

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission  
Special Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the  
Riverside County Children and Families Commission  
Wednesday, February 13, 2008 – 3:00 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 3:10 p.m. by Advisory Chair Carla Lidner

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

Lynne Craig arrived at 3:25 pm.

Absent: Donna Greene, Debbie Lauda, Georgann Koenig, and Aurora Wilson

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, Executive Assistant/Commission Secretary; Laurie Schoenberg, Administrator, Early Care & Education, Robert Lucas, Program Coordinator, Early Care & Education, Jamie Ayala, Public Information Specialist, Johnathan McDannell, Administrator, Outcomes Management; Ginette Lillibridge, Administrator Fiscal Services

Public Present: Cheri Andelkovic, Board Assistant

**II. Chair and Committee Member Comments**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

*Dr. Shafai moved to approve the January 16, 2008 regular meeting minutes. Betty Folsom seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. [Six (6) in favor (Lidner, Craig, Folsom, Johnston, Shafai and Wood); four (4) absent (Greene, Koenig, Lauda, Wilson); zero (0) abstention; zero (0) opposed]*

**IV. Staff Report – Harry Freedman Executive Director**

(Taken Out of order of agenda)

- A. Mr. Freedman introduced Robert Lucas, new Program Coordinator, Early Care and Education. Robert is taking Nancy Maich's position in the Early Program under Capacity Building to the Advisory Committee. Mr. Freedman introduced Jaime Ayala, Program Information Specialist. Jaime was formerly an education reporter. Ms. Smith added there are discussions in progress for media training. The Advisory Committee will be informed when training becomes available.

Mr. Freedman reported on subjects discussed at January 28, 2008 Commission Committee meeting.

First Item

Mr. Freedman provided history of Five Year Allocation Plan.

The Commission revised the Five Year Allocation Plan by plugging in actuals for 2006/2007 instead of projections for. The new spending plan in place for the Commission through 2011 was shared. As a result, 15 million more dollars will be expended then being brought in through revenue. This can be done using the Set Aside Funds that were unspent and are allocated to be spent through 2011.

Second Item

Mr. Freedman reviewed the Executive Summary of the Revised Allocation of the previously designated 10% Initiative Fund. At the last Commission meeting the Commission ended the fund. This was in part due to the fact that the State has not had issued any new initiatives in the last couple of years. The Commission decided to provide funding to agencies that previously applied for RFP and were not awarded due to funds not being available at that time. These agencies will be funded beginning July 1, 2008. Staff is working with agencies to develop scopes of work and contracts. Three of the agencies are in health unit's breastfeeding programs. One is early childhood education. There is 11 million dollars being used to fund these four programs. The Commission adopted a special one time RFP for childcare, education, health. An expedited application form is being considered to get the money out.

The Commission is requesting recommendations from the Advisory Committee to focus the one time allocations. The balance of funds that is not spent will be awarded into the next RFP cycle that becomes effective July 1, 2009. Staff will begin working on the RFP approximately seven months ahead.

The First 5 Operational Award Funding was reviewed. It was noted that "the one time only" RFP is designed to provide funds that would make a difference to a program that would have an impact despite not being renewed. It could be capital improvement or supplies. The only limitation is it is not renewable. Ginette hopes the one time rfp can be offered in 2008-2009. This would be contingent if enough time is allowed for the community to be informed. Advisory will develop a timeline and make recommendations to Commission.

Commission will need to adopt the recommendation. before the RFP can be developed. Judith Wood clarified that the Commission wants Advisory to pick a topic for new RFPs in each program area-childcare, health and education. Mr. Freedman

added the Commission would like to get available funds out to agencies as soon as possible. Carla Lidner expressed being pleased the funds are being released instead of being saved for a later date. She added this will help the window of opportunity for children.

Mr. Freedman shared the Commission is looking at the Advisory Committee differently. They have asked for the Advisory Committees input several topics and value their opinions. Donna Johnston suggested considering the long term effect on one time topics. She would like to see if the RFP could compliment an already established RFP in child care, health or education. Mr. Freedman responded that the Commission will look at sustainability as well as outcome in the one time RFP.

Mr. Freedman reported on the Health Reform Bill. The Bill did not make it out of the Senate Committee. An initiative still exists that could go on the ballot in November as an initiative.

Dr. Shafai stepped out at 3:30 returned at 3:34

The Cox Bill was heard in the Senate Health Committee and was defeated in Committee. Senator Cox named counties who have large amounts of money in their fund balance. First 5 Association will be working on educating the legislature on First 5 plans for the money in funds balance and demonstrate that there are outcomes.

Mr. Freedman asked Administrators to provide examples, such as are how many children are receiving child care that would not be receiving services without First 5 funds. Anything that demonstrates examples from last year will be acceptable.

Lynne Craig added that she was concerned that Jim Battin was on board with Cox bill. Senator Battin posted on his Waste Watch an article summarizing the hearing with comments. Mr. Freedman wrote a letter and the Commission wrote a letter providing information on the Fund Balance and outcome to counter the misinformation from Senator Cox's comment.

Lynne Craig requested update on one time innovative programs. Ms. Smith added that some of the one time innovation programs did end up being operational. Some one time programs were provided training or equipment. MS. Smith expressed that the danger of sustainable programs is they may only consider applying for more grants to continue service. Judith Wood added if the one time funding was used for additional slots, for start up of child care could be sustainable. The families would be fee paying clients or have funding from other agencies to keep the slots open. Start up funding, a capital outlay, chairs books supplies deposit on rental space, library program in facility was another suggestion by Lynne Craig.

Mr. Freedman added in the past First 5 has funded some programs and provided the staff support and capital. A family child care is eligible for assistance. There are some parenting programs being funded. Betty Folsom noted there is a need in Jurupa. Ms. Lillibridge noted the one time amount available in education is \$977,044.

Mr. Freedman reminded the Advisory Committee that it is not intended for them to develop their recommendations today. He requested they hold another special meeting to discuss recommendations to present at the March Commission meeting

Ms. Smith stepped out at 3:35 and returned at 3:36.

Dr. Shafai reported on the need for training on obesity in head start classes. He expressed the need to train parents on the value of good nutrition. He noted the program can be sustained after the first year. Donna Johnston added under health programs one way to supplement a program is by doing home visits. Ms. Smith added that this may be more appropriate for the next rfp.

Betty Folsom suggested an Ad Hoc Committee. Carla Lidner suggested Advisory work together on all ideas. Ms. Smith reminded the Committee that they are a brown act Committee. If a AD Hoc committee is formed it needs to be four people or less. Mr. Freedman asked Advisory to provide staff with any additional information they need to formulate their recommendations. He noted that they should look at the County as a whole when making recommendations to the Commission.

Lynne Craig suggested keeping the RFP broad and put out to community for response. Carla Lidner suggested the Advisory look at programs and then revisit at another meeting. It was asked if the one time funds can be used for an already existing RFP? An agency currently funded can apply to add to their program or expand in their services. Carla Lidner added majority of agency funds get used towards the end in her program. Lynne Craig suggested getting input from supervisor's offices.

Carla Lidner suggested looking at new agencies (non experienced grant writer), possibly excluding already funded parties for the one time funds since they have experience and can reapply. She suggests going through districts on their own time, not taking staff time.

Johnathan McDannell reported the quarterly report for Commission is almost finished. It will include accomplishments in the system and sight visits conducted. The money awarded and funds expensed to date are also included in the report. Carla thanked Ms. McDannell for the report. Mr. Freedman suggested scheduling another special meeting to come up with recommendations for the March meeting and get input from supervisors.

Ms. Craig added Child Care Consortium may be good resources. Carla Lidner asked if the Faith Base Initiative Group is still meeting. Ms. Smith reported First 5 still provides support to the group when they are in need.

Carla Lidner thought groups that have met at First 5 Riverside may be good prospects to poll for needs when making consideration for the one time funding.

## **V. Discussion/Action Items - Stella Smith Deputy Director**

- A. First 5 Funded Programs by Supervisorial District  
Ms. Smith asked that Advisory Committee inform staff of when they wish to begin having agency visits. If any additional information is needed staff will provide Advisory Committee with it. Carla Lidner commented that the Advisory Committee's first focus

should be on the one time fund recommendation. The Committee can look at scheduling visits after the one time funding recommendations have been made.

B. Recommendation of Advisory Committee Member Appointment to the Commission Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Freedman informed the Advisory Committee of Commission discussions to recreate a Finance Committee. The Commission would like to have an Advisory Committee member serve on the Finance Committee that is being created. Judith Wood volunteered. Mr. Freedman further informed the Committee that Sustainability Fund was capped by Commission. It will now serve as an Endowment Fund.

Lynn Craig left at 4:15 returned at 4:16

D. Development of Monthly Report to the Commission

Commission would like to reinstitute having the Advisory provide a monthly report at the Commission meetings. Carla Lidner will provide the report, and leave open for other members to report if they have projects to report on. It was noted that Carla Lidner is on the agenda for the February 25, 2008 Commission Meeting to report. Ms. Smith requested the report in print a week before commission meeting. Carla Lidner stated she will thank the Commission for the opportunity for Advisory Committee input and notify the Commission the Committee is working on having recommendations by the March Commission meeting.

It was decided that a Special Advisory Committee Meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 from 12:00-2:00 at the RCCFC office.

A request was made for samples of the playground and a simple innovative of special projects RFP to compare.

If necessary the Committee will tele-conference with Aurora Wilson during the next special meeting. If a follow up special meeting is needed after the February 20 meeting, it will be held on Thursday, February 28 from 12:00-2:00pm. Lunch will be provided on site for both meetings.

E. Results of ABC Child Care Response to Findings were shared. This is to make the Committee aware in the even that a member visits the Center in the future.

## VI. Public Comments

No public comments

Lynne Craig commented on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force. She left their Physician's Statement for review. Ms. Smith would like to find out if there is a vacant seat on Task Force. She suggested a member of the Advisory Committee may be interested in sitting on the Task Force. Lynne Craig will check availability of vacant seat.

Ms. Smith informed the Committee that the current partnership focus is on Leading Ladies. It was noted the Faith Base Group is still active. First 5 provides support with speakers when requested. Carla request staff inform Advisory if there are agencies that First 5 has partnered with and would recommend for funding, to bring it to the next meeting for discussion.

**VII. Future Agenda Items**

**VIII. Adjournment at 4:35 p.m. to the special meeting of the Advisory Committee scheduled for Wednesday, February 20 2008 at noon at:**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.**