



LASSEN COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2003, 1:30 p.m.
1345 Barry Creek Plaza, Suite B
Susanville, California

Commissioners Present: Sheral Thorlaksson, Karol Merten, Doug McCoy, Jim Chapman, Janice Irvin, Mae Sherman, Kathy Colvin Alternate sitting as a Member, Bobby Malone

Commissioners Absent: Patsy Jimenez, Elizabeth Elam, Brian Dahle Alternate, Shannon Gerig Alternate

Community Members: Robin Jones, Janet Lasick, Barbara Tiner

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson, Karol Merten called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The Chairperson welcomed everyone, and all introduced themselves.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner McCoy moved that the agenda be approved as presented, Alternate Commissioner Colvin seconded the motion, there was no discussion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. **Consent Calendar:** The consent calendar was presented. Commissioner McCoy moved to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. Alternate Commissioner Colvin seconded the motion, there was no discussion, and the motion unanimously passed. The Consent Calendar covered the following items:

SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes LCCFC Meetings of December 5, 2002
SUBJECT: Approval of Fiscal Report

4. **Adoption of Equity Principles:** In light of the Equity Principles, Commissioner McCoy indicated that will need to look carefully at our own structure and all that the Commission invests in. Commissioner Malone moved to adopt the equity principles as presented, Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. **Sustainability and Fiscal Leveraging Plan:** Commission Chairperson Merten stated that the fiscal committee met and considered the projections. However, there were not enough people present at the committee to make any type of recommendation to the Commission. It was their feeling that the fiscal discussions should occur at the full meetings of the Commission. Commissioner Merten requested that this item be facilitated by Commissioner McCoy. Commissioner McCoy reviewed the mission and vision of the commission. He indicated that the fiscal sustainability and leveraging plans should be reflective of the vision and mission. The fiscal projection documents were presented by Laura Roberts. Commissioner Chapman expressed his thoughts that all of the projections are extremely tenuous in light of the current economic situations of the State and Federal Government. He indicated that the budget for the AmeriCorps project should include the funds for curriculum. He stated that to maintain the static MAA funding level is unrealistic

and it builds inaccuracy into the projections. Commissioner Chapman recommended that all MAA reimbursements should be funneled back into the Home Visiting Program. Commissioner McCoy stated that this is a policy item that should be placed on a future agenda for formal adoption.

Commissioner Chapman stated that the funds apportioned by the Commission to large projects and the funds set aside for the mini grant program should be kept very separate. "Big fish should not be allowed to swim in the small fish pond." Commissioner Malone expressed concern that the Commission is looking at funding one program particularly, such as School Readiness, and perhaps should fund other programs to achieve the overall mission and vision of the Commission. Commissioner McCoy stated that large programs should be reviewed annually to be sure they are an effective model for getting children ready to learn. Commissioner McCoy asked Barbara Tiner to speak about ComPAC, the agency, their Board of Directors, Staff, and the sources of funding that it currently has. Barbara Tiner presented information on the history of the organization, its current projects, and its multiple sources of funding. ComPAC is currently outreaching for other sources of funding from organizations such as the California Endowment, and United Way. They have also requested funding from USDA Forest Service to extend the after school program at the Westwood Family Resource Center. Barbara also discussed how some other rural Family Resource Centers are funded. She indicated that Prop 10 Commissions are primary funders in many of the centers, however, she stated that it is not the intent of ComPAC to look to the Commission as a long-term source of funding, nor the only source of funding. Partnering and collaboration is essential in the long-term financial success of FRS. The mission of ComPAC is broad and allows it to take on a multitude of projects. Commissioner Malone and Commissioner McCoy indicated that the Commission must be ever diligent in the process that it follows to implement its activities.

Commissioner McCoy summarized the discussion of the Commissioners. It appears that we have one principal contractor now to implement the major programs of the Commission and that is ComPAC. The need for the resolution of the curriculum need was discussed. Commissioner Chapman stated that if it is loaned or funded by the Commission to ComPAC that the funds should not come from the Mini Grant allocation. Commissioner Sherman stated that the discussion has been beneficial because the new commissioners are not aware of the "big pond", "little pond" policies of the Commission. It was recommended that the Commission loan the curriculum funds to ComPAC. Commissioner Chapman moved that the contract language with ComPAC/AmeriCorps be amended to loan \$7,500 from the reserves. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. Alternate Commissioner Colvin asked about the focus of the curriculum. Barbara Tiner explained the details of the curriculum. There being no further discussion, a vote was called for. The motion passed with Commissioners Merten and Irvin abstaining. Laura is to amend the contract and initiate the payment process from the County Fiscal Agent to ComPAC for the curriculum. It was suggested that the topics of fiscal sustainability and leveraging, and also detail of policies and procedures adopted in the past should be kept on the agenda in the future for additional work.

Laura Roberts was asked to detail the additional components of the sustainability plan and leveraging plan documents that need to be answered. In addition Laura was asked to prepare a policies and procedures document that sets forth the policies already adopted by the Commission.

6. **Reports:** Barbara Tiner reported on the Westwood Family Resource Center progress as well as the Big Valley FRC as well as the AmeriCorps Project. Kathy Colvin reported on the Creating Safe Environments for Children progress. She discussed the “Safe From the Start” program and the Strong Families Coalition meeting. Comments were made to be sure to build on what was in the area of Child Abuse Prevention previously. Be sure all who are involved are at the table to plan an educational opportunity. Laura Roberts reported on the Oral Health Task Force progress, the Oral Health Emergency Treatment Fund, and the Regional Oral Health Project.

7. **Open Comment:** Robin Jones commented on the Fatherhood Campaign. She distributed posters for the Campaign, which are both teams in the Super Bowl. Jan indicated that Headstart is working hard to involve fathers.

8. **Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Roberts
Executive Director