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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Special Meeting of the Commission  
**Wednesday, February 25, 2009**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office  
2002 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100 – Conference Room A  
Riverside, California 92507

**This notice shall confirm the Special meeting of the Commission of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission.**

**Note: If special accommodations are needed to participate in this meeting, please contact Lynn Stephens, Commission Secretary, at (951) 248-0014 during regular business hours of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission (M-F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).**

**Note: Public Comments will be taken on agenda items at various times during the meeting. Please submit a Request to Speak form to the Commission Secretary at any time during the meeting indicating the item you wish to address.**

**Note: Please place all cellular phones and pagers on vibrate or off mode during the RCCFC meeting.**

**Agenda**

**Morning Session**  
**9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

A. Call to Order – Jerry Wengerd, Commission Chair

B. Organizational Assessment

1. Chair and Commission Member Comments
2. Executive Director Comments
3. Organizational Assessment – Larry Cabaldon and Patti Larson, Board Room Solutions

**Break 10:30-11:00**

**Afternoon Session  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

C. Call To Order – Jerry Wengerd, Commission Chair

D. Commission Business – Jerry Wengerd, Commission Chair

1. Chair and Commission Member Comments
2. Executive Director Comments – Harry Freedman  
State Budget Update
3. Approval of January 15, 2009 Commission Meeting Minutes

E. Presentation

1. Swearing in of First 5 Service Corps Members for Project Year 2008-2009 – Michelle Burroughs, Administrator, Health and Community Programs and Lucy Furuta, Deputy County Counsel

F. Reports

1. Resolution Report – (Action) – Stella Smith, Deputy Director  
Resolutions 09-09 through 09-12 will be submitted for block approval. Resolutions 09-13 and 09-14 will be considered separately to provide detailed information and to disclose declaration of conflicts.

Riverside County Children and Families Commission members have the option of excluding discussion items from a master motion.

A. Resolution Report (Action) – Stella Smith

09-09: Approving the Award of Funds to the Insight Center for Community Economic Development

09-10: Approving the Professional Service Contract between the Riverside County Children and Families Commission and Child Care Planning Associates for the Child Care Center Design and Siting Guidelines Booklet Project

09-11: Approving the Professional Services Contract Between the Riverside County Children and Families Commission and Inland Empire Small Business Development Center for Training and Technical Assistance Services

09-12: Approving the Resolution with Union Bank of California Regarding Designation of the Executive Director as Authorized to Enter Into Contract Related to Deposit Accounts

09-13: Approving the Transfer of Designated Fund Balance to Undesignated Fund Balance

09-14: Amending the Date and Time for the Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission

2. Advisory Committee Update – Dr. Carla Lidner, Chair

G. Discussion/Action

1. Commission Membership – Harry Freedman, Executive Director
2. Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) Info – Michelle Burroughs, Administrator Health & Community Programs
3. Child Care Comprehensive Data-Recommendation – Harry Freedman, Executive Director/Laurie Schoenberg, Administrator, Early Care & Education
4. State Initiative Recommendations (CARES) – Laurie Schoenberg, Administrator, Early Care & Education
5. Financial Workshop Follow-Up – Sandy Duncan, Administrator Fiscal Services
  - a. Revised 5 year spending Plan
  - b. Revised Fund Balance
6. Volunteer Center Request – Harry Freedman, Executive Director
7. Parkview Community Hospital Request – Harry Freedman, Executive Director
8. Thousand Palms Child Care Center –Harry Freedman, Executive Director

H. Information Items

1. November and December 2008 Financial Statements – Sandy Duncan, Administrator Fiscal Services
2. Quarterly Target Report – Johnathan McDannell, Administrator, Outcomes Management
3. Public Relations Information – Jamie Ayala, Public Information Specialist
4. Executive Director Report – Harry Freedman, Executive Director
5. Public Information Request – Harry Freedman, Executive Director

I. Funded Agency Public Comments

J. Public Comments

K. Future Agenda Items

1. Public Hearing – First 5 California Annual Report
2. First 5 Riverside Evaluation Report for FY 2007/2008 – MOSAIC Inc.
3. Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) Health Access

L. Commission Adjournment to the Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at:

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office  
2002 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100 – Conference Room A,  
Riverside, California 92507**

**Conflict of Interest:** Any person, or group of person present at this meeting, who wishes to speak on a matter may be required to state for the record any contributions, in excess of \$250.00 made in the past (12) twelve months, made to any Committee member, the Committee member receiving the contribution, and the matter of consideration with which they are involved.

**Agenda Posting:** Agendas will be posted at the Clerk of the Board of Riverside County and the Commission Business Office.

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:

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission  
2002 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100  
Riverside, CA 92507**

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission  
9:00 a.m. - Morning Session Meeting  
11:00 a.m. - *Regular Meeting of the Commission*  
Wednesday, February 25, 2009**

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission  
Business Office  
2002 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100  
Riverside, California 92507  
Minutes  
Morning Session  
9:00 a.m.**

**A. Call To Order**

The Special Meeting of the Commission was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Commissioner Chair Wengerd.

Commissioners Present: Chair, Jerry Wengerd, Vice Chair, Susan Loew, Supervisor Stone, Connie Beasley, Yolanda Carrillo, Dr. Frykman, (arrived at 9:15 am), Jay Hoffman, Vicki Oltean

Commissioners Absent: None

Commission Vacancy: One-Jean Benson resigned due to health issues

Advisory Committee Members Present: Chair, Carla Lidner, DDS; Judee Cox, J.M. Evosevich, Donna Johnston, Georgann Koenig, Lynne Craig, Judy Wood, Nancy Wood

Staff Present: Harry Freedman, Executive Director; Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant/Commission Secretary; Johnathan McDannell, Administrator, Outcomes Management; Sandy Duncan, Administrator, Fiscal Services; Laurie Schoenberg, Administrator, Early Care & Education; Michelle Burroughs, Administrator, Health & Community Programs; Sherry Watkins, Facilities & Operations Specialist; Cindy Brandon, Administrative Secretary; Jamie Ayala, Public Information Specialist; Maria Hernandez, Secretary, Early Care & Education, Jean Alexander-Booth, Program Specialist, Early Care & Education; Kristi Van Heule, Program Coordinator, Capacity Building Initiative

Lucy Furuta, Deputy County Counsel was in attendance as legal counsel for the Commission.

Consultants: Larry Cabaldon, Patti Larson, BoardRoom Solutions; Diane Mapes, First 5 Riverside

Board of Supervisors, Legislative Team Member to Supervisor Stone, Robin Reid

**B. Morning Session – Organizational Assessment**

**1. Chair and Commission Member Comments**

Following introductions, Commissioner Chair Wengerd announced that Lucy Furuta, Deputy County Counsel is retiring.

## 2. **Executive Director Comments – Harry Freedman**

Mr. Freedman reported Jean Benson has resigned from the Commission due to health reasons. He indicated that she is doing much better, but has been advised to decrease some of her activities, particularly ones that require travel. Mr. Freedman, Mr. Wengerd, and the entire Commission expressed their regret in accepting Ms. Benson's resignation, and appreciation as she has contributed to the success of F5R.

## 3. **Organizational Effectiveness Review – Larry Cabaldon, Patti Larson BoardRoom Solutions**

Commission Vice-Chair, Loew introduced Larry Cabaldon and Patti Larson to walk through the insights and findings of their discussions with the Commission, Advisory Committee and staff.

Mr. Cabaldon provided an overview. He reminded the Commission that the assessment began in September 2008. He suggested dedicating this assessment to Jean Benson, since she had been involved with First 5 Riverside since its inception. Mr. Cabaldon expressed the importance of reviewing performance indicators and exploring ways to make performance better.

He noted the following:

- On-line assessment shows performance at 66%.
- High performance for a board and team is critical.
- The challenge is to take performance issues and go to the next level.
- In the next 90 days demonstrate to stakeholders that First 5 Riverside is dedicated.

Mr. Cabaldon commented that the key factor in a down economy is speed. He provided an example of how fast can you get from point a to point b and hit all factors? He requested that the Commission, Advisory Committee and Staff to be open during the discussion, take a turn around approach, and not over analyze the data presented. All information shared will be based on interviews as a group.

### **Challenges**

Answer all questions about major issues

Come up with answers and goals

Report back in 90 days

Take action with 70% of information

Put in 100% commitment

### **Overview of Challenges**

Raise the Bar for:

Performance – Accomplish Goals

Leadership- Clear Path well-defined roles and action items

Distribution of Resources- effective and expedient allocations

Governance – improved decision making to get and keep funding

Community Support-program involvement, safekeeping of state allocations

Get all on board with Mission - Community support

Mr. Cabaldon noted there are no standing committees for the Commission. He expressed concern with some of the questions asked at the Commission meeting of the Executive Director and there not being someone other than the Executive Director to answer the questions.

Ms. Larson discussed the organizational review. She noted the full report will be available at the end of the meeting for the Commission and Advisory members.

The Commission recognized and acknowledged taking the Commission and staff through this process could be beneficial to help the Commission improve. The following were presented as areas of focus:

1. Improve board effectiveness to provide clear direction to the Executive Director
2. Provide focus to strengthen the organization and improve the value to stakeholders
3. Uncover critical insights to help improve effectiveness of the organization

Additional areas of concern

1. Insure good governance and transparency at the highest level (be aware of scrutiny).
2. Execute the vision despite multiple points of influence. She noted the diversity of pressures is unique. State interests, county leaders and staff, employees, Commissioners, advisory comprise a diverse group of stakeholders with multiple points of influence. The Commission needs to be able to move through quickly and execute the vision.

Organizational effectiveness is to deliver the key insights and recommendations and utilize them in a fashion to move forward.

Ms. Larson provided an overview of the preliminary steps. Initially two hour interviews including Commissioners, Advisory Chair and a group meeting with Advisory Committee and staff administrators were conducted. Each interviewee provided their perception of what was going on in the organization.

The second phase was the on-line assessment. All interviewees had the opportunity to provide additional feedback on what they perceived as strengths and weaknesses of the organization in the on-line assessment of approximately 60 questions.

The third phase involved Ms. Larson and Mr. Cabaldon attending several Commission meetings and noting strengths and weaknesses. Interviews were also conducted with Board of Supervisor members.

The last phase is the final report and launches the next steps in moving forward. Feedback from personal interviews, on-line assessment and attendance of meetings combined to come up with finding and insights. The findings and insights are based on the perceptions of the group.

Ms. Larson and Mr. Cabaldon asked for questions or criticisms or insights on the interviews.

Commission Chair Wengerd asked what level of response is needed to be considered valid versus what was received.

Ms. Larson noted response for the on-line assessment was 66% and there was 100% participation on personal interviews

The On-line Assessment was the only piece that did not have 100% participation. She noted the report is a compilation of findings of all three assets of the review.

Commissioner Chair Wengerd asked what was considered as a valid response in the questionnaire and when it is not a valid response.

Mr. Cabaldon responded if the interviews were not done then the on-line response would not be considered valid. He expressed his concern that there was only 66% participation. Staffing participation was 100% however the Advisory and Commission were not, resulting in an overall 66% rate. He noted he would not use the 66% as a reason not to except the total findings since they were also based on interview comments as well.

Advisory Committee Member, Donna Johnston reported she tried to do the assessment but was unable to complete it. She could not answer the questions because she did not have enough information or experience with the entire process. This was in part due to the Advisory Committee and the Commission being divided. She added she was not involved in the initial set up of First 5 from her office she felt she had gaps and could not answer honestly.

Advisory Committee Member, Nancy Wood noted, she completed the assessment but most of her answers were "I don't know" because she did not have enough information. Ms. Wood expressed concern that someone could have made an subjective opinion and influenced the survey.

Advisory Committee Member Lynne Craig noted there were open seats on the Advisory Committee at the time the assessment was done. Ms. Larson replied the open seats on Advisory were taken into consideration.

Mr. Cabaldon commented that the Advisory Committee was not initially going to be part of the assessment and acknowledged they did not spend as much time with them as they did the Commission. After the individual interview with Advisory Chair Lidner, it was determined that offering the opportunity to complete the on-line assessment and interviewing the Committee as a group would be the best way to get their input.

Mr. Cabaldon noted there is an education component of the assessment. It begins to put the pieces together of what an executive team and effective board should look like. The initial 90 days allow time to understand the process. Mr. Cabaldon noted the 66% on the on-line assessment gives an indication of where the Commission is today. He suggested including community or Supervisors to participate in more of a working relationship with the Commission and Advisory Committee.

He does not think doing the assessment again right away would be beneficial but suggested redoing it in another 6 months and prepping participants ahead of time. At that time the scores and results will start to go up. The first step is bringing awareness to areas that are known and unknown and what should be known. In moving forward with the challenges is making sure there is at least 70% participation in the assessment.

Mr. Cabaldon noted issues are big and need to be agreed upon. He suggested using quantitative and qualitative information as a starting point. This takes some of the information and allows ways for people to focus on three areas that can be agreed upon. The Commission, staff and community need to be in agreement on the top issues before seeking technical assistance from a consultant. Once there is agreement, progress can be made. He noted the Commission has the highest level of responsibility and it is their responsibility to get issues resolved so the Executive Director and staff can move forward.

Advisory Chair, Dr. Lidner asked if the persistence of responses is a concern with obtaining validity, in addition what were the reasons there was not 100% of Commission participation.

Commissioner Frykman responded that he realized he did not do the assessment. He offered sit in an office and take the on-line assessment if it will help the validity of the survey. He acknowledged feeling bad about not having done so.

Ms. Larson responded there was a combination of different ways of obtaining the information in the report. There was nothing new in the on-line assessment that is reported in the findings that was not supported by the interviews.

Ms. Larson provided findings and insights compiled from the on-line assessment, personal interviews and interaction meeting.

## **Overview of Challenges**

### **Challenge 1. Raise the Bar for Performance – Accomplish Goals**

#### **Performance Findings:**

- Total Strategic Performance Index of 66%
- Board and CEO effectiveness rated 71% (resolving issues and achieving goals)
- The strategic plan is not being utilized as a guide and hasn't been updated to current metrics
- Childcare is of high value; current ranking reveal less than adequate performance
- 50% of the members are new, others are seasoned creating a difference in perceptions  
Feedback from interviews revealed is there have been no objectives set to make it a cohesive entity.

Commission Frykman asked if there was a comparison of how new Commissioners answered questions compared to seasoned Commissioners. Ms. Larson noted that Commissioner tenure had not been considered but it was a good question.

- 66% participation in the on-line assessment  
Feedback was that there were no standing committees for the Commission. This is a key area to improve upon.
- Request more relevant meeting agendas, preparedness and clear and concise reporting. This was from written feedback on the assessment from multiple individuals

#### **Performance Insights:**

- Few or no committees established to address areas of focus
- Meetings need a relevant agenda and clear, correct, concise communication and reporting
- Commission members are highly involved in multiple activities resulting in difficulty in coordinating meeting schedules and performance

## **Challenge 2: Maximize Effective Distribution of Financial Resources**

### **Resource Distribution Findings:**

- First 5 Riverside is accused of “hoarding” funds; not distributing in a timely manner
- The Outcomes Management System has been described as ineffective, slow, and inaccurate. Several expressed reviewing the system to make it more effective.
- There is a need for improved communication, regarding financial allocations, internally and to the public. Specifically, what is the formula of how the funds are allocated?
- There is a perception of unequal allocation of funds appropriated amongst large and small entities/programs. Feedback was received from multiple interviews. Expressed concern about large distribution of funds going to larger entities. Guidelines need to be put in place on how funds are allocated.
- Accomplished successful implementation of one-time-only RFPs

### **Financial Resource Distribution Insights:**

- Based upon the existing financial crisis the State of California is facing, there are mounting pressures to reduce funding. Concerns were expressed amongst the leadership group requesting better communication how pressures are being handled.
- There is a desire for improved accountability, tracking and publishing program Outcomes
- Over the past year, the Commission has an improved understanding of how resources are being utilized

Commissioner Frykman noted one bullet item in the report handout was not displayed in the visual report. The missing bullet item read “The current 50% allocations for sustainability, 50% allocation for First 5 activity is perceived ineffective. Ms. Larson replied that she elected to leave that portion of feedback out of the report because it was a comment made six months ago in an interview. At this time she could not validate whether it was still a concern.

## **Challenge 3: Improve Governance**

### **Governance Findings:**

- Due to the Brown Act, Commissioners have restricted communication/interaction to resolve concerns and issues contributing to a complex decision making process
- Stakeholders have expressed concern for conflict of interest as to whom and how the money is allocated.

The conflict of interest issue surfaced early in the review process. Initially the feedback was that it was not an issue. However currently it is an issue.

- Members of the Advisory Committee directly report to the County Supervisors.
- More than 50% of funds are perceived to be allocated to Commissioner-led organizations.

This came up in multiple interviews as well as on the on-line assessment.

- Due to the mandate of composition and structure of the Commission, there are significant perceived conflicts of interest.

This is currently under review and concerns were expressed during the process.

#### **Governance Insights:**

- The process for voting on key issues is convoluted because those who have conflict of interest must abstain.
- There is a desire for total and complete transparency and diligent gathering of correct information to improve the decision-making process.

Ms. Larson noted during interviews that it was perceived there is not full disclosure of some of the funding decisions made. It was suggested that parameters be established to ensure perceived full transparency by the public. Mr. Cabaldon added the perceived conflict of interest is potentially more damaging than an actual conflict of interest. This is an urgent issue that needs to be resolved.

#### **Challenge 4: Enhance Leadership Effectiveness Leadership Findings:**

- The CEO and Commission's effectiveness are rated at 71% via the on-line assessment
- There is currently little or no succession plan for the CEO, Chairman or Commission. Concern expressed was what happens next?
- The Commission does not feel recognized for their contributions to First 5. This feedback was clear on the on-line assessment.
- There is currently little or no development plan for the Commission, CEO or Staff Administration. This feedback came back from interviews and on-line assessment.
- The Commission, Advisory Committee and Staff Administration would benefit from clarification of roles, expectations and responsibilities.

There were some members in all groups that felt they would benefit in knowing what their role was and the responsibilities of their role.

#### **Leadership Insights:**

- There is a need for clear direction and specific communication between the CEO and the Commission
- Meetings demonstrate a lack of cohesion between the leadership entities (Advisory Committee, the CEO and Commission)

Ms. Larson noted concern was expressed regarding the perceived division, lack of cohesion of staff, Commission and Advisory Committee at the public meetings.

- The overall First 5 team does not have a consistent performance evaluation process

**Opportunity 5: Bolster Community Engagement**  
**Fifth Challenge Findings:**

- Stakeholders do not see a streamlined decision making process including well-researched and clearly executed action steps to the public.
- First 5 would benefit from increased communication to the public about the positive impact of results.
- Clear expectations, mission, goals, capacity and results are not consistently shared with the public, resulting in decreased stakeholder buy-in.
- There is a desire for the Commission and staff administration to be more active and visible in the community enhancing the relationship with the public.

There was desire communicated to extend relationships to all cities in Riverside County.

**5th Challenge Insights:**

- First 5 stakeholders appear to be divided during open session meetings which are visible to the public
- There is a need to extend relationships and communications to all cities in Riverside County

Commissioner Frykman asked how equal are boards in for profit or non profit banks compared to First 5 Commission? Mr. Cabaldon replied that bank boards are similar although there is more complexity in First 5 Commission. He noted there may be some actions the Commission may want to take but cannot due to state restrictions. Mr. Cabaldon noted Supervisor Ashley who was also a Chairman of a board that was going under referred him to First 5 Riverside. He added if First 5 Riverside can determine what the performance gaps are, they can determine what they would like to do better.

Ms. Larson added the perceptions are very real. She recognizes differences need to be brought to the forefront so stakeholders recognize why some of the restrictions limit certain changes that can be made by the Commission.

Commissioner Beasley noted some progress has happened since the beginning of the assessment. She asked Mr. Cabaldon if he was able to measure the progress. Ms. Larson agreed she has witnessed positive momentum during the time of the organizational assessment. She suggested a good task for the workgroups will be to identify benchmarks and area of progress made and ways to close the gaps.

Mr. Cabaldon commented that the focus of the Commission needs to be worked on. He suggested clear and concise reports attached to a strategic plan that all can agree on. All reports should be attached to a strategy. If a meeting is going on and on without a decision it is not effective. He suggested cutting down the meetings and making the

format for decision making stronger. Transparency can be achieved if they are crisp and connected to the strategic plan. Currently he did not see the strategic plan being used at the Commission meetings.

Mr. Cabaldon explained that a good exercise would be to have the Commissioners demonstrate if they could do their stewardship duty by understanding the financials of First 5 Riverside. It is key that all Commissioners understand the need to maintain full disclosure.

Mr. Cabaldon added the perception of conflict of interest is more damaging than the perceived conflict of interest. It is an issue that needs to be resolved. When the public is looking and do not have all of the information they perceive conflict.

(Advisory Committee Member, Lynne Craig left meeting at 10:16 and returned at 10:19)

(Advisory Chair, Dr. Lidner left the meeting at 10:19 a.m. and returned at 10:24 a.m.)

Advisory Committee Member, Nancy Wood asked where the insights on the challenges came from. Ms. Larson replied some are direct quotes, some are assessment results statistics and the third was Ms. Larson and Mr. Cabaldon's involvement in working with other groups. The information presented at today's meeting is a result of specific findings that are provided for the group to determine how they want to move forward.

(Commission Chair Wengerd left the meeting at 10:27 a.m. and returned at 10:29 a.m.)

Mr. Cabaldon shared the next steps contained in the presentation.

### **If we can agree**

1. To meet the identified challenges-make sure this group has the ability to make the impact without someone else taking control
2. To move forward together-eliminate unresolved questions from five years and move on
3. To develop clear and defined action plans
4. To be accountable for performance individually and as a team
5. To set aside differences in order to have alignment and achieve performance goals

Intangibles-Wisdom to use and transfer to five objectives in 90 days

**W** Winning, what is winning for you and the agency

**H** Harmony, everyone on board and allies

**A** –Attitude, when crisis don't start blaming each other-positive aggressive attitude

**T**- Telling the truth, trust

**R** Doing the Right Thing, right people in the right spots the right resources, the right values, ethics and values

### **Tiger Team Purpose:**

*Tiger teams take on the challenge of getting a major task accomplished by exploring all aspects of the issues, answering key questions, addressing areas of disagreement and gaining support to take appropriate action.*

### **Tiger Team Guidelines**

**Recommended Approach:**

1. Assign leaders committed to the challenge result
2. Review challenge with the team
3. Gather individual recommendations
4. Set collaboration schedule
5. Create a specific action plan and set benchmarks
6. Research options/vehicles
7. Assign individual tasks to team members
8. Review and report on status and results at each meeting- Move forward not stay stuck in recovery process

**Tiger Team Working Session**

1. Set Goals:
2. Gather Collective Recommendations:
3. Define Specific Initiatives and Benchmarks:

**Tiger Team Performance:-Commission Level of responsibility with some help from staff**

## Recommended Tiger Team Goals:

1. Create a performance process for the Commission to develop, manage and report on an effective strategic plan-Make sure all are performing together
2. Strengthen the existing process

**Tiger Team: Governance Improvement**

All issues discussed above

Mr. Cabaldon noted PR has gotten better but some is still reactive. He suggested getting public input.

Commission Vice-Chair, Loew clarified beginning steps.

**Next Steps**

1. Assign leaders to manage working groups
2. Establish team members
3. Schedule 1<sup>st</sup> meeting \*=within 30 days
4. Define first meeting agenda
5. Commit to build for 90 days

She addressed the Advisory Committee, Staff and Commission to ascertain who would like to be involved in the different workgroups. In addition to the participation on a team, initial involvement would include flushing out what the primary goals the group would work on. What additional information would be needed to clarify or add content to those efforts? Each group will have one or two Commissioners on each group with one as facilitator to keep the momentum going for the next 90 days.

**Team Focus**

Plan

Info required

Report back to Commission

Drive as fast as possible

Advisory Committee Member Nancy, Wood suggested Advisory Committee Members participate on the groups. Commission agreed with Ms. Wood's suggestion.

**The following is a note of those who volunteered at the meeting to participate in Tigers Group**

**Performance** – Commission Vice-Chair, Susan Loew; Vicki Oltean, Commissioner; Georgann Koenig, Advisory Committee Member; Donna Johnston, Advisory Committee Member; Johnathan McDannell, Administrator, Outcomes Management; Stella Smith, Deputy Director

**Leadership** – Eric Frykman, Commissioner; Supervisor Jeff Stone; Judy Wood, Advisory Committee Member; Judee Cox, Advisory Committee Member; Carla Lidner, Advisory Committee Member; Harry Freedman, Executive Director

**Governance** – Commission Chair Jerry Wengerd; Commission Vice-Chair, Susan Loew; Judee Cox, Advisory Committee Member; Carla Lidner, Advisory Committee Member; Harry Freedman, Executive Director

**Distribution of Financial Resources** – Commission Chair, Jerry Wengerd; Yolanda Carrillo, Commissioner; Nancy Wood, Advisory Committee Member; Carla Lidner, Advisory Committee Member; Georgann Koenig, Advisory Committee Member, Jean Alexander-Booth, Program Specialist II, Early Care & Education, Sandy Duncan, Administrator Fiscal Services

**Community support** – Connie Beasley, Commissioner; Jay Hoffman, Commissioner; JM Evosevich, Advisory Committee Member; Nancy Wood, Advisory Committee Member

Commissioner Frykman suggested utilizing roles of members who may be natural fits in each group before the roles are filled up with volunteers.

Ms. Furuta noted that since there will not be a quorum present, meetings can be conducted as they wish, with or without the public there is no Brown Act Requirement on that. However, due to Brown Act there cannot be serial discussions with other Advisory or Commission members with the intent to obtain consensus for legislative or for advocacy. She cautioned to have the discussions while at meetings rather than through emails to avoid potential serial meetings which are violations of the Brown Act.

Ms. Larson noted worksheets are in the report pertaining to each group.

Commission Vice-Chair, Loew noted there will be other opportunities for all to volunteer. She requested the Initial committee meetings should be held prior to the next Commission meeting

**Setting Goals objectives**

Commission Vice-Chair Loew asked for the Commissioners on each committee to decide who will launch the first meeting and take on the lead role. They can contact Commission Vice-Chair Loew for additional information.

Chair Wengerd asked if Mr. Cabaldon and Ms. Larson would be involved at the kick off meetings. Commission Vice-Chair, Loew replied that that the extent of their commitment ends with today's report. They are willing to assist but the Commission will need to determine if they want them to participate and if so at what level. The first Tiger Group meetings will be held to determine what level if any the Commission would like for Ms. Larson and Mr. Cabaldon to facilitate. Recommendations on this matter will be brought to the next Commission meeting as a discussion item.

(A copy of BoardRoom Solution's complete report is on file at the Commission's business office)

***The morning session adjourned at 11:00 a.m. for break and Commission room set up.***

## **Minutes**

### **Afternoon Session 11:00 a.m.**

#### **C. Call To Order at 11:16 a.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the Commission was called to order at 11:16 a.m. by Commissioner Chair Wengerd.

Commissioners Present: Chair, Jerry Wengerd, Vice Chair, Susan Loew, Connie Beasley, Yolanda Carrillo, Dr. Frykman, Jay Hoffman, Vicki Oltean  
Commissioners Absent: Supervisor Stone

Advisory Committee Members Present: Chair, Carla Lidner, DDS; Donna Johnston, Lynne Craig, Judee Wood

Staff Present: Harry Freedman, Executive Director; Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant/Commission Secretary; Johnathan McDannell, Administrator, Outcomes Management; Sandy Duncan, Administrator, Fiscal Services; Laurie Schoenberg, Administrator, Early Care & Education; Michelle Burroughs, Administrator, Health & Community Programs; Sherry Watkins, Facilities & Operations Specialists; Cindy Brandon, Administrative Secretary; Jamie Ayala, Public Information Specialist; Deborah DeForge, Program Specialist, Outcomes Management; Cassandra Adams, Contract Specialist, Grants & Contracts; Maria Hernandez, Secretary, Early Care & Education; Carol Abella, Program Specialist, Early Care & Education; Rocio Zuniga, Program Specialist, Early Care & Education

Lucy Furuta, Deputy County Counsel was in attendance as legal counsel for the Commission.

Consultant: Diane Mapes, First 5 Riverside

Board of Supervisors, Legislative Team Member to Supervisor Stone Robin Reid

#### **D. Commission Business – Commission Chair, Jerry Wengerd**

##### **1. Commissioner Comments:**

Mr. Freedman provided Commissioner Benson's resignation letter to Commission Chair, Wengerd for distribution. Commission Vice-Chair, Loew would like to recognize Commissioner Benson at a later Commission meeting for her years of service. Mr. Freedman will arrange to bring Commissioner Benson to one of the regular Commission meetings as soon it is convenient for her. Mr. Freedman noted that in the past a plaque was ordered, and a brief presentation took place to recognize the Commissioner for their dedication to the Commission

The Commission agreed that it would be acceptable for Deputy Director, Stella Smith to order a plaque for Commissioner Benson. The plaque will include the beginning and end

date she began to serve on the Commission. Mr. Freedman will contact Commissioner Benson to make arrangements for her have transportation so she can be present at a Commission meeting in the near future.

Commissioner Beasley added that she would like to recognize Lucy Furuta, Deputy County Counsel for her years of service with the Commission. Ms. Furuta will be retiring at the end of March 2009. The new Deputy County Counsel for the Commission will be Tiffany North.

Ms. North is expected to attend the March Commission meeting.

## 2. **Executive Director Comments – Harry Freedman**

### State Budget Update

Mr. Freedman reviewed the Association State Budget Summary dated February 19, 2009 included in the Commission packet, noting that ballot measure 1D will be included in the special election on May 19<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Freedman reviewed elements of the Budget Bill proposal as noted below:

The Legislature approved a budget package which included a significant redirection of Proposition 10 funds as well as other changes. These provisions represent significant changes to Proposition 10 as originally approved by the voters, and therefore require voter approval. An election will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> which will contain five measures including the Proposition 10 changes (Item 1.D). Below is a general summary of the primary elements impacting Proposition 10:

#### 1. State Commission Reserves.

This bill transfers up to \$340 million, but not less than \$275 million, in existing State Commission reserves to be transferred to the state in 2009-10 for expenditure on state-operated health and human services programs as specified.

#### 2. Five-Year Transfer of Revenues.

This bill transfers \$268 million annually (\$214 million from county Commissions and \$54 million from the State Commission) for five years (for expenditure in 2009-10 through 2013-14) for expenditure on state-operated health and human services programs as specified.

#### 3. Minimum for Small Counties.

This bill requires the State Commission to ensure a minimum baseline of \$400,000 for every county Commission to assist small and rural counties.

#### 4. Eliminates the Media Account.

This bill eliminates the Media Account and instead, places these revenues into the Unallocated Account. Therefore, the Unallocated Account will now receive eight percent of the revenues, whereas it had previously received two percent of the revenues.

#### 5. Cash Borrowable Provision.

This bill enables a local Controller to use funds from the Local California Children and Families Trust Fund for loans to the local general fund with interest for the loan computed as specified.

#### 6. Involvement of County Auditors.

This bill requires each county Commission to provide its Board of Supervisors and County Auditor with copies of its audits and reports. It also requires a County Auditor to serve in an ex-officio capacity on the county Commissions.

#### Technical Issues

1. While the intent of the legislature was to reduce Proposition 10 revenues to Counties by 50% for a five year period, the use of a specific dollar amount (\$214 million annually) results in a decrease of greater than 50%. As a result of this issue, F5R's Proposition 10 allocation could be as low as \$10.3 million in 2009-10 rather than the \$23.2 currently anticipated.
2. It is unclear whether the transfer of State Fund Balance funds will result in maintaining State Initiative contracts beyond the current year. This question involves in an additional \$3 million in 2009-10, and \$1.7 million in 2010-11.

The SCHIP 10% reduction is separate from the State Budget. The funds that the State is looking at are going to be used to assist in balancing the State Budget. Mr. Freedman recommended developing a new spending plan that utilizes as much of the funds that remain available for services the Commission deems prudent to sustain through 2014 and reprioritize the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Freedman informed the Commission that there are strict regulations about what can be done with public funding concerning ballot measure 1D. First 5 cannot use public funds to lobby or make recommendations on approval or disapproval on a specific bill, but can provide information about the impact.

Commissioner Frykman asked if the negotiations consisted of First 5 groups agreeing to line up behind the proposition. Mr. Freedman replied the negotiations between the legislature and First 5 CA and negotiations with First 5 Association and Counties were separate. He noted that some have argued that with the compromise language at least the loss will be locked in for a specified period of time. The legislature cannot take any action without voter approval. The Commission does have the option of taking a position in opposition. First 5 Association would have the option to use a portion of their money for lobbying however they don't have funds available. Raising the amount of money it would take to mount a successful campaign would take a significant amount of time that we don't have.

(Commissioner Vice-Chair, Loew left the meeting at 11:31 a.m. and returned at 11:36 a.m.)

Mr. Freedman noted First 5 Riverside Commission is to be credited for effective fiscal management which results in having options to consider so the reductions will not be as devastating as they could be.

Commission Chair, Wengerd noted public comments will be taken at the end of the meeting. He instructed the public to complete the Request to Speak form and turn it in to the Commission Secretary if they would like to speak.

### **3. Approval of January 15, 2009 Special Commission Meeting Minutes**

*Commissioner Frykman moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Beasley seconded the motion. Following is the vote of the Commission members present: [Seven (7) in favor (Wengerd, Loew, Beasley,*

*Frykman, Hoffman, Oltean, and Carrillo), Zero, (0) Abstain, (One (1) absent (Stone), Zero (0) opposed]*

Commission Chair, Wengerd commented that in the draft of the January 15, 2009 minutes under the discussion regarding conflict of interest, there were comments made that he miss-voted on the Mental Health Initiative. He clarified that he did not -vote on the issue, and it may be a misstatement of names noted in the minutes. He requested it be made clear. Deputy Director, Stella Smith acknowledged Commission Chair, Wengerd was correct that his did not mis-vote. She informed him that the minutes reflected the comment as stated by the speaker. Commission Chair requested that it be noted as an error.

Commission Vice-Chair, Loew noted her appreciation of the detail in the minutes of the meeting. Mr. Freedman informed the Commission that the detail of the minutes was a large effort of Lucy Furuta, Deputy County Counsel, Lynn Stephens, Commission Secretary and Stella Smith, Deputy Director.

## **E. Presentations**

### **1. Swearing in of First 5 Service Corps Members for Project Year 2008-2009 – Michelle Burroughs, Administrator, Health and Community Programs and Lucy Furuta, Deputy County Counsel**

Ms. Burroughs provided an overview of the AmeriCorps services that are provided in the community. She introduced the new AmeriCorps members for the 2008-2009 program year to the Commission. Ms. Furuta administered the Oath of Office and Ms. Burroughs administered the AmeriCorps pledge.

Commission Vice-Chair, Loew apologized for the Commission not being able to accommodate the AmeriCorps at the January 15, Commission meeting. She thanked them for their patience and returning.

## **F. Resolution Report (Action) – Stella Smith, Deputy Director**

Ms. Smith facilitated the action on the resolutions presented for approval. A copy of the entire Report is on file at the Commission business office. Ms. Smith noted conflicts have been noted in the Report for Commission review. Resolutions 09-09 through 09-12 were presented as a block motion.

Following is a record of action(s) taken by Commission on Resolutions 09-09 through 09-14:

Resolutions 09-09 through 09-12 were presented for block approval. See the record of the vote below.

Ms. Smith provided overview or resolutions and called for further discussion and questions.

Commission Chair, Wengerd requested the status of the IEHP resolution. Ms. Furuta informed him that there will be a presentation at today's meeting. Ms. Smith added that that the resolution discussed at the January 15 Commission meeting was pulled from today's Agenda and would be on a later Commission Agenda.

**09-09: Approving the Award of Funds to the Insight Center for Community Economic Development**

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission approve the award of funds to Insight Center for Community Economic Development not to exceed \$40,000. Further, that the Commission authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to move forward with contract negotiation and development of the final professional services contract to be brought back to the Commission for approval and ratification during the March meeting.

**09-10: Approving the Professional Service Contract between the Riverside County Children and Families Commission and Child Care Planning Associates for the Child Care Center Design and Siting Guidelines Booklet Project**

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission approve the Professional Services Contract with CCPA not to exceed \$69,655.00. Further, that the Commission authorize the Executive Director or his designee to execute the necessary documents/actions to effectuate this resolution.

**09-11: Approving the Professional Services Contract Between the Riverside County Children and Families Commission and Inland Empire Small Business Development Center for Training and Technical Assistance Services**

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission approve the Professional Services Contract with Inland Empire Small Business Development Center (SBDC) not to exceed \$40,000.00. Further, that the Commission authorize the Executive Director or his designee to execute the necessary documents/actions to effectuate this resolution.

**09-12: Approving the Resolution with Union Bank of California Regarding Designation of the Executive Director as Authorized to Enter Into Contract Related to Deposit Accounts**

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission approve the Public Entity Resolution with Union Bank of California and authorize the Executive Director or his designee to execute the necessary documents/actions to effectuate this resolution.

*Commission Vice-Chair, Loew moved to approve Resolutions 09-09, 09-10, 09-11 and 09-12. Commissioner Carrillo seconded the motion. Following is a vote of the Commission members present: [Seven (7) in favor (Wengerd, Loew, Beasley, Frykman, Hoffman, Oltean, Carrillo), Zero, (0) Abstain, (One (1) absent (Stone), Zero (0) opposed]*

**09-13: Approving the Transfer of Designated Fund Balance to Undesignated Fund Balance**

*Ms. Smith provided an overview of 09-13. She reminded the Commission of the presentation by Ms. Duncan at the January 15 Commission meeting and their consensus to transfer funds as stated in the resolution.*

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission approve the transfer of \$5,543,257 from Designated Fund Balance for future obligations and to transfer \$16,000 from Designated Fund Balance for Playground Initiative to Undesignated Fund Balance and authorize the Executive Director to execute the necessary documents/actions to effectuate this resolution.

*Commissioner Frykman moved to approve Resolution 09-13. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. Following is a vote of the Commission members present: [Seven (7) in favor (Wengerd, Loew, Beasley, Frykman, Hoffman, Oltean, Carrillo), Zero, (0) Abstain, (One (1) absent (Stone), Zero (0) opposed]*

**09-14: Amending the Date and Time for the Regular Meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission**

Ms. Smith discussed resolution 09-14. Commissioner Frykman questioned if the November Commission meeting will be held the day before Thanksgiving. Ms. Smith stated that the Commission typically combines the November and December Commission meetings at a convenient time in early December.

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission approve the resolution to amend the meeting day and time of the Commission as stated and authorize the Executive Director or his designee to take the necessary actions to execute this resolution.

*Commissioner Vice-Chair, Loew moved to approve Resolution 09-14. Commissioner Frykman seconded the motion. Following is a vote of the Commission members present: [Seven (7) in favor (Wengerd, Loew, Beasley, Frykman, Hoffman, Oltean, Carrillo), Zero, (0) Abstain, (One (1) absent (Stone), Zero (0) opposed]*

**G. Advisory Committee Update – Nancy Wood, District V on behalf of Carla Linder**

Ms. Wood provided an update as noted in the attached.

**H. Discussion/Action Items**

**1. Commission Membership**

Mr. Freedman shared a description of the position that Commissioner Benson held noted in the local ordinance; “Representative of local government with a demonstrated focus on programs for prevention and early intervention for families at risk”.

Mr. Freedman informed the Commission of their options to move forward with the position as defined. Or if they want to make any changes in the position, they would have to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to amend the position. Alternatively, if they wish to leave the position as defined Mr. Freedman will notify the Clerk of the Board of the vacancy and the clerk of the board would post.

In the past there has been a Commission Sub-Committee to review applications and make recommendations to full Commission. The Commission would make a decision and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Beasley asked where the opening will be announced. Ms. Furuta replied it will be posted at the Clerk of the Board and the public library. Mr. Freedman added it can also be posted on the First 5 Riverside website. Ms. Furuta noted it is her understanding that it does not have to be an elected official. Ms. Smith added that discussion held during the time of establishment indicated that City staff being considered. Ms. Furuta added the member to replace the local government Commissioner position would have to remain with the local government during the time they sit on the Commission as their appointment would be from the entity.

Commissioner Frykman asked if there is an expectation that the recommendation come from the Supervisor’s office that the opening is in. Mr. Freedman noted it is an open application process. If the Supervisor has a suggestion they would have the

person apply. Ms. Furuta added it is the same procedure that is required for posting for any Commission or Board to a public entity Commissioner Beasley noted she thinks it is a good process. Ms. Furuta was unsure of the exact length of time the posting period for the process is.

Commissioner Frykman commented that San Bernardino County has seven Commissioners. He asked if it is a good time to consider leaving the Commission at the number it is at now. He suggested holding off until the Governance Committee has met unless there is a clear candidate. The Commission agreed that holding off is acceptable.

Commissioner Hoffman commented that there is a need for transparency of First 5 Riverside's processes. He requested the Commission consider posting the opening through a press release in addition to the other postings. Commissioner Vice-Chair, Loew asked if the Commission would like to post simultaneously as the Governance Committee met or hold off. Mr. Freedman noted we need a quorum of five at each meeting and leaving the Commission at eight may become a problem if there are absences. Commissioner Vice-Chair, Loew responded to Mr. Freedman that absence should not be a problem in light of the newly approved meeting schedule.

Commission Chair, Wengerd suggest tabling the recruitment and moving forward with a new Commissioner recruitment for at least ninety days. Along the line of transparency, Commissioner Frykman questioned if there is any input from the Advisory committee or public regarding the number of Commissioners. Ms. Furuta noted the Executive Office will be reporting to the Board of Supervisors on their evaluation of the Commission in March, they are waiting for F5R to complete their organizational assessment.

Commissioner Frykman agreed with tabling recruitment for ninety days. He would like to have staff obtain feedback from the other stakeholders, Board of Supervisors and the Advisory Committee postpone this discussion to the next meeting. Commissioner Hoffman recommended that if the Ordinance is revised that the Commission consider designating alternates for each Commissioner. Mr. Freedman noted this suggestion is being looked at by the Executive Office.

Commission Chair, Wengerd motioned to delay further discussion on this matter until next month Vice-Chair, Loew moved and Commissioner Frykman seconded. Mr. Freedman will obtain feedback as noted above.

*Commission Vice-Chair, Loew moved to approve holding off further discussion on Commission Membership until next month. Commissioner Frykman seconded the motion. Following is a vote of the Commission members present: [Seven (7) in favor (Wengerd, Loew, Beasley, Frykman, Hoffman, Oltean, Carrillo), Zero, (0) Abstain, (One (1) absent (Stone), Zero (0) opposed]*

## **2. Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) Info – Michelle Burroughs, Administrator Health & Community Programs**

Mr. Freedman provided an introduction. He reminded the Commission that at the last Commission meeting staff recommended the Commission utilize 500,000 dollars from reserves to back-fill state funding of Healthy Kids program which terminates in December 2009. Commission asked staff to follow up with IEHP to gather information on IEHP outreach efforts and cost of services. This information was provided and they

are present to answer any questions. Mr. Freedman noted that Dr. Gilbert from IEHP indicated there may be no need for the Commission to backfill State funding. The Commission has 2 million dollars in local funds allocated for this program in the existing 5 year spending plan.

Ms. Furuta informed the Commission that she is Counsel for IEHP.

Ms. Burroughs provided information on certified application assistance in emergency rooms in Riverside County hospitals. IEHP has a partnership with Riverside County Medical Center. They work with them to help staff learn how to enroll clients and health fairs to get the word out about how to apply for medical health family or healthy kids. They do not have staff stationed there due to costs.

The Healthy Kids Program has provided coverage for approximately 1,800 children ages 5 and under during 2008 and over 6,500 children ages 5 and under since 2002. Continued efforts to market the 0-5 openings in Riverside occur year round.

Utilization of costs per member and access of services medical cost is \$70.90 and dental is \$8, and vision is a \$1.20. (80.10 premiums). A utilization measures report is received quarterly informing F5R on how members are accessing services.

Ms. Burroughs introduced Dr. Gilbert, CEO of IEHP. He announced he is the new CEO of IEHP but has been at IEHP as Medical Director for twelve years. Dr. Gilbert commented the direct medical costs are at approximately \$80. Premiums include direct payments to doctor's medical groups and hospitals. The other piece is the allocation to medical teams. It does not include administrative costs.

IEHP works with many partners. Dr. Gilbert informed the Commission that he is available to provide information on reporting. He agreed with Mr. Freedman's earlier report that there is no reason to allocate dollars for the State backfill. IEHP has reached the children they can get to at this time. They will continue to work on getting the numbers up. They have two new partnerships with San Bernardino Social Services and are finalizing an agreement with Riverside Social Services. They provide direct referrals of children who are not eligible for healthy families. He thanked Commission for their partnership.

Advisory Committee Member Nancy Wood asked for clarification on the numbers presented. Dr. Gilbert noted his report was based on a group of 0-5 children. The groups are full for ages 6-18 with a waiting list.

Commissioner Vice-Chair, Loew asked if the primary line is higher then normal for healthy families or medical. Dr. Gilbert replied that the numbers Commissioner Loew was referring to did not look higher then normal to him.

Mr. Freedman thanked Dr. Gilbert for his presentation.

(A copy of Ms. Burroughs complete report is on file at the Commission's business office)

### **3. Child Care Comprehensive Data-Recommendation – Harry Freedman, Executive Director/Laurie Schoenberg, Administrator, Early Care & Education**

Mr. Freedman provided recap on the follow up from last month. He indicated that Ms Schoenberg has done a great deal of work to document a more accurate picture of how Riverside County compares to other counties in terms of child care capacity. The reality is that there is no universally accepted metric for measuring child care capacity for effective comparison purposes. Ms. Schoenberg shared child care comprehensive data from the California Child Care Portfolio with the Commission. She explained statistics range from 2000 to 2006.

The State is still in a decision making process on when they will publish a new document. Ms. Schoenberg noted Riverside County had an 11% increase in 2-5 population which was over 11, 000 children.

Ms. Schoenberg and her staff studied portfolios of all 58 counties and mapped out where Riverside County is from birth to 2, preschool 2-5 and school age 6-12 based on ranking system within the state. Total child care from birth to twelve.

- o Infants birth to two- number 45
- o Preschool ages 2-5 slots-number 56
- o School Age, 6-13 number 38
- o Birth through School-Age combined number 58

Ms. Schoenberg noted there are subsidized children in the numbers. Sometimes the children are attending for 3 hours or less. Sometimes the spaces have two children in one day. Licensed family child care total number of slots/percentage cannot be broken out by age group. She is hoping the child care study will be able to identify where the vacancy rates are and the poverty rate is in Riverside County. In the birth to five population, there over 58,000 slots needed for working parents in Riverside County. The average cost per year, per child for quality slots an average for infant and preschool is \$10,000 a year.

Ms. Schoenberg noted that the corner stone of quality has to do with the workforce. Quality teachers help maintain a quality program. She further noted that there is a relationship between the absence of quality care and stress levels among children. Ms. Schoenberg concluded with informing the Commission that the age's birth to five is the most critical time of brain development.

Commissioner Carrillo asked how many dollars F5R is putting into child care enhancements in Riverside County. Ms. Schoenberg noted she has been reviewing budgets for negotiations. During this review she noted a great deal of money is put into enhancements.

Commissioner Carrillo requested information on what assistance is being provided for teachers who only have twelve units and need training. Ms. Schoenberg informed the Commission that the CARES initiatives and operational contract-CSTSD covers assisting teacher's professional development.

Commissioner Frykman asked if staff was looking for a recommendation. Mr. Freedman reminded the Commission that this was a discussion item carried over from previous meetings. Staff has no recommendation at this point. Staff is hoping that the Advancement Project will help us identify the best areas to focus. The Commission needs to determine what level and how we define quality. How many slots do we need to defund in order to increase quality slots? Commissioner Carrillo suggested that we look at increasing development funds to make an impact in the community. Ms.

Schoenberg noted the State Initiative, CARES grant that is coming to an end in June 2009, and the operational contract (CSTSD) are separate contracts.

Mr. Freedman provided an example of Commission struggle; if the Commission triples the amount of money used for the CSTSD grant; and there is 50% less money available moving forward as a result of measure 1D. Community attention is high regarding the number of licensed slots. While the Commission and Staff have a better understanding of how important the workforce is to overall quality; community perception is tied largely to slots.

The Commission could decide to Increase funds to increase quality and provide better education in the workforce. This will reduce slots already funded.

Ms. Schoenberg reported the Advancement Project is moving forward. Collaborators include Child Consortium, RCOE, DPSS, Transportation Land Management Agency and Advancement Project. She is hoping to bring in the Community Action Partnership. There will be a face to face meeting in the within the next week.

Commissioner Frykman noted the criticism that First 5 Riverside is not doing enough about the child care issue. He would like to find out what partners First 5 Riverside Commission can work with on this project as opposed to have staff drive the responsibility to make sure all partners are moving forward with a shared responsibility. He requested an understanding how this coordinated.

Mr. Freedman noted there is significant staff connection between the collaborative agencies. He is not aware of the level of connection between Commissioners aside from Commissioner Oltean who is on the local planning council (LPC). Commissioner Oltean explained that that the LPC was assigned to the Riverside County Child Care Consortium before First 5 Riverside came about. It is an entity of the Consortium comprised of different members of the community. She noted Sharon Basket is the Chair.

Commissioner Frykman noted all groups involved with child care should be attempting to move in common direction to solve the child care crisis in Riverside County. Commissioner Beasley noted family child care have their own group.

Commissioner Vice-Chair, Loew added there is an opportunity for duplication of effort or a misalignment of efforts due to a lack of communication between the agencies in the child care arena. She suggested workgroups be established to make sure all involved are speaking with one voice and funding is leveraged to get the best outcome for children in the county.

### **Public Comment**

Deborah Clark Crews Executive Director of the Riverside County Child Care Consortium, a non profit organization that was established 25 years ago to work toward all children in the county having access to quality and accessible child care.

BOS and County Superintendent of Schools have oversight of the Local Planning Council. They have been successfully running a State mandated program between the AB212 and CARES. Their board members are volunteers. The Local Planning and Consortium participate in the task force and are comprised of volunteers from many counties. The main drive is to support where they can. Ms. Crews noted they

participate in the ABC Task Force for First 5 and they advocate for licensed family child care providers who care for over 40% in the county.

Mr. Freedman added the governance connection at the table is Commissioner Oltean who is the Chair of the Consortium.

(Commissioner Chair Wengerd left the meeting at 12:50 p.m. and returned at 12:52 p.m.)

Commissioner Frykman expressed he would like to see the existing expertise in the agencies involved to determine what is needed to assist with the child care crises so the Commission is not investing funds out without strategies. Commissioner Carrillo noted that is part of the LPC charge.

Ms. Crews added the Local Planning Counsel has two mandates. A five year strategic plan with a child care needs assessment and the second is to determine what the next five year strategic plan will be do to make sure the Local Counsel meets the needs. She noted they achieved 90% of what they started out to do.

The Counsel also has a connection to identify the zip codes that are a priority. They identified several zip codes in need in Riverside County but were instructed to resubmit less zip codes. They then identified four zip codes out of top priority and listed at second priority at the request of the state after their initial report was submitted. She expressed appreciation for F5R spending dollars to hire an agency to get this information.

Mr. Freedman noted the Commission needs to prioritize within the zip codes identified. Ms. Crews added the zip codes are identifying children who are eligible for funding within state preschool. It is the lowest need. Commissioner Frykman asked if there is a zip code list with the greatest needs if it can be further prioritized to be broken further down by zip codes that need assistance the most.

Commissioner Frykman noted he has learned a lot during this presentation but is unsure what to do with it. He is concerned that the Commission will be further criticized for not taking action. Commissioner Vice-Chair noted she expected information from the report generated by the Advancement Project would further direct the Commission to ensure the funds they invest would be used in the most critical areas.

Commissioner Carrillo asked Ms. Crews where she thinks F5R should put their money. Ms. Crews replied there is a great need for added spaces and child care. She agreed with Ms. Schoenberg that if you don't have the quality in the spaces then they should not be added. She requests the Commission commit that new spaces that open have quality, workforce training and education and keep up with the updates going on. Otherwise there will not be the outcomes that the Commission intends.

Commissioner Beasley added there was a medical home committee previously. She suggested looking at the list to coordinate agencies that were involved. Commissioner Hoffman noted the Commission needs to ask staff for their best recommendations and make a decision to approve or not approve the recommendations. He agreed quality in child care is important. He suggested staff return with a structured recommendation on priorities that the Commission can begin working on.

Mr. Freedman noted the Commission is going to have to make decisions based on the state budget outcome. Then decide how much they want to spend, after which staff

can bring recommendation back to the Commission. Commissioner Beasley added infants and disabilities need to be looked at separately.

Mr. Freedman noted next steps. After Advancement Project data is in staff will come back with recommendations on prioritizing child care funds. The Commission will simultaneously look at how many dollars there are to award.

The goal is to complete this project by June 30, 2009. Commissioner Frykman noted there are many people in the community who are not patient with the Commission on this subject. Mr. Freedman noted First 5 Riverside has significantly less money. He requests that be taken into consideration in the decision making. Commissioner Frykman would like a recommendation from any group on what steps should be taken and what it would cost.

Commissioner Beasley requests a report on the CARES Project. It was noted that subject was next on the agenda.

**At this time Commission Chair Wengerd opened up for Comments:**

1. Advisory Committee Member, Nancy Wood suggested that the Advisory Committee could assist. She offered to put something together for the Commission and line out some issues.
2. Advisory Committee Chair, Carla Lidner spoke as a member of the public. She shared her knowledge as a dentist in the County; she has noted observing neglect and poor nutrition when providing dental services. Dr. Lidner noted the public perception would be damaging if First 5 says they are not going to provide services because the slots are not top quality. That will leave the children with no way to get access to medical, educational or dental services. She urged Commission to not resist creating more child care slots.

Commissioner Frykman motioned the Advisory Committee to work with other entities to come up with recommendations. He agreed Dr. Lidner's point was valid. Commissioner Vice-Chair, Loew seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hoffman expressed reluctance. He acknowledged there is a need to have quality child care settings. He expressed to build centers and risk abandoning standards would not be good. He requested the Commission use the quality models for child care slots. Commissioner Hoffman noted any service funded by F5R has to be nothing less than high quality. He noted it is about not pleasing everyone, it is about having a clear vision of what the Commission wants to support. He understands the strong desire to serve children however, he cannot support a motion that is not specific as part of the plan because it does not serve them or us.

Commissioner Carrillo added the Advisory Committee can look at units of service, cost per service, public quality educator level of education in the centers so the Commission has something to compare.

Ms. Schoenberg added she has 26 years in the field and requests staff be used for their expertise. she has seen personally what happens when teachers are not trained. Mr. Freedman noted quality definition needs to take place and adopted by the Commission. These standards would then be required of funded agencies. Mr. Freedman provided an example- LPC and Consortium working with the Advancement Project and the Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Hoffman expressed the Commission has not presented a scope of the challenge and task amended. He amended the motion for staff to design a process with scope and outcomes to clearly identify. This will give the Commission opportunity to notably approve or not approve an action.

### **Public Comment**

Advisory Committee Member, Georgann Koenig.

Ms. Koenig commented that she entered early child care education in 1969. She informed the Commission that previous Executive Director, Carolyn Wylie and committees did extensive research with regard to quality child care. The committee spent a great deal of time identifying quality child care. She noted the Commission wants to identify a qualified person to identify the quality elements for child care.

Commission Vice-Chair, Loew noted she would like to have the Advisory Committee participate and other stake holders with expertise in the field. She asked if the report from the Advancement Project should be reviewed as the first step to determine what the quality elements need to be, so the Commission could make recommendations. Commissioner Frykman agreed to wait on Advisory Committee involvement until after the June report. He request the other groups that work with the Commission are clear with the other stakeholders that they are waiting until June to move forward.

Mr. Freedman noted the Advancement report is going to prioritize high need areas in development. He reminded the Commission of Ms. Schoenberg's previous presentation was part of the PFA presentation which enumerated quality standards that could be brought back to the Commission. The issue is selecting from the menu of quality elements to decide what level or ratio the Commission wants and what educational level is wanted for teachers.

Commissioner Frykman withdrew his motion and Commission Vice-Chair, Loew seconded his withdraw.

Ms. Schoenberg noted staff is looking at the needs, where the gaps are in each zip codes, what child care is currently in need according to the birth to five population, what is the poverty level in the area and what are the vacancy rates

Advancement Project is looking at the vacancies in the centers. She noted that Commissioners should be aware that we can't assume the areas that have gaps will want child care. The Advancement Project will not do focus groups in this area. Many areas have parent educators come in the homes. Data will not rate the centers or show where their quality indicators are.

Commission Vice-Chair, Loew clarified that based on the data presented, First 5 Riverside will be able to establish what quality based child care centers they want to use and in what areas. Commissioner Hoffman noted the quality can be part of the RFP and be part of the screening process. Taking into consideration the criticism the Commission is receiving about not making funding decisions on this matter, Commission Vice-Chair, Loew asked if the Commission wants the Advisory Committee in the interim to provide feedback on whether or not the Commission should be making funding decisions before the Advancement report is presented.

Commissioner Carrillo commented that the Commission was not discussing making funding decisions right now. It was her understanding they are discussing establishing

threshold for quality child care slots that First 5 wants to fund. Commission Vice-Chair Loew acknowledged that the current discussion covered a variety of areas.

Commissioner Frykman requested to be informed on all the pieces covered. He requested someone look at what pieces will be received from the Advancement Project and what additional pieces need to be looked at relating to the top zip codes in need of quality child care. He suggested not waiting until June but putting parallel processes in place by seeking assistance from experts in determining the top zip codes in county in need and create focus groups in the needed area.

*Commission Chair, Wengerd made a motion to charge Ms. Schoenberg to work with the Advisory Committee and other entities involved in the subsidized child care need in Riverside County, to conduct research and provide a report at next month's Commission meeting and determine if focus groups need to be established and if so provide the costs associated. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. Following is a vote of the Commission members present: [Seven (7) in favor (Wengerd, Loew, Beasley, Frykman, Hoffman, Oltean, Carrillo), Zero, (0) Abstain (One (1) absent (Stone), Zero (0) opposed]*

#### **Public Comment**

Advisory Committee Member, Lynne Craig commented that she had received a report previously that the issue is not child care spaces it is the affordability. She hoped the discussion is about subsidized child care spaces. It is the lack of funds for parents who cannot pay for child care that is the issue.

(A copy of Ms. Schoenberg's complete report is on file at the Commission's business office)

At this time Commission Chair, Wengerd noted that the meeting was past the normal adjournment time. He inquired if the Commission was able to continue. It was decided to continue the meeting for another half an hour. Commission agreed to continue the meeting until 2:00 p.m. and hear from Public Comments.

#### **4. State Initiative Recommendations (CARES) – Laurie Schoenberg, Administrator, Early Care & Education**

Mr. Freedman requested that the report from Ms. Schoenberg is deferred until the March meeting.

(A copy of Ms. Schoenberg's complete report is on file at the Commission's business office)

Ms. Furuta noted Commissioner Oltean has a conflict on this matter.

#### **Public Comment**

##### **1. Kimberly Holman**

Ms. Holman reported she has been a licensed child care provider for 26 years. The CARES AB212 allowed her to get her Associates Degree and she is on her way to her Masters. She attends workshops conferences and trainings that she would not be able to continue school without this program. She noted in the past she has wanted to quit her job because of lack of appreciation due to her lack of degree and permit. Knowing that the CARES program cared enough about her

job and what she does gave her value, stature, make contacts with Consortium. She noted without the support and help good providers will not stay in the field. She asked the Commission to please consider continuing to assist teachers when allocating funds.

2. Sandra Edelbrock Gulizia

Ms. Edelbrock Gulizia spoke as a private individual. She noted she is on a variety of boards in the county, the Consortium board and state boards. She commended the Commission for looking at child care as a comprehensive package. She agreed that you have to look at quality, accessibility and affordability. There is a balance in determining what to do.

She expressed admiration for the work being done through the CARES project and the benefits it has for the community. Twenty seventh percent of the population of those entering the CARES program and receiving stipends have a high school diploma.

At this point 95% of all participants are enrolled in college. Not all have progressed to the end of getting their degrees yet. Most take one or two classes a semester. There have been successes. Seventy seven percent of the providers started with no permit. Currently 70% of all participants have at least the basic permit.

She noted many child care workers may not have the funds to get to college without the help of CARES. Many are limited English speaking and lack the confidence to enter a college program and be successful. The CARES program has developed a successful program to get them into college.

Special Needs children need to have excellent care from the beginning and most fall under home child care. There is a need for infant toddler care. The CARES program supports quality and longevity. Providers who take classes end up staying in the field longer because they feel better about themselves and their ability to interact with children more effectively.

Riverside County has been known for many years to have a model that has been stronger than most. The CARES project has met and exceeded all target goals. Two state wide organizations are looking at Riverside County to compare to other models to analyze what aspect of child care is most effective in terms of making dramatic changes in quality programs.

Last year Riverside County was selected by Business Administrative Scale Training. They selected Riverside County to look at providers and have providers analyze what is best about child care and what needs to be improved. There is going to be a loss at a State level it will impact about 170 participants that are caring for approximately 1,800 children. Quality and quantity need to be together in terms of these programs.

**I. Funded Agency Public Comments – this item was taken out of order of the agenda**

1. Thousand Palms Child Care

Ms. Sheryl Rhodes requested to hold her statements until the matter is discussed at the March Commission meeting.

2. Melinda Smith, ABC Child Care Center  
Ms. Smith announced conducting the Creative Curriculum training with funds provided by First 5. There were 51 participants and a total of six centers that participated. She thanked the Commission and noted the quality is in the grants that are given the staff. Staff is making sure the scopes of work are followed and nothing less is getting by.
3. Erllys Daily, Riverside County Department of Mental-Wengerd noted conflict  
Ms. Daily read a few comments regarding the Mental Health Initiative process as attached.

Commissioner Chair Wengerd recused himself and turned over the meeting to Commission Vice-Chair, Loew. Commission Vice-Chair, Loew expressed her appreciation to Ms. Daily for tactfully coming forward and calling the issue out. She acknowledged the uncertainty and the hardship it may be causing on the program. The Commission is hopeful that they will have a report back next month from the appeal sub-committee. Commissioner Carrillo reported the appeal sub-committee should have a meeting scheduled next week. She is coordinating with the Supervisor's office.

The meeting was turned back over the Commission Chair, Wengerd.

**J. Discussion/Action Items -This item was taken out of order of the agenda.**

1. **Financial Workshop Follow-Up – Sandy Duncan, Administrator Fiscal Services**
  - a. Revised 5 year spending Plan
  - b. Revised Fund Balance

Mr. Freedman gave a brief overview of the information in the packet as a follow up from last month. The documents provide an overview of how funds have been spent within the 5 year spending plan, and projections for the balance of the plan. He noted that there are anticipated to be unspent funds available, and that the Commission make decisions about future expenditures based on the outcome of measure 1D. He also noted that the Commission previously discussed expansion of existing contracts, but decided to review the appropriateness of this action which could increase service capacity for a brief period, followed by a significant reduction. This decision is even more appropriate in retrospect, given the significantly greater potential reduction in funds. He requested that the Commission review the documents and contact him with any questions. He suggests reprioritizing the Strategic Plan once it is determined what the revenues will be. He noted the funds in the fund balance were referenced earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Vice-Chair, Loew requested Ms. Duncan provide document at the next meeting showing what would happen with State reductions compared to what would happen if there are no reductions. Unspent dollars anticipated and the 50% reduction. Mr. Freedman confirmed the Commission that staff would bring back information reflecting how many unspent dollars are anticipated and the better then 50% reduction plan as Commission Vice-Chair, Loew requested.

*(A copy of Ms. Duncan's complete report is on file at the Commission's business office).*

**2. Thousand Palms Child Care – Harry Freedman, Executive Director**

Mr. Freedman referred to the Thousand Palms Agenda Item. Ms. Furuta noted there was no public comment on this item. Mr. Freedman reported he is supportive of putting the item over until the March Commission meeting. He informed the Commission that his initial proposal was to terminate the contract. After discussion with Supervisor Wilson's office and the providers he was made aware that the provider is hopeful to get documents from state licensing which will influence the Commission's decision however the documents were not available today. They hope the documents will be available at the March meeting.

Ms. Furuta noted that Public Comments need to be taken and then the meeting needs to be adjourned.

**N. Public Comments – This item was taken out of order of the agenda**

There were no additional public comments

**M. Discussion/Action Items continued – These items were taken out of order of the agenda.**

**1. Volunteer Center Request – Harry Freedman, Executive Director**

This item was tabled until the March Commission meeting.

**2. Parkview Community Hospital Request – Harry Freedman, Executive Director**

This item was tabled until the March Commission meeting.

**N. Information Items – These items were tabled until the March Commission meeting.**

**1. November and December 2008 Financial Statements – Sandy Duncan, Administrator  
Fiscal Services**

*(A copy of Ms. Duncan's complete report is on file at the Commission's business office).*

**2. Quarterly Target Report – Johnathan McDannell, Administrator, Outcomes  
Management**

*(A copy of Mr. McDannell's complete report is on file at the Commission's business office).*

**3. Public Relations Information – Jamie Ayala, Public Information Specialist**

*(A copy of Ms. Ayala's complete report is on file at the Commission's business office).*

**4. Executive Director Report – Harry Freedman, Executive Director**

**5. Public Information Request – Harry Freedman, Executive Director**

**O. Future Agenda Items**

**P. Commission Adjournment**

Adjourned at 2:00 p.m. to the regular Meeting scheduled for March 25, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.  
at:

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office  
2002 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100, Conference Room A  
Riverside, California 92507**

# **Review of San Geronio Memorial Hospital's Children & Family Services Breastfeeding Program RCCFC Contract # 1030-OP-07**

Submitted by Nancy Pickett Wood, RCCFC Advisory Committee Member District V

**Date of Visit** with Kari Spoelstra, Lactation Educator – 20 January 2009

## **Goal of program**

1. Provide personal breastfeeding assistance to new mothers in the hospital and follow-up at home
2. Provide education classes for expectant parents
3. Promote breastfeeding to all mothers who deliver at San Geronio Memorial Hospital
4. Promote early bonding, childhood nutrition, child safety, injury prevention, emotional and developmental stages, and good health practices for expectant parents.

## **Description of services**

1. Childbirth class 1 time per week for 2 hours. Expecting parents are recruited from around the hospital district through doctor's offices, WIC clinics, word of mouth and hospital outreach.
2. New sets of expecting parents are recruited each month. Average attendance for a typical class is 6-8 pairs. If an expectant mother does not have a partner, another adult is requested to attend with her.
3. Parents are expected to participate fully in each class. Each pair has a folder that stays at the hospital until they have completed the class. The folder contains pertinent information and activities related to classroom discussions.
4. Games are used in each class. Donated baby-related items are given out as prizes for game participants.
5. Many of the mothers who attend the classes also have their baby delivered at San Geronio Memorial Hospital. The lactation educator visits the mother 3 times after the baby is taken home from the hospital. The first visit is within 1 week of delivery. The 2<sup>nd</sup> visit is a follow-up for breastfeeding issues and the 3<sup>rd</sup> visit focuses on safety in the home for the baby.
6. As reported by Ms. Spoelstra and the OB Nurse Manager, Carrie Echols, the personal visits have truly been a life-saving experience for some babies. Recently when following up with a breastfeeding mom, Ms. Spoelstra noticed the child didn't seem to be as healthy as s/he could be. With further investigation, the baby was taken to the hospital where a life-threatening illness was discovered early enough to save the baby's life.

**Overview of a typical childbirth class**

Six sets of parents or another adult with the expectant mom sit around tables and participate in a lively discussion about a child birth issue. The nurse educator draws out from the group their beliefs on the focus topic. Another lively discussion ensues. Moms take a break for the refreshments before it's game time. Adults call out their answers and everyone receives a donated baby gift for effort. Lights dim and music plays while moms and partners practice relaxation and breathing techniques for delivery. Participants check in their folder for anything they might need to follow up on or have additional questions.

**Reflections on Breastfeeding Program and its significance for families**

Even though I didn't remember to ask for numbers of adults and babies served in this program, I am confident in recommending its continuation. The goals of the program noted above were clearly evident in the childbirth class I attended. And, Ms. Spoelstra educates not only the adults who attend her classes and/or have their babies at the hospital, but she is willing to educate other members here at my library in a WEE Learn Together program for non-walking babies and their caregivers.

I think it's important for the local hospital to educate their community on the benefits of breastfeeding as well as spotting potential problems in a timely manner. What would have happened to that baby if the lactation educator wasn't able to follow-up on a personal visit at home. The money granted by First 5 to this program is truly money well spent.

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Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pickett Wood  
Early Childhood Specialist & Outreach Librarian  
Beaumont Library District, Beaumont, CA  
Riverside Children and Families Commission Advisory Committee Member District V  
24 Feb. 2009

## **Review of Riverside County (CA) Library System's RCCFC Contract # 1150-OP-07: *Project Read with Me***

Submitted by Nancy Pickett Wood, RCCFC Advisory Committee Member District V

**Date of Visit** with Barbara Brown, *Project Read with Me* Coordinator – 14 Oct. 2008

***Project Read with Me* self description:** “*Project Read with Me*” is a pre-literacy program through Riverside County Library System (RCLS) funded by First 5 Riverside, offering the *Raising a Reader* take home book bag weekly rotation program to children ages 0-5 via childcare and educational programs across Riverside County.”

### **Main Goals of *Project Read with Me***

1. Encourage school readiness by way of increased pre-literacy skills.
2. Promote quality family reading time.
3. Create a strong link to libraries and their services for lifelong learning.

### **Overview of *Project Read with Me* Implementation**

- ◆ Red book bags are taken home by child for 1 week and brought back to the classroom and another bag is checked out.
- ◆ Each classroom has 15-26 bags with 4 books (including Spanish and multi-cultural titles) in each bag depending on the number of children in the classroom. Book bags are circulated through all the children in the classroom in about 7-8 months.
- ◆ Each classroom holds an initial family literacy event sponsored by RCLS where parents and children in the classroom are exposed to early literacy training and skills with a take home parent manual and video. Each family head participates in a pre and post survey to help track involvement and outcomes.
- ◆ Each family receives tools and incentives throughout the school year that promote early literacy.
- ◆ RCLS also provides 3 special story time events during the school year for each participating classroom.
- ◆ RCLS also provides staff development workshops for childcare administration and staff to guarantee success of the *Project Read with Me* program. Each teacher receives a resource binder containing: *Teacher Guide*, *Idea Book*, *Read Aloud Guide*, and *Early Brain Development Handbook*,
- ◆ At the end of the school year, each participating child receives a blue book bag with a book and materials to take home and keep; and each participating classroom receives an incentive. A celebration for all participating childcare staff personnel is also held at the end of the school year.

### **Some Numbers**

- ◆ Each bag of books costs approximately \$100 to set up with all materials and keep it circulating.

- ◆ As of the above date approximately 2,000 were children were participating in *Project Read with Me* in 100+ classrooms at 34 participating childcare sites in the desert and western Riverside County communities.
- ◆ Approximately 1600 parents and 1300 families were affected by the *Project Read with Me* program last year
- ◆ A goal for this year is to provide 40 initial family literacy events with at least 450 parents attending.
- ◆ At the family literacy events, parents receive over \$30 worth of educational supplies to take home.

### **Reflections on *Project Read with Me* and its significance for families**

While I didn't see the official report numbers for *Project Read with Me*, I can certainly imagine that this program can and does significantly impact the early literacy skills and training of families in the participating communities. Why ?

As an early childhood specialist and librarian, I have seen the research. (See Neuman and Dickinson's *The Handbook of Early Literacy Research* [2003]). Reading aloud with children as active participants makes a difference in the early literacy skills of phonological and print awareness, vocabulary building, letter knowledge and print motivation.

With the Riverside County Library System reaching out to families that may not have access to a library card or opportunity to come into a library, *Project Read with Me* can bring the joy of reading aloud into their homes and primarily prepare children for later reading success.

A secondary result of reading aloud is building bonds of comfort and understanding between the reader and listener. Encouraging an adult to read one-on-one with a child tells the child several things: "I am important." "My \_\_\_\_\_ (adult) makes time for me." "Books must be important." "If books are important, then they have value to me." "A library must be a cool place."

My sentiment and bias is obvious: *Project Read with Me* is a valuable community asset. May it be around a long time.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pickett Wood  
Early Childhood Specialist & Outreach Librarian  
Beaumont Library District, Beaumont, CA  
Riverside Children and Families Commission Advisory Committee Member District V

## Public Comment – Erllys Daily 1<sup>st</sup> 5 Commission 2-25-09

I was hopeful that we could look forward to some resolution on the First Five Mental Health Initiative at this board meeting today. I was unaware that it was not going to be on the agenda until your agenda was posted and this topic was conspicuously absent. It is clear that your agenda has no reference to or update on: 1) the Mental Health Initiative appeal; 2) an extension on our contract that expired as of December 31<sup>st</sup> and for which we continue to provide services and incur costs; or 3) further action on the Mental Health Initiative award that still stands as voted by this Commission in December 2008.

The appeal was shifted to the second level rather than going through the 1st level with a stated reason to expedite the process. This was over a month ago and it is not on the agenda for action today. That does not seem expeditious to me. As I understand the situation, the current Commission action that is in effect on this matter is that the Mental Health Initiative award vote was not rescinded so it still stands. It would seem to me that Riverside County Department of Mental Health deserves some responsiveness related to this. We have continued to provide services and incur costs for the 0-5 population. We could not ethically terminate these services abruptly. However, there was an expectation that there would be action in a reasonable time frame.

Our partnering schools have deadlines for sending our lay off notices. Our Community Health Agency partners need to know for their budget planning if our partnership will be continued for the remainder of this fiscal year and for next fiscal year also. We cannot tell them.

We have continued to provide services in good faith pending resolution. Significant inefficiency and productivity loss occurs in ramping programs up and then ramping them down. 1st 5 currently is not assisting in any way with this burden. We have patiently and cooperatively worked with 1st 5 in good faith and been on this up and down roller coaster for over two years now. We have continued to provide services because we know that the services we provide to children 0-5 years and their families is critical to the well being of children and their families and critical for these children's' readiness to learn and success in school.

I feel strongly that there should be responsiveness and accountability of 1st 5 to the action and award that is still standing. I do not want to jeopardize a possible future positive outcome but feel it is really inappropriate for us to continue to be in limbo, unfunded. We at the very least should have a contract extension revisited and approved.

It is inappropriate that this matter is not being addressed at today's meeting and that the issues I have just raised will have to wait, at the very least, until the next Commission meeting in March.

Thank you for allowing me to express my concerns.