

FIRST 5 KINGS COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2007

Commissioners Present: Bill Black, Joe Neves, Peggy Montgomery, Mary Anne Ford-Sherman, John Stankovich, David Droker, and Perry Rickard.

Commission staff present: Lisa Watson, Executive Director; Fabiola DeCaratachea, Program Officer; Jon-Michael Hice, Community Specialist; Vanessa Avila, Resource Specialist; Rosalba Cabral, Resource Specialist; Ana Dominguez, Executive Secretary.

Consultants to the Commission: Kelly Marschall, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.; Todd Franke and Lou Brown, UCLA.

County staff to the Commission: Kyle Sand, County Counsel

Others present: Kelly Marschall, Ynez Lopez, Kathy Cruz, Judy Newton, Diane Hall, Debbie Gibson, and Mark Alvidrez.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m., and roll call was taken.

Review and Modification of Agenda: No modification to the agenda was made.

Public Comment: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Droker requested item 2007-11-003 to be removed from Consent Calendar for discussion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neves, seconded by Commissioner Ford-Sherman to approve minutes from August 7 and October 3, 2007 Commission meetings..

Commissioner Droker abstained from voting.

2007-11-003 Lemoore Family Connection Lease Agreement. – A lengthy discussion about the use of available existing facilities in Lemoore and the leased location of Lemoore Family Connection followed Commissioner Droker’s question about the need to ratify the lease agreement. Ratification of the lease was made by motion from Commissioner Neves, seconded by Commissioner Ford-Sherman. Commissioner Droker opposed.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Fiscal Report .- September and October 2007 Fiscal Reports were presented to the Commission outlining the unexpected and over-expended expenses incurred due to the Raising a Reader program and moving costs.

Executive Director’s Report.- In her report ED Watson listed the activities she has been

involved in for the last two months as well as the results from the 2006-2007 Annual Audit and Report. An update of the various projects and initiatives was also provided and Resource Specialists Vanessa Avila and Rosalba Cabral were introduced by ED Watson to the Commission. Commissioners Ford-Sherman volunteered to be part of the reviewing panel for the selective process of the RFP. Commissioner Montgomery also offered to be on the panel depending on the date. ED Watson thanked Commissioners Ford-Sherman and Rickard for their attendance at the Multicultural Conference.

Program Officer Reports

Scott Waite.- In absence of Mr. Waite, ED Watson delivered his report. The report included updates on last month's activities as well as a list of meetings and workshops attended and facilitated by Mr. Waite.

Fabiola DeCaratachea.- Ms. DeCaratachea reported on the projects she has been working on over the last few months. Currently, Ms. DeCaratachea is working on the data management system transition, trying to ensure that the database is responsive to the needs of grantees as well as First 5. Many goals have been achieved at the Lemoore Family Connection, partnerships have been responsive to the needs assessments done in the community, the center is up and growing with an advisory board that is already making recommendations. Ms. DeCaratachea also included a list of meetings/workshops she has attended and the technical assistance she has provided in the past two months. Ms. DeCaratachea wanted to publicly thank Mr. Hice for the success of the Multicultural Conference.

School Readiness Coordinator Report

ED Watson delivered this report. The major item of interest was the kick off and community launch at the Hanford Mall of the Raising A Reader program. The program is now operating at Pioneer, Kit Carson and Kings River Hardwick preschools. These sites were chosen during the School Readiness planning process because they don't have immediate access to Family Resource Center activities. Resource and Referral will be offered at least once a week at these sites by Vanessa Avila and Rosalba Cabral. In addition to the implementation at school based sites, Raising a Reader is also provided at Hanford Family Connection where parents attend a parenting class and at Lemoore Family Connection where the program is linked to an aerobic class for parents. Different strategies are being tried to see what will pull people in for the parenting component of the program.

Community Specialist Report

Items highlighted by Mr. Hice in his report were the media articles that occurred during the time period of the report. He reviewed Marketing and Community Outreach activities, as well as the Annual Multicultural Conference which was a great success. Mr. Hice reminded the commission of the partnership with the Hanford Sentinel to run Kid's Scoop banner advertisements each Tuesday, and informed them of an upcoming contract with the Hanford Mall to expand what is currently being supported. Commissioners were invited to the First 5 Kings County Fall Open House to take place on November 7, 2007. Commissioner Ford-Sherman made a comment about the beauty and professionalism of

the Multicultural Conference.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

2007-11-004 2006-2007- Evaluation Report - UCLA

ED Watson provided a brief introduction of the work done by UCLA. Dr. Todd Franke, from UCLA provided a power point presentation of the completed 2006-2007 Evaluation Report which focused on the effectiveness of the FRC Initiative. The report was structured to be a comprehensive assessment of the strategy itself, and not a representation of the effectiveness of any given FRC. Information was collected at all of the 06-07 funded FRC sites for analysis and the development of conclusions are contained in the report.

The methods for data collection were described to include the interviews with FRC Directors/staff, as well as focus groups that were conducted within each FRC Community. There was an intention on the part of UCLA to collect information from partner agencies, in which there was too little of a response to draw conclusions, and thus that information has been omitted from the report or for any analysis purposes.

Overall, the FRC's seem to be achieving their purpose in creating greater access to services for children age 0-5 and their families. They seem to be delivering services in a culturally competent manner, and the community would prefer to access services through the FRC than through typical means. Some additional findings of the evaluation include:

- The FRC's are serving primarily the low-income Hispanic populations of Kings County. ED Watson pointed out to the Commissioners that this finding requires further conversation, as the intent of FRC service delivery needs to be clarified as a strategy to reach low income populations, or all children 0-5 and their families.
- While FRC Directors perceive that the community is aware of the center and the services they offer, the focus group participants felt that there was not an adequate knowledge about the center or services. Additional outreach is necessary to inform the community about the existence of and the services offered through the FRC's.
- Transportation continues to be a barrier in accessing services. Dr. Franke provided an overview of statements from parents who declared that it was problematic and expensive to utilize the KART system to access FRC services, to which Commissioner Neves recommended the evaluators verify information received from parents before including it in the report. In his opinion, the evaluation no longer held credibility. Transportation education to the community is to be provided at the FRCs to educate population on services provided by KART.
- There is an expressed need to provide additional staff development opportunities to employees of the various FRC's. Mark Alvidrez, from Armona FRC informed the Commission of the "Bridges out of Poverty" conference that will be brought to Kings County hosted by the Armona FRC.

The Commission will be addressing the evaluation results in future meetings, in an effort

to make decisions based on the evaluation results obtained. It was requested by Commissioner Montgomery, that the issues be addressed over the course of multiple meetings, and ED Watson stated she would break up the conversation over the course of three meetings.

No motion was necessary.

2007-11-005 Commission Bylaws Commission Chair

This item was placed on the agenda due to the directive of the Commission to address Commissioners attendance at Commission meetings. Commission Chair Black spoke about the responsibility of commissioners to attend meetings and meet quorum and his conversations with ED Watson and Kyle Sand from County Counsel regarding the possibility of a change to the Bylaws. Because of the nature of the legislation it will be not easy to set a bylaw that governs attendance. Individuals assigned to be part of the Commission have the option to send another person from their organization to represent them; the only two Commissioners that can't send a representative are the Community based members. According to County Counsel, if absent, a Commissioner can put his/her thoughts about an agenda item in writing and send them to ED Watson to be read at the Commission meeting.

Recommendation from the Chair: Important and appropriate to continue listing attendance in the minutes; discuss attendance on a periodic basis, especially on situations where somebody has to step down and there is a quorum issue. No teleconference participation is allowed without public access.

2007-11-006 First 5 Kings County Budget Augmentation FY 2007-2008

ED Watson requested an augmentation for FY2007-2008 based on the underestimation of final payments for 2006-2007, undeveloped budget for internally operated School Readiness programs, and augmentation of CHI contract. Approval from the Board of Supervisors will also be needed for the shifting of funds in the amount of \$166,084 that will decrease the contingencies line item. The requested augmentation was approved unanimously by motion made by Commissioner Montgomery, seconded by Commissioner Rickard.

2007-11-007 Lemoore Family Connection Budget Augmentation

Program Officer Fabiola DeCaratachea spoke to the Commission of the need for an augmentation to the Lemoore Family Connection project to account for the initial onetime costs associated with the establishment of the service site. This budget augmentation will decrease our contingencies line item in the amount of \$20,000.00

2007-11-008 Cancellation of Parenting Contract with Maricela Alatorre

Parenting Classes provided by Maricela Alatorre were to begin in September 2007. The consultant did not show up for the first parenting sessions at any of the agreed upon sites and has been unresponsive to phone calls from First 5 Kings County as well as from the FRCs that were expecting to receive parenting services for their families. Contract was unanimously cancelled by motion made by Commissioner Ford-Sherman, seconded by

Commissioner Montgomery.

2007-11-009 Parenting Services Contract with Kings Partnership for Children

The services to be rendered by KPC will essentially take the place of those planned through the contract with Maricela Alatorre. This contract is a joint funded project with the Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council to ensure that parenting services are available to parents of children of all ages. The contract for implementation of parent education at FRCs was presented to the Commission for review and approval for no more than \$10,200 to Kings Partnership for Children for a period from November 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Motion was made by Commissioner Montgomery, seconded by Commissioner Rickard. Approved unanimously.

STUDY SESSION

Lemoore Family Connection RFP

Lemoore Family Connection RFP has been developed to fulfill the intent of the Commission to transfer responsibility of daily operations to a community service provider. Commissioner Droker stated his objection to releasing the RFP because he felt the location requirement would be a burden to potential bidders and a misuse of programmatic funds. Commissioners came to a consensus to release the RFP with a modification to give a range rather than specific cost of rent.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Baby Signs Contract
- Contract with Hanford Mall for sponsorship of Soft Play Area
- Community Audit presentation

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

- Commissioner Montgomery – nice to see mall area always with kids.
- ED Watson – will wrap First 5 information around the columns in the Hanford Mall food court.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Issue to discuss: Significant Exposure to Litigation (Govt. Code 54956.9) Judy Rutan vs. First 5 Commission of Kings County (Superior Court Case #06C0062)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

County Counsel reported out that there was a consensus among the Commissioners to accept the settlement offer made by Judy Rutan in the above noted court case.

Meeting was adjourned to next Commission meeting on December 4, 2007.