

Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the
Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Wednesday, February 20, 2008 – 12:00 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 12:15 p.m. by Advisory Chair Carla Lidner

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

Absent: Aurora Wilson, Debbie Lauda, and Donna Greene

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; Laurie Schoenberg, Arrin Banks, Uniqua Burgess and Johnathan McDannell

II. Chair and Committee Member Comments

Advisory Members and Staff introduced themselves

III. Taken out of order- Staff Report – Harry Freedman, Executive Director

Harry provided an overview of available dollars for one time RFP recommendations. The allocations are as follows:

Child Care:	\$1,224,506
Educaction:	977,044
Health:	548,610

The Five Year Allocation Plan for First 5 Riverside and Strategic Plan were provided. Mr. Freedman would like to have recommendations on what the focus of the RFP would be to present to Commission by the March Commission meeting. It was noted that a minimum of 30 days needs to be given for the agencies to respond to the RFP request. Ms. Arrin Banks, Administrator of Grants and Contracts, responded to a question whether grant applications can be filled in online. She explained that the

capability to fill in online is not currently available, however the application can be downloaded from a provided web link.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

Formulating Recommendations Regarding Criteria for One Time Funding Cycle

Child Care

Georgann Koenig expressed concern with waiting lists and providing inclusion programs. She would like to see Director and Board of Directors of agencies make it a priority to assure that services are ongoing by applying for other grants. Judith Wood commented she would hate to burden a director with one more task and added that many of the Riverside County agencies have no additional staff support. She suggested looking in another direction than program enrichment. Betty Folsom would not like to put sustainability as a requirement of the one time funding. She views the funding as enriching more children for one more year of their life.

Lynne Craig suggested infant toddler training for providers, and commented that services to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren needs additional funding. Mr. Freedman added that those two programs are currently being funded by First 5. He reported the Facilities Assistance Fund, which also provides one time support for child care agencies, has funding through 2011. There has been a low response, with four currently approved. Donna Johnston would like to look at all applicants. Lynne Craig acknowledged that the application for the Facilities Assistance Fund is user friendly.

The following three items were discussed:

1. Increase the quality of center
2. Additional child care slots
3. PFA proposal

Carla Lidner suggested training to teachers or potential teachers who could not afford the fees. Judith Wood added the Riverside County Child Care Consortium is adequately funded to provide provider training and reimbursement for education. It was noted F5R has a large contract with CARES for training and licensing.

Carla Lidner suggested providing resources for extra physical space to increase child care slots, or something else child care providers need. Wrap-around services were suggested by Judith Wood. Carla Lidner expressed concern with doing wrap-round services with one time funding.

Toys, equipment and renovation were also recommended. Mr. Freedman indicated that the Commission has historically expressed reluctance on funding construction. He senses the Commission could revisit this issue. However, they may entertain a renovation grant that would increase capacity. Renovation

funding was discussed in further detail. Mr. Freedman asked whether the Committee would recommend a cap. Judith Wood indicated that leaving the request amount to the applicant agency would allow an agency that had the ability to significantly increase slots to apply. Donna Johnston suggested that by being more flexible there would be more applicants. Mr. Freedman added that budgets would be reviewed and necessary adjustment made during contract negotiations.

Lynne Craig suggested issuing a broad RFP for childcare grants. Carla Lidner liked the idea, but added that if you leave the RFP open, agencies will apply for only what they need. If there is a cap, they try to come up with ways to spend it all even if they don't need it.

Carla Lidner asked if the Advisory Committee could read the applications when they come in. Harry is sure Commission would like to have members be a part of reading panel as long as they did not have any conflicts.

The Committee arrived at the following:

- Child Care goals - anything required to increase capacity would be eligible to apply. Increasing slots through capital investments, additional supplies, etc. would be examples. Currently funded agencies would not be prohibited from applying.

A summary of goals will be drafted before this is presented to Commission. The standard five year declining reimbursement policy will be included.

Carla Lidner asked if facilities that are in danger of losing licensure or slots because of not being able to make repairs can be funded. Mr. Freedman referred her to the existing Facilities Assistance Fund. The Committee agreed that using the one time only funds to maintain, as opposed to expanding capacity, would not meet the intent.

Health one time funding

Dr. Shafai shared a project aimed at preventing childhood obesity through provider education. Lynne Craig inquired as to if there are pediatricians who still do not understand the obesity problem, and how many are willing to attend training. Ms. Craig cited difficulty that the Office on Aging is having with just distributing brochures to doctor's offices. Dr. Shafai would like to work with IEHP on the obesity issue. He suggested that IEHP could work with their providers to share the information, and encourage them to utilize it during well child check ups. He further suggested that UCR could work with IEHP. Lynne Craig liked the idea of enhancing services through IEHP's relationships with their providers. Mr. Freedman suggested exploring a provider incentive program with IEHP instead of doing an RFP. Betty Folsom would like to have RFP for parenting classes at the school sites, and then case management/extra counseling as well as after school and parenting projects in low income areas.

Donna Johnston suggested parent education on symptoms of disabilities such as autism or ADHD. Mr. Freedman noted that disruptive behavior disorders are being in the Mental Health RFP that is about to be issued (the RFP does not address autism). First 5 currently funds some parenting classes largely through schools.

Georgann spoke of a mental health training Inland Regional Center (IRC) provided a couple of years ago. She suggested a year's training with some programs will help the teachers deal with children who have mental health issues. Harry suggested potentially marrying the one time funds with the Mental Health Initiative. The primary piece of the RFP is one time money for community around mental health issues, such as training teachers. Mr. Freedman suggested tabling this discussion until the February 28 Special Advisory meeting and have Michelle Burroughs, Administrator of Health and Community Programs available to discuss and provide information.

Georgann Koenig added if teachers are supported they will continue to do a great job. Donna Johnston would like to see anything in health going towards children. Carla Lidner added that nutrition is a concern. Georgann Koenig suggested reading an article shared by Dr. Shafai.

Lynne Craig left meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Education

Mr. Freedman asked Advisory Committee to refer to the Strategic Plan. Previously and currently funded programs include parenting classes, Reach Out and Read, and additional library early literacy programs.

Betty Folsom expressed that elementary schools are the home base for the community. She suggested delivering evidenced based programs at the schools in the evenings and provide food. Donna Johnston added the programs can also be held in libraries. Judith Wood added parents are usually not reached until their children are elementary school age.

Ms Smith reported on current discussions with local Barnes & Noble bookstores to partner with F5R to sponsor book fairs, encourage families to read with their children, and the importance of having books in the home and/or using local libraries. Carla Lidner agreed this was a good idea. She suggested English and Spanish language classes for parents and children at night at the elementary schools. Donna Johnston suggested it be a literacy program with food at the events.

This will be visited at meeting on Thursday February 28 at 12:00 p.m.

- V. Stella shared Michelle Burroughs' request for Advisory members to visit sites of agencies applying for Mental Health RFP. Betty Folsom and Georgann expressed interest. Ms. Burroughs will contact them.

VI. Public Comments

None

VII. Future Agenda Items

VIII. Adjournment at 2:00 p.m. to the special meeting of the Advisory Committee scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. at:

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.