

**FIRST 5 SAN BENITO  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2005**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kim Dryden called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Kim Dryden, Kendra Bobsin, Donna Caffiero, Jaime De La Cruz, Dr. Elizabeth Falade, Kathy Flóres, Ricki Mazzullo, Lou Medeiros and Dr. Marni Friedman\*

County Personnel Present: Casey Castillo, First 5 Executive Director, Martha Ruiz, First 5 Staff Services Analyst, Joyce Swett, First 5 School Readiness Coordinator

Guests Present: Debi Díaz – Children’s Oral Health Program, Ofelia Toledo-Prieto – Healthy Pathways Program, Blanca Gómez-Anaya – Hollister School District Migrant Program

\* Dr. Marni Friedman was absent from the meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 10:08 a.m.

**3. ACKNOWLEDGE OF POSTING OF AGENDA**

Confirmation was made of agenda posting in Suites 8 & 10 of the Early Learning Center site on Line Street.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT**

Lou Medeiros moved to approve the minutes for September 2005 and the Commission and School Readiness budgets for August 2005. Ricki Mazzullo seconded the motion and it was approved with the following roll call vote: Ayes –Medeiros, Mazzullo, Bobsin, Caffiero, De La Cruz, Dryden, Falade and Flóres. Opposed – None. Abstained – None.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

None.

**6. COMMUNICATION**

- a. Ofelia Toledo-Prieto of the Healthy Pathways Program introduced herself to the Commission.
- b. None.
- c. Below is a brief summary of Casey Castillo’s Executive Director Report:

Meetings

- Grantees – A meeting and PEDS training were held on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Healthy Pathways – Met with staff to refine their Scope of Work and Milestones to reflect the changes that the additional funding from the Nutrition Network will require.
- Mental Health – Contract is ready for signatures. They have arranged with UC Davis for PCIT training and have hired two staff members.

Other

- San Benito was switched to the Northeast Regional Group of the First 5 Association. The Northeast Region is made up of primarily rural counties such as Nevada, Sutter, Alpine, Sierra, etc.
- A first draft of Harder’s evaluation was received and a recommendation for revision was sent.
- Sustainability Coordinator - The four applicants were reviewed by the CAO who decided only one candidate was qualified for the position. This applicant received an offer in the first round of interviews. According to Human Resources, since the Commission had taken Action in the past to make an offer to this person we are not required to interview again but can instead make a new offer. The Commission decided they would interview the eligible applicant. Dr. Falade, Kathy Flóres and Ricki Mazzullo agreed to be on the interview subcommittee.

## 7. PUBLIC HEARING

Confirmation was made of a public hearing to review results of the First 5 San Benito and School Readiness Annual Reports being posted according to requirements. Kim Dryden opened the public hearing at 10:10 AM. Copies of the First 5 San Benito and School Readiness Annual Reports were made available for public input. The Commission reviewed the Annual Reports. There being no further written or oral protests or endorsements, the public hearing was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

## 8. PRESENTATION

- a. Debi Díaz from the Children's Oral Health Program gave an informative summary of their work in collaboration with the Public Health Department and the San Benito Health Foundation. The Commission thanked Debi for her presentation.

## 9. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

- a. Below is a brief summary of Joyce Swett's School Readiness Report:
  - Joyce reported she is now a member of the Local Planning Council (LPC). Assembly Bill SB649 which will provide funding to continue services of childcare providers in support of children with disabilities was discussed.
  - An English class for parents funded by the Hollister Youth Alliance called "Redirecting Children's Behavior" was held for 4-weeks here in Suite 9. We will be contracting with the parent educator for 2 Spanish sessions to begin October 11<sup>th</sup> and another one beginning in January.
  - Brigance assessment screenings were done on children who have applied for enrollment in the First 5 Even Start Preschool.
  - At the last School Readiness Coordinator Regional meeting we were told we would be receiving \$25,000 from funds left over from Technical Support (at the state level) and should be thinking of doing an event in our immediate region (Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito). Recently, we were informed this may not happen. Our 3 counties decided to go ahead and meet to discuss what opportunities there are for us to collaborate in the future and if we might be able to do an event without the state money. Both Monterey and Santa Cruz have some unspent funds from FY04/05 so we're working on a possible event focusing on literacy, Kindergarten transition and special needs children for this December.
  - Candidates for the Program Director and Master Teacher positions for Even Start were interviewed. Go Kids will do the second interviews today.
  - Joyce attended the Hollister School District Board meeting. In the last 3 years the district has lost significant revenues because of inter-district transfers. Budget cuts over the next several years will be deep (especially if enrollment does not go up). Parents were very verbal and concerned about the class sizes, especially in Kindergarten.
  - Facilitated a session with the Oaxacan Women's Project in regards to naming body parts and other health issues so they would feel more comfortable going to a doctor.
- b. Kendra Bobsin reported Sacramento sent an email to counties of their intent to fund all proposals for CARES. Formal written approval is still pending.

## 10. ACTION

- a. Kathy Flóres moved to approve the FY04-05 First 5 San Benito Annual Report. Jaime De La Cruz seconded the motion and it was approved with the following roll call vote: Ayes – Flóres, De La Cruz, Bobsin, Caffiero, Dryden, Falade, Friedman, Mazzullo and Medeiros. Opposed – None. Abstained – None.
- b. Dr. Friedman moved to approve the FY04-05 School Readiness Report. Kathy Flóres seconded the motion and it was approved with the following roll call vote: Ayes – Friedman, Flóres, Bobsin, Caffiero, De La Cruz, Dryden, Falade, Mazzullo and Medeiros. Opposed – None. Abstained – None.
- c. The Commission reviewed a request from the Children's Oral Health Program (COHP) to increase their FY05-06 budget by \$44,331. It was noted this budget increase was needed to support services previously done through the San Benito Public Health Dental Program. After some discussion, Ricki Mazzullo moved to approve a contract amendment for fiscal year 05-06 for the COHP. Jaime De La Cruz seconded the motion and it was approved with the following roll call vote: Ayes – Mazzullo, De La Cruz, Bobsin, Caffiero, Dryden, Falade, Flóres, Friedman and Medeiros. Opposed – None. Abstained – None.

## 10. ACTION (continued)

- d. Casey Castillo talked about redirecting excess 05-06 Dental funds to develop a preschool program which would not exceed \$35,000. Casey noted the project under consideration had applied for funding through the last RFP process but was not awarded funding due to limited monies. The Commission questioned the recommendation and voiced an opinion that further discussion was needed in regard to this item. After additional discussion, Jaime De La Cruz motioned to form a subcommittee to review all past applicants and bring recommendations back to the Commission next month. Dr. Friedman seconded the motion. Before it was voted on, the Commission wanted clarification on whether the subcommittee would review redirecting excess funds for both Prop. 10 and School Readiness. Jaime stated his motion was to create a subcommittee to bring recommendations as to how to spend any excess funds available. Dr. Friedman withdrew her second from the original motion. No action taken. Commissioner De La Cruz excused himself to attend another meeting. The Commission then discussed whether the excess funds were separate issues. Ricki Mazzullo motioned to form one subcommittee to review both the School Readiness and Dental redirection recommendations. Following placement of the motion, Commissioner Mazzullo excused herself to attend another meeting. Dr. Friedman seconded the motion and it was denied with the following roll call vote: Ayes – Mazzullo, Friedman, Bobsin, and Dryden. Opposed – Caffiero. Abstained – Falade, Flóres and Medeiros.
- e. Joyce Swett spoke next about redirecting excess 05-06 School Readiness funds. Joyce explained the projects under consideration would provide a wide variety of services. The total cost for all projects recommended was \$85,000. After some discussion, Kendra Bobsin moved to approve the projects submitted for consideration. However, before the motion was seconded, several Commissioners took exception to one project which was not approved for funding through the last RFP. Kendra Bobsin amended her motion to approve the projects submitted less the previously applied for program for fiscal year 05-06. The cost for the new combined projects is \$70,000. Kathy Flóres seconded the motion and it was approved with the following roll call vote: Ayes – Bobsin, Flóres, Caffiero, Dryden, Falade, Friedman, and Medeiros. Opposed – None. Abstained – None.

## 11. OTHER - FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Public Hearing
  - FY04-05 First 5 Annual Audit
- Discussion
  - Review of 05-08 Funding Process and Redirection of Funds
- Action
  - FY04-05 First 5 Annual Audit
- The next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2005 at 10:00 AM. in Suite 9 of the Early Learning Center located at 1011 Line Street – Hollister.

## 12. CLOSED SESSION

None

## 13. ADJOURN

Lou Medeiros made a motion for adjournment. Dr. Friedman seconded the motion and it was approved with the following roll call vote: Ayes – Medeiros, Friedman, Bobsin, Caffiero, Dryden, Falade and Flóres. Opposed – None. Abstained – None. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.