

Marin Children and Families Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER

Frima Stewart, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission offices at 5:41 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Regina Archer
David Bonfilio
Jane Chopson
Cio Hernandez
Supervisor Steve Kinsey
John Leonard
Frima Stewart
Alicia Suski

Commissioners Absent

Dr. Rosario Carr-Casanova

Staff Present

Amy L. Reisch
Lynn Quinones
Lorenzo Gonzalez
Sunny Friedrich
Michelle Fadelli

Consultants Present

Jara Dean-Coffey
Kathy Tabor

Representatives from the Community & Agencies

Zara Babitzke, Matrix
Lyda Beardsley, Education/Foundation Consultant
Cindy Fox, San Rafael City Schools
Deb Olsen, Oakview Children's Center
Mark Olsen, Child Care Commission
Jackie Reinhardt, Easter Seals of Northern California
Byron Sigal, Making Space for Children
Dani Tarry, School Linked Services
Kathy Truax, Family Service Agency
Tina Warren, Marin Child Care Commission
Mary Willis, Morris Family Foundation

II. MINUTES OF MEETING

Frima Stewart asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the Commission minutes of April 6, 2005. ***Minutes were approved as submitted.***

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Reinhardt, CEO of Easter Seals of Northern California, expressed appreciation for the Special Needs Initiative.

Mark Olsen, Marin Child Care Commission and Marin Association for the Education of Young Children, told the Commission that the Stipend program (CARES) has been "an event that has rippled though out the community and energized and motivated countless teachers of all kinds and experience levels".

Tina Warren expressed her thanks to the Commission for participating in the Month of the Young Child. It was a huge success. Over 26 community leaders read to over 800 kids all over the county.

Byron Sigal, Making Space for Children and LIIF, has granted \$20,000 to San Pedro Head Start to rehabilitate their yard.

Cindy Fox, San Rafael City Schools, expressed her gratitude for CARES stipends and her hopes that the Commission continue to participate in CARES because early childhood educators are getting their ECE units.

Debra Olsen, spoke of her thankfulness for CARES because it gave stipends to about one half of the members of her staff at the Oakview Children's center.

Kathy Truax expressed her thanks for the Special Needs Project and for funding the small grant proposal for a parenting group.

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Frima Stewart spoke to the commission about her belief that projects need time to develop in order to see the long term benefits. She also stated her desire that all members of the Commission participate in the Wee Reader program during the Month of the Young Child (April) next year.

Alicia Suski discussed with the commission the study published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report that was distributed to each commissioner. Some discussion followed about the data contained in the report around teen smoking and how Marin's numbers are higher than in the study, due to high disposable income among teens. Alicia also commented that Margaret Fisher presented her Oral Health Power Point at the Oral Health Advisory Committee meeting and talks continued about more funding opportunities and areas through-out the county for expansion with the mobile dental van (Doc in the Box).

Jane Chopson announced to the Commission that she has retired from her county position at Health and Human Services but is staying on the job until a replacement is found. She will continue to serve on the Commission through July or August. Jane's position is one of the two mandated positions to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors on recommendation of the Director of Health and Human Services. Supervisor Kinsey said that although the Commission has no official say about who is appointed to replace Jane, suggestions would be considered and would be helpful.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ STAFF REPORT

See handout for full report.

Over \$350,000 was requested through the Small Grant Process and the Commission only had \$97,000 to grant. The grantees were funded because the projects represented the Commission's Strategic Plan, were geographically disbursed through out the county, and/or were not funded before. The Commissioners expressed their desire to see the geographic

location of the projects funded and for any large play equipment/structures we fund to be "branded" with the First 5 logo.

Amy met with Ann Wilson, President of the Bay Area United Way, about how our two organizations can leverage funds in Marin.

VI. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

State Conference: Several staff members and Cio Hernandez reported on their experiences at the California First 5 Conference. Some of the impressions included: the importance of revisiting the strategic plan and community input; partnering with media outlets like Comcast to get messages to the community; and a new appreciation for our efforts when comparing School Readiness communities though out the state to the success that the Canal has had with its program. Michelle was interested in seeing the diversity of activities around the state, all striving to achieve the same goals in different ways.

Special Needs Mental Health Initiative: Amy Reisch made a presentation on the proposed Special Needs Mental Health Initiative. (See handout for slide details). A lengthy and detailed discussion of the Special Needs Model followed the presentation. An outreach model, similar to the Mentores project in the Canal, will be used in each of the School Readiness communities in order to reach kids that are not in a conventional day care setting. The families of children identified as needing further assessment will be contacted by the Early Intervention Specialist (from Easter Seals) and included in the planning for any follow-up intervention. Discussion expanded to include particulars about the work model, the budget through FY2008/09, target population, outreach for enhanced screening, contract specifications with service providers and the need for sustainability. The Commission proceeded to a vote:

Recommendation: Adopt the Special Needs Mental health Initiative as presented. Adopt the proposed budget with the addition of the wording "up to" \$400,000/year.

M/S Bonfilio/ Leonard

Call for discussion

Call for vote

Ayes: 8, Archer, Bonfilio, Chopson, Hernandez, Kinsey, Leonard, Stewart, Suski

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1, Carr-Casanova

Policy and Procedures for Emerging Opportunities: After lengthy discussion about the Policy and Procedures for Identifying, Selecting and Acting on Emerging Opportunities (involving questions on sustainability and the differences between Emergency Issues and Emerging Opportunities), a motion to approve the recommendation was made.

Recommendation: Adopt the Policy and Procedure for Acting on Emerging Opportunities as submitted.

M/S Bonfilio/ Kinsey

Call for discussion

Call for vote

Ayes: 7, Archer, Bonfilio, Chopson, Hernandez, Kinsey, Stewart, Suski

Nays: Leonard

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1, Carr-Casanova

CARES RFF: The discussion about the recommendation for the Commission's response to the new CARES RFF was brief and supportive of staff's recommendation. The Commission proceeded to a vote:

Recommendation: *Staff, with the support of the Center for Excellence and its partners, will respond with a proposal to the State Commission for new CARES funding, using as our match up to \$75,000/year for 3 years, \$37,500 for half a year, and \$22,000 already in our Initiatives for a total maximum annual match of \$97,000. Also, a letter is to be sent to the County Board of Supervisors to encourage participation to pull more matching dollars.*

M/S Kinsey / Chopson

Call for discussion

Call for vote

Ayes: 8, Archer, Bonfilio, Chopson, Hernandez, Kinsey, Leonard, Stewart, Suski

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1, Carr-Casanova

Legislative Update: The legislative update included the addition of AB 772 (handed out at the meeting). The Commissioners expressed their gratitude for the thorough information provided in their packets. Michelle Fadelli did an excellent job. Steve Kinsey suggested a "matrix" could be developed to identify major players and their positions on each piece of legislation we consider.

Recommendation: *Write letters of Support for those bills staff has recommended to the Commission.*

M/S Chopson / Suski

Call for discussion

Call for vote

Ayes: 8, Archer, Bonfilio, Chopson, Hernandez, Kinsey, Leonard, Stewart, Suski

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1, Carr-Casanova

VII. FINAL COMMENTS

Rosario Carr-Casanova's term has ended as a commissioner and a plaque will be mailed to her. The plaque says:

To Rosario Carr-Casanova, PhD

In appreciation for your service as a Commissioner on behalf of Marin's young children and their families.

May 1999 to May 2005

First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission

Cio Hernandez reminded all present that there is a Youth Emancipation Forum on May 12th from 4-5pm at the San Rafael Cooperate Center. Young adults will speak about their experiences in situations/transitions like foster care or juvenile hall.

VIII. ADJOURN 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday June 1, 2005

5:30PM – 7:30PM

1101 5th Ave., Suite 215, San Rafael