

FIRST 5 SAN BENITO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Minutes
December 7, 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, Dr. Elizabeth Falade, Kathy Flóres, Ricki Mazzullo, Lou Medeiros and Dr. Marni Friedman*

Commissioners Excused: Jaime De La Cruz

County Personnel Present: Casey Castillo, First 5 Executive Director, Martha Ruíz, First 5 Staff Services Analyst, Joyce Swett, First 5 School Readiness Coordinator, Kellie Guerra, First 5 Sustainability Coordinator, Irma València, County Counsel

*Dr. Marni Friedman was absent from the meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 10:07 a.m.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE 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

Ricki Mazzullo moved to approve the minutes for November 2005 and the Commission and School Readiness budgets for October 2005. Dr. Falade seconded the motion and it was approved with the following roll call vote: Ayes -Mazzullo, Falade, Bobsin, Caffiero, Dryden, Flóres and Medeiros. Opposed - None. Abstained - None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

None

6. COMMUNICATION

- a. There was no audience communication.
- b. It was noted a postcard was received from the State Commission's new Executive Director (Kris Perry).
- c. Below is a brief summary of Casey Castillo's Executive Director Report: (see detailed handout)
 - First 5 Association - The Bay Area Region (12 counties) is interested in reassessing their efforts and goals. The Bay Area Regional Group has requested that San Benito remain with the Bay Area Region and not be switched to the Northeast Region. Casey will continue to attend both the Bay Area and Northeast regional meetings.
 - The final draft of Harder and Company's FY04-05 Evaluation Report is available on our website (www.first5sanbenito.org). The State's "New Evaluation Framework" is available on the Association website (www.f5ac.org). A PowerPoint presentation and reporting forms will be released in December - all counties must be ready to start collecting data in the requested manner by July 2006.
 - Casey attended the Local Childcare Planning Council meeting and she has become a member of the CARES subcommittee. This subcommittee will assist in reviewing applications for CARES stipends, training, etc.
 - Casey met with the Go Kids Executive Director to discuss the Even Start Project. Various positions are still not filled. As a result both First 5 and Go Kids staff are devoting much time and energy to the project - this was not anticipated and has resulted in concern from both offices.
 - Casey met with Susan Villa at the County Office of Ed. and discussed the possibility of obtaining Mental Health Services from their behaviorist. Also discussed was the "Preschool for All" Initiative and how that might affect San Benito County.
 - PEDS training was held for First 5 San Benito Grantees in November.
 - Copies of "News from the (First 5) Association" were passed out. Casey noted there are two initiatives seeking to increase the tax on tobacco products.

7. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

- a. Below is a brief summary of Joyce Swett's School Readiness Report: (see detailed handout)
 - Joyce attended the R.O. Hardin ELAC (English Language Advisory Committee) meeting and gave a presentation on the Even Start Program. About 18 families have shown interest in the program and will be contacted with additional information. Joyce will be interviewing applicants for the Even Start Program Director position. A full-time teacher has been hired.
 - A parent orientation was conducted for the First 5 Even Start Preschool to review goals of the preschool including the focus on language development and parent participation.
 - Joyce and Pat Schneider from the Action Council of Monterey met to discuss and pick up supplies for the "Raising a Reader" program. Materials are now on site and training will be held in February 2006.
 - Joyce and Karen Twadell who is the Director of Special Education for the Hollister School District met to discuss their contract with a behaviorist for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Center. Currently the service is sporadic and Joyce will continue to search for other sources.
 - Joyce met with Hector Castro who runs a "Dads in Action" program in Monterey County. Mr. Castro invited First 5 San Benito staff to an upcoming conference focusing on fathers and their importance in a child's life.
 - Joyce attended a meeting with Club Ed participants at the San Benito High School and she gave a presentation which focused on the need for preschool teachers and an outline of their curriculum.
- b. Casey Castillo summarized the Finance Subcommittee's 11/15 meeting outcomes and their proposed Emerging Opportunities Funds format. After some discussion the Commission agreed February's meeting will be an all-day event to review the Strategic Plan as well as funding and policy issues.
- c. Casey Castillo noted the policy for returned funds is incorporated with proposed policy for the Emerging Opportunities Funds.
- d. The Commission reviewed a policy draft on Administrative Costs which defines Administrative, Program and Evaluation costs.
- e. Kellie Guerra (First 5 San Benito Sustainability Coordinator) was introduced to the Commission. Casey Castillo and Kellie have prioritized funding goals for the Commission. Meetings have been scheduled with First 5 San Benito Grantees on maximizing their programs.

8. ACTION

None

9. OTHER - FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- The next Commission meeting will be a 1-Day Strategic Planning Event. It is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 beginning at 10:00 AM in Suite 9 of the Early Learning Center located at 1011 Line Street - Hollister.

10. CLOSED SESSION

None

11. ADJOURN

Kendra Bobsin made a motion for adjournment. Kathy Flóres seconded the motion and it was approved with the following roll call vote: Ayes - Bobsin, Flóres, Caffiero, Dryden, Falade, Friedman, Mazzullo and Medeiros. Opposed - None. Abstained - None. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.