



LASSEN COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2004, 1:30 p.m.
1345 Barry Creek Plaza, Suite B
Susanville, California

Commissioners Present: Mae Sherman, Barbara Malone, Alternate Member Kathy Colvin, Doug McCoy, Jim Chapman, Betsy Elam, Janice Irvin

Commissioners Absent, Alternate Member Brian Dahle, Alternate Member Shannon Gerig, Brenda Poteete, Sheral Thorlaksson, Patsy Jimenez

Visitors: Dewey Dempsey

Commission Staff: Laura Roberts, Dennis Wilkes

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson, Doug McCoy called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The Chairperson welcomed everyone.
2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** It was requested that we place on the agenda an action item concerning advancing emergency oral health treatment funds to cover the cost of family share of cost and then working with families that can repay the share of cost, to do so. Also an executive committee will be called to review the Home Visiting Project. Commissioner Poteete moved that the agenda be approved as modified. Commissioner Colvin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.
4. **Information/Consent Calendar:** The consent calendar was presented as follows:
 - 4a. SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes LCCFC Meeting of August 12, 2004
 - 4b. SUBJECT: Approval of Fiscal Report
 - 4c. SUBJECT: Per Request of Lassen College, authorize Lassen Diversified Management, Inc. to receive funds on behalf of Lassen College for grant awarded on August 12, 2004, said funds to be disbursed to vendor upon confirmation of services rendered by Lassen College CD53 class instructor

Commissioner Malone moved that the consent calendar be approved as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Poteete. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

5. **Mini Grant Request – Big Valley Family Stories Project:** Dewey Dempsey presented the Big Valley Family Stories Project as a request for \$7,500 in mini grant funds. He commented about how the Mother Goose Project, a well known story telling project, started in Canada, and how it addresses many of the areas targeted by Prop 10. Asking a parent to “read to your child” may not be possible for some parents. He indicated that teaching parents to tell stories to their children may help with early literacy skills. The targeted areas were questioned. The applicant indicated he intended to exclude no one, but rather to work through the existing FRC framework. Commissioner Elam questioned who would implement the project. The applicant indicated that he is connected to experts in the field, but that he would be the major trainer to implement the project. The narrow focus of the project was questioned. It was questioned about this being just a pilot project for Big Valley, and then reconsidered for replication across the entire county. It was questioned about implementing the project in different modalities, such as child care providers, Head Start, etc. The applicant was requested to strengthen the application with research information as attachments to the document as well as providing statements of support from Big Valley. Commissioner Elam commented on supporting the North County, knowing that services are not plentiful there. She also commented on the requirements of needing strong research information included in Mini Grant applications, indicating the need to be consistent across the board. Response indicated that each mini grant application is unique and may not require supporting research information. Commissioner Chapman commented on the uniqueness of the application and indicated from his perspective that the Commission should fund innovative opportunities such as this. Commissioner Elam indicated that this project fits into both behavioral health and early literacy areas. A question was raised about personnel costs. It was suggested to fund the Big Valley portion as a pilot project and upon completion of the pilot project and an evaluation indicating effectiveness, the applicant could resubmit for a subsequent grant to expand the program. Commissioner Malone moved to accept the application with a modified scope of work and budget up to \$4,000 for Big Valley implementation only. Commissioner Colvin seconded the motion. Further discussion -- based upon the success of the project, the applicant can return to request additional funds to replicate the program.

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Barbara Tiner commented that the Big Valley Family Resource Center has been allowed by the Board of Supervisors to re-open the library and to operate it with volunteers as a program of the FRC.

Oral Health Project -- Amended Scope of Work: The amended scope of work is not done yet. This will be moved to the next agenda. The additional item concerning advancing shares of cost for families was considered. This was discussed extensively with a great deal of the comments favoring advancing the costs. Whether to charge interest or not, the administrative costs, and other issues surrounding this concept were extensively discussed. Dennis Wilkes commented on a program that he knew of, whereby funds are loaned, interest free, with repayment provisions. He added that particular program only had a 2% failure rate. Commissioner Chapman moved to approve the emergency loan program at no interest with the emergency treatment funds, Commissioner Elam seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion was approved as proposed. The balance of the discussion concerning the establishment of an administrative model implemented by Lassen Diversified Management, Inc., was referred to the Executive Committee. Commissioner Malone moved to refer the remaining item to the Executive Committee. Commissioner Irvin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

7. **Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Budget Approval:** Commissioner McCoy presented the budget. He addressed the modifications in the budget as presented, which included the encumbered and committed funds. Discussion ensued and it was indicated that we need to look forward and solidify long term plans and investments of the Commission. It was suggested to have a retreat to go through this process. Laura is to explore the development of a plan with the Executive Committee for a planning retreat. She also requested professional facilitation of the process. Commissioner Malone and Sherman moved and seconded respectively to approve the budget as presented. There was no further discussion. The motion carried. Commissioner Elam moved to pay \$2,000 to ComPAC for resource directories for the New Parent Kits. Commissioner Malone seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. **Draft Annual Report:** The draft annual report was reviewed, a few changes were suggested. This item will be on the October agenda for public hearing. Laura is to make an appointment with the Board of Supervisors to present the report.

9. **Behavioral Health Initiative:** Laura indicated the need for direction on whether to proceed with the initiative with the amount of funds allocated by the Commission. She explained that MAA and TCM are not going to yield enough additional funds to meet the additional \$35,000 needed. It was commented that it is not a good time to approach the Board of Supervisors for the needed additional funds. All comments from Commissioners indicated a desire to move forward with the existing allocation. It was suggested to form a sub committee to meet before the next meeting to develop the method to proceed. Barbara Tiner offered ComPAC as an umbrella agency. Betsy Elam volunteered as did Barbara Malone and Brenda Poteete to be on a committee which will meet next Friday September 10 at 1:30 p.m. at the Commission meeting room.

10. **Executive Committee Meeting:** The meeting will be held on September 9, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. to consider the Home Visiting program, the emergency oral health fund, and a long term investment planning retreat.

11. **Other:** Barbara Tiner stated that Lisa Holmstrom is now the Deputy Director and program manager of ComPAC. She also stated that Tonya has had a baby boy, Thomas Robert. Commissioner Malone stated that the PFA bill is dead for now. Mae Sherman stated that the City Care Program will be kept functional.

11. **Adjourn:** The next meeting will be on October 7, 2004. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Roberts
Executive Director