting of December 15, 2009 and February 16, 2010.  
**Approved on Consent.**
3. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Executive Committee meeting of December 15, 2009 and February 16, 2010.  
**Approved on Consent.**

#### E. Program Reports

1. The Commission accepted a report from the CARES Project of the Child Development Training Consortium for the month of October 2009.  
**Approved on Consent.**

#### VI. Correspondence - **Approved on Consent.**

1. The Commission accepted a "thank you" letter from Laura Haley, CARES participant.
2. The Commission accepted a "thank you" letter from Colleen Garcia, Children's Crisis Center.
3. The Commission accepted a letter of support for the School Readiness program from Davie Landers, Keyes Municipal Advisory Council.
4. The Commission accepted a "thank you" letter from Don Davis, Waterford Unified School District.

5. The Commission accepted a letter of support for the CARES Project from Krishawn Stone, Stanislaus Child Development Local Planning Council.

#### VII. Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Cooper shared that he and Commission staff had recently visited several programs: North Modesto / Salida Family Resource Center, Oakdale Family Support Network, Riverbank CASA del Rio and Orville Wright for the Healthy Birth Outcomes and Healthy Start program.

#### VIII. Staff Report

- John Sims informed the Commission about a new Senator Cox bill, which is the same as the Senator's previous bills. John summarized the process to get the bill approved and how the approval of the proposition would affect the local Commission.
- John Sims asked the Commission to consider the information on pages 28-29 of the local evaluation report as noteworthy outcomes that could be used as talking points to describe the effectiveness of Prop 10 programs.
- Dan Rosas shared with the Commission that close to 400 people registered for the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and that the survey results would be presented at the March Commission meeting.
- Luis Molina shared information on the 2010 Census.

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.