

**FIRST 5 SISKIYOU
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION MEETING
HUB Communities Family Resource Center
310 S. 13th St., Montague, California
Wednesday, June 25, 2008**

In keeping with the Commission's decision to hold meetings twice a year in a location other than Behavioral Health Department, this meeting was held at a funded program location.

Commission Vice Chair Hunner opened the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Vice Chair Hunner, Commissioner Armstrong, Commissioner Noda, Commissioner Perlman and Commissioner Rhoades.

Commissioners Absent: Chair Walters and Commissioner Roselli

Also Present: Executive Director Karen Pautz and Administrative Services Coordinator Cheryl Sanchez

The Mission Statement was read by Commissioner Noda.

Public Information: Nancy Duff, Program Director, introduced the HUB FRC staff to the Commissioners.

Minutes Approval:

1. **Approval of minutes for the May 28, 2008 Meeting:** The minutes were reviewed and no corrections were noted.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Perlman and seconded by Commissioner Noda to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2008 Commission meeting as presented. Motion was approved with Commissioner Armstrong abstaining as she was not present at that meeting.

Executive Director Report: A written report was previously distributed to the Commissioners.

- ED Pautz reported that thanks to Commissioner Armstrong the Board of Supervisors approved the letter of support opposing Senator Cox's proposal to redirect First 5 funds. The FRCs and some county wide grantees have provided letters and have requested support from their community members.
- Because First 5 was careful in its use of school readiness funds, funds were available to upgrade play areas at several FRCs. The focus was on Scott Valley and McCloud where the 0-5 year olds' area was upgraded. Mt. Shasta also received some materials. Hopefully other sites can be added next year.
- Although time and effort was spent in planning the annual staff summit meeting in August, the meeting has been canceled due to the upheaval surrounding redirection of funds. Based on a report from the Regional Executive Director Representative, the State Commission is looking at ways to possibly give a portion of the First 5 funds towards the State's general fund deficit. There seems to be mixed opinions about this. The small and medium-sized counties would be greatly impacted by this since diminished funds would severely impact services. We also have support from partners as First 5 funds support county agencies. Many counties

have the support of the Board of Supervisors to keep First 5 funds under local control. Key for Siskiyou County is to continue to get the message out to the communities that there is a connection between First 5 and the services available to them. Another major discussion has been that any recommendation should be at the county level and not by the State Commission. ED Pautz recommended the Commission assign a media contact person. There have been no attempts to contact First 5 Siskiyou at this point but it would be prudent to appoint a spokesperson for the Commission. First 5 should continue to promote its services and successes through a regular connection with the media through its funded projects. This will be on the agenda for next month as an action item.

- ED Pautz stated she spent the majority of her time during the past month reviewing the proposals with the FRCs. She thanked the directors for the degree of detail provided.
- She described a potential partnership between the oral health project and CPS. She is meeting tomorrow with CPS, Klamath Health Services and several foster care agencies regarding provision of oral health services to children in foster care through the First 5 funded oral health program and *brightSMILES*. According to Elizabeth Mitchell-Collord, KHSI's Executive Director, because of the reimbursement system in place from DentiCal, the only piece that will be funded through First 5 would be coordination of services.
- Approval has been received from First 5 California for one more year of funding for the CARES program.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Out-of-county travel – ED Pautz – State Association and Commission Meeting – July 15-17 – Sacramento:**

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Noda and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve out-of-county travel for ED Pautz for the State Association and Commission meetings on July 15-17 in Sacramento. Motion was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Budget Report for May 2008:** The budget report was reviewed. Cheryl Sanchez noted that credit card charges had not yet been posted to the appropriate line items. Also, the Crime & Bond insurance policy (CSAC) has been offered at a considerable discount for a three year term, rather than the single year rate of past years. She will take the necessary steps to cover the cost within the budget submitted.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Armstrong and seconded by Commissioner Rhoades to approve the budget report for May 2008 as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Request for funding – Art Project:** The proponent of this Program, Chris Messer, was not at the meeting. Ed Pautz described the project as one of our priorities for next year. The FRCs like this concept and service in the community, however suggested contracting with in-community providers as well. Happy Camp has an existing relationship with the local Arts Council and is hesitant about bringing someone else in. The FRCs are proposing to provide the services in every community but coordinate with Chris Messer in communities that don't have someone in mind and not in communities where a relationship

with local arts councils exists. ED Pautz suggested one option would be to award the complete contract to Chris Messer as an individual, and a second option would be to target a certain number of events and have Chris Messer coordinate the program with a local artist in the community. Pricing would therefore be based on each community. ED Pautz reminded the commissioners that the reason the commission initiated this proposal with an individual was because the intent was for it to be a pilot project.

Commissioner Armstrong voiced her objection to the “environmental” message contained in the proposal as in some communities this is a sensitive issue. She believes the program should focus on “art” and not on someone's agenda. She recommended using local artists to strengthen the bonds within the communities.

ED Pautz stated these sessions would be planned as part of a family fun event or at a special event specifically for this program depending on the community's needs.

Commissioner Rhoades stated he had no objection to the “environmental” aspect of the proposal and Commissioner Armstrong noted there is already a disparity between north and south county – Happy Camp no longer has the timber – water is an issue for SOS – and the Commission should not be associated with “agendas”.

Vice Chair Hunner reminded the Commission that she and Commissioner Roselli first considered ideas to honor Susan Hays Meredith and the books she had produced, but perhaps the program needs to be redesigned and sit down with the artist to address what we are really after. ED Pautz recommended, based on feedback received, Commission Representatives and ED Pautz could meet with the artist to discuss potential options. Vice Chair Hunner would like to see the Commission hold true to the intent of the project. Vice Chair Hunner, Commissioner Rhoades and Commissioner Roselli were appointed to work with Chris Messer on this proposal and bring it back in July or August.

Action: It was moved by Vice Chair Hunner and seconded by Commissioner Rhoades to table this action item for further discussion at the July meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

3. **Letter from Commission to Governmental Accounting Standards Board re fund balance reporting standards:** ED Pautz explained that this letter has been requested by the State Commission. They are tightening their systems on how the fund balance is looked at. They want the local Commissions to have systems in place in planning for the future. The letter is in standard language and format. She has no concerns.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Rhoades and seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to authorize the submission of a letter from First 5 Siskiyou to GASB approving the State Commission's balance reporting standards. Motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Letter of Support for Crime and Violence Prevention Center:** ED Pautz asked the Commission to consider writing a letter to the Attorney General in support of maintaining the “Safe From the Start” services and program. She worked with them to bring Bruce Perry to Siskiyou County. She also reminded the commissioners that this is an important support partner which creates resources to promote violence prevention and educational

resources related to impact of childhood exposure to violence and trauma. With the approval of the Commission, ED Pautz will write the letter on behalf of the Commission.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Armstrong and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve the submission of a letter in support of the "Safe From the Start" program. Motion was approved unanimously.

5. **Request for Funding – CARES Program – SCOE:** Emily Lacroix, Director of the Local Child Care Planning Council, presented a proposal for the one-year extension of the CARES program as approved by the State Commission. She explained that the request is at the same level as the previous year which no changes to the program.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Rhoades and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve funding for the Office of Education in an amount up to \$55,300.00 for the one-year extension of the CARES program. Motion was approved unanimously.

6. **Request for Funding - Butte Valley CRC:** Donna Burcher, Executive Director, reported that with the \$20,000 awarded this year to CSC for the development of the Butte Valley CRC, they were able to acquire a building in the middle of town. They have a conference room and two offices, one of which they will be able to rent to defray costs. She has met with the school and the clinic regarding coordination of services. A needs assessment survey will be distributed at the Center's booth at the 4th of July Centennial Celebration. They have a strong, diverse board of directors.

ED Pautz stated that the CRC development grant awarded to CSC will have some unused funds and she is proposing that the contract be extended so that CSC can continue to provide technical assistance to Butte Valley CRC as they transition into providing services in the community. They have discussed taking it slow, creating systems and planning so that once the center is open, systems are in place. ED Pautz recognized both Donna Burcher and Karen Derry, who provided assistance to the group, for bringing the community together and Donna for taking the lead. It is apparent that the community really wants this and the effort has come from the community and not from the Commission.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Noda and seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to approve funding for fiscal year 08-09 in the amount of \$40,000.00 for the Butte Valley Community Resource Center. Motion was approved unanimously.

7. **Request for Funding – Happy Camp FRC:** Karen Derry, Executive Director, announced that the Center has officially moved. Of the \$1,700 rent they will use only \$19.73 of First 5 funds as they are able to lease space to other entities. Their home visiting program has risen to 31 children each week. This program is highly successful as most recipients do not have transportation. Visits are made three days per week and participation has risen. Karen noted that childcare is a huge issue in Happy Camp. In response to Commissioner Armstrong's question, Karen stated the Center serves Happy Camp, Somes Bar, Scott Bar and Seiad. Horse Creek and Klamath River typically go to Yreka.

ED Pautz noted that in reviewing everyone's proposed budget, the \$40,000 awarded by the Commission annually has shrunk in comparison to services delivered. Part of programs such as parenting classes, Partnership Now could be funded by other sources and pulled

out of the First 5 budget. She will work with the Centers to explore this possibility. Karen Derry stated she is trying to get businesses to sponsor a parenting class to offset the costs. Commissioner Armstrong questioned an advertising expense for the statewide FRC Network. ED Pautz replied that as long as it was within the budget there should not be a problem to pay for association memberships..

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Armstrong and seconded by Vice Chair Hunner to approve funding for fiscal year 08-09 in the amount of \$40,000.00 for the Happy Camp Family Resource Center. Motion was approved unanimously.

8. **Request for Funding – HUB Communities FRC:** Nancy Duff, Program Director, reported on the Center's increased services since moving into its new quarters. They host parenting classes and are planning a community garden. They have cooking and canning classes. They are planning to expand their facility by finishing the garage area to be used as a conference room. The community of Hornbrook was discussed as it has been difficult to provide services in that area, but steps are being taken to collaborate with the schools and others to turn things around.

Executive Director Michelle O'Gorman reported that the plan to spend certain periods of time physically at satellite locations did not work well. They now attend events held in those areas and provide co-sponsorships. Commissioner Armstrong noted that HUB is receiving the same amount of funding as the other Centers but serving multiple communities and questioned whether community needs are being served. She stated she would like to work with HUB on resources to those outlying communities. ED Pautz suggested this could be addressed when those two communities present their School Readiness grant proposals.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Armstrong and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve funding for fiscal year 08-09 in the amount of \$40,000.00 to HUB Communities Family Resource Center. Motion was approved unanimously

9. **Request for Funding – Yreka CRC:** Michelle O'Gorman, Executive Director, described a success story regarding one of the Center's clients. Commissioner Armstrong noted that the south county Centers had a relationship with Mercy Hospital and Michelle responded that Yreka CRC has a relationship with Fairchild Medical Center. ED Pautz stated a connection has been made with the hospital auxiliary to deliver books to new moms and they call when car seats, etc. are needed. In response to a question from Commissioner Armstrong, Michelle stated there is a large senior population in Klamath River and if relationships can be developed with seniors to support a satellite location that would be a consideration. Karen Derry will coordinate with Michelle on that possibility.

Action: It was moved by Vice Chair Hunner and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve funding for fiscal year 08-09 in the amount of \$40,000.00 for Yreka Community Resource Center. Motion was approved unanimously.

10. **Request for Funding – Kids' Factory:** Executive Director Emily Warn reported that the Center has served 17 women under 20 years old, either pregnant or with babies, in the past nine months. Through a long history with Siskiyou Medical Group, she was able to satisfactorily solve some problems encountered by one of the women. Their programs have grown and the community has been willing to make things happen.

The Center is open on Friday evenings now for an NA group meeting. They provide in-home support services and receive reimbursement for hosting trainings.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Rhoades and seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to approve funding for fiscal year 08-09 in the amount of \$40,000.00 for Kids' Factory Family Resource Center. Motion was approved unanimously.

11. **Request for Funding – McCloud CRC:** Geeia Dexter, Program Director, stated their AmeriCorps volunteer has taken the reins on some of their programs. They have had a bulk mail account for approximately five years which saves them \$300.00 a month. For the past three months they have provided unsupervised visits for families who lost their children. They solicit assistance from teenagers and Commissioner Armstrong requested they record the parameters of that program so it could be replicated in other areas. Geeia stated McCloud has a high population of seniors. They have a close connection to the medical center and host a diabetes class at the Center each week where healthy eating and weight loss are promoted. ED Pautz cited her opportunity to drop-in at the Center and talk to the children. 14 out of the 16 children stated if they were not at the center they would be watching TV or playing video games. They like to congregate at the center to be with friends in a pleasant atmosphere.

Action: It was moved by Vice Chair Hunner and seconded by Commissioner Noda to approve funding for fiscal year 08-09 in the amount of \$40,000.00 for McCloud Community Resource Center. Motion was approved unanimously.

12. **Request for Funding – Mt. Shasta CRC:** Executive Director Bliss Hipp reported that the Center hosted between 150 and 200 people at their last Family Fun Night and more than 20 parents attended the parenting classes. They also had a bike rodeo with over 150 people participating and close to 100 helmets given out, as well as an ice cream social which drew over 200 people. Bliss stated she has a very active Board and is in the process of recruiting three new members. Focus now is on recruiting staff and volunteers.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Rhoades and seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to approve funding for fiscal year 08-09 in the amount of \$40,000.00 for Mt. Shasta Community Resource Center. Motion was approved unanimously.

13. **Request for Funding – Scott Valley FRC:** Director Heather Robertson noted that the Center has gone through a lot of changes having had five directors in the past year, but due to the foundation set up, they were able to continue all their programs. They hosted a father-daughter dance which was very successful. They provided 80 helmets to kids on the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation. They have weekly play groups in Etna and story time in both Fort Jones and Etna. The most recent Family Fun Night drew 60 people. They are working on rebuilding their strengths with the community. Heather started with the Center as a program coordinator in September of 2007 and was appointed director of the FRC in April 2008. Commissioner Armstrong had questions on the budget which she will send to Heather. ED Pautz noted the figures seemed to be on the wrong line and this would be corrected. She will also review the travel amount in question.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Noda and seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to approve funding for fiscal year 08-09 in the amount of \$40,000.00 for Scott Valley Family Resource Center. Motion was approved unanimously.

14. **Request for Funding – Tulelake/Newell FRC:** Carol Callaghan, Executive Director for both T.E.A.C.H., Inc. and the Tulelake/Newell FRC, stated that 07-08 was a rebuilding year. The Center moved to a new location in 06-07, the director resigned, the staff attempted to pull away and the T.E.A.C.H. Board decided that she should spend more time in Tulelake. Even though she spent two days there each week, it was a struggle getting the community to discuss concerns about the agency and only the school board showed up for a meeting. She has new staff – young and energetic – who believe in the core programs. They are working on forming a community advisory group and she will be in Tulelake one day a week for awhile. The community as a whole wants First 5 in Tulelake and Carol needs to get the right people together to discuss it.

Vice Chair Hunner proposed funding for a period of three months and requiring Carol to come back and report on progress. The priority would be development of a broad based community member advisory group to get a strong leadership base in the community. Her second recommendation is to close out this year (07-08) and present a final billing before a new contract is issued. The budget would be reviewed before the new process would start. Vice Chair Hunner's third recommendation was to look at the structure between MHSA and First 5 and utilize the MHSA personal services coordinator to be a First 5 connection to the community. Number four would be to continue to provide training opportunities to existing staff specifically related to supervision and community building and collaboration. Carol said her biggest challenge is that the community is difficult to engage in, similar to the situation in Butte Valley years ago. Vice Chair Hunner emphasized that neither the First 5 Commission nor T.E.A.C.H. should be working harder than the community – when the community decides what it wants to do, the magic happens.

ED Pautz said an attempt should be made for a community buy-in before any more money is put into the FRC. They need to go back to basics similar to the efforts at Butte Valley and get the community involved. She stated she believed Carol did the best she could do under the circumstances. Carol said she did not have a problem with the three-month probation period – if she can't pull it together in the next three months she will look at her agency as a whole. She has a commitment to keep the Tulelake FRC open but has a \$4 million dollar T.E.A.C.H. budget to manage. She is currently funding staff with unrestricted funds and is committed to staff staying in place. ED Pautz commended Carol for her strong advocacy of the FRC network. There was discussion regarding the Tulelake community and some strategies that could be applied.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Rhoades and seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to approve funding for three months of fiscal year 08-09 in the amount of \$3,335.00 per month, pending approval of a final report and billing for fiscal year 07-08, and requiring Carol Callaghan, Executive Director, to provide a progress report to the Commission at the end of the three-month trial period before further funding will be considered. Motion was approved unanimously.

15. **Request for Funding – Weed CRC:** Jodi Ede, Executive Director, stated the CRC is working on solidifying partnerships they have been building over the last few years, the schools being the largest partnership. They have made some progress with Butteville. They partnered with the high school for the first annual community picnic and barbecue

attended by over 100 people. The CRC provided programs for the young children, gave away books and provided games. They have made a connection with the Key Club at the high school. More seniors are visiting the Center, as well as grandparents raising children. They have formed a partnership with the Siskiyou Arts Council for music and movement and have some instruments for kids. Summer camp has started and they have high school students as volunteers for programs. They will participate in the Weed Carnivale Parade. They were able to improve the backpacks for kindergartners with better materials and have a parenting class for parents and children transitioning to kindergarten. The new Community Center expansion was discussed.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Rhoades and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve funding for fiscal year 08-09 in the amount of \$40,000.00 for the Weed Community Resource Center. Motion was approved unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

1. **Report on First 5 State Annual Meeting:** Commissioner Rhoades requested to present this report at the July meeting.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Lauri Hunner, Commission Vice Chair

Attest: _____
Cheryl E. Sanchez, Recording Secretary