

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, December 11, 2008**Every Child Counts
1100 San Leandro Blvd., Suite 120
San Leandro, Ca 94577
Conference Room A**

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Commissioners Present: *Chair:* Pamela Simms-Mackey M.D., *Vice Chair:* Helen Mendel, CMD, Yolanda Baldovinos, Alex Briscoe, Keith Carson (for agenda items 9-12), Gilda Gonzales, Rosemary Obeid, Deborah Roderick Stark, Albert Wang, M.D.**Staff Present:** Mark Friedman, Janis Burger, Rebecca Gebhart, Teddy Milder, Deborrah Bremond, Nancy Lee, ZeeLaura Page

Chair Pamela Simms-Mackey called meeting to order at 9:04am.

Chair Simms-Mackey stated that before beginning the meeting she would like to clarify the process for Public Comment today. She stated that Public Comment related to Strategic Planning will be heard after the presentation of the Strategic Plan Recommendation on Programs.

Chair Simms-Mackey stated that comment cards will be drawn randomly from the barrel and must be submitted by 10:00 am. The Public Comment will be 45 minutes and each speaker will have two minutes. Everyone will have an equal chance to speak, per the requirements of the Brown Act. She stated that she wants to remind the public that all written suggestions submitted to date from the Public have been provided to Commissioners and will continue to be.

Chair Simms-Mackey stated she would like to welcome Yolanda Baldovinos, Director of Alameda County Social Services Agency as a new Commissioner. Commissioner Baldovinos stated that she is happy to be here and looks forward to being a member of the Commission.

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

- 1. Public Comment on items not included on the Agenda**
There was no Public comment on items not included on the agenda.
- 2. Approval of minutes from November 6, 2008 – Action**

Board Action: The Commission approved the minutes from November 6, 2008 upon motion by Vice Chair Mendel, seconded by Commissioner Gonzales and unanimously carried (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent).

3. Appointment of Alex Briscoe to the Executive Committee – Action

Chief Executive Officer Mark Friedman stated that he would like to extend a formal invitation and appoint Commissioner Alex Briscoe to serve on the Executive Committee.

Board Action: The Commission approved the Appointment of Commissioner Alex Briscoe to the Executive Committee upon a motion by Vice Chair Mendel, seconded by Commissioner Wang and unanimously carried (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent).

CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Simms-Mackey stated that the next three items are consent items and the Executive Committee has reviewed the information in these reports and action items in detail. She stated that in the interest of time these items will not be discussed today but will call for a vote on the Contract Authorizations. She stated that Rebecca Gebhart can answer any questions they may have. She asked the Commissioners if they have any questions about any of the consent items.

4. Financial Report – Information
5. Investment Report – Information
6. Contract Authorizations - Action

Commissioner Obeid asked if the SART contract authorization was included in the SART matching funds the Commission approved at the previous Commission meeting. Ms. Gebhart responded that these SART contracts are for the assessment pre-pilot and not a part of the previously approved matching funds. She stated that the funds for the pre-pilot contracts are already budgeted in Family Support Services.

- California School Aged Consortium (CALSA) - \$852,141.00
- Laurin Mayeno - \$38,500.00
- Applied Survey Research - \$56,262.00
- Through the Looking Glass - \$85,000.00
- City of Berkeley - \$210,000.00
- Schacht & Associates - \$26,500.00

Board Action: The Commission approved the above contracts upon a motion by Chair Simms-Mackey, seconded by Vice Chair Mendel (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent).

- Children’s Hospital and Research Center at Oakland - \$2,033,608.10

Board Action: The Commission approved the above contract upon a motion by Vice Chair Mendel, seconded by Commissioner Wang and carried, with Chair Simms-Mackey abstaining from the vote (7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 1 absent).

- Kidango - \$70,000.00

Board Action: The Commission approved the above contract upon a motion by Vice Chair Mendel, seconded by Chair Simms-Mackey and carried, with Commissioner Wang abstaining from the vote (7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 1 absent).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair Simms-Mackey stated that the next two infrastructure items were discussed in detail by the Executive Committee.

7. Personnel Policies- Reduction in Workforce Policy – Action

Ms. Gebhart stated the proposed revision is the addition of a Reduction in Workforce Policy. The policy provides policy guidance on practice in the event of a reduction in workforce due to changes in the Strategic Plan, external reductions in the monthly tobacco tax allocation, and other organizational contractions deemed essential by the Commission. The proposed policy was drafted utilizing data, recommended practices and policy language resources obtained from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). This policy was reviewed by the employment law firm of Wiley Price & Radulovich, a firm specializing in public sector employment law, and by County Counsel of Alameda County.

Vice Chair Mendel stated that she thinks this is very forward thinking and applauds staff for being proactive.

Board Action: The Commission approved the Personnel Policies- Reduction in Workforce Policy upon a motion Vice Chair Mendel, seconded by Commissioner Briscoe and unanimously carried (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent).

8. Cost of Living Adjustment Recommendation – Action

Ms. Gebhart reported that the 3% COLA recommendation was reviewed by the Executive Committee who supported the proposal. She stated that it is the Commission's responsibility to determine if a COLA is approved. She stated that it is possible that Alameda County will not be awarding a COLA to unrepresented managers. Commissioner Roderick-Stark stated that the recommendation was already reviewed by Executive Committee members and she recommends approval.

Board Action: The Commission approved the 3% Cost of Living Adjustment Recommendation upon motion Commissioner Roderick-Stark, seconded by Chair Simms-Mackey and unanimously carried (7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent).

PROGRAM

9. State Commission and Association – Information

Mr. Friedman reported that Sacramento has not come to a budget agreement and it is beginning to impact everyone in different ways. He reported that the Managed Care Institute MRMIB that operates the Healthy Families Program is considering a freeze on new enrollments and is asking First 5 to pickup the cost of new 0-5 cases. They are asking First 5 to contribute the funds so that the freeze on new enrollments does not have to occur. Mr. Friedman distributed a letter to First 5 California vice Chair Dave Kears. Mr. Friedman stated that this is not an action item today but an update to be discussed at the next Commission meeting in January.

Vice Chair Mendel asked where would First 5 budget the funds to support this effort. Mr. Friedman stated the funds would come from the sustainability reserve and that the contribution is meant to be a one time commitment. He stated that there are some reservations that if First 5 commits the one time contribution it could potentially put First 5 funds into play for the future. He commented that it is the hope it will build up good will if First 5 makes the one time contribution.

Vice Chair Mendel asked what is the State First 5 Commission going to contribute? Mr. Friedman answered that each county is asked to make a contribution. He stated that this contribution is not considered supplantation because the funds will be used for new enrollments.

Commissioner Mendel asked can we include a legal statement worded so that First 5 commits to a one time only contribution and not a yearly commitment. Mr. Friedman responded that we will include this in the language and we can have further discussion at the January meeting.

Mr. Friedman announced that for the 2nd time in First 5 history the State Conference will be held in the Bay Area in April. Mr. Friedman will provide the dates and information to the Commission members.

Commissioner Carson arrived at the meeting.

10. 2007-08 Annual Report Presentation – Information

Teddy Milder, Director of Evaluation & Technology presented the Annual Report to the Commission. She acknowledged all First 5 staff for their contribution, and Evaluation/Tech staff for their efforts in compiling and analyzing the data. She asked that Commissioners hold questions until after the presentation.

Ms. Milder reported that the Annual Report was organized around the 4 goals to reveal inter-dependency & linkages of all First 5 strategies. She stated she highlighted a few (of many) results under each outcome. She stated “the story behind the results” helps in understanding the impact with client/provider quotes and stories to enrich the results

and that systems impact section under each outcome she stated that there is detailed diversity, access and program reach data in appendix a.

The Annual Report was presented as follows:

GOAL 1: Support Optimal Parenting Social & Emotional Health, & Economic Self-Sufficiency of Families

Outcome 1A: Enhanced Parenting & Stronger Families

- Over 50% of community grants focus including neighborhood-based parent/child activities
 - Playgroups
 - Science-Related Classes
 - Music, Art and Dance
- 740 parenting education & support groups serving 1,623 parents in English, Spanish, Cantonese & Vietnamese
- Parent support at prenatal classes, pediatric visits, school readiness workshops, one-on-one parenting sessions, parent-child therapy
- Enhanced knowledge of child development and increased confidence in parenting
 - 94% of parents served by parenting partnership reported they felt more confident as a parent
 - Special start families reported becoming better observers and more knowledgeable
- Better informed, more empowered parents
 - Ability to advocate increased: training parent to navigate public school systems
- Less isolated, more connected families
 - Use of peer educators to foster rapport
 - Forged relationships with one another that extended beyond the program

Parenting Systems Impacts

- Intensive Family Support Screening
 - 2,787 caretakers screened 2002-2008
 - Percent of caretakers screened increased over time
 - Average of 27% of those screened were positive
 - Positive screens varied slightly across programs
 - Rates of depression vary little across r/e
 - No significant difference between English and non-English-speaking mothers

Outcome 1B: Children are free from abuse & neglect

- 733 hours of respite care
- 184 police officers and 172 dispatchers trained on impact of domestic violence on young children
- Child friendly improvements to forensic interview sites:
 - 95 children interviewed
 - 50% referred for mental services were connected to services
- Transitioned ARS to social services

Outcome 1C: Enhanced economic self-sufficiency among families

- Grantees and Family Support Programs helped families to:
 - connect to resources with complicated rules and eligibility requirements
 - establish longer term goals for education & employment
 - advocate to find stable housing
- Earn It, Keep It, Save It
 - increased number of sites assisting families to receive Earned Income Tax Credit
 - Parents/caretakers of 933 children 0 to 5 received services
 - 1,391 families claimed \$1,755,078 in child tax credits

GOAL 2: Improve the Development, Behavioral Health and School Readiness of Young Children

Outcome 2A: Improved child social, developmental & emotional well-being

- 22 child care centers serving 1, 368 children received mental health consultation
- Incorporated pre/post DECA assessments to identify child behavior and protective factors into consultation model
- 294 children in 16 centers demonstrated improved results

Outcome 2A: Systems Impact

- Increased capacity to identify developmental/social-emotional concerns
- Increased training on developmental screening
- Over 200 providers trained to provide early childhood mental health services through Harris training program
- SART strategic plan and identified shared funding

Outcome 2B: Increased access to resources for children & families with special needs

- Grants expanded services and linked 797 families to existing resources
- 496 newborns/children received hearing screening and diagnostic services
- Inclusion coordinators at R&Rs offered 37 provider trainings on ADA & inclusive programs and provided telephone support for 255 parents of children with special needs

- Healthy steps specialists facilitated communication between the regional center and pediatricians about individual family service plans

Outcome 2C: Increased professional development and retention of ECE providers

- 14 of 25 English Language Learning students in the Merritt College Emerging Teacher Program earned AA degrees
- 484 Corps members received stipends; 20 members graduated or were ready to transfer to 4 year programs
- 460 ECE providers attended Training Coalition community-based training (50% center-based; 32% family child care; 18% other) – impact evaluation yielding promising results – (final report ready January 09)
- System Professional Development Coordinators at community colleges worked to achieve articulation of 8 core courses for the Cal State University system

Outcome 2D: Increased access to high quality early care and education

- Consultation & quality improvement services for 17 family child care and 5 Center classrooms in providers' primary language: Chinese (3), Spanish (7) & English (9)

Outcome 2D: Quality early care and education

- All programs demonstrated improvements

Outcome 2E: Increased school readiness

- Summer pre-k expanded
- 29 schools now have transition activities year-round
- 3 districts matched first 5 funds to hire full-time transition coordinators
- K-ECE collaboratives shared approaches to school readiness that resulted in 42% of participants implementing new strategies
- Literacy
 - 85% of parents receiving home visits/grants reported reading, singing & telling stories to their children at least 3 times/week
 - Over 44,000 books were distributed in multiple languages by case managers, grantees and pediatric providers
 - Raising a Reader implemented in 8 ECE sites in Oakland resulted in increased library visits by families

GOAL 3: Improve the overall health of young children

Outcome 3A: Increased support for breastfeeding mothers

- 49% of special start and 36% teen services mothers breastfed for at least 6 months

Outcome 3B: Children are healthy, well-nourished and receive preventive and on-going health and dental care from a primary provider

- Home-based asthma supports resulted in fewer hospitalizations and ER visits

Outcome 3B: Improved health

- Health outcomes remain high for families receiving ECC services
- Innovative grants promoting healthy eating and exercise
 - 100% of 107 parents report they are using what they learned in a parenting class on eating and exercise in Spanish at Head Start sites
 - Over 1,000 children & parents experienced a bilingual live puppet theatre show supporting healthy food choices at 9 preschool venues

Ms. Milder stated that a detailed informal training report will be provided to the Commission at a future meeting.

Commissioner Carson asked for a description of the relationship First 5 has with Alameda County Behavioral Health Care. Deborrah Bremond, Director of Family Support Services, stated that First 5 has a relatively positive relationship with Early Childhood Mental Health and is attempting to develop a partnership by applying for the SAMSA grant. She stated that there is an ongoing relationship to help expand capacity.

Commissioner Carson asked how in-depth the observations of the children are during the mental health consultations. Ms. Bremond responded that one of the things that staff has really tried to focus on in mental health consultations are to look at children in their classroom setting. The mental health consultant is paired with a teacher to assess the children. She stated that there are some children that are determined to need treatment and for those children there is a referral made.

Janis Burger Deputy Director commented that First 5 continues to try to establish a partnership with Behavioral Health Care but it has been a challenge getting Behavioral Health to focus on Early Childhood. She stated that we are still trying to convince them of the benefits of partnering on the grant and they are not sure that they want to commit to a system of care for early childhood.

Ms. Milder commented that the screenings discussed in the Annual Report presentation are not conducted by Behavioral Health Care. The referral to Behavioral Health Care comes after the screening and it is determined that there is a need for a referral.

Commissioner Carson asked if the screening tools are available in different languages. Ms. Milder responded that the tools are available in 8 different languages. She stated that having the tool available in different languages does not mean it is administered in a culturally appropriate manner, or that the person issuing the tool has the cultural training.

Commissioner Carson referred to Outcome 3B asthma results and asked how closely First 5 is working with hospitals and which ones are they working with. Ms. Milder responded that First 5 works with Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland and the Alameda County Public Health does home visits. Ms. Burger commented that

the largest numbers of cases come through the emergency room and the focus is on prevention and primary care providers.

Commissioner Roderick Stark commented that staff is working on applying for the SAMSA grant to establish the relationship with Behavioral Health Care. She stated that it is really important that the application be a joint partnership between Behavioral Health Care and First 5.

Ms. Burger stated that First 5 staff has met with Behavioral Health Care and will be notified by Friday if Behavioral Health Care is interested in partnering on the SAMSA grant. She stated that this partnership will tie into and link with the SART system.

Commissioner Wang asked why Behavioral Health Care has reservations about the partnership.

Ms. Burger responded that Behavioral Health Care is hesitant to make a commitment to this population after the grant ends. She stated it is about sustainability and their long term commitment to investing in early childhood.

Commissioner Briscoe stated that he would like to follow up with Behavioral Health Care to find out what their resistance is. Ms. Burger stated that staff would really appreciate it if Commissioner Briscoe could follow up with Behavioral Health Care. She stated that there is already a grant writer on board and a decision to move forward needs to be made quickly.

11. Follow-up on Strategies from prior Commission meeting

- **Review of final strategies, per Commission request**

Mike Smith SEI consultant stated that he would like to give Commissioners the opportunity to take a look at what was discussed at the November meeting before moving on into new territory. Mr. Smith referred to the strategies document. He stated that the chart was updated based on the changes recommended at the November meeting. The Commission requested to revisit this chart. He asked if the Commissioners had additional changes to strategies.

- **Re-visit API scores as targeting method, per Commission**

Ms. Milder presented the Executive Summary from Dr. Iton, Life and Death from Unnatural Causes: Health and Social Inequities in Alameda County, and Alameda County Public Health Department, Community, Assessment, Planning and Education (CAPE) Unit, 2008. Ms. Milder stated that the CAPE unit was really responsive to providing a report on life expectancy and infant mortality and API proxies for the other health disparities in the county.

Ms. Milder reported the following:

API areas

- zip codes that link to schools with low API scores (1-3)
- correlates with areas such as East and West Oakland, South Hayward, San Lorenzo, Emeryville, Livermore, Cherryland
- Low API areas are geographic concentrations of inequality and correlate with high rates of disparity, for example
 - low birth weight
 - infant mortality
 - life expectancy
 - child abuse hot line calls
 - poverty and violence

Low API areas

- families who live in low API areas face more barriers in accessing services in terms of
 - number of services available
 - linguistically & culturally appropriate
 - quality child care
- low API areas include diverse populations, e.g. highest number of languages for children entering kindergarten
 - for example, 61% of children in k-5th grades in one school in San Lorenzo are English language learners

Mr. Smith stated that the recommendation from staff is that low API scores remains as one of the proxies for targeting services because of the link with geographic areas and zip codes.

Commissioner Wang stated that the issue with using API scores as a proxy is that children sometimes do not attend schools in the neighborhood they live in. He stated that perhaps the focus should be on targeting the neighborhoods. Ms. Milder responded that the focus will be on both the neighborhood and using the API.

- **Present wording changes from staff**

Mr. Smith stated that the suggested revised wording was to change the title of the Neighborhood Based School Readiness strategy to Community-Based School Readiness.

Commissioner Carson commented that in some communities particularly in west Oakland community organizations are not always coordinated and some organization actually resist coordination. He stated that in some Oakland communities where he works there is some current discussion on working with the SF foundation. He suggested contacting the SF foundation and researching the lessons learned and figuring out how to over come them.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that Hewlett Packard published a report on what happened in West Oakland.

Mr. Friedman stated that First 5 experienced similar resistance to collaborate with the ARS services in West Oakland. He stated that First 5 received two different proposals and had to choose one because the organizations declined to collaborate. He stated that it is critical to identify organizations that have the ability to establish positive relationships.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that even where collaboration is almost impossible it is essential to work with those communities and organization. She recommended changing the wording in the strategy to address this conversation.

Ms. Milder suggested adding the words “as appropriate” to incorporate those agencies that may not want to collaborate with each other.

The amendment is to change the Neighborhood Based School Readiness to read Community Based School Readiness.

The second amendment is to add “as appropriate” to the 3rd paragraph of the Neighborhood Based School Readiness strategy.

Board Action: The Commission approved the amendments to the Strategy Recommendation upon a motion by Chair Simms-Mackey, seconded by vice Chair Mendel and unanimously carried (9 in favor, 0 opposed).

12. Presentation of Program Recommendation – Information

Mr. Smith stated that the format for the Program Recommendations presentation will use the same basic approach that was used for the Strategy Recommendation. He stated that to move through this process we will take some time to have staff walk through Program Recommendations one strategy at a time.

Ms. Burger presented that staff developed the recommendations including program modifications and justifications based on the following assumptions for consideration by the Commission. She stated that the Commission Strategic Planning Task Force has reviewed the Program Recommendations and have incorporated their suggestions into the final recommendations.

Assumptions for Staff Program Recommendations:

1. Staff recommendations are based on nine years of experience including: quantitative and qualitative program data, client and community input, knowledge of the programs, best practices in the field and the needs of our community.
2. Suggested modifications are based on lessons learned, input from Commissioners and community input. Modifications include: addressing disparities, the need for integrated services, a focus on systems approaches and sustainability.

3. The majority of programs address disparities (health, access, education, special needs and focus on high risk populations or high risk communities). Addressing disparities for 0 to 5 is focused on prevention and early intervention. Some of our programs are county-wide and serve the broader community.
4. Cultural, linguistic, geographic and special needs access are integrated into all programs.
5. The Community Grants programs link with all strategies to seed new ideas and innovation and to increase community capacity to serve young children. It is currently placed in the provider capacity building strategy. Grant priorities will be developed after approval of the Strategic Plan and will align with the recommendations.
6. Where appropriate programs were identified that could be institutionalized into other systems at the end of 2-4 years.
7. Advocacy and policy development at the local, state and national level will be part of strategies and programs as appropriate.
8. If First 5 funds are dramatically impacted by state budget modifications, the strategic plan will need to be reconsidered.

Ms. Burger stated that the Program Recommendations are not detailed and do not incorporate program budgeting.

Nancy Lee Director of Early Care and Education presented the program recommendations for the Strategy: Integrated Child Care Quality Support Systems.

Ms. Burger presented the Program Recommendation for the Strategy: Community Based School Readiness Services.

Ms. Bremond presented the Program Recommendation for the Strategy: Home Based Family Support.

Ms. Burger presented the Program Recommendation for the Strategy: Coordinated SART.

Ms. Bremond presented the program recommendation for the Strategy: Child Health Promotions.

Ms. Burger presented the Program Recommendation for the Strategy: Community Based Parent Child Activities and the Strategy: Provider Capacity Building.

Commissioner Carson referred to the data in the Annual Report and stated that he would like to see if the previous goals in each of the programs were met.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that attaching dollar amounts with reports would be interesting to see. She stated that it would be helpful to see each program and the previous goal and if that goal was reached and the dollar amount spent. Ms. Milder responded that each program has contracts issues and specific goals are imbedding into those contracts. She stated that after programs are determined a new accountability framework will be developed.

Commissioner Briscoe asked in the targeted areas where there are consultants, and training, how many of the participants were previous recipients and have now become consultants or trainers. He stated he would like to see some data collected to show this. Ms. Burger responded that there is some anecdotal data. She stated that this data is not currently being collected but staff can think about how to collect this data in the future.

Chair Simms-Mackey asked why is there a recommendation to discontinue the BA minor at UC Berkeley and BA program at Mills College. She stated that she wanted to be sure that there are not any students currently enrolled with First 5 funding that would be affected by the discontinuing of the program. Ms. Lee stated that the hope is that the Universities will continue the program without First 5 funding. Ms. Burger stated that the program was a 3 year pilot and there are no current students enrolled.

Commissioner Carson left the meeting.

13. Public Comment (on Program Recommendation)

Dr. John Suguyama from Emery Unified School District stated that he is in support of integrated programs and supports the program recommendations.

Sarah Hicks-Kilday from Working for Quality Child Care stated that she is concern about the discontinuing of the BA minor. She is in support of providing stipends so that providers can afford to take classes.

Ellen Dektar from the Child Care Planning Council stated that she is in support of the business plan training. She stated that she is concerned about the Facility Improvement grant being targeted to QII participants only. She suggested leaving some flexibility n the program.

Clare Bainer from Blue Skies for Children in Oakland stated that she did not see information pertaining to child care programs that are not subsidized in the recommendations. She stated that she wondered if the disparities focus was limiting and puts a high tally on the outcomes.

Amanda Fenton from the Oakland Zoo stated that she is in support of the Community Grants program. She suggested First 5 consider the benefits of capital program support.

Rory Darrah, an Early Childhood Consultant, stated that she is delighted that staff is recommending a program that has integrated, universal and targeted approaches. She suggested that staff keep ensuring Early Care and Education is integrated. She stated

that she is in support of the SART system and encourages evaluation, assessment and systems change.

Candida Tapia from Merritt College stated that she encourages addressing the significant needs of English language learners in the county and urges the Commission to continue Professional Development for providers in the county.

Pacha Eisenstein from Bananas stated that she is in support of the continuation of Professional Development and informal training. She stated that she is concerned about targeting in Community Grants when working with parents. She stated that there is a need for Career Advisors who understand ECE systems and can talk to providers about career options.

Autumn King from Chabot Science and Space Center stated that she is in support of family and child programs and urges the Commission to consider the benefits of capital project support.

Grace Orenstein from The Link to Children stated that she is in support of Mental Health consultation and integrating Early Childhood Mental Health and Early Childhood Education.

Renee Herzfield from 4C's of Alameda County stated that she supports the work that has been done and appreciates the integration. She urges the commission to look at infrastructure and quality of training and how that impacts the children.

Kim DiGiacomo from LIIF stated that she supports continuing funding for capital grants for childcare. She stated that it is critical to preserve and create new spaces in childcare in the county. She suggested that staff hold off on limiting the renovation dollars to the Quality Counts program. She stated that the decision should be made when it is known what the funding parameters will be.

Diane Ketelle from Mills College stated that she supports program recommendations to continue Higher Education programs.

Judy Kriege from Bananas stated that she suggested First 5 maintain a broader training and Professional Development support and continue supporting informal training.

Angie Garling from the Child Care Planning Council suggested the continued funding of the Child Development Corps at the highest level. She suggested keeping a balance between universal and targeted approaches. She suggested that staff think about evaluation to look at what is realistic in terms of measurement.

Nadiyah Taylor from the Child Care Planning Council stated that she has concerns about the coaching component of the Child Care Quality Support System and its relationship to the Enhanced Mentoring program, the facility grants targeting, and the summer Pre-K transition to districts because she is not sure that they have the capacity to take on those programs.

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler from BAHIA stated that she is in support of the Systems Support and Higher Education recommendation. She stated that she hopes that the funding that will be cut from higher education institutions will be redirected to other higher education institutions.

Janis Zamudio from Bananas stated that she would like to remind the Commission that it is important for parents to feel supported and have a venue to go to because it is empowering for parents. She stated that the Mills program has been a great Professional Development opportunity. It has been a bridge for education and what is happening in the field.

Darlene Johnston from Little Mud Puddles Learning Center in Fremont stated that she would like to see the same opportunities offered to private and for profit facilities so that all children have the opportunity to benefit from First 5 services.

Tasha Henneman from Bananas stated that she is here in support of Higher Education and parenting services.

14. Discussion, Revision and Adoption of Program Recommendation

Kelly Marshall SEI Consultant stated that at this point the focus is towards a motion to adopt or amend the Program Strategies. She stated that we will review the topics that have already been identified as needing discussion and compile a list of items to add to that list. She stated that Commissioner Gonzales asked in the Task Force meeting that programs have specific performance objectives related to narrowing disparities. She stated that from previous discussion Commissioner Obeid asked how the Facility Improvement grants will be targeted. She stated that now is the time to discuss the Program Recommendations. She asked Commissioners if they have any general comments.

Commissioner Wang asked when the prioritization of programs will take place. Mr. Smith responded that the prioritizing will take place during the funding parameter discussion in January, when the Commission adopts what they want to emphasize for funding.

Commissioner Obeid commented on the discussion on evaluation and asked where does that fit into the program piece in terms of the Commissions role in the allocation of funding.

Ms. Marshall stated she will begin with the Integrating Child Care Quality. She asked if there are any issues or anything that the Commissioners would like to discuss.

Commissioner Stark stated that she would like to address the question raised during public comment regarding coaching in terms of mentoring. She asked would the training for consultants under the Integrated Child Care Quality Support System replace the

Enhanced Mentor Program. Ms. Lee stated that the Enhanced Mentor program will continue to be available.

Commissioner Obeid asked how Facility Improvement grants will be targeted. Ms. Lee responded that the grants will be targeted to agencies participating in the Quality Counts Program. She stated that the agency and start up grants are universal, however the larger 50 thousand dollar grants will be tied to the quality system so that it is known that the investment in facilities will be tied to quality programs.

Commissioner Gonzales asked how the agencies we fund will be held accountable for addressing disparities. Ms. Burger responded that every contract and grant has specific objectives. As we develop the accountability framework addressing disparities will be incorporated. Ms. Milder commented that it is one thing to set targets that we can impact for the families that we serve but First 5 alone cannot impact disparities countywide.

Ms. Marshall stated that she would like to confirm that there are no suggested amendments to the Program Recommendation at this time and that disparities will be addressed before the January meeting.

Commissioner Obeid stated that her question regarding evaluation was addressing evaluation overall not just the aspect of addressing disparities.

Ms. Milder commented that there is a distinction between evaluation and accountability. We do not have the exact details of the process today but we will be starting next week to design the new accountability framework.

Chair Simms-Mackey stated that she would like to see some flexibility in the Facility Improvement grants so that not all of the grants have to be a part of the Quality Counts participating programs. She stated that she would like to make the grants available to those who may not be able to commit to the 2 year program.

Commissioner Obeid agreed with Chair Simms-Mackey stating that she can see the benefit of having the grants tied to the quality piece however she would like to see some flexibility in this program.

Ms. Lee responded that it is a challenge to make Program Recommendation without having funding parameters. She stated that the staff thinking was that if the facility grants funding was low there might be a need to target and link the grants to Quality Counts, however if there is enough funding then there would be room to have more flexibility in the program.

Ms. Marshall asked if there is a suggestion to amend the Facility Improvements grants modification. Commissioner Wang recommended incorporating the word flexibility.

Commissioner Obeid asked what process is going to be used to determine the community grants priorities.

Malia Ramler, Community Grants Administrator reported that there is still time to determine the community grants priorities because the Commission approved an extension to the current community grants cycle. The RFP for the next funding cycle will not be available until July 2009. Staff will be making recommendation to the Commission prior to the RFP process. She stated that the goal is to be transparent, comprehensive, and in line with the Strategic Plan. She stated that she envisions a balance of innovation and the value of continuity of care. Other determining factors would be the funding parameters, the situation analysis, community input, and the program summaries.

Mr. Smith stated that in the January meeting one of the components will be a Commission decision on the overall budget. At that time you will be given guidance on the amount of funding that provides the context to work on developing recommendations for specific targeting.

Commissioner Stark stated that she would like to table the parent support and developmental play groups suggestions that have come up in public comment.

Commissioner Gonzales suggested that staff be prepared by the January meeting so that if there are any items remaining that need clarification they are brought to the table at the January meeting.

Ms. Milder stated that the following items remain on the list for further discussion:

- Training Institute
- Cultural Assess Service
- Public Policy Agenda
- Health Insurance and Health Access
- The unknown of state Matching Funds
- State Budget and what the impact will be
- Community Grants priorities

Ms. Marshall stated that there is only one amendment to the Program Recommendations and that amendment is to add flexibility to the Facility Improvement Grants.

Board Action: The Commission approved the Program Recommendation with one amendment to the Facility Improvement Grant upon a motion by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Chair Simms-Mackey and unanimously carried (8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent).

15. Next steps in Strategic Planning – Information

Mr. Smith reported that the January meeting focus will be on Funding Allocation and setting parameters and guidelines that will guide staff. He stated that he will provide the revised recommendations with amendments to the Strategies and Program recommendations. He stated that between now and the January meeting staff will meet

with the Strategic Planning Task Force and prepare recommendations for the Fund Allocation to bring to the full Commission.

Ms. Burger asked if the Task Force members could take a moment to schedule the task force meeting. She proposed the meeting be held the morning of Jan 15th.

The following meetings were scheduled:

Disparities Discussion Wednesday, January 7th, 3:30pm-5:00pm
Task Force Meeting Thursday, January 15th, 8:30am-10:30am

Announcements

Mr. Friedman reported that First 5 Alameda County made a donation this year to the Alameda County Food Bank in the amount of \$7,500.00 using discretionary funds.

Vice Chair Mendel shared that Mark Friedman received an award at the National Philanthropy Day Event.

Commissioner Obeid stated that she would like to thank the First 5 staff and expressed her appreciation for all of the work that they have done.

16. Adjourn

Chair Simms-Mackey adjourned the meeting at 12:50 pm.