

Advisory Committee to the
Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Wednesday, April 19, 2006
San Geronio Child Care Consortium
671 N. Florida Street, Suite A
Banning, CA 92220

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Georgann Koenig at 1:34 p.m.

Advisory Members present: Georgann Koenig, Aurora Tenorio-Kerr, Judith Wood, Touraj Shafai, MD, Carla Lidner, DDS (arrived at 1:50 p.m.) and Lynne Craig (arrived at 1:50 p.m.)

Advisory Members absent: Alison Elsner, Donna Greene, Randon Lane, Theresa Larsen, Debbie Lauda, Donna Johnston (for Supervisor Tavaglione)

Staff Present: Harry Freedman, Executive Director; Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Michelle Victor, Commission Secretary.

I. Chair and Committee Member Comments

No comment.

II. Staff Report – Harry Freedman

A. Evaluation

- Upgraded software from TRI has been promised for the past year. Unfortunately the upgrade that TRI does have ready is unstable. TRI can make this upgrade available now but recommends waiting until December when an upgrade to the upgrade will be made available. Mr. Freedman said that quarterly reports currently due will be submitted by agencies under the old program.

B. State Update

- The state Commission has come under scrutiny regarding the timing of ads that stress the importance of preschool while signatures were being gathered to have Prop 82 (Preschool For All) on the ballot. Rob Reiner was acting chair of the both the Commission and the initiative planning committee. Initially Rob Reiner took a leave of absence, and then resigned. The Joint Legislative Committee has initiated and will be conducting a full audit of the State Commission. In addition to the audit there is a criminal investigation being

conducted by the Sacramento District Attorney – no charges have been filed.

- Hector Ramirez has been named as the new State Commission Chair.
- Prop 82 – support is diminishing in the polls. If it does pass, the funds will be allocated through all the County Offices of Education - except for Los Angeles and San Francisco.
- A joint planning committee which includes First 5 Riverside and the Riverside County Office of Education has been established and is discussing each scenario (Prop 82 pass or fail).
- First 5 Riverside holds no official position on Prop 82.

C. RFP Process Update

- The Commission has a special meeting scheduled for May 1, 2006 to discuss the upcoming release of the RFP's. The discussion will include estimated release dates and if they should be staggered. There could be as many as twelve RFPs issued at one time or as few as three.

Carla Lidner and Lynne Craig arrived for the meeting at 1:50 p.m. thereby establishing a quorum.

D. Playground RFP

- The playground RFP was released and approximately 100 applications were received.
- Several agencies applied for multiple sites. A discussion will be held at the April 24 Commission meeting to discuss the protocol relating to this and if the Commission would like to give extra points to small agencies.
- There are sufficient funds for approximately twenty-three agencies to receive funds (based upon the playground template they request)
- The geographical make-up of the applications seems to be fairly balanced throughout the county.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of minutes from the January 18, 2006 Regular meeting of the Advisory Committee

Georgann Koenig moved to approve the January 18, 2006 regular meeting minutes. Judith Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of the

Advisory members present: [Five (5) in favor, six (6) absent (Elsner, Greene, Larsen, Lauda, Johnston (for Tavaglione); one (1) abstention (Tenorio-Kerr)); zero (0) opposed]

IV. Discussion Items

A. New Computer Software

Mr. Freedman, Ms. Smith and other Administrative staff have looked at one other potential software provider in anticipation of the conclusion of the contract with TRI, which expires June 30, 2006. Mr. Freedman is speaking with County Counsel regarding the possibility of having to open this up to an RFP process.

B. Current Operational Contracts

Mr. Freedman said the Commission has approved extending the current Operational contracts through December 31, 2006.

C. Other Information

Dental Clinic - Mr. Freedman explained that the Perris Elementary School District Phase 1 School Readiness Grant contains funds for a Dental Clinic. This project has encountered a number of challenges, and the State Commission approved the request to move the site of the clinic to Nuvview Union School District. A partnership has been formed between the County, EDA, Nuvview USD, and F5R to bring this project to fruition, but there are insufficient funds to do so at this time. The funds in question must be expended by June 30, 2006. If not, they will not be available until the end of cycle 2 (4 years) and only then if there is not a cycle 3. Mr. Freedman has requested State approval to expend the funds by June 30 by paying them to the County for use in the future. He has not yet heard back from the State. Various options of using the funds for a temporary dental service, and the possibility of providing additional local funds were discussed. It was agreed that these alternatives could be discussed and resolved in the future, based on the State's response to Mr. Freedman's request.

Dental Care - Dr. Lidner has been approached by various community members inquiring about the possibility of her providing screening services to children in Riverside County similar to what she provides in San Bernardino County. Mr. Freedman said that included in the next cycle of RFP's there is a health component that specifically addresses dental care.

Childhood Obesity – Dr. Shafai also expressed his concerns regarding childhood obesity and asked if there was anything specifically addressing that in the new series of RFPs. According to the revised Strategic Plan there are

several strategies that could address childhood obesity depending on how the application was written.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Advisory Committee Adjournment to the Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.