



**LASSEN COUNTY**  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION**

**Minutes, March 2, 2006, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
**1345 Paul Bunyan Road, Suite B**  
**Susanville, California**

**PRESENT:** Doug McCoy, Sheral Thorlaksson, Betsy Elam, Barbara Malone, Janice Irvin, Brenda Poteete, Kathleen Colvin, Melody Brawley, and Mae Sherman. Absent: Jim Chapman

**Staff:** Laura Roberts, and Dennis Wilkes.

**Visitors:** Dewey Dempsey, Tom Robinson, Katherine Karbo, Jeannie Huber, Sean Buehler, Kami Prater, and Barbara Tiner.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Doug McCoy called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Catherine Karbo and Dewey Dempsey and Tom Robinson of Aurora Network were present. Tom Robinson of Aurora Network addressed the Commission. He invited everyone to attend a meeting on March 16, 2006 concerning the Peer-to-Peer Counseling Program. The time of the meeting is from 2:00 – 5:00 at the Career Network and it will be a time when people interested in becoming peer counselors can sign up for a training.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Item 8 is removed from the agenda, as Amiee Osborn could not be present today. It was moved by Commissioner Brawley and seconded by Commissioner Thorlaksson that the agenda be approved as presented. There was no discussion, the motion carried.

**INFORMATION/CONSENT CALENDAR:** (These matters are routine in nature and usually approved by a single vote. Prior to action of the Commission, the public will be given the opportunity to comment on any consent item.) Commissioner Colvin asked for clarification of the reimbursement for overpayment regarding an AmeriCorps invoice. It was stated that one of the members was included in a one-month invoice in error. Commissioner Malone moved that the items on the consent calendar be approved as submitted. Commissioner Brawley seconded the motion. The motion passed. The items passed are:

- 4a. SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes LCCFC Meeting of February 2, 2006
- 4b. SUBJECT: Approval of Fiscal Report
- 4c. SUBJECT: Approval of Accounts Payable for March 2006: Social Entrepreneurs \$5,000 for March, Behavioral health Initiative (Pathways for March) \$5,000, ComPAC (Home Visiting) \$12,500 for April, Lassen Diversified Management \$7,800 for April, Lassen Diversified for copies/postage for March \$500.00, Tyler Design for website Maintenance for March \$50.00, reimbursement to Child Abuse Prevention Center for AmeriCorps overpayment \$727.27, Feather River Publishing for needs assessment advertising \$226.80, final payment to Northeastern for Oral Health Project \$22,080.75.

**ORAL HEALTH PRESENTATION** -- Dr. Sean Buehler, and Jeannie Huber, RDHAP reported on progress being made in the children's oral health program. A presentation detailed information concerning the hospital dentistry program, about the equipment purchased for the new conscious sedation operator at Lassen Family Dental Practice, the case management services being provided, as well as the prevention and education services being provided. All of these services are provided with funding provided by the Commission as well as the Oral Health Demonstration Grant obtained by Northeastern Rural Health. Jeannie added that they have started an infant oral care program in Westwood. The rate of decay in children in South County has dropped 20 percent

during the last year through the implementation of an infant oral care program in the Doyle Family Practice Clinic. There are ongoing needs represented through their wish list; ongoing education funding, a chlorhexidine voucher program, a mobile dental cart, an oral camera, and a mobile digital radiology unit. Commissioner Irvin commented on how some of the Head Start parents are using the oral health education they have been receiving. Comment was made that it is a pleasure to see that children are receiving increased access to care through the oral health project.

**MINI GRANT REEQUEST – SUSANVILLE MOTHERS CLUB:** Amy Hunrath and Linda Tangenberg, co library coordinators for the Mother's Club children's library project, presented a mini grant request for a book project with the Susanville District Library in an amount of \$7,500. She indicated that some of the books are paperback as well as board books. The Susanville Library has cancelled their story hour and this grant would reinstate that service through volunteers from the Mother's Club. Commissioner Elam commented on the books selected for purchase especially the paperback books. She indicated that some of the books needed to reflect multicultural issues, as well as books that convey lessons or skills in certain life situations. Ms. Hunrath indicated that the library has several multicultural books already, that is why they are not strongly represented in this application. Board books can be cleaned and will last longer than paperback books. Commissioner Malone asked about the population to be served, indicating that the application is weak in books for special needs children. Ms. Hunrath indicated that it was not their intent to exclude children with special needs. Commissioner McCoy indicated that the application was very cautious on numbers to be served, indicating that the applicants verbally indicated they would serve far more than 20 children. Additional questions were posed about who would own the books. It was questioned about whether this is duplicating or supplanting what the FRCs and LCFR are provided through the books they loan to families. Commissioner Malone indicated that she felt that the clientele is different and this proposal does not appear to be duplicative or supplanting. Commissioner Elam suggested that the applicants work with a children's librarian from a different county to select appropriate children's books. Ms. Hunrath is willing to work with others to guide the purchases. There were no further comments or questions. Commissioner Elam moved that the grant be approved conditioned upon a revised list. Commissioner Malone seconded the motion. Commissioner Elam indicated she is willing to work with the applicants as well as Commissioner Malone and Denise Stevenson to review the revised list of books. The puppets and supporting supplies were not in question. There was no further discussion. The motion passed.

Commissioner McCoy commented that the grant was well written and presented well. The in-kind match and volunteer contribution to the grant was well indicated.

**AUTHORIZATION TO REAPPLY FOR SCHOOL READINESS FUNDING:** The questions of whether to apply for school readiness funding was considered. If the application is to be submitted, it will have to be submitted prior to the next Commission meeting so authorizing signature now is necessary. It was suggested that the Executive Committee review the application prior to signature. The submitted application should be on the May agenda for full Commission approval. Commissioner Irvin moved that we reapply for the funding, get the application reviewed by the Executive Committee, and then send in the application. Commissioner Poteete seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed.

**CARES PROEJCT -- FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL PROGRAM MODIFICATION:** There are 55 applicants and if they all complete every available option of the program, there is not enough funding to modify the program and offer a parallel local program. The CARES program will proceed as it was approved by the State Children & Families Commission.

**CALIFORNIA FAMILY RESOURCE ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION:** Barbara Tiner presented information from the California Family Resource Association. This is a new statewide membership association of organizations and individuals that are working to build strong families. Their mission is to advocate for innovative public policies and funding that help families and communities thrive and succeed. Their passion is promoting approaches that help families help themselves. Their fundamental belief is that helping families early – before problems become difficult or intractable -- makes more sense than intervening only after families are in crisis. The first conference will be April 27 and 28, 2006 where colleagues will come together to advocate for a more comprehensive, prevention-oriented approach to supporting families and communities. Barbara Tiner will present similar information to the CAPC, Strong Families, CPS, and other organizations during the near future.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROGRESS, STRATEGIC PLANNING:** The needs assessment draft is complete and will be forwarded to everyone in a PDF format. It is being posted on the [www.lassenfirst5.com](http://www.lassenfirst5.com) website. The public forums to present the findings and get feedback will start on March 13, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. There will be two sessions, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The participants will be oriented to the result of the community needs assessment, the purpose and desired results from developing an integrated system of family support in Lassen County, and they will also determine the most effective way of being involved in the planning process, work on a mission statement, vision and core values for a family support system. Laura explained that this is an opportunity for everyone to be involved in defining a common vision for not only county agencies to follow, but for all agencies working to help Lassen County citizens to strive for. We haven't had an opportunity to develop a goal to guide us all toward the "bigger picture", and the needs assessment and the public forums will begin the process. The second opportunity to continue the family support planning work will be an all day session on April 5<sup>th</sup>. April 6<sup>th</sup> is an all day planning meeting for the commission to review and update their strategic plan. It is important for as many commissioners as possible to be present at all of these meetings.

Additionally, a special work meeting will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the Big Valley community Building. This is a special meeting of the Big Valley Family Resource Center Advisory Board and the Community Planning and Advisory Council Board of Directors. The Big Valley Family Resource Center desires to become a 501c3 non-profit entity. The two advisory boards will review various issues associated with becoming a non-profit, and any impacts to existing programs and services. If we are separate, how then are we together as a team/system to deliver services? How or is the mission and vision of the Commission impacted? Are other programs such as Home Visiting affected? These and other questions are the focus of the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Answers to these questions will pave the way for participation in the planning events on March 13, and April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The special meetings will be facilitated by Sarah Boxx. Melody Brawley is a Commissioner designated to attend the meeting.

A videoconference on Autism will be presented at the Lassen County Office of Education on April 25, 2006 from 9-1. Enrollment is limited to 50. There is no fee.

Ira Chasnoff will be speaking here in Lassen County on March 25, 2006.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Roberts  
Executive Director