



LASSEN COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

November 7, 2002, 1:30 p.m.
1345 Barry Creek Plaza, Suite B
Susanville, California

Commissioners Present: Karol Merten, Doug McCoy, Elizabeth Elam, Jim Chapman, Janice Irvin, Bobby Malone

Commissioners Absent: Patsy Jimenez, Mae Sherman, Sheral Thorlaksson, Brain Dahle Alternate, Kathy Colvin, Alternate, Shannon Gerig, Alternate

Community Members: Jerry Abts, Lisa Holmstrom, Kyle Devine, Robin Jones, Janet Lasick, Jean Hodge, Amiee Osborn

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson, Karol Merten called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. Everyone was welcomed by the Chairperson, and all introduced themselves.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Irvin moved that the agenda be approved as presented, Commissioner Malone seconded the motion, there was no discussion, and the motion was unanimously approved. There were no abstentions.
3. **Consent Calendar:** The consent calendar was presented. Commissioner Irvin moved to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. Commissioner Elam seconded the motion, there was no discussion, and the motion unanimously passed with no abstentions. The following items were covered by the Consent Calendar:

SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes LCCFC Meetings of October 3, 2002
SUBJECT: Approval of Fiscal Report
4. **Report on Legal Counsel Review of Contract:** The contracts were reviewed by Attorney Craig Kellison who found them to be adequate for the purposes intended.
5. **Request for Authorization to Sign Contracts with ComPAC:** Based upon the recommendation of Attorney Craig Kellison, Commissioner Chapman moved to authorize the signing the contracts with ComPAC. Commissioner Irvin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried with Commissioner Merten abstaining.
6. **Response to Request for Legal Services:** Three attorneys who specialized in business law were contacted. All responded as interested in serving the Commission should the need arise. Commissioners recommended that Laura Roberts write and thank them for their interest and inform them that should the need arise for legal services that they will be selected from the pool of interested counselors.

7. **Sustainability and Fiscal Leveraging Plan:** Information on the MAA claiming process was presented. MAA (Medi-Cal Administrative Activities) is a source of funding whereby certain activities performed in the FRC and Home Visiting programs can be reimbursed. The County Health and Human Services (HHS) Fiscal Agency is the lead entity to assist in the development of the MAA Claiming Plan. It was explained that there would be a 10% administrative fee to HHS and a 6% withhold to be placed in a trust fund to cover any audit exceptions that might occur during the program. Commissioner Malone indicated that there may be a 2 year moratorium on MAA payments. Commissioner Chapman expressed concern also on becoming dependent upon this type of funding. It was explained that it is one source of sustainability, among others, that is recommended in sustainability and fiscal leveraging planning.

8. **Reports:** Amiee Osborn thanked the Commission for their mini grant which funded the training she received to become a lactation consultant. She stated that she will be working in various ways throughout the County to emphasize the importance of breast feeding. She will work directly with new moms to encourage breast feeding.

On behalf of Barbara Tiner, Lisa Holmstrom reported on the Big Valley FRC project. A first meeting has occurred with the community advisory committee, and additional meetings have been set and will occur frequently over the next several months. On behalf of Tonya Jungwirth, Lisa Holmstrom reported on the Westwood FRC project. She indicated that the Westwood Boys and Girls Club has now merged with the FRC. The Mom's Club is progressing well also. Lisa also reported on the AmeriCorps Home Visiting Project, stating that an additional AmeriCorps person has been hired for Westwood. The remaining workers should be on board by January.

Jean Hodge reported on the process of the Lassen Oral Health Task Force. They are meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month. She stated that there is an activity being planned by the Dentists called "Dentists With A Heart". This will be a day in February when participating dentists will open their offices to children for a broad range of services, all performed at no charge. Some of the Oral Health Task Force Activities include public education and awareness, public speaking, training, a fluoride varnish program, equipment research. The quick reference guides are being distributed in the New Parent Kits, were given to Headstart Parents, and have been utilized in the Child Care Provider Training project. Commissioner Chapman reported that some remaining oral health grant funds were assigned by the Board of Supervisors to the Oral Health Task Force for use in the public awareness and fluoride varnish campaigns. Future concerns are the liberal access to candy and soda pop on school campuses.

Mini grant funds are still available. There are at least two mini grants that will be on the agenda in December for consideration. There is approximately \$44,000 remaining in the allocation for this fiscal year.

9. **Brain Development and the Importance of Early Literacy:** Commissioner Elam presented information on the Early Steps to Reading Success program offered at Lassen College. Information was included in the meeting packet that featured the Raising a Reader and and Reach Out and Read programs.
10. **Open Comment:** Commissioner Irvin asked about the \$10,000 that was set aside for emergency oral health treatment for children. Janet Lasick, Commissioners Irvin, Chapman, and Jimenez form the committee to establish the protocols and the process for accessing the funds.
11. **Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
12. Those that could stay, viewed a video featuring Diane Sawyer reporting on brain development and the importance of early reading to children.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Roberts
Executive Director