



PRESENT: Commissioners, Doug McCoy, Bob Pyle, Elizabeth Elam, Melody Brawley, Joanna Zimmerman, Brenda Poteete, Mae Sherman, Alternate Commissioner Anita Osborn, visitors Rebecca Roberts and Kevin Mannel, and staff member Laura Roberts.

ABSENT: Commissioners, Jan Foster, Amiee Osborn, Alternate Commissioner Wendy Blackmon, and Alternate Commissioner Brian Dahle

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Doug McCoy called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Everyone was welcomed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairperson McCoy presented the agenda. Commissioner Poteete asked to be added to the agenda under the Report section for a Head Start update. There were no further changes in the agenda. Commissioner Pyle made a motion that the agenda be approved as amended. Commissioner Poteete seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed with no abstentions.

INFORMATION/CONSENT CALENDAR: The information and consent calendar was presented. Commissioner Pyle made a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The items approved on the consent calendar are as follows:

- Approval of November 5, 2009 Minutes
- Approval of Fiscal Report
- Approval of Transfer of Funds from Trust Account and payment of pending obligations in an amount of \$13,476.93

Expenses for FY 09--10		
Lassen Diversified Management	\$8,190.00	Project Coordination and Implementation for December 2009, Inv. 4319
Lassen Diversified Management	152.76	Postage, duplication, for November, Invoice 4320
Modoc Office of Education	721.48	10/01-28/2009 for 2 children at Adin State Preschool, Invoice 002
Smiles for Life	3,796.80	Outreach Education, Data Input, Copies, Case Mgmt., Inv. 225
Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. *	615.89	Consulting & Evaluation for October 09, Invoice 1961
Total	\$13,476.93	
*Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. was paid on 11/06/09 via Check #1433=\$615.89		

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO COMMIT LOCAL FIRST 5 FUNDS SET ASIDE TO HELP LOCAL PROGRAMS EXPERIENCING FISCAL CUTS: This item was carried forward from the November 5, 2009 meeting. Information was presented and further discussion ensued. Information was presented to the Commission detailing cuts to the Alcohol and Drug programs, in particular, PROMISES, a day treatment program for substance abusing women with children. Kevin Mannel was present to address questions and provide additional information. The documents provided in the presentation are attached to the minutes and incorporated herein as if set forth in full. The suggested funding commitment is consistent with the strategic plan of the Commission, falls within the systems change responsibility of the Commission, could potentially be sustained by EPSDT, and will provide expertise from Dr. Chasoff that will guide local participants through the restructuring of a system of delivery of valued and essential services.

Additional discussion was extensive surrounding early prevention strategies, leveraging of funding, increased collaboration, impact of the State Budget on EPSDT and other programs, sustainability, will this actually work, and whether it is a good investment. The question regarding whether this is starting something new or is it an investment that will help make something that exists better was addressed thoroughly. Additional questions surrounded EPSDT funding and whether it is limited to Medi-Cal eligible children and if so, should First 5 Lassen be supporting something that would not be available to all children. It was commented that the current economic climate has not only meant cutting things back sometimes, but it has meant assessing and thinking of better and more efficient ways to continue to provide comprehensive services to those in need. In essence the economic crisis has created challenges, but locally it is being looked upon as an opportunity to discover strategies and solutions that may be better in the long run. Commissioner Poteete made a motion that up to \$29,500 be

committed to the proposed project. Commissioner Elam seconded the motion. Further discussion occurred and when completed, the Chairman called for a vote. The motion passed with Commissioners Brawley and Zimmermann abstaining.

REPORTS: The oral health report was provided in the packet. There were no questions about the report. Commissioners commented on the success of the program. Maria Nye of Plumas Bank asked that the Chamber Mixer set for December 10 from 5:30 until 7:30 be announced. A grant from Plumas Bank helped refurbish the oral health van.

Commissioner Poteete reported on a successful Early Head Start grant application. She indicated that they should be receiving their letter of award by December 18. The program for Lassen is designed with 16 center based slots, and 12 home based slots. Head Start has been engaged in discussions with Lassen County Health and Social Services, Alcohol and Drug Department specifically, and has developed a plan of collaboration to continue the PROMISES program and to rent the facility, with some modifications, for a Head Start program for 20 children. The PROMISES program participants will receive points that will afford them priority for enrolling their children. Commissioner Poteete indicated that the program is set to start on February 1, and that 14 additional staff will be hired throughout their multiple county program area.

It was reported that information from the First 5 Association was forwarded earlier in the day concerning the proposed tobacco tax increase and lack of backfill for Prop 10. Commissioners were advised to read the information carefully and to pay particular attention to the status of the matter. When the matter becomes proposed legislation, it will be important to speak of the matter only to inform or educate, and not to advocate a position for or against the matter. It is not currently in legislative form.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 3: 00 p.m. The next meeting will be on January 7, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura J. Roberts
Executive Director