

**FIRST 5 SISKIYOU CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
COMMISSION MEETING  
Behavioral Health Department, Red Oak Room  
2060 Campus Dr., Yreka, CA  
Wednesday, September 23, 2009**

Commission Chair Rhoades opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:** , Chair Rhoades, Vice Chair Noda, Commissioner Armstrong, Commissioner Perlman, Commissioner Walters, Commissioner Hunner and Commissioner Roselli

**Commissioners Absent:** None

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

The Mission Statement was read by Commissioner Roselli.

**Public Information:** None

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

1. **Approval of minutes for the July 22, 2009 Meeting:** The minutes were reviewed and no corrections were noted.

**Action:** It was moved by Commissioner Walters and seconded by Commissioner Hunner to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2009 Commission meeting as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** A written report was previously distributed to the Commissioners;

- Received great news from the State Commission - it was confirmed that we will have one more year of school readiness funds. This will allow us to add \$125,000 to our fiscal year 2009-2010 revenue. A meeting will be scheduled with the Budget Advisory Group to revise the current budget and make recommendations for funding.
- ED Pautz was able to participate in the final meeting of the ESPPII Grant sponsored by the Ford Family Foundation. Siskiyou County was publicly recognized as an exemplary model for development and system level support. When Siskiyou County was awarded a grant for the Ford Parenting Project, the proposal was to use a portion of the funds to hire a coordinator. This was a challenge for FFF to accept the idea initially but now, at the end of the grant cycle, Siskiyou has shown the benefits of investing in coordination and systems. It was reported that part of the proposal for the next funding cycle will require a coordinating body. We should learn about the potential funding in November. Joyce Ochoa, FFF, is pleased with the work we are doing in Siskiyou County. Basically we would have a great opportunity to be awarded the second round of funding because of the successful partnerships and services. The initial amount was \$50,000/year for the first grant cycle and they are looking at up to \$90,000 per year for 5 years. The potential increase in funding will allow our County to expand its current program to a new level.
- Delta Kappa Gamma is interested in doing literacy based training and support for families. They have secured four volunteers to go to the Resource Centers – Yreka, Scott Valley, Montague and South County – to basically coach/train families around early literacy activities for young children. The next step is to meet and follow up. ED Pautz has regular contact with the COS Literacy Project Coordinator and the Yreka Campus Director about ways to coordinate and enhance the literacy education and support programs for the County. As the program develops, ED Pautz will provide the Commission updates.

- All of the year-end reports have been received from the Resource Centers and two out of three school readiness projects. Happy Camp experienced some accounting delays between their director and their outside fiscal person and their monthly distribution has been held pending compliance. All programs have met or exceeded their project goals. ED Pautz will provide a final presentation next month on the outcomes for this year.
- Our VISTA started working the beginning of August. 100 parents agreed to participate in a survey on the impact of First 5 in their lives. During the next month we will complete the survey to be included in the year-end report to the Commission and to the State.
- SCNAC training – nutrition education and activities - is scheduled this Saturday for childcare providers and Resource Centers. About 23 individuals have signed up as of this week. SCNAC grant applications are due this Friday.
- The California First 5 Commission has agreed to contribute a significant amount of money for the California Healthy Families Program with no request for funding from local commissions.
- Beginning in July, articles and newsletter templates have been distributed to the Resource Centers. STC has a new staff person that has great computer skills who has created the templates. Some Resource Centers are just including the article in their existing newsletters and others are using the template for their publication.
- Our VISTA helped to finish a mini-grant for FRC network funding - \$3,500 – which if awarded will be used to provide training and a planning session for the VISTAs and AmeriCorps. All Resource Centers now have a VISTA who is involved in writing grants and systems development.
- ED Pautz participated in the GFOA meeting. GFOA is the fiscal accounting and auditing group for the State. She was asked participate and represent the region on the Advisory Group. The work group is in the process of completing revisions to the guidelines as they relate to First 5 Commissions. By being part of that group she has a much greater understanding of our fiscal responsibilities and requirements of county commissions.
- We are in the final stages of our independent audit for fiscal year 2008-2009. The Budget Advisory Group will meet with the Auditor prior to our October meeting. Thanks to the Commission we are in a great place with our systems and expenditures monitoring.
- ED Pautz requested volunteers to participate in the site visits to the Resource Centers this coming year. Chair Rhoades and Commissioners Perlman, Hunner and Roselli expressed interest.
- The upcoming annual Commission Retreat was discussed. It was the consensus that the meeting be held at an outside location in Yreka. Staff was asked to research a suitable location.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. ED Out-of-County Travel – SCNAC Partners Meeting – Chico State – 9/24/09:**

**Action:** It was moved by Commissioner Hunner and seconded by Commissioner Roselli to approve out-of-county travel for ED Pautz to attend the SCNAC Partners Meeting at Chico State on 9/24/09. Motion was approved unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Budget Reports for June 2009 (final), July and August 2009:** The budget report was reviewed by the Commissioners. Cheryl Sanchez stated the final year-end budget includes payments made in July and August for fiscal year 08-09 as reflected in the County Auditor's report.

**Action:** It was moved by Commissioner Hunner and seconded by Commissioner Roselli to approve the budget reports for June 2009 (final), July and August as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Discussion and possible action on contribution towards parenting classes for Siskiyou**

**County Jail:** Present were Jim Betts and Allison Giannini, representing the Siskiyou County Jail, and Toby Reusze, Program Coordinator from Community Services Council. Allison explained that 96% of the jail inmates want parenting classes in the jail. Throughout the spring and summer months parenting workshops were offered to see what was working. Most of the inmates wanted something to address the needs of parents in custody – how to talk to kids while in jail. San Francisco uses the *Parenting from the Inside Out*, which is a highly successful program that teaches, among other things, how to write letters to children and how to have appropriate communications, prepare for visits with children and work back into the family life. Allison explained that there are three versions of the curriculum available but they feel the Prison Version is the most comprehensive, offering the same education to the families through the Resource Centers as to the inmate. There have been 45 requests for the training since August – inmates are excited about the program.

Jim Betts added that the program helps to get inmates back into society and have tools to fit back in. If the cycle can be broken and prevent the kids in the next generation from coming through, that is part of the bigger picture.

Chair Rhoades questioned how this project is linked to the Resource Centers. Toby Reusze, a Drug and Alcohol Certified Counselor, stated that the Relapse Prevention model used for the inmates is duplicated throughout Siskiyou County at the Resource Centers. Happy Camp, Yreka and Dunsmuir have 12-week programs underway, Montague started in April and Butte Valley will start in October.

Jim noted they will work with the courts to make this program a condition of probation when the inmate is released.

Commissioner Roselli asked for confirmation that \$2,000.00 towards the cost of this curriculum was being requested of the Commission. Jim explained that the program was developed by the State of Oregon through a firm in Portland and is the only program used there. The curriculum is about \$4,000, training is \$1,000 per person. Additionally funding will come from the Inmate Welfare Fund at the jail and Community Services Council. Only \$2,000.00 is being requested from First 5. ED Pautz stated the percentage of funding reflects the children 0-5 who would benefit from the program and First 5 has funds available in its budget.

Commissioner Armstrong stated this is a very good program and feels it could make a difference in breaking the cycle at home, particularly for children under five, and give those families a chance to start a new life. However, a big issue is employment. There was discussion regarding measurement of results and recidivism.

**Action:** It was moved by Commissioner Armstrong and seconded by Commissioner Hunner to approve \$2,000.00 towards the purchase of the *Parenting From the Inside Out* curriculum to be used in parenting education classes for the inmates in the Siskiyou County Jail and throughout the Resource Centers. Motion was approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION**

1. **Read Across Siskiyou – October 8:** ED Pautz explained that this is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Read Across Siskiyou* event and 1,000 books will be distributed to preschools, kindergarten and early childhood communities. We have added a component for volunteer readers and will take the opportunity to get the media involved. She asked if any of the Commissioners would be interested in reading.

Commissioners Walters, Perlman and Roselli volunteered. ED Pautz will be responsible for fliers and marketing materials and for involving the media.

2. Chair Rhoades reported he had visited the new Mt. Shasta Community Resource Center and stated he was "very impressed."
3. Chair Rhoades had an opportunity to help with the re-painting of the Arts bus and attended the *Art in the Park* event. He said there were a lot of kids and hopefully the program will grow with more activities for children.
4. Commissioner Hunner discussed the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> annual *Recovery Happens* event on Saturday. It is a family oriented event and provides an opportunity for adults to play with kids.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

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Rick Rhoades, Commission Chair

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl E. Sanchez, Recording Secretary