



**Children & Families Commission**  
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**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, May 27, 2008**  
*Petersen Event Center*  
720 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto, CA 95354

**Members Present:** Vicki Bauman, David Cooper, Denise Hunt, Mary Ann Lee, Nelly Paredes-Walsborn, Dan Souza (Chair), and John Walker.

**Members Absent:** Dick Monteith and George Skol

**Staff Present:** John Sims, Executive Director; Erica Inacio, Administration; Tina Jamison, Accountant; Kirsten Jasek-Rysdahl, Program Evaluator; Luis Molina, School Readiness Coordinator; and Jack Doering, Counsel.

I. Chair Souza called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Chair Souza welcomed those in attendance.

Commission and staff members were introduced.

II. Public Comment Period

Gina Sandoval, Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children, thanked the Commission and Luis Molina for allowing them to participate, along with the Keyes School Readiness Program, with the KVIE Project. The KVIE project allowed them to provide services to 72 families, and KVIE provided books to enhance the Keyes literacy library. The Newman School Readiness Program and the Newman Family Resource Center is also working with the KVIE Project. The Commission acknowledged the partnership between the programs to deliver services and benefits to children.

III. Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar was approved with comment that there was confusion regarding the Commission's intent to complete the priorities survey. The minutes reflect that all Commissioners were to complete and submit the survey while some of the Commissioners understood that they were to hold off on completing the survey until the community completed a survey. It was agreed that the Commission will discuss the priorities survey and whether Commissioners are to complete it later in the meeting.

**Moved Lee, Seconded Hunt. – Unanimously approved.**

IV. Agenda Items

A. The Commission approved the Commission Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2008.

**Approved on consent.**

B. Executive Director's Office

1. The Commission heard an update on the Proposition 10 Fund Balance Projections based on recent information from a meeting with Senator Dave Cogdill, head of the Senate Republican Caucus and a "Big 5" member. Representatives from the Commission met with the Senator to learn more about State initiatives to diver Commission resources.

Highlights of the meeting with Senator Cogdill included:

- Counties whose annual expenditures are less than the tobacco taxes collected were a concern of Senator Cogdill and the Caucus. (For the last 3-4 years, Stanislaus Prop 10 has been spending more each year than it takes in.)
- More than once, Senator Cogdill mentioned he had heard talk about diverting County Commission funding streams for a single fiscal year to help with the State budget crisis.
- Senator Cogdill said legal research continues regarding the authority of the Legislature to act with or without a ballot initiative.

- Senator Cogdill said that the Caucus had identified \$10B in various accounts that could be used to balance the budget. His perspective was that a little from each area (including Prop 10) should be used to cobble together a solution.
- Senator Cogdill does not believe that there will be sufficient support in the Senate and the Assembly to address the State's financial situation through revenue/tax increases.
- The State has sufficient cash on hand to operate until mid to late August. Without an adopted budget, the State will not be able to approach Wall Street to structure short-term borrowings. Senator Cogdill felt this limitation might encourage an adopted budget by the end of August.

On the May Revise issued by the Governor, Prop 10 was not specifically mentioned as a resource to balance the State's budget, however, there are references to "other public funding sources" that may, in fact, include Prop 10.

The updated financial projections took in consideration the recent information and used the following assumptions:

- The Commission's 2008-2009 adopted budget was used as a starting point
- Stanislaus County's tobacco taxes were removed from 2008-2009 revenue stream. (\$700,000 in State Commission revenue for CARES and school readiness programs remains in the Commission's 2008-2009 projected revenue stream).
- Contractors in 2008-2009 and future years were estimated to spend 86% of contract allocations.

Two maximum and minimum projections were presented. The maximum projection included funding for new, continued, or increased contracts from a list included in the Commission's April agenda packet. The minimum projection included funding for only those contracts approved and authorized for execution by the Commission in April.

At a discussion at the Statewide Conference, information shared indicated that the State in the past has gone into programs and swept reserves. They might borrow the money for 90 days and then pay it back with no specific time frame.

The Commission was also informed that Senator Cox held a press conference and shared his desire to place the diversion of Proposition 10 revenues on the November ballot.

2. The Commission heard a presentation on Committee discussions regarding the themes or concepts of 2008-2009 contracts.

Some of the themes or concepts discussed by Committees included:

- Programs leveraging significant outside sources should be continued.
- The State's diversion of resources could require the Commission to prioritize its program expenditures as early as September 2008.
- Direct service programs are a higher priority than systems change efforts.
- One-time program costs make sense during this period of fiscal uncertainty.
- Programs with workable sustainability plans should be priority.
- The Commission's "priority" survey effort needs to be completed soon.

Commission staff presented a staff recommendation on funding additional 2008-2009 programs. The recommendation was a very conservative one due to Commission finances possibly being impacted. Staff made it clear that the recommendation should not be interpreted to mean that the programs not being recommended for funding have no merit – it just means that the Commission's resources are finite, limited and very likely about to be significantly decreased.

The staff recommendation was to approve \$645,807 in increases to the 2008-2009 adopted budget and authorize the Executive Director to enter into the following agreements:

- CARES for \$600,807 (for a total of \$1,201,614 in FY 2008-2009). With over 600 participants, CARES is one of the Commission's larger and more complex programs. Extending the program for an additional 6 months for the second half of 2008-2009 will give the program the opportunity to ramp down its operations in 2008-2009 as it prepares to closeout the program operations and submit final reports during the first 6 months of 2009-2010.

- Community Health Assessment with the Health Services Agency for a one-time fee of \$35,000. The assessment would collect indicators related to the health outcomes of the 0-5 population. The information from the assessment can be used by the Commission to revise its Strategic Plan.
- Infant Safe Sleeping Project with the Health Services Agency for a one-time fee of \$10,000. The funding would cover the cost of materials such as handouts, flyers, poster, or videos. The program is designed to support safe sleeping practices. The proposal was in response to 21 asphyxiation / SIDS infant deaths that have occurred in the last two calendar years.
- Authorize staff to submit an application to the State for an additional \$120,161 of State funds to support the CARES Project during the second half of 2008-2009 and for an additional \$120,161 of State funds to support the closeout of CARES in 2009-2010.
- Authorize staff to make \$645,807 in budget amendments and make transfers from the Contracts Adjustment line item to the 2008-2009 Contract Schedule.
- Direct staff to notify the contractors on the list who were not funded of contract termination dates or that the Commission will not be funding their proposal.

After the presentation, Commissioner Lee and Commissioner Walker stepped out of the room to abstain from the discussion or voting as they could have a conflict with two of the programs recommended by Commission staff.

Commission Cooper made a motion to accept the staff recommendations and it was seconded by Commissioner Paredes-Walsborn.

Prior to moving forward and obtaining the votes, Chair Souza asked members of the public to provide feedback on the recommendations.

Juan Ramirez, Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) Program Representative, explained how the program has made a positive impact in the community. Since November of 2007 there has only been one count of SBS compared to 7 in the previous year. Since November of 2007 to April of 2008, over 3,000 parents have been educated. The program is currently working with Emanuel Hospital, Doctors, Memorial and the American Red Cross. The program was planning to expand into Kaiser in the next fiscal year.

Juan went on to say that they understand the possible impacts of Prop 10 funds during the State budget crisis and felt that the program can continue at a possible reduced cost of \$50,000 for program materials only.

Jan Viss, from the Community Services Agency, indicated that the possibility existed for the program to continue at \$10,000 per year.

The Commission asked the program if they could work with the hospitals to obtain some funding from the hospitals in order for the program to continue. The representatives indicated that that was a possibility.

Commissioner Bauman asked if Shaken Baby Syndrome could be combined with the Infant Safe Sleeping Project being recommended for funding. Jan Viss understood the advertising similarities of the outreach component, but indicated that the public might get confused and misunderstand the message and interpret that co-sleeping with a child can be abuse (which is not the case).

**The motion did not pass, 4 – 1 (opposed Bauman. Abstained Walker and Lee.)**

*Chair Souza noted that in the Commission By-Laws, five affirmative votes are needed for the Commission to take an official action.*

Commissioner Bauman made a motion to extend the Shaken Baby Syndrome Program at a reduced funding amount of \$50,000 and to provide \$10,000 to the Health Services Agency for the Infant Safe Sleeping Project. Furthermore, SBS would be directed to work closely with HSA (as an expert in advertising efforts).

**Motion dies for lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Commissioner Cooper moved that the CARES Project (\$600,807), the Community Health Assessment (35,000), and that the Infant Safe Sleeping Project (\$10,000) be funded.

**Moved Cooper, Seconded Hunt. Unanimously approved. Abstained Walker and Lee.**

Commissioner Paredes-Walsborn moved that the HSA Car Seat Safety Program be discontinued effective July 1, 2008; that the Breastfeeding Coalition Project be discontinued effective March 1, 2009; that the HSA Perinatal Home Visitations (HBO) program not be funded for the requested \$141,509 increase.

**Moved Paredes-Walsborn, Seconded Cooper. Unanimously approved. Abstained Walker and Lee.**

Commissioner Walker and Commissioner Lee joined the meeting.

Commissioner Bauman moved that the Shaken Baby Syndrome program be funded at \$50,000 and that they work with the Health Services Agency for guidance with advertising strategies. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Paredes-Walsborn.

**The motion was then withdrawn by Commissioner Bauman and by Commissioner Paredes-Walsborn.**

Commissioner Bauman made a motion that the Commission not vote on the Shaken Baby Syndrome program until additional information is provided on costs to continue the program.

**Moved Bauman, Seconded Cooper. Unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Bauman made a motion that the Commission not vote on the Family Justice Center until a presentation is given to the Commission.

**Motion died for a lack of a second.**

Commissioner Paredes-Walsborn made a motion to discontinue funding for the Infant and Child CPR/First Aid Program and to discontinue the program effective July 1, 2008 and to accept the staff recommendation on the Family Justice Center.

**Moved Paredes-Walsborn, Seconded Cooper. Motion passes 6 – 1. Opposed Bauman.**

Due to a conflict of interest, Chair Souza passed the gavel to Commissioner Walker and stepped out of the room along with Commissioner Hunt.

A motion was made to deny the funding for the Stanislaus County Recovery Center.

**Moved Cooper, Seconded Walker. Unanimously approved. Abstained Souza and Hunt.**

Commissioner Souza and Commissioner Hunt joined the meeting and Commissioner Walker returned the gavel to Chair Souza.

A motion was made to authorize staff to submit an application to the State for an additional \$120,161 of State funds to support the CARES Project during the second half of 2008-2009, and for an additional \$121,161 of State funds to support the closeout of CARES in 2009-2010, and to authorize staff to make \$645,807 in budget amendments and transfers from the Contracts Adjustment line item to the 2008-2009 Contract Schedule.

**Moved Walker, Seconded Hunt. Unanimously approved.**

## C. Committee Reports

1. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Operations Committee meeting of May 13, 2008.  
**Approved on Consent.**
2. The Commission accepted the minutes for the Administrative & Finance Committee meeting of May 12, 2008, including a monthly Contract Schedule Report .  
**Approved on Consent.**
3. The commission accepted the minutes for the Executive Committee meeting of May 19, 2008.  
**Approved on Consent.**

#### D. Program Reports

1. The Commission accepted the monthly report from the CARES Project of the Child Development Training Consortium for the month of April 2008.  
**Approved on Consent.**

#### V. Correspondence - **Approved on Consent.**

1. The Commission accepted a “thank you” letter from Margaret A. Tynan.
2. The Commission accepted a “thank you” letter from Leticia Tamayo.

#### VI. Commissioners’ Reports

1. Chair Souza shared that the First 5 Statewide Conference was an eventful conference. He also indicated that the children affected by drugs were a topic of discussion and that counties were being encouraged to address it in their local counties. Based on the Stanislaus County Commission budget, close to 50% of the budget provides services to a child that is in one way or another affected by drugs. Chair Souza also indicated that he enjoyed listening to a Key Note Speaker from the Federal Reserve on the topic of Economy Development Impact.
2. Commissioner Cooper enjoyed the Round Table discussion on the budget crisis and appreciated hearing from the other Commissions.
3. Commissioner Walker indicated that he enjoyed the conference and wanted staff to pass along a message to the First 5 Association. He asked that the Association consider providing handout materials on a CD or posting the information on the website instead of providing binders. Printing off all those materials is expensive and being in a time of financial challenges CD’s would be more effective.

#### VII. Staff Report

John Sims, Executive Director, shared with the Commission that:

- The Staff will move forward with obtaining Community feedback on the local needs through a survey. The Commission encouraged staff to move forward and asked that the survey be provided to Prop10 providers and recipient of services. After much discussion, the Commission decided to have Commissioners hold off on completing the priorities survey until the Community has participated. Commission staff will have a draft survey available for Committees to consider in June.
- Staff is currently reviewing the revised proposals and budget requests for the Cycle 1 Roll Over funds available to School Readiness Sites. Staff will be finalizing the application and submitting it to the Commission for their information.
- Due to staff vacation times, the Committee Meetings scheduled for June needed to be rescheduled. The Commission moved Committee meetings to Monday, June 16, 2008.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m. and convened for a Closed Session to discuss:  
Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
Title: Executive Director  
Government Code: 54954.5(e)**

Closed Session adjourned at **6:18 p.m.** The Commission reconvened and the Chair announced that no action was taken during the closed session and that staff would be participating in the evaluation of the Executive Director.