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RCCFC Advisory Committee – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2004 - 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Riverside County Children and Families Commission Business Office
2002 Iowa Avenue; Suite 100
Riverside, California 92507

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Chair and Committee Member Comments
- III. Approval of December 6, 2004 Joint Commission / Advisory Special Meeting Minutes
- IV. Membership Update and Review of Advisory Role Documents– Stella Smith
- V. Meeting Schedule and Locations for 2005 – Stella Smith
- VI. Staff Report – Stella Smith
- VII. Presentation:
 - A. Oral Health Task Force – Local – Sharon Baskett
- VIII. Public Comments
- IX. Future Agenda Items
- X. Committee adjournment to the next Regular Meeting on April 20, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. (location to be determined)

Note: Public Comments will be taken on agenda items at various times during the meeting. Please submit a request to speak form to the Committee Secretary, at any time during the meeting, indicating the item you wish to address.

Conflict of Interest: Any person, or group of person present at this meeting, who wishes 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 Committee member, the Committee 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.

Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the
Riverside County Children and Families Commission
Wednesday, January 21, 2009– 1:30 p.m.

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

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Executive Director Harry Freedman, pending the arrival of the Committee Chair.

Advisory Committee Members Present: Chair, Dr. Carla Lidner (arrived at 1:42); Lynne Craig; Donna Greene; Donna Johnston for Supervisor Tavaglione; Dr. Touraj Shafai; Nancy Wood; Judith Wood.

Absent: LaShawn Butler, Betty Folsom and Vice Chair, Georgann Koenig

Vacant: Two positions open in District IV

Staff Present: Harry Freedman, Executive Director; Stella Smith, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Commission Secretary; Michelle Burroughs, Administrator Health & Community Programs, Laurie Schoenberg, Administrator, Early Care & Education, Sandy Duncan, Administrator Fiscal Services; Jamie Ayala, Public Information Specialist

II. Chair and Committee Member Comments

No Comments.

III. Update from Members on Agency Visits

Advisory Committee Member Nancy Wood reported on her site visits. She visited San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital to observe their free child birth class that is funded by F5R. She reported Mothers are required to breastfeed in order to be in the program. Ms. Wood noted it as a life changing program that has helped many new Mothers.

Ms. Wood asked when it is appropriate to give reports. Ms. Smith replied that the Advisory Committee Members are liaisons between the Board of Supervisors, Commissioners and the Community. The purpose of the Advisory Committee site visits are for the Advisory Committee Members to report on F5R funded services to their Supervisors who appointed them and to provide feedback to the Commission. Committee members can inform the Chair of the Advisory Committee so the highlights of their report may be shared during the Advisory update at the Commission meetings. Mr. Freedman requested information also be shared with him if available in between meetings.

Talking points provided at initial meeting when site visits were requested should be used as a guideline during the site visits.

(Advisory Chair Dr. Lidner arrived at 1:42 p.m.)

Dr. Shafai noted exclusive breastfeeding has doubled since receiving funds. He noted without breastfeeding it is hard for the baby to latch on to mother.

At 1:45 the meeting of the Advisory Committee was officially called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chair, Dr. Carla Lidner.

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IV. Approval of Minutes- this item was taken out of order of the Agenda

Advisory Committee Member Craig moved to approve the October 15, 2008 Advisory Committee regular meeting minutes. Advisory Committee Member, Dr. Shafai seconded the motion. Following is the vote of the Advisory Committee members present: [Seven (7) in favor (Lidner, Craig, Greene, Johnston, Dr. Shafai, and N. Wood, J. Wood); Three (3) absent (Butler, Folsom, Koenig); Zero (0) abstention, Zero (0) opposed]

It was noted that the December 1, 2008 joint Commission and Advisory Committee minutes were approved at the January 15, 2009 Commission meeting.

V. Staff Report – Harry Freedman, Executive Director

Mr. Freedman provided an update on the Mental Health Initiative award. He noted the two Commissioners who did not declare conflict were not aware they had a conflict at the time the vote was taken.

At the last Commission meeting a resolution was on the agenda to rescind the vote. Unfortunately the way the bylaws are constructed we need five affirmative votes to take any action. There was one no vote and others had to recuse themselves on the action so the motion to rescind did not pass.

An appeal sub committee was established out of the non-conflicted Commissioners. One of the agencies appealed on several grounds, including the conflicted votes the committee has not met to consider a recommendation on the matter.

Each January the Board appoints a new Commissioner. Supervisor Jeff Stone is the new Commissioner for First 5 Riverside. His first meeting was the January 15, 2009 Commission meeting.

Advisory Committee Member Judith Wood asked if there will be five Commissioners to vote when the recommendations are brought back for the Mental Health Initiative. Dr. Shafai asked if the first vote could be negated since it was inappropriate. Mr. Freedman reported there was a specific motion that empowered the Executive Director to sign a contract contingent on negotiations. He made a statement at the Commission meeting that he will not sign a contract until appeal process is completed.

At this time the award still stands but it will not be implemented.

The Commission has several options. Including but not limited to:

1. They can revoke to award to the original awardees without conflicted commissioners voting

2. Award to the appealing party
3. Re-issue the RFP
4. Eliminate the process entirely and not fund the Mental Health Initiative

The vote at the January 15, 2009 was to rescind the award. There was a four to 1 vote. The appeal sub-committee has nothing to do with rescinding the award. They are only looking at the validity of the appeal.

Advisory Committee Member, Johnston, noted she heard Stone say that the Mental Health Department did not have the resources to fund the program. Ms. Smith clarified he was talking about the resolution to extend the Department of Mental Health contract that expired December 31, 2008. There were not enough affirmative votes at the January 15, 2009 Commission meeting to approve the resolution to extend this contract.

Advisory Committee Chair, Lidner added that the Advisory Committee should be able to participate in the vote when the Commissioners have too many conflicts.

Advisory Committee Member, Craig asked if the Commissioners are aware that they can rescind the vote and put the money back in the pot to use it in another way. Mr. Freedman replied that the Commission is aware of this option.

Mr. Freedman reported a contract can be extended as many times as the Commission approves. The Department of Mental Health contract has been extended three times. Advisory Committee Member, Craig, asked if it is defeating the purpose to continue to extend the contract so many times. Mr. Freedman replied in a different context the same question arose. He provided the example that all contracts were extended on a two year period contract. Rather than re-issuing an RFP, an action was approved to extend the contracts. He noted all contracts have been extended at least once. The extension is in lieu of a new RFP based on agency performance. Results of outcomes are provided for all agencies to the Commission.

The Department of Mental Health contract continued to be extending to avoid a gap in services until the Mental Health Initiative award is made. Once the Mental Health Initiative award is implemented, the existing contract with Department of Mental Health would not have been extended. That is why this particular contract does not have as long of a contract as others and were not included in the batch extended.

Advisory Committee Member, Craig, asked if it was a curriculum RFP and a new company comes in providing the same program would they be given the chance. Mr. Freedman noted if the current provider was providing effective services they could continue to be extended, or a new RFP could be issued. There are various practices in various counties. Some do what F5R does based on performance. He noted to re-RFP is intense, takes a lot of time and resources.

Advisory Committee Member, Craig, thanked Mr. Freedman for providing her with a better understanding and clarification.

Advisory Committee Member, Johnston reported she is experiencing concerns with providers feeling excluded. She noted collaborating throughout the county should be the answer. She also noted that the non-profit came out sounding like they want the money rather than to serve the children. She commented that rather than bringing in a lawyer to the Commission meeting that Family Service Association could have come up with a different angle such as collaborating with another agency.

Mr. Freedman noted all four applicants for the RFP had collaborative partners as emphasized in the RFP.

Mr. Freedman reported that the Mental Health Initiative was on the agenda because it was strongly anticipated it would be rescinded. The intent was to extend the DMH contract until the Mental Health Initiative was resolved. The extension would allow services to be continued to children and families in the community.

Mr. Freedman reported on Commission structure. The Commission decided a year ago to have an organizational assessment. It is still in process. The goal is efficiency effectiveness, relationship with the Advisory Committee and staff. A month ago at BOS meeting concerns arose about conflicts of interest. The Board of Supervisors made a motion to look at Commission structure with a separate focus than what Board Room Solutions is conducting.

The Board of Supervisors gave County Counsel the charge to conduct the review of the Commission structure in order to minimize actual conflicts as well as the appearance of conflict Supervisor Tavaglione commented he knows Sacramento First 5 doesn't have these issues. He requested the County Counsel look into it. The Executive Office will look at who sits on Commission, what conflicts do and can exist. The Executive Office is also looking at the information Board Room Solutions (BRS) has gathered. The County Executive Office will release a report with recommendation to the BOS in February.

Advisory Committee Member, Johnston added the Executive Office are a non political group. They can look at State Law and incorporate what is relevant from BRS report. She added the current structure of the Commission makes it difficult. She noted if the Advisory and Commission had always met together they would have a better understanding. She sees the Committee and Commission as divided and this contributed to the conflict of interest issues.

Mr. Freedman responded that there have been concerns of conflicts of interest since the inception and not just in Riverside County. Local County determines how many members from five to nine.

Sacramento County has a seven member commission but the departments are different. Seven alternates who all go to the meeting. They are not distinguished from commissioners except for voting. First 5 Sacramento is a part of the County structure

Advisory Committee Member, Craig reported her concern with the consultant from Board Room Solutions sharing Advisory Committee comments at the Commission meeting. She expressed that she had been under the impression all comments would be confidential. Until this point she never felt us and them between the commission and advisory. It made her uncomfortable when it the Advisory Committee comments were shared in the meeting. Ms. Smith responded Board Room Solutions consultant called out the Commission too. Ms. Craig asked if the comments could be generalized. Make recommendation without pointing any fingers.

Mr. Freedman responded to a question, indicating that Commissioners have no limit on the number of terms they may serve. Some are appointed by virtue of their positions. All Commissioners are appointed by the BOS

The Boardroom Solutions findings will be provided at the Special Commission Meeting at 1:00 pm on February 5.

Advisory Committee Member Chair, Lidner asked if the BOS will come to this meeting. The BOS will see the report when it is completed and sent to them by the Commission. There will

be a BOS member at the Commission meeting because they are on the Commission and they may share a report with the BOS.

Advisory Chair Lidner reported there has been some Commissioners who have accused her of having conflicts since she is chair on FSA and on F5R Advisory committee. Her first passion is F5R dollars. She noted she is on approximately 20 boards in the County. She cares about money being well spent on children. She does not make any money in the County for any of her services. Her passion and talk has been represented as accusations of her having conflicts.

Advisory Committee Chair Lidner noted as an observer, when Department of Mental Health made their presentation at public meetings her interpretation was she was never impressed of the number of 0-5 children they were able to serve. She commented she felt they would be better providers for older children. Dr. Shafai added that is his experience too.

Ms. Lidner noted she serves thousands of more children with her dental grant funding which is less funding then Department of Mental Health funds. She does not agree that they are getting refunded because they are doing a stellar job. Advisory Committee Member, Johnston added sometimes more money goes to funding of administration staff than seeing children and that may be the reason less children are served. she noted mental health services are State mandated.

Advisory Committee Member, Lidner commented on Advisory Committee Member Johnston's reference to FSA bringing in a lawyer. She noted the cost per dollar in FSA's application was lower with FSA then Department of Mental Health and added Family Service Association cares about provided services. She suggested reading the RFP. FSA appeal reason for bringing in a lawyer because they have legitimate reasons. Advisory Committee Member Chair commented on a Commissioner comment regarding "sore loser" at a previous meeting.

Advisory Committee Member, Johnston replied Supervisor Stone expressed the money could be better spent. Two BOS members want to concentrate on child care. She noted she felt the Commissioner who made the sore loser statement made it because every time FSA has been funded (different areas) they have come back for more money because they under bid and could not provide the services later. She acknowledged FSA may be able to provide the services they applied for but they should make sure. She noted she is comfortable with Chair Lidner's comment, and does not perceive her as having a conflict and is not voting. She does not believe Lidner to have any more conflict than the Commissioner from the YMCA. She noted the BOS are the people's advocates. If they do not think the Commissioners are doing a good job they will get someone else to do the job.

Mr. Freedman noted he did not want to turn the meeting into an appeal and was uncomfortable with the discussion. He noted this has been a good discussion about the issues.

Mr. Freedman reported child care has been discussed significantly by BOS and community. He wants to make sure it is clear that F5R should provide a range of services. Child care is very important, but not the only need for 0-5 to help them be successful.

F5R does not want to increase slots and have them vacant. More are currently vacant because parents cannot afford them.

State Budget

Mr. Freedman reported the current governor's proposal is to eliminate the State Commission in its entirety and reduce County Commissions funding by 50%. The Legislature would have to vote to put the item on the ballot. Governor has also proposed to redirect Prop 63 funds. The State Commission retains 20 percent of F5 dollars collected. Some of the 20 percent comes back to the Counties for initiatives, this funding would go away. The small counties would face a substantial burden and could be forced to disband or the other counties would have additional funds taken from them to accommodate the small counties. Mr. Freedman will be attending a meeting with the Association to determine alternatives.

Mr. Freedman reported that Healthy Families MRMIB made a request to First 5 California for assistance to avoid creating a waiting list for the remainder of this year. All of the counties have been asked to assist with their share. The F5R Commission approved assisting by funding Riverside County children birth through age 5.

Advisory Committee Member Chair, Lidner asked why Riverside is underused. Mr. Freedman explained that it is two separate programs, Healthy Kids and Healthy Families. Healthy Families serves children with up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Healthy Kids serves children in families with incomes of up to 300% of the FPL. The state program that draws down federal dollars as a match.

Healthy Kids is a local San Bernardino/Riverside County program that allows up to 300% of poverty level for those who don't qualify for Healthy Families, Medi-Cal or other coverage. The 0-5 portion of the local program has been consistently underutilized. F5R is not paying for under utilized slots in IEHP.

Advisory Committee Member, Lynne Craig replied social services provided her daughter information to go to WIC and subsidized child care but there was no mention of IEHP. The connection is not happening between the consumer and the agency. Dr. Shafai added that could be because there is also other agencies.

Mr. Freedman noted Supervisor Stone has asked what kind of outreach is being done by IEHP. IEHP is coming to make a presentation to the Commission at the next Commission meeting.

Enrollment is going up for Healthy Families as the families on the program's income goes down.

Financial Workshop

Mr. Freedman provided overview of the financial workshop provided at the January 15, 2009 Commission meeting. State funding is going down in terms of allocation and initiatives. Commission is looking at funding at a higher level and drawing down on the fund balance. The Commission cannot continue to fund based on current level. There are undesignated dollars available. The Commission is looking at how to fund more service now. This issue is complicated by potential state budget issues. There was a recommendation to redirect some of the available money and take some out of the sustainability fund. The Commission will wait to see what the impact of the State budget is before responding to the needs.

Advisory Committee Member, Judith Wood noted agencies do not have enough staff to meet the referrals. She acknowledged her frustration at funding being given to Mental Health and agencies not being able to get their waiting list taking care of.

Mr. Freedman said Riverside County is in the midst of being in the most need to address. He noted the Mental Health Initiative is 11.7 over three years.

Ms. Nancy Wood added social emotional development is best through parent interaction. Mr. Freedman replied all of the Mental Health Initiative components have parent interaction.

Advisory Committee Member, N. Wood asked if the agencies awarded extensions at the December 2008 Commission meeting have notified. Ms. Burroughs replied that the agencies have been informed. She explained the confusion with the agencies was over the discussion of expansion versus extension. Proposals had been submitted for expansion but it has been held off on due to State budget situation. Negotiations are being scheduled for agencies who received an extension.

Advisory Committee Member, Craig, asked about child care spaces not being used. Mr. Freedman replied there are more elements to consider than building more slots. First 5 Riverside has been focused on quantity and quality. Eighteen million dollars a year is being allocated to child care, preschool and early education. The other two elements that need attention are affordability and accessibility. Some families do not necessarily qualify for subsidized childcare.

Advisory Committee Chair, Lidner asked why not put money towards co-pays for parents who cannot afford it. Mr. Freedman informed the Advisory Committee that Molly Munger is being used to see where slots are in Riverside County and lining up with the slots appropriately.

Ms. Schoenberg noted 372 State School Readiness slots are currently funded. Most are almost 100% funded.

Advisory Committee, Chair Lidner reminded the Committee that community engagement was a big part of F5R. She noted she is an advocate for child care because of the neglect she sees when providing dental services. She would give up her dental grant if it would help fund more child care spaces because she sees the child care need as more pressing.

Advisory Committee Member, Craig commented that she is concerned with the lack of commitment and the conflict issues of Commissioners. She hopes that they will take responsibility to decide if they are too busy and give up their seat on the Commission. She suggested there should be consequences if they don't show up at the meetings. Advisory Committee Chair suggested First 5 not fund large grants to county departments that have Commissioners who are members of the Commission. Mr. Freedman replied that a number of Commissions whether they are county or independent, fund agencies that have a member of their Commission on them.

Advisory Committee, Chair Dr. Lidner responded in her opinion the Commission has too many conflicts. As a person in the audience it looks bad.

Mr. Freedman informed the Advisory Committee of the public relations information in their packet. Included is a list of funded agencies for child care.

VI. Discussion Items

- A.** Location of the April 15, 2009 Advisory Committee Meeting.
Commission Secretary will poll for alternatives date and meeting location for the Advisory Committee meeting. Advisory Committee Member, Craig suggested the

Senior Center in Rubidoux. Advisory Committee Member, N Wood suggested the Beaumont library. Commission Secretary will coordinate with her.

VII. Information Items

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

This needs to be done at the April meeting and changes will effective in July.

**B. Reappointment of Advisory Committee Members
(Term Expiration May 31, 2009)**

Ms. Smith asked Advisory Committee members to let her know if they are interested. Nancy Wood expressed interest.

Staff is working to identify district IV candidates.

Donna Greene will be on the January BOS agenda for re-appointment. Lynne Craig stated that she is aware of an interested party in District III.

VIII. Public Comments

No public comments.

IX. Future Agenda Items

Advisory Committee Member, Craig requested BRS Consultants results at the April Advisory meeting.

X. Adjournment at 3:30 to the regular meeting of the Advisory Committee scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at a location to be determined:

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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 Office
2002 Iowa Avenue, Suite 100 – Conference Room A
Riverside, California 92507