



LASSEN COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2003, 1:30 p.m.
1345 Barry Creek Plaza, Suite B
Susanville, California

Commissioners Present: Jim Chapman, Doug McCoy, Kathy Colvin, Alternate, Barbara Malone, Betsy Elam, Janice Irvin, Sheral Thorlaksson, Patsy Jimenez

Commissioners Absent: Alternate Member Brian Dahle, Mae Sherman, Alternate Member Shannon Gerig

Visitors: Barbara Tiner, Janet Lasick

Commission Staff: Laura Roberts

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson, Doug McCoy called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. The Chairperson welcomed everyone, and all introduced themselves.
2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
3. **Confirm Appointment of New Commissioner:** Commissioner Jimenez moved to confirm the appointment. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The motion carried with abstentions from Irvin, Elam, and Malone. Discussion ensued on the process of reviewing the applications before appointment by the Board of Supervisors. Laura was instructed to request Commission review of all applications in the cover letter to the County Clerk that accompanies a letter of resignation.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Malone moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jimenez seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed.
5. **Consent Calendar:** The consent calendar was presented. Commissioner Malone and Elam moved and seconded respectively to approve the consent calendar. The motion passed. Items approved on the consent calendar are:
 - 5a. SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes LCCFC Meeting of November 6, 2003
 - 5b. SUBJECT: Approval of Fiscal Report
 - 5c. SUBJECT: Authorize payment of Audit Expense to Bartig, Basler and Ray in the amount of \$2,500
 - 5d. SUBJECT: Authorize Emergency Oral Health Treatment Payment of \$265.00 to Dr. Saad
6. **Annual Report – Provisional Approval:** Several changes were requested. Laura will resubmit the document with the requested corrections. Commissioner Chapman moved that the report be provisionally approved with the requested corrections. Commissioner Irvin seconded the motion. The motion carried.
7. **AmeriCorps Contract Renewal – Authorization to Sign:** Chairman McCoy presented the contract renewal document. Information was presented about the overall cost of this program. The contract covers \$40,000 of the project. The program annually will cost \$169,000. MAA billing is to cover other parts of the program however, the Claiming Plan is not approved yet. This leaves the Commission with the need to consider underwriting the cost of the program for the length of the contract (3 years). Lengthy discussion ensued about the program and its relationship to school readiness and other programs funded by the Commission. The Legacy spread sheets were reviewed. Areas of funding cutback were identified as travel, administration, educational materials, miscellaneous program costs, and technical assistance. With cutbacks in these areas, and not factoring in MAA reimbursement at all, the costs of the home visiting program can be allocated for the length of the term of the new

AmeriCorps contract. Commissioner Chapman explained some of the current cutbacks and interruptions in some program funding streams. Commissioner Malone commented that it would be appropriate to fund the AmeriCorps Home Visiting program at a level up to \$150,000. Information was presented concerning research that supports home visiting programs as an effective methodology when coupled with other programs such as oral health, and family resource centers, to address school readiness. There is a provision in the contract to cancel on 30-day notice. Commissioner Chapman expressed support for the program. He expressed concern that there may be a collapse of funding mechanisms in the next six months and eventual impacts will be felt in many areas. He further commented that Prop 10 is somewhat immune from such a collapse. Commissioner Elam moved that the contract with AmeriCorps, CAPC, and GOSERV be signed. Commissioner Thorlaksson seconded the motion. The motion carried with no abstentions.

It is the intent of the Commission to underwrite the Home Visiting Program costs. Barbara Tiner and Laura are to work out the details of a budget and bring that to the Commission at the next meeting.

Commissioner McCoy also suggested that Laura meet with a group on a school readiness program redesign so that other investments of the Commission such as Home Visiting, Oral Health, etc., can be wrapped into the School Readiness Program. The blending of school readiness funds, together with other Commission projects, and also the Tobacco Settlement funds, will allow a broader use of FRC's and will allow a countywide implementation of school readiness efforts. The blended funds can be utilized as the cash match required by the School Readiness Project.

8. **Insurance Coverage:** Commissioner Malone moved that we not purchase this insurance. Commissioner Elam seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

9. **Capital Improvement Policy Development:** Chairman McCoy explained the need for development and clarification of a capital improvement and investment policy. Commissioner Chapman indicated that the mini grant program should not be used for acquisition or real property. A report on Capital Improvement Project Funding was provided. The policy regarding capital improvements for family childcare homes should have extended to any and all mini grant applicants. Commissioner Chapman moved that the Commission not fund real property purchase, development, or improvement. Commissioner Malone seconded the motion. Commissioner Chapman requested that the minutes reflect that this discussion is just formalizing and clarifying the practice of the Commission in the past to not fund real property acquisition, development, or improvement. The motion carried unanimously.

10: **Learning Opportunity – Universal Preschool:** Commissioner Malone presented information about Preschool for All, and Universal Preschool. Information was presented on the different legislative matters pending concerning this issue. Federal, California, and County initiatives were discussed. The Federal HR 3007 Universal Pre Kindergarten Act was discussed. Additional information was presented on AB 56 which is mandatory Kindergarten and universal preschool; First 5 California Preschool for All demonstration project; Packard Foundation preschool for all, California Teachers Association Improving Classroom Education Act; and the Los Angeles County Universal Access to Preschool project.

12. **Adjourn:** The next meeting will be on January 8, 2004. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Roberts
Executive Director