

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the
Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Wednesday, January 16, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.
Riverside County Children and Families Commission
2002 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100
Riverside, CA 92507**

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Advisory Chair Carla Lidner

Advisory Committee Members Present: Chair Dr. Carla Lidner, Lynne Craig, Betty Folsom, Donna Greene, Donna Johnston for Supervisor Tavaglione, Georgann Koenig, Dr. Touraj Shafai and Judy Wood

Absent: Aurora Wilson, Debbie Lauda

Vacant: One position open in District IV and one position open in District V

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

II. Chair and Committee Member Comments

Advisory Members and staff introduced themselves.

III. Approval of Minutes

Lynne Craig moved to approve the January 17, 2007, April 19, 2007, August 8, 2007 and December 10, 2007 regular meeting minutes. Donna Greene seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. [Eight (8) in favor (Lidner, Craig, Folsom, Greene, Johnston, Koenig, Shafai and Wood); two (2) absent (Lauda, Wilson); zero (0) abstention; zero (0) opposed]

IV. Staff Report – Harry Freedman Executive Director

- A.** Mr. Freedman reported on subjects discussed at December 10, 2007 Special Joint Commission and Advisory Committee meeting. He explained the Commission had originally set up the 10% set aside funds to respond to State Commission initiatives that require a local commission match. The Commission has now taken action to eliminate the fund and directed staff to draft

recommendations on how to use the funds now. If a state initiative opportunity becomes available in the future, the Commission will determine at that time whether funds will be taken from a different area to match the initiative. A resolution to ratify the action will be presented at January 28, 2008 meeting.

Discussion of Commission from December 10, 2007 also involved reviewing proposals that were recommended for funding in the previous RFP cycle but were not awarded due to funds being depleted. Staff will recommend a portion of the funds be designated for one time funding opportunities and the remaining funding be held over and added to future July 2009 RFP. It was recommended that the Advisory Committee participate in making recommendations on RFP development and agencies to be funded.

Sustainability fund was initially an Endowment Fund. The fund was designated to sustain First 5 services in the community despite projected declines in State Proposition 10 funds, and for emergency use in case of r some catastrophic event. Commission decided to no longer add any funds to account and cap it at its June 2007 level. Commission is re-evaluating this policy.

- B. Mr. Freedman reported on the Health Reform Bill. The policy Bill implementing Universal Health coverage has moved through the Assembly and now needs to be heard by the Senate. Funding for this bill will require a 2/3 vote of the legislature or a voter initiative. If the bill gets through the Senate, it is anticipated a funding Initiative will be on the November 2008 ballot. It would increase the tobacco tax by a \$1.75. This may cause tobacco tax revenue to diminish and impact Prop. 10 revenue. There is back fill language that if the initiative passes there will be a backfill to Prop 10. If the policy bill it does not pass through senate some sort of Initiative could still qualify for the ballot via voter petition signature process.

Mr. Freedman reported Assemblyman Cox proposing all Prop. 10 revenues go to health insurance programs which would eliminate First 5 Commissions. The Board of Supervisors and Commission have written letters in opposition of the Bill. He noted the proposed health insurance package does not cover all of the services that are currently provided by First 5. Dr. Carla Lidner noted that there are few insurances that dentists will take but not all. Dr. Lidner said that if the Bill were to pass there is no guarantee that providers would accept the plan. Mr. Freedman asks that committee and citizens send message of opposition to legislature.

All these topics will be discussed at the January 28, 2008 Commission meeting.

Mr. Freedman reported the Five Year Allocation Plan for Preschool For All implementation will be presented by Consultant, Susan Muenchow at the February 25, 2008 Commission meeting. It was noted that to fund Universal Preschool in Riverside it would take approximately 88 million dollars excluding facility costs Mr. Freedman noted that First 5 would not be able to fully fund Universal Preschool for All in Riverside County, with only Two and a half million is currently set aside. Further funding will be at the Commission's

decision. Harry added that program wrap around is needed for parents who are not able to pick up their children after four hours of child care. There needs to be full day of care. Lynne Craig added that the Board Supervisors have been willing to help create more spaces for child care and preschool. Donna Johnston shared concern if the children are learning in a preschool environment. What would it take to bring the children up to the same academic learning standard by the time they enter kindergarten. Georgann Koenig added First 5 has been the biggest ally in assisting in preschool and child care. Dr. Lidner added having one place, like preschool/child care facilities where children can be screened has been a benefit.

V. Discussion Items-Stella Smith Deputy Director

A. Amendments to Advisory Committee Bylaws

Stella gave overview of Advisory Committee's inception. In the beginning the Committee's duties consisted of community forums to receive input to determine what funds should be spent on for children 0-5, reporting back to board members, updating community of First 5 activities, etc. Advisory Over time and as the strategic plan was developed and Commission staff positions were established and filled, the Advisory Committee role diminished. The Commission is now requesting that the Committee take a more active role, using their technical expertise and assisting Commission in making informed decisions by providing their input in those areas.

All changes regarding the role of the Committee are in Section II of the Advisory Committee Bylaws. Emphasis is placed on advising the appointing board member as well as community of first 5 activities as well as using technical expertise to provide input on ongoing and upcoming projects. Ms. Smith asked members if they had further recommendations on changes or enhancements to the bylaws. Mr. Freedman noted there are changes, the primary changes are in the operation of the Advisory Committee.

The Amendments to the Bylaws as approved by the Advisory Committee will be forwarded to Commission for approval at the January 28, 2008 meeting. Ms. Smith added that advisory has opportunity to begin doing site visits to agencies as previously done before staff took over the responsibility.

Georgann Koenig added she will report to the assistant if the Board Supervisor is unreachable. Staff will provide the information of funding agencies in the Advisory Member's geographic areas so they can do site visits. Lynne Craig suggested Advisory may want to visit agencies that First 5 does not fund in order to provide awareness of First 5 and services available. Ms. Smith added previous Advisory Members used to regularly hold community meetings and conduct needs assessments to determine the needs and barriers that existed in their districts.

Georgann Koenig moved to accept the revised Advisory Committee Bylaws. Betty Folsom seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. [Eight (8) in favor (Lidner, Craig, Folsom, Johnston, Koenig, Shafai and Wood); one (1) absent (Wilson); zero (0) abstention; zero (0) opposed]

B. Implementation of New Role

Advisory Committee will start by reviewing a list of funding agencies in the advisory member's supervisorial district. Dr. Lidner suggests visiting First 5 funded agencies in their areas expertise or in their areas and then discuss agencies not funded and decide how to reach out to them. Lynne Craig suggests input from Child Care Consortium. Dr. Lidner added that however the Advisory Committee would like to support first five. Georgann Koenig will plan to visit funded sites in her area (Temecula) sites to report at next Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Freedman will communicate agencies of concern to the Committee. Mr. Freedman requested Committee members communicate with staff when they are visiting sites and be clear with agencies that it is not their quarterly visits. Lynne Craig added it would helpful to have suggestions on what to look for in their visits.

Ms. Smith suggested sending agencies a letter letting them know advisory members may be stopping by time to time. Staff will draft a letter to agencies. Advisory members who share the same supervisorial district will communicate with each by email or another method in order not to double book visits. Carla added if members cannot not contribute in this way, they are still valued just as much. Dr. Shafai noted he visits high schools regularly regarding breastfeeding.

Lists and protocols will be added. Ms Smith request recommendations to fill vacancies on the Advisory Committee are sent to her. Ms. Smith will send district map to Advisory Committee.

Ms. Smith requested a meeting location for the April meeting. Donna Greene offered possibly conducting meeting at the Menifee Mt San Jacinto office. Carpool can be arranged. It was suggested that staff place special emphasis on the meeting location in the announcement of meeting especially if it is at another location other than Riverside office.

VI. Public Comments

No public comments

VII. Future Agenda Items

VIII. Adjournment at 2:40 p.m. to the regular meeting of the Advisory Committee scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at a location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.