



**Children & Families Commission**  
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**Commission Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 27, 2011  
401E Paradise Road, Modesto, CA**

**Members Present:** Christine Applegate, Vito Chiesa, David Cooper, Mary Ann Lee, Nelly Paredes-Walsborn, George Skol (Chair), and Dr. John Walker.

**Members Absent:** Denise Hunt and Vicki Bauman.

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

- I. Chair Skol called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Commission members and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Commissioners, staff, and audience members were introduced and welcomed.
- III. Dan Souza, former Commissioner, was recognized for his years of service to the young children of Stanislaus County as a community representative with the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission.
- IV. Announcement of Commissioner Recusals – None.
- V. Public Comment Period – Jeri Trainor, Stanislaus County Office of Education, presented the Commission with a token of appreciation made by the preschoolers at Orville Wright School.
- VI. Consent Calendar  
The Consent Calendar was approved.  
**Moved Cooper, Seconded Paredes-Walsborn. Unanimously approved.**
- VII. Agenda Items
  - A. The Commission approved the Commission meeting minutes of August 23, 2011.  
**Approved on the consent calendar.**
  - B. Executive Director's Office
    1. A public hearing was scheduled on the 2010-2011 Audit Report but the audit was not finalized and the item was removed.
    2. The Commission heard a staff presentation on the Core 4 initiative. The Commission had funded a school readiness program at 18 schools in 8 school districts throughout Stanislaus County for nearly 7 years, budgeting \$1,100,000 per fiscal year for the program. In 2010-2011, the loss of State school readiness funds caused the Commission to develop a reduced-scale early childhood education program (CORE 4) based on the outcomes of the school readiness program and research literature addressing the education on young children. The CORE 4 program was developed to permit the 4 services most closely related to student achievement to be continued at 9 school sites in 6 school districts at a cost of \$62,500 per site.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, Commission staff began to notice a series of recurring issues associated with CORE 4:

- The fit of the program with school district's mission and vision (3 of the 7 eligible school districts declined to participate in 2011-2012)
- The degree of adherence to scope of work activities
- The degree of "buy-in" by school administration
- Small number of participants served
- Data collection – accuracy and consistency

The evaluators (Dr. Jamie McCreary and Dr Harold Stanislaw) delivered their report on CORE 4 and noted many of the same findings and observations.

Data supplied by school districts highlights the challenges associated with maintaining the involvement of Core 4 participants.

STRATEGY:	I	II	III	IV
# SERVED:	218	236	500	289
# COMPLETING SERVICE	118 (54%)	64 (27%)	247 (49%)	274 (95%)

The actual cost of the 2010-2011 Core 4 program varied from what was proposed:

<u># Served Cost per Child</u>	
Proposed by Districts	889 \$633
Actual 2010-2011	500 (56%) \$1,076 (40% more than 09-10 SR costs)

Within the Core 4 program, the cost per child varied by Strategy:

<u># Served Cost per Child</u>	
Strategies 1-3	299 \$1,510
Strategy 4	289 \$299

After the presentation from staff, the Commission heard comments from CORE 4 program staff, representatives, and recipients. The representatives and recipients asked the Commission to continue the program through the end of the fiscal year and for continued support as data is collected on 2011-2012 services.

Comments were heard from:

- Judy Huerta (CORE 4 Coordinator from Turlock Unified)
- Karen Poppen – Keyes Superintendent
- Sandra Huntly – CORE 4 Coordinator from Keyes Unified)
- Elizabeth Meza – Riverbank Board Trustee and Parent
- Susan Taylor – Former School Administrator in Riverbank
- Ken Geisick – Riverbank Superintendent
- Eva Nash – Program Staff
- Nora Zamudio – Parent / Recipient of CORE 4 Services
- Ericka Leal – Early Education Programs Coordinator
- Esther Rosario - RUSD Director of Health and Social Services
- Esther Rosario also read a letter from Riverbank’s Mayor – Virginia Madueno

After much discussion and deliberation, the Commission recognized that even though there are concerns with the performance of the programs, there is discomfort with eliminating CORE 4 funding mid-year. A motion was made to make no changes to the current program, to continue the funding through June 30, 2012, and to have staff work with the programs to evaluate the first six months of services in 2011-2012.

**Moved Applegate, Seconded Paredes-Walsborn. Ayes: Chiesa, Cooper, Skol, Applegate, Walker, Paredes-Walsborn; Noes: Lee**

C. Committee Reports – **Approved on the consent calendar.**

1. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Administrative Committee meeting held on September 12, 2011.
2. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Operations Committee meeting held on September 14, 2011.
3. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Executive Committee meeting held on September 19, 2011.

VIII. Correspondence – None.

IX. Commissioner Reports – None.

X. Staff Reports

- John Sims provided an update on AB99. AB99 is being challenged by 11 counties. A decision from the Fresno Superior Court should be announced in late November. An appeal can be filed 60 days after the decision is announced.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.