



Children & Families Commission
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COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 7, 2010
Petersen Event Center
 720 12th Street, Modesto, CA 95354

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

Members Absent: All present.

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

- I. Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Chair Lee welcomed those in attendance.
- II. Commission members and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Announcement of Commissioner Recusals - None.
- IV. Public Comment - None.
- V. Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar was approved.

Moved Bauman and seconded by Skol. Unanimously approved.

VI. Agenda Items

A. The Commission approved the Commission Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2010.
Approved on consent.

B. Executive Director's Office

- 1. The Commission heard a presentation on the CARES Plus Application, which requires the Stanislaus County Commission to submit a letter of intent to First 5 California indicating whether Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission will submit a CARES Plus Application as a "lead agency".

The CARES Plus program will be partially funded by First 5 California and is divided into two phases:

- Phase I – Planning and Development will take place between February 16, 2011 to June 30, 2011 and the State will provide \$75,000 with no local match.
- Phase II – Program Operations will take place from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 with \$300,000 from the State for a two year period (a 1:2 match).

The Commission was informed that it had the "first right of refusal" to be the lead agency and operate the CARES Plus program in the County. Staff recommended submitting a letter to the State indicating that it will not submit a CARES plus application as the lead agency for the following reasons:

- The Commission's policy is to serve the community as a funder and contract administrator, not as a program operator.
- Components of the former CARES program, which are similar to the components of the CARES Plus program, were assessed in 2009-2010 as being somewhat aligned with the Commission's strategic plan.

- The CARES Plus design requires a high level of administrative / technical sophistication regarding early education teaching strategies, best practices, licensing requirements, and assessment tools.
- Family, friends, and neighbors, a high priority for the Stanislaus Commission, are not eligible for services under CARES Plus.
- Materials for CARES Plus are currently only available in English.
- A heavy reliance on technology for delivering services requires CARES Plus participants to have access to high speed internet and more than basic computer literacy.
- Money was not budgeted in 2010-2011 for a CARES Plus match.

The Commission authorized the Executive Director to submit a letter of intent to inform First 5 California that the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission will not submit a CARES Plus application as Stanislaus County's lead agency. Furthermore, staff is to inform any Stanislaus County public entity submitting a CARES Plus program application that the Commission does not wish to receive CARES Plus financial support proposals.

Moved Skol, Seconded Paredes-Walsborn. Unanimously approved.

Supervisor Chiesa arrived at the meeting after the vote.

2. The Commission heard a presentation on a request from the Community Services Agency to loan or grant funds for Stage 3 childcare costs.

The Community Services Agency submitted a request for funding for 16 families and any families with children 0 through 5 that "term out" from other stages of the childcare stages in the remainder of the fiscal year. From January to June, the estimated cost of the request ranges from \$103,385 to \$242,431, not including administrative fees.

Commission committees and staff identified the following concerns:

- If the State Legislature fails to act or the Governor fails to act, CSA does not have the ability to repay the Commission for Stage 3 subsidized childcare costs.
- Subsidized childcare program have been evaluated as somewhat, rather than closely, aligned with the Commission's strategic plan.
- The Commission stopped funding subsidized childcare more than five years ago.
- The proposed program costs are relatively high compared to the relatively small number of families served.
- Should the Commission fund the Stage 3 program, the Commission and not the State, will be viewed as having eliminated the program when funding ends.

Juan Ramirez, StanWorks Manager, spoke in support of CSA's request. He indicated that CSA is in the process of transferring as many families as possible to other CSA funded programs.

John Sims clarified that 33 of 59 counties have agreed to fund Stage 3, but most are only funding the program for the month of January.

Commissioner Skol made a motion to not fund the request.

Moved Skol, Seconded Cooper. Unanimously approved.

C. Committee Reports – None.

1. The commission accepted the minutes for the Administrative Committee meeting of November 15, 2010, including a contract financial report for the period ending October 31, 2010.

Approved on Consent.

2. The commission accepted the minutes for the Operations Committee meeting of November 17, 2010.

Approved on Consent.

3. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Executive Committee meeting of November 22, 2010.

Approved on Consent.

VII. Correspondence – **Approved on Consent.**

4. The Commission accepted 20 letters from members of the community supporting the continuation of CalWorks Stage 3 childcare.

VIII. Commissioners' Reports

- Dr. John Walker, Public Health Officer, presented the Commission with a summary of Healthy People 2020 goals and emphasized how the goals are closely aligned to the Commission's goals.
- Commissioner Skol welcomed Carol Shipley representing the Family Justice Center.

IX. Staff Report

- Dan Rosas informed the Commission that preparations for the 8th Annual conference on February 26th are on their way and additional information will be provided soon.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.