

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission**  
**11:00 a.m. - Morning Session Meeting**  
**1:30 p.m. - *Regular Meeting of the Commission***  
**Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

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

**Minutes**  
**Morning Session**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**A. Call To Order**

The Special Meeting of the Commission was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Commissioner Chair Wengerd.

Commissioners Present: Chair, Jerry Wengerd; Vice Chair, Susan Loew; Supervisor Stone (arrived at 11:30 a.m.); Connie Beasley; Yolanda Carrillo; Dr. Frykman; Jay Hoffman; Vicki Oltean

Commissioners Absent: None

Commission Vacancy: One-District 4

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; Deborah DeForge, Program Specialist, Outcomes Management; Maurice Rayford, Program Specialist Health & Community Programs; Rocio Zunia, Program Specialist Early Care & Education

Tiffany North and Lucy Furuta, Deputy County Counsels were in attendance as legal counsel for the Commission.

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

**Morning Session – Workshop**

**B. Chair and Commission Member Comments**

Chair Wengerd announced the regular session will begin at 1:30 p.m.

**C. Executive Director Comments – Harry Freedman**

1. Mr. Freedman informed the Commission that Sandra Johnson, our exceptionally friendly, gracious and beloved receptionist passed away suddenly leaving a vacancy. We are currently filling the receptionist vacancy with temporary assistance from Riverside Personnel Inc. and will open recruitment for a permanent replacement at the beginning of April.
2. Ms. Furuta is retiring on March 30, 2009. She has been with the Commission since its inception. She is being replaced by County Counsel Tiffany North who is present at today's meeting. The Commission thanked Ms. Furuta for her service. Ms. North was introduced and welcomed to the Commission.

**D. Executive Office Commission Structure Recommendations – Harry Freedman, Executive Director**

Mr. Freedman reported that at the March 17<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting the Executive Office provided a report regarding the Commission's structure. The Executive Office was instructed by the Board of Supervisors to come back with a plan to convert F5R to a department of the County. Currently slightly more than half of the County F5's are County Commissions. Mr. Freedman noted the BOS made positive comments regarding the work of the Commission and staff. They indicated making F5R part of the County system would create better communication between the Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

**E. Organizational Assessment Committee Progress Report – Commission Vice-Chair, Susan Loew**

Commission Vice-Chair Loew noted that committee activities are suspended until the direction of the BOS and Executive Office is determined. The next appropriate steps will be revisited based on the report from the Executive Office that goes to the Board of Supervisors.

Commission Chair Wengerd recapped that the committees were developed from the Organizational Assessment completed by BoardRoom Solutions. The Commission will hold off until the recommendation is made to the Executive Office and a decision is made by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Freedman added that he had a meeting with staff on the day of the Board of Supervisors meeting. He reminded the Commission that staff are already County employees and use a number of County services. There may be some organizational changes but on a day-to-day operational level the changes may not be dramatic. All existing contracts should remain in place.

There were no further Commissioner comments.

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

Commissioner Oltean declared a conflict on the CARES item as the President of the Board of the Consortium. Commissioner Frykman asked if Commissioners have to declare a conflict on a workshop. Ms. Furuta clarified that a conflicted Commissioner Oltean cannot participate in the discussion or decision making per a specific Agenda item. She can participate as a member of the public but not as a Commissioner.

Mr. Freedman reminded the Commission that this issue is a carry-over from the past two months.

Ms. Schoenberg reported many providers have been on CARES for more than five years. 11% are at the teacher level. The goal is to increase the level of teacher education level and sustainability. Many child care providers have been in their position for over five years through the CARES program. Ms. Schoenberg reviewed the chart that the Child Care Consortium put together of statistics where F5R began with the stipends and where we are three years later. Across the State, there has been a high level of stipend participants, and movement toward a greater emphasis on educational advancement. The highest level has been at the professional growth level - 80% of the stipend participants in Riverside County.

Commissions across the State are looking at modifying the stipends and increasing the requirements to a higher level of ECE units versus the professional growth hours. Riverside County and other counties have demonstrated a moderate level of increase in obtaining college level units.

The Child Development Permit Matrix includes: Assistant Teacher at the first level of 6 units, the Associate Teacher is required to have 12 units, and the Teacher level includes 24 ECE units with 16 general education units. Locally, 26% of stipend participants are at the associate level and 11% are at the teacher level.

Reasonable retention rates have been maintained over five years with many stipend participants. Locally, participants indicated in surveys that they intended on staying in the field for another five + years.

Ms. Schoenberg reviewed how the dollars work for the program. F5R has a four to one match with the State. One dollar represented by the state requires four F5R matched dollars. The State match equals \$566,000 and F5R meets the 4:1 match in the following way: F5R contributes \$600,000 in a local CARES grant, the rest of the match is in the CSTSD Operational Grant (\$1066, 935) and an additional \$600,000 that is included in all F5R operational grants that have training dollars allocated.

Commission Vice-Chair Loew asked for clarification on CARES training components. She asked if the training is linked to CARES or if it is at the discretion of the contractor how to utilize the training dollars. Ms. Schoenberg agreed that agencies are providing training opportunities for the early childhood work force. Participants can choose where they go to receive professional growth hours within Riverside County.

Commission Vice-Chair Loew asked if F5R contracts with CARES to support a specific curriculum or if we are supporting generally professional development opportunities in the community through CARES and training components in the contracts. Ms. Schoenberg agreed that F5R is retaining, stabilizing and providing educational opportunities through CARES.

On June 30, 2009 the State portion of the stipend match ends. From July 1 through December 30<sup>th</sup> there will be \$113,000 that is not connected with stipends. The State has granted six months for agencies to close out the books and do administrative duties to sunset the CARES program.

Staff recommending to not backfill the State portion but to continue the \$600,000 local portion, and maintain the STSDT funds

Commissioner Carrillo asked with the success rate, why staff is not recommending backfilling the project. Ms. Schoenberg reported staff would like to take the \$600,000 that is left in CARES and combine the operational training grant and make them one contract. Staff is recommending less

dollars and this scenario will still allow the same amount of dollars in stipends. In the training grant, stipend dollars will come from sub-contracts that are associated with professional growth hours. This will lessen the opportunities in professional growth and increase the participant's opportunities to access a higher level of ECE units.

Commissioner Carrillo replied that in the culture of this field, the culture usually starts with people going to trainings and learning about the field to get encouraged to go to college. If the Commission moves forward with staff's recommendations this will break off an important piece.

Ms. Schoenberg responded that the training coordinators would like them to become more involved to hold community meetings and speak to community colleges to make sure the trainings are available. This will help with coaching and confidence so participants can be successful. Coordinators will coach participants, speak with the counselors and tutors to assist with the participants at the community colleges.

Commissioner Carrillo replied this service already exists. She expressed that when she got in the field there were feelers out for people to go to community colleges. She noted for providers that it is important to be able to have evening and weekend trainings because they can't get away from work and this program has made the program successful. Commissioner Carrillo added F5R would be cutting themselves short if they try to move from something that has worked well in the County.

Ms. Schoenberg's staff is not recommending diminishing professional growth hours; it will still be available with some of the current subcontracts. She noted they have had three years of high percentage professional growth hours. Feedback throughout the State is that they had hoped to have a higher level of community college education units versus professional growth. They are trying to increase the higher level of community college participants.

What will be different is the Family Friends and Neighbors which is the licensed exempt providers. Last year, there were 11 licensed exempt providers that became licensed. Staff recommendation is to not have so many dollars in the area as the last three years but move more towards the education side and maintain a balance.

Commissioner Beasley asked if tuition and books are paid for those providers who want to go to college. Ms. Schoenberg responded when you look at a 3 unit class the average cost is \$218 dollars. According to the Child Care Consortium's breakdown \$300 in costs is covered through the entry level stipend. At the permit level you work toward earning \$500 for a maximum of 12 units. The 3 unit course at the degree level, a provider can earn \$750 dollars for the 3 units.

Ms. Smith asked to make one clarification to the Commission. There were statements made about conflicts earlier. She noted that there are recommendations for sub-contractors for this particular project: one is with Carolyn Wylie so that needs to be recognized. There is another for Public Health that is being recommended for renewal. We wanted to provide that clarification and we need to keep this in mind as the Commission moves on with their comments.

Ms. Smith inquired as there is one for Public Health Nutrition's Services sub-contractor, we are talking about removing this contract, is that correct? Ms. Schoenberg replied that is actually in negotiations with the Consortium. Ms. Smith replied there is another contract for Carolyn Wylie for Training and Support programs for the Inclusions of special needs children. Ms. Schoenberg noted that is correct. None have been decided; staff has not initiated negotiations with the Consortium for any of those contracts.

Commission Chair asked if it was question period. He asked for clarification on the total amount for the 2008/2009 year.

He asked for clarification on how many child care workers are touched through this program.

Ms. Schoenberg responded recipients of stipends in 2007/2008 for:

Child care = 173

Including textbooks stipends = \$211,000

Center Based Care = 222

Including textbook stipends = \$411,000

Total 391 participant's county wide received an average stipend of \$1,500.

80% of the stipends were for professional growth hours related to renewing their Child Development Permit. This Permit has to be renewed every five years. 105 hours is required to renew the Permit. Staff does not want to diminish how valuable professional growth hours are. The goal is to try to get the college education units up because that is what research shows for long term children's success. Research indicates that is the teacher with a bachelor's degree.

Commission Chair clarified approximately 400 child care workers were touched by this project county-wide. He asked how to project on how to make a decision how many children would be touched by these 400 workers.

Ms. Schoenberg noted an average ratio is every teacher may see 12 children. She noted 3500 to 4700 would be an accurate estimate for children touched by this stipend a year. This is based on an infant teacher being in charge of three to four children and a preschool teacher being in charge of 10-12 children.

Commission Vice-Chair, Loew questioned 400 participants being correlated to \$650,000. Ms. Schoenberg noted those figures are based on stipend dollars. On top of stipend dollars, there are program coordinators, administrative costs and sub-contracts. Sub-contracts in the training grant total are \$600,000.

Ms. Loew noted we are not fully capturing all participants who have had training. She asked if staff is counting the participants in the contracts.

Ms. Schoenberg replied staff does not know if stipend participants are attending the trainings. Staff is not required by the State to document this information. They only have to document that they have a match in dollars.

Commissioner Carrillo added in regards to children touched, for teachers that have permits and are in title five programs the ratio is 1-24, not 1-12. The number is higher for the number of children touched for the percentages shown.

Commissioner Frykman asked Mr. Freedman and Ms. Schoenberg for clarification on staff recommendations and what direction the Commission needs to make.

Mr. Freedman reported the existing allocation plan maintains funding for the local Cares contract and CTSDT contract through 2011. Staff recommendations are to maintain these existing plans, to allow the State contract to terminate, and to not backfill that piece but to do continue to provide local funding.

Mr. Freedman noted the action required is for the Commission to backfill the State piece. Commissioner Frykman asked why F5R would not want to back-fill the program. This will be brought back to the Commission in the form of a resolution based on the Commission decision. Commissioner Frykman asked for understanding of if the Commission is interested in increasing child care capacity and quality why wouldn't we want to fund the program.

Commissioner Carrillo replied that there is not a good reason in her eyes that the Commission should not backfill. She asked for the amount it would take to backfill and Ms. Schoenberg informed her it would take \$556,000. Commissioner Carrillo noted it is a small amount of money for the value.

Mr. Freedman noted two considerations; program issues and fiscal issues. He noted that the Commission needs to determine how much funding to devote to assuming previous State costs, and that this decision is complicated by the possibility of a significant reduction in local funds. Commissioner Frykman suggested moving to the next Agenda item for Child Care Preschool before discussing CARES any further.

Commissioner Vice-Chair Loew commented that she does not have enough information to make a decision on what investment the Commission should be making. In order to evaluate how big of an impact is being made in this program versus other areas. She requested staff bring back data on:

1. How many providers received services
2. How many kids were impacted
3. Cost per provider; and
4. Cost per child.

At this time the Commission agreed to hold off on further discussion until after public comments on this Agenda item and the Child Care/Preschool discussion.

#### **Public Comments on Agenda Item E:**

1. Deborah Clark-Crews, ED of the Riverside Child Care Consortium and Coordinator of the Local Planning Counsel for Riverside County

Ms. Crews commented F5R and Child Care Consortium staff has been engaged in several conversations regarding the grants with F5R staff. Her agency is interested in continuing with workforce development services.

Ms. Clark-Crews reported that in 2007-08 there were 391 stipend recipients. Monies the Consortium receives is in the amount of \$566,000 from the State and \$600,000 from F5R. Each participant receives \$2,982 per participant for that grant that Consortium gets including administration and stipend.

For that investment there have been 523 3-unit courses taken by the field in Early Education and 356 units in General Education in the past year to support themselves and be better at what they do. She noted most work twelve hour days and then go to class. They have taken professional growth hours 29 hours a year per participant.

210 have permits that did not have permits before or have improved in the field they are in. She noted the field is getting the training they need to serve ages 0-5.

Ms. Clark-Crews requested on behalf of Consortium staff, to, backfill the State portion of CARES for the next two years at \$566,000 per year. She reminded the Commission of the

million a year that supports the Training grant. It supports the job line, resource van, National Association Child Care Accreditation Project, event calendar to help participants find the training they need. She noted sub-contractors, PITC, Infant/Toddler Program, Carolyn Wylie's Special Needs Program, the Health Department Nutrition and Obesity Prevention Program and several others contracts in the county who support the field by providing training to support the quality of care in the program. She would like to see the Commission continue to support to both of the programs as has been done for the last several years.

Commissioner Carrillo added these programs were all set up through the F5R Strategic Plan. It is in correlation with what the Commission set up with this County.

Ms. Clark-Crews added she does not understand fully the 2.2 million Ms. Schoenberg refers to in her presentation. Someone could address if they go back to when CARES was created. She noted the Consortium only sees the local portion. To her knowledge, there was not extra money specifically earmarked for CARES training. Only training in community from school districts for staff development training, family services, and services provided by The Wylie Center. There was an agreement so people in CARES who were looking for training would be able to get it.

2. Sandra Edelbrock Gulizia, Riverside County Child Care Consortium, but not speaking for them on a voted position that they currently maintain.

She noted when she spoke previously she was asking to backfill the State portion. She feels strongly about the success of the Project and that it is critical for the child development field. She noted Creative Connections is the newer contractor. They had a workshop and brought together fifteen child care providers and many different professionals in the field of early childhood. Traditionally meetings are held at the College of the Desert. This helps child care professionals so they are integrated into the college setting. She added many people have to wait for available spots. She believes it is in the best interest of the County and child care professionals to backfill the State portion on this successful project if at all possible.

3. Deborah Whittaker-Meneses - Riverside Community College Early Childhood Department Chair

Ms. Whittaker noted some providers are unable to take more than a few units because they are working full time or may be intimidated by the college idea. Workshops provide opportunities for recruitments and without them there may not be the pathway for recruitment that is needed. She added that she has learned from attending workshops. She is a strong advocate for the professional growth hours to continue in the community. She commended the Consortium on their work with the program.

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

## **G. Child Care/Preschool – Laurie Schoenberg, Administrator, Early Care & Education**

1. Elements of Quality

Ms. Schoenberg reviewed her Program Quality Criteria Chart. This chart breaks down how quality is delineated between the First 5 Power of Preschool (PoP) Grant, the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), Title V, Head Start Performance Standards and California Child Care Licensing Requirements, Title 22.

For teacher qualifications there is a range of a minimum of 12 ECE units for a Master's in early child-hood development. Differences in ratios were noted. Evidenced based curriculum

is used throughout the programs. The Advancement project will provide data and the Commission will make decisions on how they want to use the criteria after receiving the outcomes.

Commissioner Carrillo thanked Ms. Schoenberg and noted she appreciated the format presented. She commented on how many slots there are for BA and AA level employment. What are the incentives to continue for BA or Masters Degrees and what are the incentives? She noted teachers may go to other counties once they have a BA or Masters if the opportunities for employment are not available in Riverside County.

## 2. Current Contracts Supporting Quality

Mr. Freedman gave an overview of Ms. Schoenberg chart of current contracts supporting quality. Ms. Schoenberg explained this chart lists Infant/Toddler and Preschool spaces, Infant/Toddler and Preschool dollars and other enhancement dollars. She noted quality is built into spaces. The total contract cost to pay for the spaces is noted on the chart. In all the spaces there is a 1:3 ratio for infants, 1:6 toddlers, 1:10 for preschoolers, and denotes the usage of evidenced based curriculum and that teachers are trained.

### **Infant Toddler and Preschool Spaces**

They are fully subsidized. Slots could have two part-time children filling the full time space.

Commissioner Carrillo pointed out under preschool spaces that NuView teachers have bachelors. She requested a comparison of costs for BA teachers at NuView to those at other centers who do not have a BA. Ms. Schoenberg noted the benefit packages at the school district level usually costs more.

### **Infant/Toddler and Preschool Enhancements**

These are already funded from subsidized programs or they have parents who can afford the tuition. Enhancements are taking place for children that are already in place in the classrooms. F5R pays additional dollars for programs to exhibit quality standards. An example would be adding another teacher to lower the teacher to child ratio. F5R is funding 265 spaces between infants and preschools for an average enhancement of \$2,600 per child.

### **Other Enhancements**

The Parents as Teachers (PAT) program, a home educator works with the parent and child (0-5) in the home. Parent education, participation, literacy, kindergarten transition, capacity building initiative, FAF, training for work force, curriculum supplies adds up to approximately 8 million. \$700,000 including administration cost a evaluation and additional costs that did not directly relate to the children are not included in the dollars designated.

Mr. Freedman noted this information was presented in response to the question of how many of the dollars are invested in quality services and that he did not realize the number was that high. Clearly, the vast majority of funds devoted by the Commission to Child Care and Early Education are being utilized to support quality.

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

## 3. Public Comments

- a. Commissioner Hoffman noted he is a grantee and would like to comment. Ms. Furuta noted he would have to speak as a member of the public and complete a Request to Speak Form. Commissioner Hoffman noted that Supervisor Stone has accurately

commented on the number of seats for child care and preschool programs in Riverside County. He is aware of the obvious need shared with the Commission due to the child care is a shortage He feels strongly that F5R needs to work strongly and maintain and expect quality. The temptation may be great to create more spaces and hopes that the quality catches up. His concern is too many institutions are mediocre and children who are exposed to it early on come to expect it. He reiterated his concern that far too many of the children's institutions are mediocre.

NuView Union School District is comprised of 68% free and reduced lunch eligible children. He has seen a transformation over the past seven years as a result of quality programs. He hopes that quality will not be overlooked. NuView Union School District is the only flagship system in early childhood recognized in the David and Lucille Packard Foundation in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. He noted it would be nice to work to grow the number of programs and grow quality programs.

Commissioner Hoffman asked the Commission to look at the impact of low quality preschools and look to grow more quality programs. Commissioner Hoffman noted many families do not have transportation to attend college so it is beneficial to bring college education to them. He agreed that the subsidized spaces chart can be enhanced by adding a column that talks about the levels of training and development that the entire early childhood professional in those programs brings to the table. That will assist the Commission in understanding the profile.

- b. Sharon Baskett, Chair of the Local Planning Council and Director of Early Childhood Programs Division of Children and Family Services at RCOE-Comment on Agenda item E CARES

Ms. Baskett noted in one of the areas of the matched dollars in the early days of CARES was that the state contract was asked to capture all of the training dollars in the County. It was a way to show what was available for all early childhood professionals or students to gain professional growth hours.

She commented on how important it is to gain levels of education to have professional growth hours. A lot of trainings are serving entry level participants and those who have obtained their degrees.

She asked to focus on the permit for early child-hood credentialing that is recognized in the State and Department of Education. Ms. Baskett commented the ratio Head Start funds is at a high level. Staff of State preschool and other education programs that are not funded by the State are underpaid. It is important to retain the professionals we have in place presently.

- c. Josset Quinn, Riverside County Health Department and Nutrition Services  
They received a training grant with the Consortium; they provide education to the providers. There is a need for Diabetes and obesity education. She urged the Commission to consider that the training continue since it is well received by participating providers. Good nutrition at a young age is vital.

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

Commission Chair adjourned the meeting for a break at 12:33 p.m. and reconvened at 12:42 p.m.

## H. Financial Workshop Follow-Up – Sandy Duncan, Administrator Fiscal Services

### 1. Five Year Plan with Revised Revenue and Expense Estimate

Mr. Freedman noted this item is a follow up from last month's meeting. Ms. Duncan shared the draft summary of the proposed Five Year Plan. The first section of the worksheet is the current proposed plan without Prop 1D reductions. The second section shows what FY09/10 and 10/11 would look like should Prop 1D pass. FY09/10 has a 54% reduction, in FY10/11 it is a 57% reduction and there are reductions each year through FY13/14 at which point it would be a 62% reduction. The State estimate was used for the revenue from FY09/10 through 12/13, FY13/14 was estimated using the same calculations as the previous fiscal year estimates by the State. Decisions by the Commission will need to be made as to whom, what and how much will continue to be funded. Currently there are reserve balances that are available to help mitigate a reduction in funds

Commissioner Frykman asked for models of what it will look like after five year reduction period in fiscal year 14/15 and what the Commission needs to do to get through the reduction period. Ms. Duncan stated 14/15 should be back at approximately \$24 million in revenue. In fiscal year 11/12 most of the State Initiatives will have expired. The State has the option of terminating them earlier than their expiration dates.

Mr. Freedman replied moving forward, staff will provide different scenarios which will be presented to the Commission at the next Commission meeting. The models will include step model, the cliff model which is an abrupt reduction in expenses after a certain period of time, the slope model which is a gradual decrease, and a flat line model where expenses remain flat without a 5% increase. Mr. Freedman suggested Commission may want to consider devoting time to another workshop for discussion if they would like for staff to be sharing these models next month.

Commission Vice-Chair Loew asked for the model to include status quo without doing any business adjustments. She noted 5% for contracts and administration is significant. She asked if the State pulls their contracts for the initiatives, does F5R have the ability to do the same with our contracts (out clause). Mr. Freedman replied that F5R does have this option.

Mr. Freedman noted the State initiative contracts can also be terminated at any point. Measure 1D legal questions are pending on if State future dollars can be encumbered out in the current fiscal year.

Commission Chair clarified if 1D does not pass, in 2010/11 the revenue stream would be \$27 million. If Proposition 1D does pass, F5R revenue stream would be \$13 million in FY10/11. Ms. Duncan noted reduction averages out to 58% over five years. In 2010/11 the current Five Year Plan expires. Mr. Freedman added the Five Year Plan can be revised at any time.

Mr. Freedman asked the Commission when they wanted to have another workshop to allow the Commission to have time to vote. Staff can have the model prepared next month. Commissioner Frykman suggested having some information next month without a big discussion. Commissioner Hoffman agreed scenario plan is helpful and allows the Commission to have different ideas. He suggested the Commission can move forward after the May election.

Commissioner Stone asked about public relations campaign. He inquired as to what will be done to get the message out of what the repercussions will be if the Measure passes. Ms. Furuta replied he is right, there is prohibition. There is not a lot Commissions can do at the

Commission level. In the past Commissions have taken resolutions on appeal. There is not that much that can be done in advocacy.

Supervisor Stone asked for the percentage of private entities receiving funding. Ms. Duncan responded she would estimate close to 60%. Commissioner Stone noted that the agencies are facing financial devastation. He suggested it should be recommended and that the partners with beneficiaries should take a stance statewide to protect the monies and represent how the loss of the monies will affect the children and business that provide services.

Mr. Freedman noted First 5 CA Association is able to provide advocacy. There is a "No on 1D" campaign. Commissioner Stone noted it is not going to be a political issue about someone being taxed or not taxed, the issue is the tax money that was originally destined to go a certain place is going to be redistributed to the State to satisfy their budget, which goes against the framework of why citizens put the sin-tax into place. He noted there will be some union money that will be an obstacle to overcome. First 5 needs to promote transparency about what we are trying to accomplish.

Mr. Freedman also noted factual information is able to be shared about the impact. F5R is getting the word out on factual information as opposed to lobbying. This item will be discussed later on the Agenda. Staff is modeling a FAQ sheet based on other counties FAQ sheets. Once it is approved by counsel it will go out to funded agencies.

Mr. Freedman noted Ms. Duncan is going to be out for a period of time but he is confident staff will be able to provide the requested information at next month's Commission meeting.

(Commissioner Frykman left the meeting at 12:56 p.m. and returned at 12:58 p.m.)

Ms. Duncan will provide the following scenarios:

1. Gradual Slope decrease approach;
2. Cliff approach - An abrupt reduction in expenses;
3. Step down approach -Maintaining for one year and then doing a step down every other year; and
4. Flat line approach where expenses remain status quo without doing any business adjustments.

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

#### **I. February 2009 Financial Statements – Sandy Duncan, Administrator Fiscal Services**

Ms. Duncan noted we will exceed in salaries and benefits due to having to hire temporary staff to fill in for staff being out for an extended time. Operational expenses are close to what was anticipated. Operational contracts will have monies left over. This is because not all contracts were given 5% increases and were given varying amounts.

Commissioner Vice-Chair Loew asked about the 2 million dollars in additional revenue beyond what was anticipated. Aside from under expenditures that have been caused, what will be the next steps? Is there a plan for the Commission to allocate those plans and will it come to the Commission at the next meeting?

Mr. Freedman reminded the Commission that staff had recommended that the Commission explore allocating substantially more than 2 million dollars, including a \$10 million reduction in the Sustainability Fund. The Commission expressed some concern about expanding services

for the current year, only to dramatically reduce them the next. The Commission also noted that this concern would be exacerbated if 1D passed. The Commission discussed the need to review the use of all funds moving forward, and the need to review the long term funding plan. This will be held off until the scenario models are presented including already allocated funds.

Commissioner Carrillo suggested backfilling the CARES program (State match portion).

Commissioner Vice Chair Loew clarified that unspent funds or additional revenue will be held until the scenarios are presented for direction. Mr. Freedman noted this includes the already allocated fund balance.

Commissioner Stone asked about the shortfall in utilities and what was over-estimated. Ms. Duncan noted the budget was originally under-estimated. The OASIS charge includes financials for PeopleSoft and HRMS. The financials are based on the number of transactions and HRMS is based on the number of payroll checks. The number of transactions can make the charge for OASIS go up or down.

Commissioner Chair Wengerd noted he likes the format of the financial statements and that it is easier to read. Ms. Duncan will use same format for the various scenario models.

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

***The morning session adjourned at 1:05 p.m. for break.***

## **Minutes**

### **Afternoon Session**

**1:30 p.m.**

#### **J. Call To Order at 1:30 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the Commission was called to order at 1:36 p.m. by Commissioner Chair Wengerd.

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Vacant: One, District 4

Advisory Committee Members Present: 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; Deborah DeForge, Program Specialist, Outcomes Management; Cassandra Adams, Contract Specialist, Grants & Contracts; Maria Hernandez, Secretary, Early Care & Education; Sonia Jizrawi, Program Specialist, Early Care & Education;

Carol Abella, Program Specialist, Early Care & Education; Rocio Zuniga, Program Specialist, Early Care & Education; Uniqua Burgess, Program Specialist, Health & Community Programs

Lucy Furuta and Tiffany North, Deputy County Counsels were in attendance as legal counsel for the Commission.

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

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

**1. Commissioner Comments:**

There were none.

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

- a. Mr. Freedman informed the Commission Sandra Johnson, our exceptionally friendly, gracious and beloved receptionist passed away suddenly leaving a vacancy. We are currently filling the receptionist vacancy with temporary assistance from Riverside Personnel Inc. and will open recruitment for a permanent replacement at the beginning of April.
- b. Ms. Furuta is retiring on March 30, 2009. She has been with the Commission since its creation. She is being replaced by County Counsel Tiffany North.

**3. Approval of February 25, 2009 Special Commission Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Frykman moved to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2009 meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Vice Chair Loew seconded the motion. *Following is the vote of the Commission members present: [Eight (8) in favor (Wengerd, Loew, Stone, Beasley, Frykman, Hoffman, Oltean, and Carrillo), Zero, (0) abstain, Zero (0) absent, Zero (0) opposed, One (1) vacant]*

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

Resolution Report – (Action) – Stella Smith, Deputy Director

Riverside County Children and Families Commission members have the option of excluding discussion items from a master motion. Ms. Smith facilitated the action on the resolutions presented for approval. Ms. Smith noted conflicts have been noted in the Report for Commission review.

*(A copy of the entire Resolution Report is on file at the Commission business office.)*

Following is a record of action(s) taken by Commission on Resolutions 09-15 through 09-19:

Resolutions 09-15, 09-18 and 09-19 were presented as a block motion. Resolutions 09-16 and 09-17 were considered separately to provide detailed information and to disclose declaration of conflicts.

#### **09-15: Approving the Professional Services Contract between the Riverside County Children and Families Commission and Insight Center for Community Economic Development**

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission approve the Contract between the Commission and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development not to exceed \$40,000. Further, that the Commission authorize the Executive Director or his designee to execute the necessary documents to effectuate this Resolution.

**09-18: Consenting to the Assignment and Delegation between the Smile Factory of the Tiempo de Los Ninos, Inc. and Borrego Community Health Foundation**

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission accept staff recommendation as stated above and consent to the assignment and delegation of the contract between the Commission and the Smile Factory of the Tiempo de Los Ninos, Inc. to the Borrego Community Health Foundation. Further, that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract with the Smile Factory to reflect the assignment of the contract to the Borrego Community Health Foundation and execute any further action/documents to effectuate this Resolution.

**09-19: Approving the Increase in the Executive Director's Spending Limit with Riverside Personnel Services Inc.**

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission authorize an increase in the spending authority of the Executive Director for expenditures associated with Riverside Personnel Services, Inc. by \$60,000 not to exceed the revised spending authority of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 08/09. Authorize the Executive Director or his designee to execute the necessary documents to effectuate this Resolution.

Commission Vice-Chair, Loew moved to approved Resolutions 09-15, 09-18 and 09-19 Commissioner Stone seconded the motion. *Following is a vote of the Commission members present: [Eight (8) in favor (Wengerd, Loew, Stone, Beasley, Frykman, Hoffman, Oltean, Carrillo), Zero, (0 abstain), Zero (0) absent, Zero (0) opposed, One (1) vacancy]*

Ms. Smith provided overview of Resolution 09-16 and called for further discussion and questions. She noted the conflict for Commissioner Hoffman.

**09-16: Approving and Ratifying the Investment of Funds Contracts for Cycle 2- Round Three of the School Readiness Initiative**

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission formally accept the award of Cycle 2 Round 3 School Readiness Funds from First 5 California, and approve the contracts listed above and as attached to the resolution. Further that the Commission ratify these actions back to July 1, 2008 (the effective date of these contracts).

Commissioner Oltean moved to approve Resolution 09-16. Commissioner Carrillo seconded the motion. *Following is a vote of the Commission members present: [Seven (7) in favor (Wengerd, Loew, Stone, Beasley, Frykman, Oltean, Carrillo), One, (1) (Hoffman) Abstain-Conflict, Zero (0) absent, Zero (0) opposed, One (1) vacancy]*

Ms. Smith provided overview of Resolution 09-17 and called for further discussion and questions. She noted the conflict for Commissioner Hoffman.

**09-17: Approving the First Amendment to the Contract between the Riverside County Children and Families Commission and the NuView Union School District**

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission approve the First Amendment to the contract with NuView Union School District and authorize the Executive Director to execute the necessary documents/actions to effectuate this Resolution.

Commissioner Oltean moved to approve Resolution 09-17, Commissioner Carrillo, seconded the motion. *Following is a vote of the Commission members present: [Seven (7) in favor (Wengerd, Loew, Stone, Beasley, Frykman, Oltean, Carrillo), One, (1) (Hoffman) Abstain-Conflict, Zero (0) absent, Zero (0) opposed, One (1) vacancy]*

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

Ms. Wood provided an update. She provided a report from Advisory Committee Member Donna Greene. A copy of Ms. Woods report will be attached to the Commission minutes.

**N. Presentations**

1. Review of the First 5 California Annual Report Revisions for Fiscal Year 2007/2008 (The revisions to the Report and the entire Report may be viewed by going to [www.ccfc.ca.gov](http://www.ccfc.ca.gov)) – Johnathan McDannell, Administrator Outcomes Management

a. Revisions to the State Annual Report

Mr. McDannell introduced Michael Bates Ph.D., Evaluator, MOSAIC Network Inc.

Mr. McDannell and Ms. Duncan shared the revisions made to the Annual Report. Mr. McDannell reported there were changes in the Annual Report due to duplicated counts in reviewing children 0-5 parents and providers in the different service areas. When counting numbers it was realized that there were also differences in the Program Progress Reports that are submitted quarterly and then cumulative at the end of the year. Mr. McDannell noted the figures have been corrected as noted in the spreadsheets provided to the Commission for Improved Family Functioning, Improved Child Development, Improved Child Health and School Readiness. There was also a change to the fiscal report. Ms. Duncan reported the revisions to the fiscal report were made at the State's request. The State requested prior year adjustments on the audit be moved to the fund balance instead of the current year amounts. The reclassification of the prior year adjustments that were moved to the fund balance on the Annual Report are noted on the spreadsheet presented by Ms. Duncan. These funds are separated out on the financial statements. Most have to do with school readiness funds. It was revenue that was recognized in prior years that should have been deferred until the claim was done.

Commission Vice-Chair Loew asked what has been learned about what went wrong so the same situation does not occur again. Mr. McDannell replied work has been done in early care and education and health on the reporting. Target accomplishment will be based on when the child is entering so the numbers will always be the same. This year Outcomes Management has gone through every target and every service. They are mapping so it is more user friendly and accurate. Staff will review agencies' entries to the PPR to make sure they are consistent. Dr. Bates noted that since F5R staff had been going through the logic model and improving SOWs, it will be easier to rectify these issues next year. Mr. McDannell noted service numbers coded on the back end will be correct effective July 1, 2009.

- b. Public Hearing: First 5 California (California Children and Families Commission) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Commission Chair, Wengerd opened the public hearing on the First 5 California Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. There were no public comments. Commission Chair Wengerd closed the public hearing.

*(A copy of Ms. Duncan's and Mr. McDannell's complete reports are on file at the Commission's business office).*

2. First 5 Riverside Evaluation Report for FY 07/08 – Michael Bates Ph.D., Evaluator, MOSAIC Network Inc.

*(A copy of the entire Report may be viewed by going to [www.rccfc.org](http://www.rccfc.org))*

Mr. McDannell noted last year was the first year F5R had an evaluation done by MOSAIC. Dr. Bates reported First 5 has a complex and rich data. His job has been to distill the information into the Evaluation Report (hereinafter "Report"). He thanked agencies and staff for all of the work they have done to contribute to the Report.

Dr. Bates reported the amount of total data submitted this year including client data, intakes, surveys, PPRs, etc., was probably five times more than we had last year. There was a significant increase in both quantity and quality of data for this year's report compared to the previous year. He presented the allocations of F5R in 2007/2008 within service areas as noted in the power point presentation.

Dr. Bates noted when interpreting numbers for immunizations MOSAIC used what numbers could be verified. On the DRDP-R Preschool, children improved significantly from pre-test to post-test.

The Early Education Report includes allocation of school readiness money this year. Last year preschool readiness reporting was spread out in different areas. He noted a possible incorrect number in parent education. He will go back and check the numbers.

Commissioner Vice-Chair Loew questioned in the systems improvement piece that was carved out, whether they are subsets of the three primary strategy areas health child care and education. Mr. Freedman replied that they are subsets that the State requires they be reported.

Commission Vice-Chair Loew noted she could not follow if the systems improvement and systems outcome slides were supposed to be connected. Dr. Bates responded part of programs is assigned to the system improvement because the State wants them broken out in a particular way. Systems Outcomes in the Report are mainly from key information pulled from highlights of progress reports.

Commissioner Carrillo asked if F5R is reporting on the systems outcomes because it is requested by the State or if it is just for the F5R Evaluation Report. She would like to know what percentage of grants an agency receives on top of First 5 and if we provide less funds according the additional grants the agency receives. Mr. McDannell noted the report is about several agencies.

Commission Vice-Chair Loew asked staff to be more specific about what the dollars correspond to on the system improvement slide.

She asked for more elaboration of what the nature of the outcomes is and how many agencies

are included in the outcomes. Mr. McDannell replied sustainability relating to grant writing pertains to two agencies.

Commissioner Carrillo expressed concern that the Report does not reflect all agencies funded by First 5 in the systems but is attributable to certain agencies. Commissioner Vice-Chair Loew noted it needs to be made clear to anyone who reads the Evaluation that it is not a reflection of everyone in the system, instead it needs to be clear that it only pertains to a few agencies.

Dr. Bates noted he should have clarified that the wording in the PowerPoint is based on the objectives in the F5R Strategic Plan. He noted there is wording at the beginning of the actual report that clarifies further.

Commission Chair Wengerd asked if the total dollars in the Report are what was spent by F5R. He asked if statistics reflect the number of people served. Mr. McDannell confirmed the numbers reflect what Ms. Duncan shared in her report. He agreed with what Commission Vice-Chair Loew said that a novus reader may not understand the Report.

Commissioner Beasley noted that there should be clarifying language added to the Report before it is posted on the website. Commissioner Oltean noted the Report on the website may already be more detailed than the PowerPoint. Dr. Bates noted there is clear language in the full Report that is not noted in the power point.

Staff will look at the full Report to make sure detail is clarified in the Report. Dr. Bates asked Commission to provide Mr. McDannell or himself input on areas they would like revisions made and he will add language in the beginning of the report so that it is clear in the full Report.

(Supervisor Stone left the meeting at 2:01 p.m. and returned at 2:07 p.m.)  
(County Counsel, Lucy Furuta left the meeting at 2:15 p.m. and returned at 2:20 p.m.)  
(Commissioner Frykman left the meeting at 2:25 p.m. and returned at 2:29 p.m.)

*(A copy of Mosaic Network's complete evaluation report is on file at the Commission's business office.)*

## **O. Discussion/Action**

### **1. Response to continuing Mental Health Services comments**

Chair Wengerd noted his conflict on this item and turned the meeting over to Commission Vice-Chair Loew who reminded the Commission that this agenda item was in response to Riverside County Department of Mental Health Children's Services Manager, Erlys Daily's comments made at the February 25<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting regarding the status of their prior contract that expired on December 31, 2008. That contract was recommended to be extended to coincide with the award of a new Mental Health services agreement, but the recommendation was not approved. Since it has not occurred, questions were raised as to what will happen with the prior agreement and if the Commission has a desire to extend that service contract.

Mr. Freedman confirmed that the prior contract did expire on December 31, 2008. This is an opportunity for the Commission to discuss a response to Ms. Daily if they chose to.

Commission Vice-Chair Loew reminded the Commission they had previously discussed the possibility of extending the Mental Health Department's prior contract that expired December 31<sup>st</sup> but had been caught up in the discussion regarding the awarding of a new contract.

Mr. Freedman added there are Commissioners who are a part of the prior contract that expired December 31, 2008. Commissioner Frykman and Commissioner Wengerd are sub-contractors and are conflicted out of discussion on this Agenda item.

Commissioner Stone urged the Commission to continue the services with the County under an interim contract until the appeal and the decision by the Commission can be formally made. Commission Vice-Chair Loew replied that the strategic goals are to continue a mental health component provided by First 5 contracts. While in review, she would like to continue to provide mental health services to the children so the services do not lapse while the Commission is sorting out the issues of the appeal.

Commissioner Carrillo asked if the contract with the Department of Mental Health is the only contract servicing mental health. Mr. McDannell replied there is a mental health contract for Incredible Kids Program in Moreno Valley and several that are sub-contracts as part of other programs. Commissioner Carrillo noted before she voted against the continuance of the Department of Mental Health's contract. She asked staff before the vote was taken if those services were still being provided and the reply was yes. When she asked who was paying for the services she was told services were being paid for by the Department of Mental Health. That is why she voted against the continuance because the services were already being provided and there was never a lapse in services.

Mr. Freedman indicated that the services are still be provided by Department of Mental Health, but it is undetermined were the funds are coming from. Ms. Carrillo asked why the services need to be provided. Mr. Freedman responded the Mental Health Department is continuing to provide the screening, assessment, and treatment services to benefit children. Supervisor Stone added the Department of Mental Health will continue to provide the services as long as fiscally possible, which is becoming more challenging. He added the County can no longer subsidize programs that are meant to be funded by other entities. Mr. Freedman noted the money from F5R would come from fund balance.

Commissioner Beasley added the Commission has a moral responsibility to fund the program if the Department of Mental Health can no longer provide the services without funding.

(Commissioner Chair, Wengerd left the room at 2:43 p.m. and returned at 2:44 p.m.)

Mr. Freedman reported the contract that expired on December 31, 2008 provides a range of screening, assessment and treatment services. Commissioner Stone motioned Commission should consider tapping funds on a month-to-month basis until the appeal is heard. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. Ms. Furuta noted if the Commission passes that motion, staff should bring back an amended contract and resolution. Commissioner Hoffman agreed with Supervisor Stone that the Commission has a responsibility to the children who are currently being served. In the absence in another way to do that it would be inappropriate for the Commission to stop.

Ms. Furuta read the motion by Supervisor Stone. Supervisor Stone motioned to continue funding the Mental Health contract on a month-to-month basis until the appeal is heard. She suggested changing it until the appeal is decided. Commissioner Carrillo suggested it be retroactive to January. The Commission agreed.

Mr. Freedman noted if this contract is going to be treated as a continued contract like the other contracts, staff should be conducting negotiations for budget changes or scope changes. The Commission pointed out this could be difficult since it is a unique, month to month contract. Ms. Furuta clarified the motion is on a month-to-month basis until the appeal is finalized. Mr. Freedman noted the source of funding is the fund balance.

Mr. Furuta noted Commission Chair Wengerd and Commissioner Frykman had a conflict.

Supervisor Stone motioned to continue funding the Department of Mental Health contract on a month-to-month basis ratified back to January 1, 2009, until the appeal is decided. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. *Following is the vote of the Commission members present: [Six (6) in favor (Loew, Beasley, Stone, Hoffman, Oltean, and Carrillo), Two, (2) abstain/conflict (Wengerd, Frykman), Zero (0) absent, Zero (0) opposed, One (1) vacant]*

(Commissioner Stone left the meeting at 2:52 p.m.)

The meeting was turned back over the Commission Chair Wengerd.

## **2. One Time Only Contract Payment Provision – Harry Freedman, Executive Director**

Mr. Freedman explained the issue is the payment provision of One Time Only Contracts as problematic for agencies doing large capital improvements. The language is written to provide one advance and then provide reimbursement. Family Service Association was able to front the money for their project and then F5R expedited their payment. Mr. Freedman noted for other agencies this could be a problem. He requested Commission allow him to have authority on a case-by-case basis the ability to advance agencies where they are spending more money than their available cash flow.

Commissioner Beasley moved to approve Executive Director Authority on a case-by-case basis authority to advance agencies where they are spending more money than their available cash flow. Commissioner Frykman 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, One (1) vacant]*

Commissioner Beasley moved, Commissioner Frykman seconded.

Mr. Freedman noted agencies cannot charge F5R for a cost they have incurred before they have a signed contract. Commission

Ms. Furuta noted Supervisor Stone was not in the room at the time of the vote.

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

Commission Vice-Chair Loew turned the meeting back over to Chair Wengerd.

## **3. Teaman, Ramirez & Smith, Inc. (TRS) and Audit Contract – Sandy Duncan, Administrator Fiscal Services**

Mr. Freedman reported TRS was used for the audit for the first time last year. Staff recommends entering into a contract with the agency for an additional two years.

Commissioner Frykman moved to approve entering into a two year contract with TRS. Commissioner Hoffman 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, One (1) vacant]*

Ms. Furuta noted Supervisor Stone was not in the room at the time of the vote.

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

#### **4. Volunteer Center Request – Harry Freedman, Executive Director**

Mr. Freedman explained the Volunteer Center operates the 211 system. F5R has contracted with the Volunteer Center previously on the system. They have requested \$51,000 for infrastructure improvements. He noted the bid indicated that the system could fail at anytime.

Staff recommends this be the final investment into the infrastructure system for a significant time. Funding would come from fund balance.

Commissioner Beasley moved approval. Commission Vice-Chair Loew seconded the motion.

Commissioner Frykman asked for clarification on the costs. Mr. Freedman noted the requested costs cover the entire bid. 22% of the calls through the 211 system are from families ages 0-5.

Commissioner Frykman commented that he supports the motion but noted he did not think it was necessary to say it would be the final support of the 211 system. He suggested considering requests on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Beasley moved to approve funding the Volunteer Center's request for the 211 system as recommended. Commission Vice-Chair Loew 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, One (1) vacant]*

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

#### **5. Thousand Palms Child Care Center – Harry Freedman, Executive Director**

Mr. Freedman noted this item was continued from last month in order to allow Thousand Palms Child Care Center ("Thousand Palms") to retain a letter from State licensing that would note their probation status and end date. Thousand Palms has not been able to retain the letter.

Mr. Freedman reviewed the situation, including the fact that the One Time Only contracts require completion of expansion efforts by June 30, 2009, and this is not possible for Thousand Palms due to their Probationary status. Staff recommends terminating the two OTO contracts, requiring re-payment of 1/3 advance, and awarding funds to the next applicant from the application pool.

Public Comments: Due to the amount of public requests to speak, Commission Chair Wengerd limited speakers to three minutes.

1. Sheryl Rhodes, Director of Thousand Palms Child Care Center

Ms. Rhodes asked if Kelly Murphy could speak next. Commission Chair Wengerd responded that the requests are taken in order of received. Ms. Rhodes asked if it would be possible to use some of the others speaking time if they wish to donate it. Chair Wengerd agreed that would be acceptable.

Ms. Rhodes provided a packet of information for the Commission to review prior to the beginning of the afternoon session. Ms. Rhodes noted all information shared by Mr. Freedman is correct. It was an inadvertent error on Thousand Palms' part when they sent the wrong licenses. Ms. Rhodes mother does all of the financial work and she had pulled the licenses, and when Ms. Rhodes signed the RFP application she did not realize they had pulled the same ones. They made the same mistake when they sent in One Time Only Funding for their program. She thanked the Commission for hearing them and requested the Commission take some time to review the packet she provided for the Commissioners, getting to know the Program and reading the grant. The intent in the grant was all about quality.

The bonus that Thousand Palms received from increasing the spaces was just that. It allowed them to open up 24 spaces, which is referred to one time in the grant. You can ascertain when you read it that such was not their main priority. They are trying to comply with licensing issues and upgrade their center. Thousand Palms is constantly changing in a positive direction. She asked that the Commission take away the idea that quality improvement is what Thousand Palms is focused on.

Ms. Rhodes went back to her notes and acknowledged that they did send the wrong license. She said that the probation prohibits Thousand Palms from increasing capacity. In her documentation, it is in her stipulation that they are able to increase her fiscal plan size.

She has been in contact with Licensing and Licensing is aware of the plan to expand. They do not have a problem with the Thousand Palms expanding. Licensing shared with Ms. Rhodes that they would allow Thousand Palms to submit the application early so they are prepared in September. The idea that they want to run a quality program and turn around in June of 2009 and put 24 children in the program at once was not an option. Unfortunately, she did not address that in the grant. She wished she had of spoken to the idea in the grant that when they transition in September they would be moving to enroll the 24 children into their facility specified they would not make the transition in the middle of the school year. It is difficult for them to put one child into the classroom.

Thousand Palms' intent was train staff in summer and enroll children in September when all transitioned into a new classroom. She noted the grant does not say children have to be enrolled at a certain time. She read from the grant that the monies have to be expended and projects complete. This is still her intent even at this late date; she has contractors ready to go. She has expended a large amount of money in the process of planning. There is a letter from Roy Wilson in the packet and letter of mentor teacher of college of support. She noted her center has been a mentor site, in the 25 years in the field a lot of time has been invested in their community. First 5 has been a huge participant and the main reason they are as far as they are is due to F5R help provided.

At this time Chair Wengerd called time.

*(Caroline Seitz and Monique Deshawn gave their time so Ms. Rhodes could continue her talk.)*

Commissioner Frykman asked how much time Ms. Rhodes thought she needed. Ms. Rhodes indicated she did not know because her notes were multi-faceted.

Commissioner Carrillo asked if questions are counted in her three minutes or if she had time for questions after her three minutes. It was noted that she would have additional time for questions.

Ms. Rhodes addressed transitioning in September and training. When she increased her capacity in the infant room, they enrolled two students at a time. It didn't matter whether they had four teachers onboard; the idea was they were going to provide quality spaces for the children. That was the intent. It was not to hurry up and put kids in space in their center.

If quantity was the issue, Thousand Palms would have asked for 53 students and would have dumped some portables on their property and been done and out of here. That was not what they wanted, they wanted to enhance their environment and improve their quality. Ms Rhodes has big dreams and visions of having children being naturally driven. She believes they learn through their experiences.

Ms. Rhodes went back to quality. Quality allows them to enhance their environment which will affect their supervision problems they have. It eliminates blind areas; puts bathrooms outside. These are part of the reasons Thousand Palms is on probation. She noted they had two incidents two and a half years ago where children were exploring. When the child explored, he wanted to share it with someone else. Ms. Rhodes addressed Commissioner Carrillo stating Commissioner Carrillo knew because Commissioner Carrillo was in the child care field she knew exactly what she was talking about.

Ms. Rhodes indicated that a lot of agencies do not report it. She chose to report it. She spoke to the parents and reported it to Licensing and asked for help from Licensing. Ms. Rhodes explained the reason that Licensing did not provide a letter is Licensing told Thousand Palms that it can not advocate for Thousand Palms. They can tell them all day long how great they are doing, keep up the good work and don't worry they are going to get through this.

Ms. Rhodes noted one time she had been dinged for having plungers next to the toilet and the last time it was brooms. She has put plungers next to her toilet for 25 years. She noted the Licensing agent who visited her site indicated that it was not likely that Licensing would ever come out and not find something.

She noted she needs to appeal some of the issues from Licensing that she has not appealed before. This was recommended by her Licensing agent.

She noted that all agencies were notified of the probation. The State of California knew, as did the California Department of Education and the Riverside County Office of Education. Ms. Rhodes was under the assumption that First 5 knew of the probation. After consulting with Gary Andary when it first started happening, Ms.

Rhodes faxed the information to Gary Andary over the First 5 line. She was not trying to hide anything. Mr. Andary came out to the facility and recommended taking the probation because a lot of times you fight and spend out a lot of money, you can still lose because you can go back to Licensing and they can overturn your decision. Ms. Rhodes chose to take the probation and it has made them stronger, work harder and more aware of items Thousand Palms would not have paid attention to.

Ms. Rhodes commented that both Don Harper and Judy Givens are aware of their intent to expand. She noted their licenses are posted in the office and First 5 has been to the facility for quarterly visits. (The licenses are in her office.)

Ms. Rhodes commented that their probationary status it is not something she wants to discuss with everyone. She noted in the package provided to the Commissioners, she provided letters of support from parents, the college, Roy Wilson's office, community counsel members and the Chamber of Commerce. Riverside has been an important partner in our community since its inception. She expressed Thousand Palms has always been compliant and done what is asked of the Center. She is asking Commission to consider the information that is before them and to consider the children this will affect in their community.

Ms. Rhodes showed a waiting list that contained 3,000 people waiting for spaces for subsidized child care. Riverside County called them in the midst of their probation and offered them 60 subsidized spaces. They are currently funding Thousand Palms while it is on probation for the 60 subsidized spaces for children.

At this time Commission Chair Wengerd called time on Ms. Rhode's comment time.

Commissioner Carrillo asked how many licenses the center has. Ms. Rhodes replied Thousand Palms has three: Infant 12, preschool 75 and school age for 60. The Center opened in 1983.

Commissioner Carrillo asked for clarification on the probationary status. Ms. Rhodes noted Thousand Palms is on probation status for multiple citations and not a single act. Ms. Rhodes indicated that she did not think all the little things were the issues, she thought the act of the children exploring is why Community Care Licensing took the action to put them on probation. She noted CCL waited to take action against them.

Commissioner Carrillo asked for clarification on why Ms. Rhodes was requesting One Time Only funds. Ms. Rhodes responded it is to enhance the environment. Her intent is to open up the Center to allow natural lighting into the facility as well as provide outside bathrooms, as well as to change the way that they enter classrooms. There is a class that is very disruptive. She referred the Commission to the plan that was included in the packet distributed to the Commissioners earlier in the meeting so the Commissioners could see Thousand Palms' intentions.

Commissioner Carrillo asked if this project would be increasing her capacity or if it was part of the original intent. Ms. Rhodes replied it will increase capacity, which she considered a bonus. She noted if Commission would read through the grant it speaks to improving quality and their environment.

Commissioner Carrillo asked if the improvements would address specific licensing issues. Ms. Rhodes responded absolutely. She noted one of the issues was

supervision. Children had gotten into a bathroom and the teacher was not paying attention because all of the bathrooms are indoors. The funds would go to fix this problem and square the building off. Ms. Rhodes explained their facility was a home, two homes connected by a garage and they have been over the years modifying and trying to make it conducive to what they are using it for.

Commissioner Carrillo clarified that the original intent was improving quality and environment for all three licenses and the one time only funding will address licensing issues. The fact that the wrong license was submitted was not the issue, the issue is that Ms. Rhodes was on probation at the time she submitted her license. Ms. Rhodes confirmed and added that it is the two month frame that they say Thousand Palms cannot increase capacity until September 2009.

Commissioner Carrillo asked Ms. Rhodes if she was aware that she could not be on probationary status at the time she submitted her application. Ms. Rhodes responded that she could be on probationary status and apply but she could not increase capacity.

Commissioner Carrillo asked when Ms. Rhodes submitted her grant to First 5 if she was aware she was not supposed to be submitting an application. Ms. Rhodes replied she is allowed to submit something while she is on probation.

Commissioner Carrillo clarified with the Commission if their concern is that First 5 did not know she was on probation at the time? This question was held until further questions could be asked.

Commissioner Vice-Chair, Loew asked how much was spent. Ms. Rhodes informed her close to \$70,000. Once off probation, in order to get approval to expand, they can contact licensing to notify them of their intent to expand. A lot of money has been spent on planning and engineering and all of the preparation work. Due to the timeframe in the contract, Thousand Palms moved forward with purchasing air conditioners and prepared to be done by June 30, 2009. She pointed out the grant was awarded in October 2008 and it was a short timeframe to make the project happen especially being operational at the same time. She noted having contractors willing to work nights and weekends to make it happen.

Commissioner, Vice-Chair Loew asked for clarification on Ms. Rhodes previous statement of having RCOE allocating funding for 60 slots. She asked if they were existing slots and new funding or previous filled slots that were not funded?

Ms. Rhodes clarified the slots were filled. They were managing to find a way to help subsidize those families that still qualified because it created a gap in the program. It came from them misunderstanding First 5's 0 to 3. They had written for 0 through 3 so they were funding kids 0 through 3. Ms. Rhodes added when they discovered this was a mistake then we had only a gap in our fours program and we were able to make that part work and when they found out we had to fund our threes as well. She was not sure now if it was the same night or the next day, Sharon Baskett called and said by the way do you guys need spaces? She informed Ms. Rhodes that 65 spaces were available. Ms. Rhodes believed someone is looking over them because we were of course jumping up and down and excited to accept those spots. But they were existing already but they were basically funding them out of general funds and scholarship dollars.

Commissioner Frykman asked what licenses were on probation and the reasons for the license probation. Ms. Rhodes responded all three licenses were on probation for a number of incidents.

Commissioner Frykman asked Mr. Freedman how much of what Thousand Palms is on probation for relates to what was being discussed now. He noted he thought Thousand Palms was on probation for a ton of little things that sounded like they didn't really matter or one thing. Now that he hears the three are on probation for different reasons and that might make him think differently about the seriousness of it.

Mr. Freedman referred to Ms. Schoenberg and tried to respond to Commissioner Frykman's question. As violations were reviewed there were a significant number around the variety of supervision issues and there was a serious issue.

Mr. Freedman guessed that the combination of the quantity of violations and the specific nature of the one violation was why Thousand Palms was put on probation. He noted being placed on probation is a serious issue and there are a small number of centers throughout the County that get to that point of being put on probation.

Ms. Rhodes responded that a lot of the accusations on the probation were issues she felt that if she had of appealed; a number of those violations would have been overturned. She was at a licensing meeting and was told that a third of those are overturned. She noted it was moot at this point because Thousand Palms is six months away from being off of probation. She further noted that between the ages of four and five children discover their sexuality. That is basically what happened and the minor things that have happened along the way happen to a lot of centers. She expressed that what put it over the edge is that they had two incidents one month apart. One child learned one thing and then wanted to show his friends.

*(Deputy County Counsel, Tiffany North left the meeting at 3:24 pm and returned at 3:28 p.m.)*

*(A copy of Ms. Rhodes documents are on file at the Commission's business office.)*

2. Kelly Murphy, Program Director Thousand Palms Child Care Center  
Ms. Murphy reported the Thousand Palms has a comprehensive program. They offer various meals including vegetarian and whole grain breakfast and lunch. Thousand Palms discusses core values, such as love, respect, cooperation and freedom. The Center has monthly parent workshops that encourage parents to come and discuss values. The Center also conducts fundraisers that benefit various agencies. Staff is encouraged to go to school. Ms. Murphy encouraged the Commission to visit the site to observe the services provided that helps the children grow and enhance their quality.
3. Irma Garcia, parent of a child in the Thousand Palms Child Care Center  
Ms. Garcia reported her daughter has improved her knowledge since being enrolled in the Center. She considers the Center to be a good place. Her daughter enjoys the food. The Center helps her family with the programs they offer. Other parents could not attend today's Commission the meeting because they are working. She reported on their behalf, the parents' need the Center because there is nothing closer. A lot of

people come from out of town to bring their children to the Center. She would be happy if the Commission could help the Center.

Commissioner Carrillo asked a question of Ms. Garcia in Spanish. Commissioner Carrillo translated that the Ms. Garcia said she feels the Center is very safe and does not have any concerns or issues with the supervision of the Center. She feels her child is happy and content so she is happy and content because she knows her child is learning.

4. Amanda Villarreal, Employee with Thousand Palms Child Care Center  
Ms. Villarreal Began in July 1999 and resigned in February 2006. She returned in October 2008 and is currently employed by Thousand Palms. She reported for the past two and half years, the Center has been in good standing with Licensing and strived beyond basic measures to stay within compliance of all compliance and procedures. As a mother of one of the children involved in situation that resulted in the Center being on probation with Licensing, she is requesting the money be returned to the Center to help with the enhancements.

Ms. Villarreal commented that in the past two years there has been such great change that she was excited to come back and enroll her daughter as well. The path the Center is on now is the beginning of a great journey to instill excellence and success. She added Thousand Palms Child Care Center is truly for the child. Ms. Villarreal thanked the Commission for their time.

5. Roy Nokes, Member of the Community.  
Mr. Nokes thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak and provided a summary of his background. He is the President and Chairman of Thousand Palms Community Council, long standing Board Member of the Chamber of Commerce, long standing member Thousand Palms Citizen on Patrol, Cub Scout Master, Boy Scout Master, retired fire captain from California Department of Forestry and County Fire Department.

Mr. Nokes reported he has worked a lot with children in Thousand Palms. He organized the little league, pony league and first Cub Scout pack. He has had the pleasure of working with the Rhodes hand in hand for many years. He noted they always assisted when asked.

A lot of families in Thousand Palms and in the Valley need quality day care and for many years the Rhodes has provided quality child care. He noted they may have made a few mistakes along the road but everyone does. He expressed the important thing is the impact they have on the parents and children if there is not quality day care. The Rhodes want to expand their program to make it a better quality program to allow more children to be involved.

If they are allowed to go ahead with their program, they can start on their expansion and be ready when the recession is over to take additional children. He asked the Commission to consider the affect it will have on the families and children that are a part of the business. They are a great asset to community.

6. Mayra Moreno had to leave the meeting before she was called to speak. That concluded the public comments on the agenda item.

### **Additional Discussion**

Commissioner Carrillo asked about Gary Anadyr's involvement if he was involved as an agent of First 5 at the time. Mr. Freedman responded that Mr. Andary is a part time consultant for First 5. Mr. Freedman was not clear if Mr. Andary was working on First 5 time when he went out to Thousand Palms. Mr. Andary did not communicate the fact that Thousand Palms was on probation during the time Thousand Palms submitted its application.

Ms. Schoenberg clarified that Mr. Andary had informed her that he reported back previously at a staff meeting which took place before Ms. Schoenberg was a staff of First 5. When she asked who was at the staff meeting, Mr. Andary could not recall. Mr. Freedman added by the time the RFP came through, the staff that Mr. Andary reported the information to may no longer have been at F5R. F5R has awarded Thousand Palms a FAF grant that has been completed. They also have an underlying regular response fund contract from four years ago.

Commission Chair, Wengerd asked when probation will be over for Thousand Palms. Mr. Freedman replied the terms of probation ends September 2009. One of the concerns is there is no assurance their probation will end until the State formally acts.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if Thousand Palms would go out of business or lose any children they are serving if Commission agrees with staff recommendation.

Commissioner Carrillo noted the funding Thousand Palms needs to complete its project will help the Center overcome some of the issues it has with supervision. She noted that some of the violations are easy to come with community care licensing such as plungers and brooms. She does not know exactly why they are on probation. Ms. Schoenberg replied it is multiple supervision issues as well as safety issues at multiple times.

Mr. Freedman clarified the three main points that he wanted to bring to the Commission's attentions.

1. The seriousness of the probation, he reminded the Commission that there are very few centers that get to the point of probation.

2. The integrity of the RFP process. When the readers read the application they were not aware of the probationary status and they were aware of an application to increase slots by 24, by June 30, 2009. That had to figure into the readers thought process and scoring. Mr. Freedman further clarified children weren't required to be enrolled by June 30. They had to be ready for licensing, and all paperwork in.

3. Inability to complete the contract which called for the additional 24 slots by June 30, 2009.

Ready for licensure by June 30, 2009, work be completed, license paperwork turned in. If licensing hadn't completed the process but the agency applied and were ready it would be ok.

Commission Chair Wengerd asked if the Commission could choose to put the decision off until the end of the probation period. Mr. Freedman replied this would involve extending the contract, not paying anymore on the contract until Thousand Palms had

expenses to be reimbursed and extending until at least September 2009. The question is there is no assurance Thousand Palms will be off of probation by then or if licensing will issue another 24 slots.

Commissioner Oltean noted if the Commission moves staff recommendation to go to the next applicant it would only leave two months complete. Mr. Freedman replied staff would request Commission extend the application period for the next applicant.

Commissioner Carrillo asked if staff noticed any issues during previous site visits. Ms. Schoenberg replied that the agency is aware when the Program Specialists are coming so the Center is aware and prepared.

Commissioner Frykman suggested looking at the contract, money from revenue and fund the next one or two applicants on the list. He would like to re-address this matter with Thousand Palms in September if they pass their licensing visit. At this point he agreed with Commission Chair, Wengerd to hold on any decisions until September 2009. He expressed he does not want to continue funding if supervision is not up to par per licensing and the probation is not lifted.

Commissioner Wengerd added he would like to delay a decision until September and readdress the question in September.

Commissioner Chair Wengerd is ok with funding the next two applicants out of fund balance. Mr. Freedman clarified the suggestion is to fund the agencies in the amount equivalent to the award of Thousand Palms contract out of fund balance.

Commissioner Oltean expressed concern how Thousand Palms would refund the third of the \$70,000 they were advanced if the Commission moved to have them do so. Mr. Freedman responded if the decision was made to terminate, staff would work with Thousand Palms for payment options.

**Additional Public Comment:**

Caroline Seitz, Treasure of Thousand Palms Child Care Center

1. Ms. Seitz gave up her time before but decided there were a few items she wanted to address with the Commission.

Ms. Seitz informed the Commission that the situation with the wrong license being submitted with the RFP was her fault because she pulled the wrong licenses and sent them in. There was no intent on her part to do anything wrong, and she had also sent in the same wrong licenses for the facility grant. She indicated that she didn't know there was a problem with the Center being on probation. She admitted that they had just assumed incorrectly until Ms. Schoenberg told them afterwards that F5R is a public entity and doesn't get notified by public licensing like all the other agencies do.

Ms. Seitz confirmed that they did talk with Mr. Andary, and had consultations with him. He suggested along with the attorney from the state that Thousand Palms should just go ahead and accept the probation because it would be to the Center's advantage and because Thousand Palms did not want to spend thousands and thousands of dollars fighting the probation is why Thousand Palms did that.

Ms. Seitz added that one of the things that Ms. Rhodes did not bring up and she wanted to bring up is that the violations happened in 2003, 2004 and 2006. Some of

them were biting incidents from the children. The sexual ones were in 2006. Thousand Palms Child Care Center did not receive notice from licensing of the accusation until May 2007. She pointed out that Thousand Palms did not get notified until over a year after the incident, the incidents happened in February and March. Thousand Palms did not get notified until over a year after it had happened that Licensing was going to bring accusations against them.

Ms. Seitz shared pictures she thought were important for the Commission to see of what the money was used for from the facility grants. She reminded the Commission of the packet provided to them that contained additional information on the Center.

At this time Commission Chair Wengerd called time. Ms. Seitz added one last thing. – “If you want to extend us to September that would be fine. We already had our assurance from licensing that we could submit our application early once they do their final review which will be this spring. And if we are cleared with them then they will go ahead and let us go ahead and submit our application early. Continuing it until September would be no problem as far as we are concerned. We will continue to try to do funding with our community assets and go ahead and start the project.”

Commissioner Carrillo motioned to continue this item until September 2009 and that no further action be taken until then. 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, One (1) vacant]*

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

At this time Commissioner Vice-Chair, Loew asked to take Agenda Item N1 out of order because she would have to leave soon for another meeting. Commission Chair Wengerd noted that Commissioner, Frykman and Commissioner Hoffman had to leave soon as well.

At this time Chair Wengerd recused himself due to conflict and turned the meeting over to Commission Vice-Chair Loew. She noted Commissioners Wengerd, Hoffman, Frykman and Beasley all had a conflict.

## **P. Information Items – item taken out of order of the agenda**

1. Mental Health Initiative, Commission Vice-Chair, Loew
  - a. Resolution 08-65

*(Commissioner Hoffman, Wengerd, Frykman and Beasley noted conflicts. Hoffman, Wengerd and Beasley left the meeting at 3:59 p.m. due to the conflicts)*

Commission Vice-Chair Loew shared this was an Action Item that was before the Commission at the December 1, 2008 Commission meeting. The Commission has consulted further with Counsel on the action that was taken at the December meeting. Because there were Commissioners that inadvertently voted, the conclusion has been reached that this item is null and void. There has been no action taken by the Commission that could be sustained and

anything that can be moved forward because there was no quorum during the time the action was taken so it is not active.

At the point when the Commission returns with action to take it will be considered a new action for the Commission to take at that time.

Commission asked if there was an award made to Department of Mental Health?

Ms. Furuta noted there was an award made to the Department of Mental Health, but it is now null and void.

b. Appeal Subcommittee report

Commission Vice-Chair, Loew reported that Supervisor Stone was previously assigned to be part of the sub-committee that would hear the appeal. Out of concern for a potential conflict of interest because of his role as Supervisor and this involving the Department of Mental Health, he has withdrawn as a sub-committee member. Commissioner Oltean has volunteered to be a sub-committee member. Commissioner Carrillo and Commissioner Oltean are the two sub-committee members. Commissioner Carrillo added a date has been set next week for review of the appeal. Further updates will take place at the next Commission meeting.

**Public Comment:**

1. Mr. James Manning, attorney with Reid & Hellyer representing Family Service Association (FSA).

Mr. Manning reported in light of Commission Vice-Chair comments he had no further comments today. He completed the request to speak form in case there was something he needed to say.

*(Commission Chair Wengerd returned to the meeting at 4:01 pm))*

Ms. Furuta made Commission aware that agenda item N.6 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair interest. If any Commissioner has interest they need to contact Deputy County Counsel, Ms. North.

**2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair interest, Harry Freedman, Executive Director- this item was taken out of order of the agenda**

Commissioner Frykman asked if this item can be tabled or have the current Chair and Vice-Chair remained in their position until the County determines its next steps. Ms. Furuta replied the Commission can take that action. April is the month the Commission usually makes the transition but she does not see any problem with maintaining the current Chair and Vice-Chair until the County makes a decision on the direction of the Commission structure.

**3. Measure 1D – Harry Freedman, Executive Director- this item was taken out of order of the agenda**

Mr. Freedman referred to the information included in the Commission packet on Measure 1D. Commissioners are able to take the position opposing Measure 1D. He request First 5 Riverside take a position of opposition on Measure 1D.

Commissioner Beasley reported she is doing things locally. She has visited the Agencies Executive Association and has been invited to come back. They are eager to support F5R in this matter. Mr. Freedman reminded all need to be aware of legal issues. No public funds can be used to advocate. Commissioner Beasley noted she is in the community volunteering.

Commission directed staff to bring back a resolution back in opposition at the next meeting.

Commissioner Carrillo motioned to approve the Commission take a position of opposition to Measure 1D. 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, One (1) vacant]*

(Commissioner Loew left the meeting at 4:03 pm)

Commissioner Wengerd noted he liked Supervisor Stone's suggestion on communicating. He asked if Mr. Freedman's association is doing anything to communicate. Mr. Freedman noted they are working on communicating with the Community.

Chair Wengerd noted they are planning something for Jean Benson and Ms. Furuta at next months meeting.

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

**Q. Public Comments taken out of order**

Roy Nokes thanked the Commission and acknowledged First 5 Riverside for doing a great job in Riverside County and with the children.

**R. Funded Agency Public Comments taken out of order**

None

**S. Information Items – Continued**

1. Executive Director Report – Harry Freedman, Executive Director-these items were taken out of order of the agenda.

Recruitment was completed and Mary Stewart was hired for the Health and Community Programs Secretary position. Mary comes to us with 14 years with Riverside County, most recently the Office on Aging.

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

2. Commission Membership Vacancy Follow-Up – Harry Freedman, Executive Director  
No discussion on this item.

3. Quarterly Target Report and Addendum – Johnathan McDannell, Administrator, Outcomes Management

No discussion on this item.

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

4. Southern California Alliance for Learning and Results (SCALAR) Oral Health Brief – Johnathan McDannell, Administrator Outcomes Management

No discussion on this item.

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

5. Public Relations Information – Jamie Ayala, Public Information Specialist

No discussion on this item.

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

**T. Future Agenda Items**

1. Recognition of Jean Benson and Lucy Furuta.

- U.** Commission Adjournment at 4:08 p.m. to the closed session meeting of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, beginning at 12:00 p.m. with the regular session meeting to follow 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 persons present at this meeting, who wish (es) 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 Commission member, the Commission 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**