

**FIRST 5 SISKIYOU CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
COMMISSION MEETING
Behavioral Health Department
2060 Campus Dr., Yreka
Wednesday, May 26, 2010**

Commission Chair Rhoades opened the Meeting at 8:45a.m.

Commissioners Present: Chair Rhoades, Commissioner Armstrong, Commissioner Perlman and Commissioner Walters

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair Noda

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

Commissioner Walters read the Mission Statement.

Public Information: Michelle O'Gorman stated she had learned that based on the outcome of the Federal budget for VISTA, in the new year which begins in October she hopes to restore our VISTA allocation to the original 10. The previous cuts were year-end cuts and the two VISTAs will serve the FRC Network and in Montague, and can be shared.

Karen Derry reported that Happy Camp is holding its 11th annual Kids Fair on June 26 and invited everyone to attend. They will have the Arts Bus and she is working on getting the Science Works Exhibit.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

1. **Approval of minutes for the April 28, 2010 Public Hearing and Commission Meeting:** The minutes were reviewed and no corrections were noted.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Perlman and seconded by Commissioner Walters to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2010 Public Hearing and Commission meeting as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: A report covering the period from April through May was distributed to the Commissioners.

- ED Pautz recognized Cheryl Sanchez for her work with the Commission for the past 9 years and thanked her for her dedication and service.
- There was an article and photos in the Siskiyou Daily News on the *Hands on Health* van. Thanks to Joyce Oliver and the Weed CRC they were able to host the van on Mother's Day. The reporter was there and Joyce reported the kids and their parents had a great time. She provided a homemade meal. ED Pautz thanked Joyce for hosting the event and for being there on her Mother's Day!
- The CARES RFP is expected to come out in late June or early July. No details are available. The State Commission is interested in learning what the counties are doing. Next month ED Pautz will be meeting with Kermith Walters and Emily Lacroix to look at timelines in submitting a proposal from SCOE. There most likely will not be any additional funds for 2-3 months from the State and we need to evaluate how this will impact the work being done for CARES through LPC.
- ED Pautz reviewed all the proposals submitted and had conversations with the Resource Centers regarding structure during the next fiscal year as funds become less available.

- At the FRC Network meeting some suggestions were made for individuals who could potentially be considered to replace our two Commissioners who recently resigned. Recommendations can be made to the Board of Supervisors for these appointments.

CONSENT AGENDA – No items this month.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Budget Report for April 2010:** The Budget Report for April was reviewed. Cheryl Sanchez noted that the revenue has been a little lower the past two months but has been received more timely than in past years.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Armstrong and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve the budget report for April 2010 as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Request for Funds Dunsmuir Community Resource Center – Fiscal Year 2010-2011:** Emily Warn, Executive Director, was present to discuss the RFP. She explained that both the Dunsmuir and McCloud Centers have been forced to restructure due to increased costs of overhead expenses for both utilities and rent. They are proposing to cut their days of service from five to four starting in August or September but include more night time activities and programs. Closing on Friday will reduce costs by about 20%. They will continue to host the Friday night meeting for NA but will not be open for other folks. There was discussion with the Commissioners regarding loss of funding, participation in programs, fun nights, WIC, parenting classes and the food bank. A proposed partnership with WIC was discussed and Commissioner Perlman agreed to arrange a meeting

Action: It was moved by Chair Rhoades and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve funding in the amount of \$39,000.00 to Dunsmuir Community Resource Center for fiscal year 2010-2011. Motion was approved unanimously.

3. **Request for Funds McCloud Community Resource Center – Fiscal Year 2010-2011:** Emily Warn, also Executive Director for this site, was present to discuss the RFP. She explained that McCloud's budget differs from Dunsmuir. They have restructured the staff at that location. Geeia Dexter has been a part-time Personal Services Coordinator since the MHSA program began and with the Center before that. The MHSA program is very challenging so Geeia will be assigned solely to that program. Kat McGowan recently received her AA degree in Early Childhood Education and is going to take the lead with the onsite early childhood program. They will have a full-time AmeriCorps in September. The site has a built-in rent increase in their lease but fuel costs are lower due to smaller rooms. Commissioner Armstrong discussed energy audits which are being conducted on public and other facilities. Emily stated that McCloud had received that audit and the landlord had fixed certain elements but the building has historical status so the windows could not be replaced. She said an energy audit for Dunsmuir would be welcome!

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Walters and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve funding in the amount of \$39,000.00 to the McCloud Community Resource Center for fiscal year 2010-2011. Motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Request for Funds Weed Community Resource Center – Fiscal year 2010-2011:** Joyce Oliver, Executive Director, was present to discuss the RFP. Since the Center moved downtown they are seeing 10 times more people. They have already outgrown their space and now use about 7,000 sq. ft. Energy costs have risen and are currently budgeted at \$1,000/month but rent is still provided in-kind and valued at \$2,000-\$2,500/month. They are currently open Monday through Saturday and an occasional Sunday. Since the demise of the Community Center project, the fiscal agent for the Resource Center will be the Weed Revitalization Coalition, a 501(c)(3) corporation. She is in

the process of restructuring that Board and the Resource Center will act as an advisory committee to the Board. Programs are moving forward. 21 individuals signed up for the parenting class and 15 for the relapse prevention series. They will have a 4-week day camp and WIC is considering bringing their program to the facility. Joyce has been attending WIC meetings and providing activities so it will be easy to expand programs if they decide to choose that site. Child care is provided as well as preschool teachers to work with the little ones. She presented a calendar of events to the Commissioners. The Center is within budget and has additional funders. They have three part-time people – one AmeriCorps, one PSC and the Director – but would like to increase the Director to a 40-hour position. They have tremendous volunteer staff. ED Pautz stated that one of the recommendations following the site visit was to place greater emphasis on programs for children 0-5 years old using the expertise of community members. Commissioner Armstrong stated she liked the direction the Weed Center is going – owned more by the community.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Perlman and seconded by Commissioner Armstrong to approve funding in the amount of \$39,000.00 for the Weed Community Resource Center for fiscal year 2010-2011. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. **Request for Funds Happy Camp Family Resource Center – Fiscal Year 2010-2011:** Karen Derry, Executive Director, was present to discuss the RFP. She said the Center is cutting back to four days a week effective July 1. Fridays are typically slow. They will continue the parenting and relapse prevention classes and other night time activities as well as some on Saturdays. HCFRC just celebrated its 10th anniversary. They will continue with their present programs but may have to refuse some services due to funding cuts. There are other programs in the community for referrals. Commissioner Armstrong questioned if there is a childcare facility in Happy Camp. Karen replied there is not but they are exploring sharing costs with the Karuks for an AmeriCorps, but other options are being considered as well. Karen discussed food bank issues, mining and the *Every 15 Minute* program at the high school. Their power bill has increased and an energy audit would be welcome – the landlord would be willing.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Armstrong and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve funding in the amount of \$39,000.00 for the Happy Camp Family Resource Center for fiscal year 2010-2011. Motion was unanimously approved.

6. **Request for Funds Scott Valley Family Resource Center – Fiscal Year 2010-2011:** Heather Robertson, Executive Director, was present to discuss the RFP. She presented a summer schedule of activities for 0-5 year olds to the Commissioners. The City of Fort Jones has donated \$2,500 to the Center to transport kids to the city pool, the Water Council wants to set up a meeting and the Etna Rodeo asked to host their meetings at the Center - all evidence that the community is finally accepting the Resource Center. They are doing community events rather than family fun nights to provide more focus on kids' activities. Commissioner Armstrong noted that the Center has moved past its recovery, now has a good board and the community is taking ownership.

Action: It was moved by Commissioner Armstrong and seconded by Commissioner Perlman to approve funding in the amount of \$39,000.00 for the Scott Valley Family Resource Center for fiscal year 2010-2011. Motion was unanimously approved.

7. **Request for Funds Mt. Shasta Community Resource Center – Fiscal Year 2010-2011:** Bliss Bryan, Director, was present to discuss the RFP. The Center's biggest change during the year was moving to its new facility which increased both visibility and accessibility. She thanked the Commission for the new play equipment purchased for the site. Their overhead costs have increased but they were able to negotiate a fairly reasonable rent agreement which was renewed for an additional two years at the current rate. The challenges are the cost of utilities – the electrical bill is over \$500 a month in the winter – and Bliss stated they would very much like to participate in the energy audit. Due to loss of some funding and higher overhead costs, they have

had to decrease staff to only two – the Director and the Personal Services Coordinator. Bliss stated that based on needs of parents in the community they took their child development and senior programs to a new level. Parents want someone with strong background but don't want to be told how to parent. They are losing their current person as of June 30 so will be recruiting another contractor for the program. They cannot afford an AmeriCorps with their current budget. The Board is doing well – active and supportive – and have retained all current members. They are in the process of recruiting legal representation and someone with a strong mental health background to assist with MHSA. They are working with a local church to provide meals for parenting classes which will help to offset costs. The parenting classes are not covered by First 5 and this will be their third year of fund raising to support the program.

Action: It was moved by Chair Rhoades and seconded by Commissioner Walters to approve funding in the amount of \$39,000.00 to the Mt. Shasta Community Resource Center for fiscal year 2010-2011. Motion was approved unanimously.

TEAM/PROGRAM REPORTS

1. **Highlight on CARES and LPC:** Emily Lacroix presented a Needs Assessment and an updated directory of Resource Centers and Child Care Centers. She reported on the Fatherhood conference held at COS which was a very successful collaboration of several agencies and lots of volunteers. The child care providers' dinner was held on May 7 with 80 providers attending. 50 providers applied for the CARES stipends this year and that program is just finishing up. Emily thanked the Commissioners for enhancing the CARES program to include three child care programs. The three successful applicants were TLC Small Blessings in Tulelake, Big Springs Preschool and Dunsmuir State Preschool – it was an experiment that exceeded expectations. The State Mentor Program has asked Emily to present at its conference on promising models. First 5's investment was magnified by hours provided by the mentor program. The Dunsmuir preschool was able to earn \$1,500 in improvements and hired a parent with a child in the center who provided a beautiful woodworkiiing project designed by the director. Emily provided a model of a versatile balance beam and a poster depicting the various pieces created for the center.
2. **LPC Needs Assessment:** Emily briefly described LPC which was established in 1991 as part of welfare reform increasing the number of parents going into the workforce. Childcare capacity was to be built with quality assurance. The code requires a Needs Assessment every five years. It is meant to guide anyone in the county who is planning an early childhood-related organization. County demographics reveal an increase in projected 0-4 year olds and a decrease in children 5-9 and adults 30-39 which indicates a move out of the county. There was an increase of 11% in birthrate between 2004-2008. Siskiyou County has the highest rate of unemployment in the state. 50% of our Family Child Care Homes have closed since 2002, but the Centers have remained at their same level. Emily thanked the Commission for its investment in the CARES program and for helping support child care providers with trainings and stipends.
3. **FRC Highlight Report – Yreka Community Resource Center:** Michelle O'Gorman, Executive Director, introduced Kerresa Smith, Program Manager, and Carolyn Booth, second year VISTA. Michelle provided a PowerPoint presentation on YCRC's progress over the past year.

COMMISSIONER' REPORTS: None

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Rick Rhoades, Commission Chair

Attest: _____
Cheryl E. Sanchez, Recording Secretary