

**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission**

**Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 5:30PM  
601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield, CA**

**Attendance**

Commissioners: Linda Seifert (Chair), Dana Dean, Dan Ayala, Jay Speck, Elaine Norinsky, Liz Niedziela, Aaron Crutison

Staff/Public: Commission staff and 33 members of the public were present

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM by Chair Seifert

**I. Public Comment**

*[Comments regarding Item VI. B. 1 – SPACE Parent Education Program]*

- Nancy Pano addressed the commission through a member of the public helping to translate from Spanish to English. Nancy said that she is very happy with the program for kids, they are very good, and supports the programs for the children at the school, and that she did not want the programs to be cut.
- Lilliana Reyes commented that she supports the program and emphasized the help her daughter has received through the bilingual program her daughter is enrolled in.
- Kathy Montemeyor let the commission know that she appreciates the bilingual program that her daughter is enrolled in, the SPACE program, item 6.B.

**II. Consent Calendar**

- A. Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for April 2, 2013**
- B. Approve the minutes of the March 5, 2013 Commission Meeting**

**Moved: Commissioner Crutison**

**Vote: 7-0-0**

**III. Honoring Outgoing Commissioner Elaine Norinsky, Ed.D**

**Motion: Approve Resolution #2013-01 honoring Dr. Elaine Norinsky for her 13 years of service (1999-2013) as a founding member of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission.**

**Moved: Commissioner Crutison**

**Vote: 7-0-0**

Discussion/Presentation: Commissioner Seifert read and presented the resolution to Commissioner Norinsky for her 13 years of service as a founding member of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission. Former Supervisor Barbara Kondylis presented Commissioner Norinsky a plaque honoring and thanking Commissioner Norinsky for her 13 years of service. Lisa Chavez, on behalf of Senator Lois Wolk, presented Commissioner Norinsky a United States Senate certificate of recognition for her 13 years of service. Commissioner Dean presented Commissioner Norinsky with a copy of the Congressional Record entry of April 2, 2013 by U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson, reading as follows: "Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Elaine Norinsky, on the occasion of her retirement from the First 5 Solano Children's and Families Commission. Dr. Norinsky's years of unwavering dedication to the children of Solano County will truly be missed. Through her leadership and

support, First 5 Solano evolved from a start-up to a fully functioning, high integrity, and effective organization which has been honored with statewide and national recognition for its innovation, collaboration, and results achieved for children aged 0-5. Dr. Norinsky has made a fundamental and long lasting contribution to all the residents of Solano County by helping ensure that Solano's youngest children are better prepared to succeed in school and lead productive lives as they take their places in our community. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Dr. Elaine Norinsky for her many years of service to Solano County, and to thank her for her contributions on behalf of our community. I join her daughter Leslie, her grandchild Shamus and our colleagues, in wishing her the best in all her future endeavors. Congressman Mike Thompson, Representative 5<sup>th</sup> District, California.

Commissioner Ayala thanked Commissioner Norinsky for her years of service and dedication to the First 5 Solano Commission.

Commissioner Norinsky thanked everyone for the opportunity of working with the Commission.

#### **IV. Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services**

**A. Award of funding: Request for Applications #2013-02: First 5 Solano Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services – Dixon. Consider approval of award of funding up to \$10,000 for the period of April 15, 2013 – June 30, 2014 to Miracle Christian Worship Center World Changers Academy for 2013 Pre-Kindergarten Academy Services as recommended by the review panel.**

Discussion: Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director First 5 Solano, reported that the Review Panel recommends an award of funding for this RFQ to Miracle Christian Worship Center World Changers Academy, in Dixon, California for Pre-Kindergarten academy services.

Commissioner Niedziela thanked First 5 staff for putting together the additional solicitation to help ensure pre-kindergarten academy services in Dixon.

**Motion: Approve award of funding up to \$10,000 for the period April 15, 2013 – June 30, 2014 to Miracle Christian Worship Center World Changers Academy for 2013 pre-Kindergarten Academy Services as recommended by the review panel.**

**Moved: Commissioner Niedziela**

**Vote: 7-0-0**

**B. Receive an update on the “K to College” Early Learning Kits to be distributed to the Pre-K Academy Students.**

Discussion: K to College is a non-profit that is statewide non-profit agency that creates kits for children, recently developing an early learning kit for preschool aged children. Benito Delgado-Olsen, Executive Director of K to College, spoke and thanked the Commission for providing staff assistance in developing pre-kindergarten learning kits and thankful to distribute early learning kits to Solano Pre-Kindergarten Academy students.

#### **V. Executive Director's Report**

**Motion: Approve Resolution #2013-02 recognizing 2013 as “Year of the Child” as proclaimed by the County Supervisors’ Association of California and April 2013 as “Children’s Month” in Solano County.**

Discussion: Ms. Arrostuto presented Resolution #2013-02 to the commission.

**Moved; Commissioner Speck**  
**Vote: 7-0-0**

**VI. Committee Reports**

**A. Systems and Policy Committee** (*Commissioner Dean*)  
(no meeting)

**B. Program and Community Engagement Committee** (*Commissioner Betz*)

- 1. Approve a deployment of up to \$100,000 for FY2013/14 and allocate up to \$100,000 for FY2014/15 to Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District for Parent Education Services/SPACE Program for the term of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015.** (*Sources of funding: FY2013/14: Budget and Program Investment Plan - approved; FY2014/15: Long Term Financial Plan - recommended*)

Discussion: Venis Jones Boyd, Family Support and Parent Education Programs Manager, introduced Kay Hartley, FSUSD, Principal, and Cheryl Stumbaugh, Program Manager of the Solano Parent and Child Education Program (SPACE). Ms. Hartley presented a PowerPoint sharing the steps the program took to develop the SPACE Program, program website, the outreach to the community, and the members of the advisory board. The SPACE program offers online course, a kindergarten readiness assessment, and Family Literacy Nights. Ms. Hartley shared a video synopsis of the program over the year.

Public Comment: Myra Rivera commented that her three children attend the SPACE program and stated that she hopes that the program continues and that the program has instilled good parenting skills.

Commissioner Crutison asked how long the program has been in existence. Staff responded that the program began in August 2012. Commissioner Dean thanked the children in the audience for behaving so well throughout the meeting.

**Moved; Commissioner Dean**  
**Vote: 7-0-0**

**VII. Public Hearing: First 5 CA FY2011/12 Annual Report**

**Motion: Accept the First 5 California Children and Families Commission's FY2011/12 Annual Report, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 130150.**

Discussion: Venis Jones Boyd, Family Support and Parent Education Programs Manager, gave a PowerPoint Presentation presenting the many different programs that First 5 California supports throughout the State.

**Moved: Commissioner Ayala**  
**Vote: 7-0-0**

**VIII. 2012-2015 Funding Cycle: Grantee Presentation**

A. Receive an overview of the Family Strengthening and Parent Education programs.

Discussion: Venis Jones Boyd, Family Support and Parent Education Programs Manager, introduced Paulette Wickliff, Social Services Supervisor, Child Welfare Services. Ms. Wickliff gave a brief overview of the partners in the Family Strengthening Partnership. Currently 1,100 families served county wide annually. The Family Strengthening Partnership links to the First 5 Solano Strategic Plan goals and Results as follows: All families are safe and stable; all parents and primary care givers support their child's development; all families know, and know how to access services; families know how to utilize community resources and support. The Family

Strengthening Partnership uses the evidence-based Nurturing Parenting Program curriculum for its home-based parent education.

Rosemary Kennedy, Children's Network of Solano County, made a presentation on First 5 Solano-funded parent education programs, giving a brief description of the model of action used for a referred family. The services are intended to decrease in the risk of child abuse and neglect. Outcomes include increased family stability and improved family functioning.

Debbi Davis, Children's Nurturing Project, introduced Laurie Andres, Children's Nurturing Project who reviewed the Nurturing Parenting Program with a PowerPoint presentation. Their parent education programs connect with the First 5 Solano Strategic Plan through: "All parents and primary caregivers support their children's development," using community resources and support. The services include the Nurturing Parenting Program, parenting classes, kindergarten readiness workshops, and art programs for kids. Ms. Andres reviewed the program structures involving the children and the parents, the subjects taught with different lesson plans and different topics. The Children's Nurturing Project is the lead agency, which assists Dixon Family Services with services in Dixon.

## **IX. Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner Speck shared a story regarding Christina Arrostuto introducing Commissioner Speck to Hedy Chang, founder of Attendance Works, which led to SCOE's Lisette Estrella-Henderson creating the "Early Learning Attendance Tool Kit."

Commissioner Crutison thanked the partnerships for their work in Solano County, and thanked Commissioner Norinsky for her service. Commissioner Niedziela thanked Commissioner Norinsky for her service to First 5 Solano. Commissioner Ayala thanked Commissioner Norinsky for her service. Commissioner Ayala invited the community to attend the Dixon block party at the end of April. Commissioner Norinsky thanked the Commission for allowing her to serve Solano County.

Commissioner Dean stated that she was very proud to represent First 5 Solano at the Board of Supervisors meeting and receiving the Resolution for Year of the Child and April Children's Month. Commissioner Dean thanked Commissioner Norinsky for her service and hopes that she holds up to her standards.

Commissioner Seifert congratulated Commissioner Dean on her appointment to the Solano County Office of Education Board of Trustees. Commissioner Seifert reiterated that the Commission will miss Commissioner Norinsky.

Commissioner Seifert commented that she and Ms. Arrostuto attended an April 1 visit by the First 5 CA "Hands On Health Express" van Travis Air Force Base. They really enjoyed watching the First 5 California "Edutainers," who engaged about 150 young children by offering stories, games and activities aimed at teaching them about health and nutrition.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

