

Approved 4/14/2006

FIRST FIVE SACRAMENTO COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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MINUTES: February 10, 2006

Attending Members: Jude Antonyappan (Chair), Al Blum, Ernie Brown, Effie Hubbard-Ruggles, Terry Jones (Vice Chair), Matt Mengelkoch, Suzanne Skrabo, Tosca Toussaint, Betsy Uda, Steve Wirtz

Absent Members: Sharon Mamuyac-Floyd (excused), Taheerah Mujahid (excused), Theresa Roberts (excused), Amy Lin Tan (excused)

Staff: Michele Watts

Commission Staff: Lin Batten, Linda Fong-Somera, Debra Payne

Issues	Discussion	Actions/Recommendations
1. Call to Order. Welcome & Introductions. Chair's Report.	<p>The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM and welcomed everyone. Self-introductions were made.</p> <p><u>Chair's Report</u> The Advisory Committee's recommendations concerning the Draft Strategic Plan Update were presented to the Commission on February 6, 2006 by Vice Chair Terry Jones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Commission asked for further clarification on the recommendation: "The Advisory Committee recommends that alcohol and drug issues be explicitly incorporated and integrated into the planning of relevant strategic hierarchy goals and results." This issue will be discussed further later in the meeting.➤ The Commission was unable to accept the recommendation: "Under the Access to Quality Early Care and Education Results-Specific Approach and the School Readiness Initiative, replace the term 'developmentally appropriate practices' with 'evidence-based effective practice' for increased specificity and clarity." The term "developmentally appropriate practices" is universally used within the early care and education field and is included as a requirement for local school readiness programs receiving matching funds under the First 5 California School Readiness Initiative. The intent of the Advisory Committee that practices be evidence-based and effective will still be met using the existing terminology and a footnote indicating this will be included in the final version of the Update.	
2. Minutes: January 13, 2006 January 27, 2006	<p>The Minutes of January 13, 2006 were approved as written.</p> <p>The Minutes of January 27, 2006 were approved as written.</p>	<p>M/S Betsy Uda/Suzanne Skrabo to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2006 as written. Approved.</p> <p>M/S Ernie Brown/Terry Jones to approve the Minutes of January 27, 2006 as written. Approved.</p>
3. Commission Report	<p>Commission Executive Director Lin Batten reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Commission approved the content of the Draft Strategic Plan Update except for the approximate allocations assigned to the proposed result areas and initiatives. Staff was directed to return with allocations recommendations when the Implementation Plan Framework is presented for approval in May. In response to a request from the Advisory Committee, if any information concerning the allocations is available in time for the committee's April meeting, it will be shared by the staff with the members for possible comment/ response.➤ The evaluation contract with Harder + Co. was extended from June 30, 2006 to June 30, 2007. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be released soon for continuing evaluation services. The contractor identified in this process will begin work prior to the expiration of Harder + Co.'s contract, which will allow for a smooth transition between contractors (if Harder + Co. is not selected) and between the current and future evaluation cycles.➤ First 5 California has released the requirements and application materials for the next round of match funding for the School Readiness Initiative.	

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	Commission agenda and meeting materials are available here: http://sackids.saccounty.net/meetings/index.html	
4. Commission Staff Reports		
4a. Children's Health Initiatives	Program Planner Debra Payne reported the following: The Healthy Kids, Healthy Future board approved the contracts with the health plans that will provide the health insurance product for the region. A legal review of contracts is pending.	
4b. Community Building Initiative	CBI Program Planner Linda Fong-Somera reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 17 Children's Action Grant applications were received and reviewed by a review panel. Recommendations will be presented to the Commission soon. ➤ A review of mini grant applications received earlier this month will take place next week. ➤ Advisory Committee members are encouraged to continue to promote the availability of micro and mini grants. Flyers in several languages have been created and are available for posting/ distribution. ➤ The community workshops and trainings on social capital are continuing and Advisory Committee members are welcome to attend. Contact Linda for details. 	
5. Work Group Updates		
5a. Evaluation Committee	Evaluation Committee member Steve Wirtz reported that the committee has been discussing indicators and the desired level of analysis, with the intention of establishing a strong, clear framework for the evaluation of programs in the next strategic plan funding cycle (FY 2007/08-2009/10).	
5b. Financial Planning Committee	Financial Planning Committee member Ernie Brown had nothing to report because this committee has not met in several months.	
5c. Fluoridation Work Group	Fluoridation Work Group member Terry Jones had nothing to report because this work group has not met since his last report. The Chair requested that Terry provide a handout or fact sheet on the fluoridated districts in Sacramento County. Michele will work with Terry to create this.	
5d. School Readiness Advisory Committee	School Readiness Program Coordinator Doreen Diehl reported that the committee continues to focus its efforts on identification of best and promising practices in school readiness. At the last meeting, the content area was parenting and family support.	
6. Advisory Committee Response to Strategic Plan Update		
6a. Substance Abuse Recommendation	<p>At the February Commission meeting, Commissioners asked for clarification on how the Advisory Committee envisions its recommendation regarding substance abuse would be enacted.</p> <p>Committee member Steve Wirtz, the representative from the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board, discussed this issue with the leadership and staff of that board (the discussion that led to the Advisory Committee's recommendation was initiated by the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board's own recommendation to the Commission to address substance abuse issues in its programs). Steve clarified the following elements of his board's position, as a starting point for resolution of this issue: (1) Addressing alcohol and drug issues is central to ensuring healthy childhood across the board. (2) The Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board did not intend for the substance abuse issue to be assigned a higher priority than other possible areas or issues raised in the public comment period. (3) The Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board is not asking for new language, new results or initiatives, or the reinstatement of currently funded priorities in the Strategic Plan Update. The intention was for the Commission to establish a process that recognizes the centrality of substance abuse issues, such as requiring programs to have a system for referring clients to information and treatment when needed. One way of establishing this requirement could be to ask proposers to state their preparedness for substance abuse referral in RFP(s) and/ or contracts.</p> <p>Commission Executive Director Lin Batten responded that a similar process is currently in place for tobacco education and cessation resources. She suggested that language such as <i>substance abuse issues have an affect on the recommended results and initiatives and, therefore, these issues will be considered in the development of the implementation plans</i>, or something similar, could be added. It was agreed that language to this effect would be added in the section of the plan that discusses the Commission's policy on tobacco.</p>	
6b. Review of Outstanding Topics	Members reviewed the list of topics raised at the January 27, 2006 meeting, as presented in the minutes. The Chair invited members to speak about any topics that they felt might merit additional review or possible action by the committee. The Community Connectedness Initiative and the Best Practices Centers were discussed.	

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	<p><u>Community Connectedness Initiative</u> Topic: <i>Activities funded under the Community Connectedness Initiative should not be required to link to other results and initiatives.</i> The Advisory Committee discussed the arguments for and against requiring applicants under this initiative to address the Commission's other goals, in addition to community connectedness. Comments in support of the requirement included: (a) the requirement enhances the Commission's impact on its other goals at the same time as it impacts community connectedness; (b) Commission goals can serve as a starting point for project planning; and (c) because the Commission goals are so broad, most projects will easily meet this requirement. The argument against the requirement stated that community members who seek this funding should have the freedom to determine their own priorities, supporting the concept that the applicants are the experts on what is needed and what will work best in their communities.</p> <p>The Advisory Committee does not plan to pursue this issue further.</p> <p><u>Best Practice Centers</u> Topic: <i>Establish one or two local research based First 5 Best Practice Centers for Children to provide ongoing state-of-the-science information and demonstration on the local needs of children 0-5 and their families and practical ways to effectively address these needs.</i> The argument in support of a recommendation to establish First 5 Best Practices Center(s) is that collecting best practice information within the broad category of children 0-5 can best be accomplished by professional researchers in an academic setting.</p> <p>The Advisory Committee does not plan to pursue this issue further.</p> <p><u>Additional Comment</u> One member raised a new topic: The need to prepare non-English speaking parents to communicate with their children's teachers, doctors, and others, was apparent in the public comments received at the second public hearing. Addressing this need is very important. Commission staff noted that the programs funded under the School Readiness Initiative include elements that seek to assist these parents.</p>	
7. Conflict of Interest Form	The conflict of interest form, created to enact the recent amendments to the Advisory Committee bylaws that define conflict of interest and specify the procedure for disclosure, was approved as presented. Next month, members will be asked to complete the approved form.	M/S Effie Hubbard-Ruggles/ Tosca Toussaint to approve the Conflict of Interest Form. Approved.
8. Future Agenda Topics & Announcements/ Comments	None.	
9. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.	Next Meeting: March 10, 2006, 1111 Howe Ave., Ste. 610.