

First 5 Plumas
Plumas County Children and Families Commission
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

Commission Meeting:

1. Roll Call:

Treasurer, Kendrah Fredricksen called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Commissioners, staff, consultants, and grantees introduced themselves.

Commissioners Present: Rachelle Hines, Dwight Cerceola, Neal Caiazzo, Colleen Kroll, Andrew Woodruff and Kendrah Fredricksen

Commissioners Absent: Pam Becwar and Kevin Bean

Staff Present: Ellen Vieira, Executive Director

Consultants Present: Evaluators Lisa Watson and Kim Hopkinson from SEI

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 6, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Cerceola made a motion to approve the minutes of January 6, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Kroll seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Commissioners Hines, Fredricksen, Caiazzo, Cerceola, Kroll, Woodruff all vote aye. **Motion Carried**

3. Fiscal Items

3a. Budget Report FY 20-21-Commission will take action to accept the report Treasurer Fredricksen presented the budget report to the Commission. A total of 40% of the budget has been spent. Most of the contracts have not been invoiced, so there is an expectation that they will be spent out by June 2021. Ellen also reported that Kindergarten Roundup will move forward this year as a hybrid model due to Covid.

Motion: Commissioner Caiazzo made a motion to accept the 20-21 Budget Report. Commissioner Hines seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Commissioners Hines, Fredricksen, Caiazzo, Cerceola, Kroll, and Woodruff all vote aye. **Motion Carried**

3b. Commission will take action on a proposed Budget Calendar FY 2021-2022

Motion: Commissioner Woodruff made a motion to approve the Budget Calendar FY 2021-2022. Commissioner Kroll seconded the motion.

Discussion: Director Vieira explained that the annual budget calendar is the first step in the annual budget process. The calendar includes a timeline and who is responsible for the calendared budget activities.

Roll Call: Commissioners Hines, Fredricksen, Caiazzo, Cerceola, Kroll and Woodruff all vote aye. **Motion Carried**

- 3c. Commission will take action on a Request for Qualifications for a licensed mental health therapist-Not to exceed \$60,000 for the period July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023.

Motion: Commissioner Cerceola made a motion to approve the Request for Qualifications to be published as presented. Commissioner Woodruff seconded the motion.

Commissioner Kendrah noted that the Child Abuse Prevention may be allocating some funding for mental health for children through the Plumas Rural Services CHAT program.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Hines, Fredricksen, Caiazzo, Kroll, Cerceola, and Woodruff all vote aye. **Motion Carried**

4. Public Hearing-Statutory Compliance Item

- a. Commission will take action to accept the First 5 California Annual Report FY 19-20

Motion: Commissioner Caiazzo made a motion to accept the First 5 California Annual Report FY 19-20. Commissioner Kroll seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Hines, Fredricksen, Caiazzo, Cerceola, Kroll and Woodruff all vote aye. **Motion Carried**

5. Public Comment: None

6. Reports

- 6a. Executive Director's Report-The following items were reported on during the Director's Report.

1. Small Population County Augmentation (SPCFA): On January 28th, the First 5 California voted to approve the SPCFA for 3.25 years. The amount SPCFA that was approved for Plumas is \$793,443. This year F5CA requires a Request for Applications to be submitted. Ellen reports that she will submit the narrative and budget this week. Ellen also noted that First 5 Plumas will have a \$25,000 annual reduction in the SPCFA funding.

2. First 5 California Book Program: Ellen reported that the value of the books will go directly to the First 5 Plumas Imagination Library program.
3. Form 700 is due in April: Ellen emailed each Commissioner their 700 form, which is due on April 1st.

6b. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Woodruff reports that he is leaving his position as director of Public Health effective on April 2nd. He has been working with the County on his replacement. Andrew reassured the Health Department's continued partnership and support of First 5. He does not know at this time what the timeline is for the new directors' membership on the Commission.

Public Health continues with the Covid-19 vaccine efforts, right now we are working on the 65 plus older group as well as three sectors, which includes education and child care settings. We have made steady progress through all the current sectors required by the state.

Plumas County is part of a regional model for our Medi-Cal managed care, we have Anthem Blue Cross and California Health and Wellness and for years our county partners have been interested in changing that model to a county-operated health system such as Partnership. Partnership is a non-profit managed care provider in the north and also serves counties such as Lassen. For years counties have been dissatisfied with the regional model and how we might exit. The current contract with Anthem was approved for another five years without County input. One big problem is referring Medi-Cal patients to specialty care. Plumas County is therefore joining nine other counties, such as Butte, Calusa, and Nevada. We are following the state's process to send a non-binding Letter of Intent signed by the Chair of the BOS and the Executive Director of Partnerships. It's the first step in joining Partnership, a larger network of care. This would create an environment to find a specialty of care. This wouldn't happen until 2024.

7. Program Development

- a. Funded Program Evaluation Report FY 20-21 presented by: Lisa Watson, SEI Evaluation Contractor.

Lisa reports that due to Covid there has been, decreased family participation, decreased availability of service providers, and a change in the service delivery approach. Most of the Public Health nurses have been working on Covid and have not been able to spend as much time on serving individual families.

Thirty-six households, 46 children and 36 parents and caregivers have been served to date this fiscal year. Home visiting providers are serving about half of what is usually served prior to Covid. Families First was most dramatically impacted by Covid-19.

While the majority of services have been provided in the home, there was a dramatic increase in the use of phone consultations and office visits. A total of 1,672 services have been provided to families. Child development activities consistently are the most commonly provided services. The bulk of the referrals to the home visiting programs are medical providers. The bulk of provider referrals are to medical/dental providers. Due to Covid, more providers are making referrals to the First 5 Plumas Early Learning Specialist.

Families have barriers to accessing critical services such as child care and health care. Home visitors are reporting impacts on services delivery such as, restriction on in-person services, reliance on parents to conduct the ASQ screenings and providers are losing contact with families.

Conclusion: Due to the impact of Covid-19 on data collection, meaningful conclusions about expected Commission outcomes cannot be drawn based on the low number of families served and the limited data set available.

Recommendations: 1. The Commission should utilize comparison data from FY 19-20 and 20-21, 2. Evaluation should incorporate a qualitative element of data collection, and 3. Evaluation should not be limited to the framework set-forth in the strategic plan for this fiscal term.

The Midyear Evaluation Report FY 20-21 will be posted on the Commission's web site at www.first5plumas.com

Motion: Commissioner Hines made a motion to approve the Midyear Evaluation Status Report FY 20-21. Commissioner Caiazzo seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Hines, Fredricksen, Caiazzo, Cerceola, Kroll and Woodruff all vote aye. **Motion Carried**

Home Visiting Strengthening Project: Goals: Increased cross-agency understanding of local population needs, Establishment of an interconnected local early childhood systems, and Improved coordination and collaboration.

The Home Visiting Coalition has been revitalized with partners participating in the project. A unified Vision and Values have been established. An Environmental Scan has been developed utilizing local, state and Census data. The project is looking to assess how Covid has impacted the system and how to strengthen the system moving forward. A Community Summit is scheduled for March 10th from 9 am to 1 pm. We are looking for both providers and families to participate. A \$50 gift certificate will be provided to any parent attending.

b. Discussion and recommendation on the First 5 Plumas evaluation database.

Kim Hopkinson from SEI presented a PowerPoint on the current Microsoft Access platform and what improvements are needed. The current database does not produce reports on all areas of possible inquiry. There is currently less ability to update data management tools as programs evolve. Most programs use a cloud-based platform.

The development of a cloud-based management system will: build on more modern technologies, make it easy to collect, report, and collaborate with the data, and display only what is relevant to the logged-in user via user permissions and allow for approved users on any device, anywhere to access the data.

SEI has met with several database designers that specialize in development of cloud-based data management tools. They have provided quotes to build a new database using an existing cloud-based platform (Knack).

SEI received three quotes that ranged from \$2,500 to \$10,000. SEI recommends the \$7,500 to \$10,000 range. Commissioner Fredricksen asked if First 5 California provides an on-line system for the counties to submit data? It doesn't at this time. Would we be able to share a data system between counties? Lisa stated that all counties are unique in what they fund and they all have different systems. It would cost about \$200 annually for the hosting and there would be additional costs for updating. Small additions can be made in-house.

8. **Public Comment:** Jana McDowell commented that the nurses working on the Families First program sent mailings to their clients on a regular basis during Covid.

Jaye Bruce thanked the Commission for providing a mental health consultant that will serve families and children in the home.

9. **Next Meeting Dates**

DISCUSSION/ACTION

- ◆ April 7, 2021 Canceled
- ◆ May 5, 2021 (Zoom)
- ◆ June 2, 2021 (Zoom)

10. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Fredricksen adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Submitted by: Ellen Vieira, Executive Director