

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission  
Special Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the  
Riverside County Children and Families Commission  
Thursday, August 26, 2010 – 1:30 p.m.  
Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office  
2002 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100 – Conference Room A  
Riverside, California 92507**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Chair Connie Beasley.

Advisory Committee Members Present: Chair Connie Beasley; Sylvia Deporto; Stanley Grube; Debbie Franklin (arrived at 12:34 p.m.); Vice-Chair, Georgann Koenig; Dr. Touraj Shafai

Absent: None

Vacant: I (District IV)

Commissioners Present: Vice Chair, Jay Hoffman

Staff Present: Harry Freedman, Executive Director, Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Commission Secretary,

Christina Bath Collosi was present as F5R Strategic Plan Consultant.

**II. Riverside County Children and Families Commission Advisory Committee Business**

Mr. Freedman informed the Committee that Advisory Chair Beasley has the option of reporting out on Advisory meetings and updates at the Commission meetings.

A. Approval of the July 21, 2010 Regular Session Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

*Advisory member Deporto moved to approve the minutes as presented. Advisory member Dr. Shafai seconded the motion. The motion carried. Following is the vote of the Advisory Committee members present: [Five (5) in favor (Beasley, Deporto, Grube, Koenig, Dr. Shafai), Zero (0) abstention, One (1) absent (Franklin), (Zero (0) opposed, One (1) Vacant].*

Chair Beasley reviewed the Advisory Committee Recommended Roles as noted in the July 21, 2010 draft minutes. Advisory Committee member Deporto reminded the Committee of their discussion around the prohibition or limitations on Advisory Committee/Alternate ability to speak or comments on items considered during Commission meetings. Mr. Freedman informed the Committee that the Commission's Executive Committee discussed the concern and decided as a trial today to have today's Commission meeting noticed as a joint meeting in order to allow the Advisory members the opportunity to speak today at the Commission meeting without submitting a speaker card. He noted that County Counsel expressed concern with potential Brown Act violations around meeting notification if more Advisory

Members speaking at the Commission meeting unless the meeting was noticed as a joint meeting. (Advisory member Franklin arrived at 12:34 p.m.)

### **III. Staff Report – Harry Freedman, Executive Director-this item was taken out of order of the agenda.**

#### **A. August 26, 2010 Commission Meeting Noticed as a Joint Meeting**

Mr. Freedman noted that his report was going to consist of the report he just provided only to update the Advisory Committee of their ability to speak and ask questions during the Commission meeting if they chose to do so.

Committee member Grube expressed concern with participation restraints at Commission meetings. In terms of Alternates only being able to participate at certain levels. Mr. Freedman responded that Commissioners have voting rights. Alternates are not Commissioners unless activated in the absence of the primary Commissioner or when the Commissioner is conflicted out of a particular vote. Mr. Grube expressed concern with not being able to speak on closed session matters. Mr. Freedman noted per County Counsel North Alternates are not allowed in Closed Sessions. There would never be a vote on closed session matters during a Commission meeting. Chair Beasley agreed that Alternates would not attend Closed Sessions and there are not questions that come out during Commission meetings on closed session matters so the alternates would not be required to vote. Most closed sessions are regarding Executive Director performance evaluations.

#### **B. Strategic Plan Update**

Ms. Smith introduced F5R Strategic Plan Consultant, Christina Bath Collosi to the Committee. She reported there will be a decision made by the Commission with regard to the specific role of the Advisory Committee. Ms. Bath Collosi has engaged in consultant work with other county commissions relative to development and implementation of strategic plans, organizational development, evaluation, research, funding processes and more.

Ms. Bath Collosi provided a brief history of her background. She expressed the importance of the Advisory Committee to work with the Commission on the Strategic Plan. Mr. Freedman clarified that it Ms. Collosi was brought on to facilitate the Strategic Plan with the Commission and not work individually with each member.

Chair Beasley asked if Ms. Collosi had enough experience to elaborate on what other F5 Advisory Committees are doing. Ms. Bath Collosi responded that varies by county. She hasn't worked with a committee with the same make-up of F5R. She recommended that F5R figure out what works best for them. Ms. Smith noted that through our membership with the state Association we have access to that information. The Advisory Committee agreed s they will continue to provide input on what the Committee role should be overtime.

Advisory Committee member Franklin expressed concern with the Centralize Eligibility List (CEL) process and how it has directly impacted the amount of care being offered and effected families. She would like to bring this item up and discuss later to look at bringing recommendations back to the Commission. Mr. Freedman agreed this is a big issue and

stated that we can schedule this item for a future agenda. Commission Secretary, Ms Stephens will put this item on the next agenda.

#### **IV. Discussion of Role of Advisory Committee-this item was taken out of order of the Agenda.**

##### **A. Sub-committee Recommendations: Purpose and Intent of the Advisory Committee**

Mr. Freedman noted the recommendations before the Committee today were discussed at the previous meeting. This document is being shared today to assist with the Committee prioritizing moving forward with the recommendations.

Miscellaneous Comments: Dr. Shafai reported that he talked about F5R at a breast feeding meeting. He wrote an article that will be published in a month and will share his article with the Committee when it comes out. He shared a proclamation declaring August breastfeeding awareness month.

Chair Beasley congratulated Dr. Shafai on his accomplishments and recommended the Committee request being added to his email list in order to receive the data he shares frequently. Advisory Committee member Grube expressed an interest in the article and data included in it. Dr. Shafai noted that some studies indicate that children who are breastfed longer have less chance of obesity and are generally smarter. Advisory Committee Grube noted he had not heard of the connection between Autism and breastfeeding.

##### **B. Funded Agency Site Visits**

Chair Beasley noted Committee would visit agencies at the same time that staff conducts their monitoring site visits. The Committee members would separate from staff in order to visit with parents and families. Committee member Deporto added the Committee would like to receive a schedule of visits. Ms. Smith noted a list of current visits will be sent to them. Commission Secretary, Ms. Stephens will coordinate visits between F5R staff and the Committee once the list has been provided. Advisory Vice-Chair Koenig suggested Committee members call the agencies ahead to find out what activities the sites they are interested in visiting are having prior to going out.

Advisory Committee member Franklin requested a talking point sheet so the Committee are consistent in their approach. Mr. Freedman noted it is important to define the roles of staff and the Committee. Staff is monitoring the contract and quality insurance whereas the Committee has expressed an interest in testimonials from children and families. Advisory member Franklin asked what information the Committee could share with parents as they represent F5.

Ms. Smith responded a press kit will be created by Public Information Specialist, Jamie Ayala. Commission Vice-Chair pointed out the Committee could report out at Commission meetings on the programs activities, resources and how their program is going in order to help achieve a higher level of recognition about F5R funded agencies. Chair Beasley noted when the parent spoke at the Commission meeting it received a lot of press and that parents always tell the story best.

Advisory Grube suggested when making visits having a baseline of what the agency is contracted with F5R for would be helpful. Advisory Chair noted that Commission Secretary will email her and Georgann information as appropriate. Mr. Freedman noted staff will draft up an outline of a template of the goals of the Advisory Committee, provide

a draft script and schedule of upcoming site visits prior to the next Advisory meeting for Advisory review. He noted agencies are interested in demonstrating the value of their program and putting in pitches since they are aware of the strategic plan being revisited and their contracts are coming to an end. Ms. Smith will check with Ms. Ayala on the PR status of the PR kit.

Advisory Vice-Chair Koenig noted the Committee is aware of what is expected of them and what's to be done at the visits and that they will be visiting on a different level than staff. She reiterated the value of the PR kit, contacting agencies prior to visits, and suggested the Committee stay in their supervisorial district. Ms. Smith added the Committee can choose where they want to visit based on the schedule provided to them by F5R staff. Mr. Freedman, expressed we don't want the Committee put on the spot with agency concerns. He asked them to report any concerns right away to staff. Advisory Vice-Chair expressed she is excited that the Committee will make a difference to agencies and she loves F5R.

Advisory Committee member Franklin suggested we come back at another time to discuss the roles of other First 5 commissions Advisory Committees. Mr. Freedman noted the region just started doing regional meetings so this may provide the opportunity to see what other counties are doing. Commission Vice-Chair Hoffman suggested Mr. Freedman can report out more on his association meetings during his ED Report at the Commission meetings. Chair Beasley asked to add the Advisory Committee role in the strategic plan to future agenda meeting.

Dr. Shafai reported that LA County is providing training on early detection screening for Autism. He asked if F5R can do something that would assist with the early detection of Autism. He will provide more information on the training to the Commission and staff at a later date. Chair Beasley noted she will talk more at the next meeting about the new medical school at UCR and their emphasis on training models. Mr. Freedman noted he is in conversations with IEHP regarding early detection and screening and provision of incentives to physicians to provide the services.

Mr. Freedman reminded the Committee that their next meeting will be on September 23 prior to the Commission meeting based on previous discussion. The consensus was to have a light lunch prior to the meeting.

**V. Public Comments**

No Public Comment

**VI. Future Agenda Items**

1. CEL list
2. Advisory Committee Role in the Strategic Plan
3. Advisory Committee draft of Goals/Script for Site Visits and PR Materials
4. Looking at other F5 Agency Advisory Committees Roles
5. New Medical School at UCR

**VII. Adjournment at 1:15 p.m. to the special joint meeting of the Riverside County Children & Families Commission and Advisory Committee scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. at:**

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office  
2010 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100 – Conference Room D & E  
Riverside, California 92507**

All public record documents for matters on the open session of the agenda are available for inspection at the meeting listed in this agenda, and at the following location beginning three (3) working days prior to the meeting date:

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