



April 25, 2022
April Meeting Minutes
Zoom Conference Call

Commissioners Present

Paul Tichinin	Bekkie Emery	Sandra Applegate
John Haschak	Ben Anderson	Jenine Miller
Erica Baumker		

Commissioners Absent

Lucresha Rentería		

Public Present

Julie Fetherston	Marissa Daniel	Alex Rounds	Monica Galliani
Andres Alvarado	Jade Aldrich	Megan Carson	

ITEM 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Applegate called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed participants. The Commission and staff made introductions.

ITEM 2 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Commissioner Applegate called for public comment on non-agendized items and opened the public hearing. No public comment was received. Commissioner Applegate closed the public hearing.

ITEM 3 CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION)

- Meeting Agenda
- DRAFT Minutes from March 2022
- Staff Report

Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Motion: Anderson, Second: Emery

Yes: Anderson, Applegate, Baumker, Emery, Haschak, Miller, Tichinin

Abstain: None

Absent: Rentería

Motion Passed

ITEM 4 MEETING LOCATIONS (ACTION)

ED Fetherston explained to the Commission that AB 361 requires a vote to determine whether future meetings will be held in person or virtually. The commission must also vote on the location of future meetings. ED Fetherston suggested holding the meeting in person. Discussion regarding scheduling options ensued.

Motion to hold a hybrid meeting for May 2022.

Motion: Anderson, Second: Haschak

Yes: Anderson, Applegate, Baumker, Emery, Haschak, Miller, Tichinin

No: none

Absent: Rentería

Motion Passed.

ITEM 5 Presentation on New Early Start Services in Round Valley

(ACTION) – ED Fetherston introduced Gina Wermuth, a birth-3 speech therapist working in Mendocino County. She has partnered with Head Start in Round Valley to find how to meet unmet needs. She then highlighted the Round Valley Birth-to-5 Enhancement project which will work to increase Early Start referrals and IFSP’s. The project is set to run from March 1, 2022, to February 29, 2024. In collaboration with community resources, the project will improve access to Early Start through activities to identify, refer, and serve children birth-to-5 with developmental delays and disabilities. She then explained the process listed below.

Round Valley Birth-to-5 Enhancement Project

Purpose: Increase Early Start Referrals and IFSPs
Project Duration: March 1, 2022 - Feb 29, 2024
Funding: DDS Service Access and Equity Grant

In collaboration with community resources, improve access to Early Start through activities to identify, refer and serve children birth-to-5 with developmental delays and disabilities.

- 1 PRE-REFERRAL birth-5 developmental consultations, screenings, assessments and intervention in trusted community settings
- 2 Establishment of a Birth-to-5 community play group, with goal of long-term sustainability through local community members and resources
- 3 Direct support to RVIT Health Center to provide developmental consultations and screenings during family health visits
- 4 Direct support to local early care providers at RVIT Head Start, RVIT Child Care and RVUSD Preschool to increase screenings and referrals of children with developmental needs
- 5 Distribution of 200 free, take-home early childhood activity kits with toys and books during family encounters

Contact: Gina Wermuth, (707) 472-7099, gina@earlyyearstherapy.com

Commissioner Tichinin expressed appreciation for the projects approach and exploratory engagement for early development in the Round Valley community. He encouraged finding enough supplies (crayons, handouts, etc.) for the extended family as well as the targeted groups of children. Ms. Wermuth further clarified that she will be conducting developmental screening at the Round Valley Health Center. In response to Commissioner Applegate, she also explained that she will be conducting the work herself along with the help of Early Start staff. Commissioner Baumker expressed enthusiasm for the program. She added that Dr. Marvin Trotter has experience with the Round Valley Health Center and will be a great contact. Commissioners Anderson and Haschak expressed appreciation for Ms. Wermuth’s work.

ITEM 6 Brief Update on Outstanding Items- ED Fetherston reported that First 5 Lake has agreed to share their code with a discounted rate for the upcoming Eligibility Wizard project. She explained that she will put a spot in the budget for the development process for the Commission to approve at the next meeting. The new F5M website is set to launch on June 30. She suggested holding the May planning meeting at MCOE. She asked the Commission for approval to purchase necessary items for Talk, Read, Sing.

Motion to purchase materials necessary for Talk, Read, Sing.

Motion: Anderson, Second: Haschak

Yes: Anderson, Applegate, Baumker, Emery, Haschak, Miller, Tichinin

Abstain: None

Absent:

Rentería

Motion Passed

ITEM 7 Update Snapshot of Draft 2022-2023 Budget and Budget Tracker
(ACTION)

ED Fetherston explained that the budget class codes have changed to align with the Strategic Plan. There have been changes around Triple P and Community Education as well. Outreach has become a much larger section to hold campaigns and social media promotions. She reminded the Commission that Raise & Shine used to encompass the Sandbox, Imagination Library, and Healthy Kids Mendocino funds as well as the Pearl account. F5M held on to Raise & Shine when the Sandbox separated, and the Imagination Library closed down to keep non-profit status projects/fundraising available. There is no additional cost to keep Raise & Shine. Commissioner Anderson suggested using the money that the Sandbox repays to cover any overhead money required to keep Raise & Shine. Commissioner Tichinin agreed. ED Fetherston gave a home visiting update, stating that Home Visiting Consortium Coordinator Alex Rounds will be receiving a new title with updated job responsibilities to reflect the budget changes. She also brought up the possibility of keeping \$25,000-\$30,000 from reserves in the “special project grant requests” line item of the budget, which will be voted upon as part of the budget approval process at the May meeting.

Motion to continue Raise & Shine non-profit and produce necessary paperwork to make a legal transfer of repayment funds.

Motion: Anderson, Second: Haschak

Yes: Anderson, Applegate, Baumker, Emery, Haschak, Miller, Tichinin

Abstain: None

Absent:

Rentería

ITEM 8 Executive Director Annual Performance Review

The Chair reported that ED Fetherston received an outstanding evaluation. The Commission is accepting her resignation as of July 29.

ITEM 10 COMMISSIONER REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, QUORUM CHECK AND

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

- *Commissioner Anderson* - Reported that there are leadership changes underway at Mendocino Community Health Clinic following the departure of Rod Granger.
- *Commissioner Baumker* - Reported that there is an increased number of staff supporting the Willits clinic.
- *Commissioner Miller* - Reported that Mendocino County Behavioral Health received a grant to build a youth crisis residential treatment facility.
- *Commissioner Tichinin* - Thanked staff for all their great work.

Quorum Check for Next Meeting:

Executive Committee Meeting: May 9, 2022, from 4:00-5:00 pm via Zoom.

Commission Meeting: May 20, 2022, at 1:00-4:00 pm. Commissioners Applegate, Anderson, Tichinin, and Haschak are available. Those absent will be polled and reported via email.

COMMISSIONER APPLGATE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 2:46 P.M.