

**FIRST 5 SISKIYOU CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
COMMISSION MEETING
Siskiyou County Office of Education
609 S. Gold St., Yreka
March 22, 2017**

Commissioners Present: Chair Walters, Commissioner Hughes, Commissioner Walsh and Commissioner Washington

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair Perry, Commissioner Kobseff and Commissioner Kolpacoff

Also Present: Executive Director Karen Pautz, and Administrative Services Coordinator Cheryl Sanchez, Michelle O’Gorman, Chris Brown, Karen McMillan, guest Ashley Paul, Eve Rooker, Peggy Moore and Kim Ritola.

PUBLIC INPUT: Abby Yeager, new Executive Director for the re-formed Happy Camp Family Resource Center joined the meeting via telephone and laid out the plans for reorganization and revitalization of the Resource Center. She is putting together a proposal to reinstate some of their programs. Abby has a Bachelor’s Degree in Project Management from Chico State and a Masters in Business Administration. She returned to the Happy Camp area in 2012. She created a new non-profit, Hope for Happy Camp, last year. She was approached by Karen Derry and since the Happy Camp’s 501(c)(3) status is still viable and their goals align, she suggested they combine the two programs and become Happy Camp Community Action. Abby said she worked with the youth baseball program for a grant through the McConnell Foundation for \$50,000. She wants to restart the First 5 program, work with the Head Start program on increasing parents engagement on literacy, hoping to have a playgroup at Little League and T-Ball, as kids under 4 are left out, as well as events for parents and children at farmers’ markets. She attended the board meeting of the building owner at 38 Park Way and presented a proposal to dissolve their board and donate the facility to Happy Camp Community Action so they can remodel the building and turn it into a community center. She has been working with COS to provide classes for seniors, cooking and agriculture and hopefully a studio for children with windows and mirrors for various classes and youth play areas. The Library is interested in space. The building nonprofit accepted the proposal and are donating the building. Abby has applied for a 3-year \$250,000 grant from USDA for the Farmers Market promotion program. This is her first federal grant. She has been invited to Ford Family Foundation’s community building conference. ED Pautz will be meeting next week with the Karuk Head Start Site Director and Abby to work on the plans going forward. Commissioner Walsh encouraged Abby to also reach out to the County. ED Pautz said the WIC Director is interested in working with Happy Camp for use of their building for services.

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. **Approval of Minutes for the February 22, 2017 Commission Meeting**

Action: It was moved by Chair Walters and seconded by Commissioner Walsh to approve the minutes for the Commission Meeting held on February 22, 2017 as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. **FRC Highlights – Scott Valley:** Eve Rooker, Executive Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the site’s accomplishments for the year. She introduced Peggy Moore who spoke about her background and her playgroup program at SVFRC. She also introduced Kim Ritola, a retired nurse, who described her positive experiences with the parenting classes provided through SVFRC.
2. **FRC Highlights – Butte Valley:** Karen McMillan, Executive Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the site’s accomplishments for the year. She introduced Ashley Paul, who provided her success story regarding the assistance she has received from the Resource Center. Commissioner Washington commended Karen for her achievements and growth over the past two years.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Written report previously distributed.

- We have provided over 121 sessions of parenting classes since July 1. We are expanding to include classes at Karuk Tribe with co-funding by MHSA. Shasta Head Start in Yreka has requested one-time workshops and will provide in-kind support.
- The second Spanish-only classes were started in Weed. Monica Quintero, Shasta Head Start, was a great resource in recruiting families. Commissioner Walsh asked if questions had been asked by members of the Spanish community regarding immigration. Karen McMillan said “they have been hiding out in BV”. Commissioner Walsh asked if anyone was communicating with those families about a plan for caring for their kids if parents were picked up by Immigration. Karen McMillan said BV has a plan which she would be happy to share. Some indicated that some of those impacted have never been to Mexico. ICE agencies have been out in the field in Butte Valley. ED Pautz said some First 5 counties have a menu of resources which can be available to us. It was discussed by those in attendance that the community has to be part of the plan.
- Parents and teens contract with CSC (a reminder, this is a subcontract with CSC, because it was in place before the transition of the parenting program. It was mutually decided that the Commission would subcontract for the current year. The Contract was executed in January 2017): Despite extensive efforts through collective work with Yreka CRC, Yreka High School, Juvenile Probation Officers and working with James Roach, the Deputy Probation Officer, to promote and recruit targeted parents of youth in the Siskiyou Juvenile Probation system, no families attended classes. After three attempts it was decided to cancel the classes and consider a different model to best serve the current population. We saw a great deal of involvement of both parents and teens last year, but as reported to First 5, the current population is on a different level – need more one-on-one services. There is a draft proposal in the Commissioner packet to move forward with a different model to be contracted directly with First 5, and then, if we have enough commitment, add additional group based classes. The restructured model will be expanded to possibly an 18-month contract so we can potentially start the new proposed model immediately. Juvenile Probation is part of the team to design this new model. They will proceed to prepare a new contract with First 5 directly as per the previously planned transition.
- ED Pautz noted the difficulty in getting facilitators and said we will definitely need some help from Remi Vista as we cannot use County BHS employees to facilitate MHSA co-

funded classes. We are hopeful we can at some point mitigate through that but in addition we need to look elsewhere. Commissioner Walsh questioned how we justify using First 5 funds and ED Pautz responded that these programs are supported by Probation, Adult Education Pathways, Community Corrections Partnership, MHSA, COS Foster/Kinship Program and Ford Foundation funds. In certain instances we can redirect funds to cover childcare to free up funding for classes, but other funding sources support the efforts. One series of classes costs about \$9,300 not including oversight and coordination.

- ED Pautz met with Camy Rightmeier with MHSA to discuss cost sharing for parenting classes. MHSA funds are limited and sponsoring a full series of classes requires diversified funding, so First 5 provides additional funds to match. It has been incredibly helpful to work with MHSA and other funding sources to be able to offer the increased number of classes throughout the county.
- We now only have one site that doesn't have a child development specialist – 90% compliance. We are (IMPACT Mentor) working with Tulelake but that model might look different next year as we will work to contract with someone to do early childhood programming.
- We have had several requests from FRCs for help with child abuse prevention month activities. In past years FRCs partnered with CSC to co-fund child abuse prevention activities but it was reported to First 5 that the CSC staff have recently said those funds are not available this year. First 5 has encouraged the FRCs to get donations from the community for prenatal to 5 programming, but they indicated that they need more time to plan and implement this effort. Commissioner Walsh questioned the audience why the Child Abuse Prevention Council is not providing them funds this year. Karen McMillan noted that they were informed that CSC can provide advertising in newspapers about what the FRCs are doing but will not provide funding to the FRCs for the child abuse prevention programs. It was noted that many families do not access newspapers. ED Pautz said First 5 has some funds to help with these efforts because Happy Camp was not operational part of this year, but reminded meeting attendees that any activities have to be for families with children 5 years old and under.
- We were officially approved by the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Kickoff was initially anticipated in July or August but we got an early approval and Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Nu, is partnering with First 5 on this program and is hosting a luncheon on April 1 as the kickoff to invite everyone to learn about the Imagination Library. Barbara Ward came to our office last week and hand wrote addresses for over 100 invitations for the event. The Commissioners are invited to come. We are one step below getting the registration process to encourage people to become donors. This is so new we haven't yet shared this information with the FRCs. For a \$25 tax deductible donation a child can receive a book each month by mail for a full year. The program requires a non-profit partner and an initial invitation to the Vestal Foundation was made however it was not the best fit for that non-profit. That said, they fully support the project and are committed to working together. YCRC has offered to take on the non-profit role for the program. Commissioner Washington said that Vestal serves as a bank and agrees it would not be a good fit.
- Two trainings by Veronica Getskow, an early childhood and community building expert, on creating cultures to nurture children will be presented on April 5 for morning and evening sessions. Mt. Shasta Elementary School will host the evening session which

will have Brain Gym as its focus. Another planned program on the Biology of the Brain and Addiction had to be cancelled because the potential trainer was seriously ill. However, the Plumas County BHS Director has agreed to bring Biology of the Brain and Addiction Beyond Substance Abuse, Cutting and Other Addictive Behavior on May 8 and May 9.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Budget Report – February 2017

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Walsh and seconded by Commissioner Washington to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and possible action for Michelle Harris to attend the Imagination

Library Conference June 2017: The previous request at the last meeting did not include this request and we had limited information at that time. We have received additional details and are ready to move ahead. It would be helpful to have a Commissioner attend also if the Commission feels it would be beneficial. ED Pautz talked to Vice Chair Perry relative to representing the Library if he thinks it would be appropriate. The conference is in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee - June 20-23. Registration for the conference is only \$150, but the travel is relatively expensive. First 5, Yreka CRC and the Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Nu representative will help with the coordination.

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Washington and seconded by Commissioner Walsh to approve Michelle Harris' attendance at the Imagination Library Conference in June 2017. Motion was approved unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action on updates/changes to Strategic Plan for FY 17-18 – what we are doing well, what we want to do and what we do not want to do:

- a. Priorities
- b. 5-year financial projection
- c. "Selection of Advisory Groups for next two years
- d. Selection of Commission Meeting Dates

This is our basic annual update to the Strategic Plan, but ED Pautz said she wanted to bring some things to the Commissioner's attention for further discussion in April. If the Commission entertains a motion this month, changes can be made and the Strategic Plan can be approved at the May Public Hearing. Many changes are due to a number of added programs. She passed out the newly completed Dashboard for review which provided an overview of all program investments over the past year. She invited the Commissioners to look at the programs, see what to continue, pick

up red flags or do differently.

Starting with the FRCs, Commissioner Washing said we definitely should keep the FRCs going. ED Pautz said beyond what we do in supporting them, how does the Commission see her role in advocating for FRCs in the community and to our partners as well as speaking on behalf of the Commission for additional funding. Commissioner Walsh asked if there was a limit on funding First 5 can direct to the FRCs. ED Pautz explained funding depends on our budget and the revenue we receive from the State. We initially had a higher fund balance but our budget for the FRCs is now around \$300,000. Responding to a question from Commissioner Hughes, ED Pautz said CSC formerly held this role but its focus has changed so presently no one group is advocating on behalf of the FRCs as a whole. ED Pautz questioned if advocacy should be in her scope of work. The FRC model is working for us because we have created solid systems and have experienced bumps in the road that we have had to work out with some of the community FRCs. Commissioners discussed that they should advocate when in the community. Commissioners indicated that County should also support the efforts as the FRCs provide a great service. We need to be the voice for these children. A formal advocacy framework has not been established because the structure looked differently when funded by multiple partners. Creating a framework for messaging over the next year was suggested by ED Pautz. Commissioner Hughes said that ED Pautz is a special, rare and unique individual and the Commission owes it to the community to let her have that ability to advocate. FRCs are incredibly important to a community and young children need strong communities and families for healthy development.

#12 – proposed goals. ED Pautz recommends we reinstate our connection with Snap Ed through Public Health. We are limited in our funds but we should reinvest and rebuild that connection and now that Michelle Harris is working more on the Home Visitation program it makes sense to better coordinate with Public Health. Michelle can do increased nutrition classes that were very popular.

#2 – Snapshot. Expand to *Help Me Grow* model. Our application is nearly complete. We are expanding beyond oral health to include vision and hearing screenings. Dr. Brooks has agreed to provide screenings in preschools.

Georgia Conroy is our volunteer coordinator for the *Reach Out and Read* program. Dr. Holst's office is in the final stages of training and will be an official site. They are so excited! We have created a "wait and read" space for children in that office. Mercy Mt. Shasta clinics in Mt. Shasta and Weed are in the application process. Quartz Valley is getting closer to considering the application process. Georgia will

drive to Bandon, Oregon and pick up furniture for this program the end of this month. This is an evidence-based model. Dr. Holst's office will do their own documentation and we will do documentation for the Mercy sites. The clinics will provide books (purchased by First 5) with a message from the doctor or Nurse Practitioner – "*please read with your child*".

A few years ago we proposed working with a program through JEDI and others to educate people to take advantage of the earned income credit. Questions were asked if we should be involved in public education. We could make it part of our work with organizations already doing the work and share on Facebook, in the community and through the FRCs as part of an effort to draw additional funds back into our county. Many people are still not benefiting from this. Working with FRCS we have the potential of greatest reach.

#21 - #27 – Goals – continue to work with partners for parenting education programs. Grow the program, including finding a way to incorporate the PCIT program to refer for one-on-one support services. Low immunization rates – make this a priority – increase public education about immunizations so families can make more informed decisions. Increase knowledge around early childhood mental health. This is a big undertaking as a county but a huge benefit to our system. The problem continues to exist and needs to be addressed. Treating them is different than treating 8 or 9 year olds. Increase community partners' education about the *Strengthening Families* framework. We are working on adopting the web based system for more access and coordinating to bring training here. There is also a web based assessment that is a great resource to take a leadership effort in promoting the *Strengthening Families* framework and expanding it beyond the IMPACT sites.

Funding priorities – based on our budget. Commissioner Washington questioned small counties funding decreasing over the next 5 years. ED Pautz explained that the worst case scenario would be that as State revenue goes down ours will decrease also. We haven't yet had to address that, but to be cautious we project the decrease.

Financial Income/Expenses: No amounts showing thru FY 21-22 as we do not have commitments from those funding sources. Even though they are not bound by commitments, we should have language to move away from short term funding and concentrate on things that are working - Home Visitation, Parenting and County Wide training funds.

Calendar: Does the 4th Wednesday still work for everyone with 11 meetings per year? Response was affirmative. The October meeting, scheduled for 10/18 is now okay on regular date of 10/26.

Commissioner Walsh announced that a presentation on Human Trafficking will be held on March 30 followed by a reception. ED Pautz noted that in addition Joie Defond connected with Mt. Shasta High School to offer training to high school students on this subject on April 4 from 3:30 to 7 pm. Chair Walters clarified this is not just the sexual piece but the work force illegals as well.

It was suggested by Commissioner Walsh that we use *Grapevine* to publicize local activities throughout the County.

Advisory Group Assignments: Keep the same. Need some site visiting - Commissioners Hughes and Washington volunteered.

ACTION: It was moved by Chair Walters and seconded by Commissioner Hughes to approve suggested changes to the Strategic Plan for FY 17-18. Motion was approved unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

DISCUSSION

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Kermith Walters, Commission Chair

Attest: _____
Cheryl E. Sanchez, Recording Secretary