



April 22, 2024
Commission Meeting Minutes
MCOE, 2240 Old River Rd, Ukiah, CA & Zoom Conference Call

Commissioners Present

Erica D’Anis	Ben Anderson	Sandra Applegate
Maria May	Mo Mulheren	

Commissioners Absent

Jenine Miller		
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Public Present

Townley Saye	Andres Alvarado	Sariah Neff
Jenna Flesch	Jade Aldrich	Karla Kohler
Bonnie Boek	Megan Carson	Tara Yoast
Monica Galliani	Maria Fuentes	Katheryn Reihl
Alex Rounds	Tawny Bailey	

ITEM 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner D’Anis called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. It was noted that Commissioners Sandra Applegate and Ben Anderson were exercising qualified AB 2449 attendance and would be and voting virtually. The Commission and staff made introductions.

ITEM 2 MINDFUL MINUTE

Alex Rounds guided the attendees in a mindful minute to ground and arrive.

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Commissioner D’Anis opened public comment on non-agendized items. Katheryn Reihl asked if public needed to attend via Zoom. She was informed the public were welcome to attend either in person or virtually. Commissioner D’Anis closed public comment.

ITEM 4 CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION)

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes: February

Commissioner D’Anis noted item 9.5 requires a change in the budget year it should be year 2024-25. The February meeting minutes need the meeting location of Point Arena added.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar and February minutes with updates

Motion: Mulheren, Second: May

Yes: Mulheren, D'Anis, May, Applegate, Anderson

Abstain: None

Absent: Miller

Motion: Passed

ITEM 5 APPROVAL FOR NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS (ACTION)

ED Saye explained that the procedure for appointing a new Commissioner is not clear and staff created a flow chart for visual representation of the process. After group discussion and input from Supervisor Mulheren on the County process, recommendations are as follows:

1. Applicant will submit current resume and nomination to the ED for EC review.
2. EC reviews and ED notifies applicant of approval and forwards applicant to the Clerk of the Board for County application.
3. The sitting supervisor on the Commission will endorse the approval at a Board of Supervisors meeting.
4. A formal swearing in will occur at the next regular First 5 Commission Meeting.

Motion to approve Steps to Become a First 5 Mendocino Commissioner with discussed modifications

Motion: D'Anis, Second: Anderson

Yes: Mulheren, D'Anis, May, Applegate, Anderson

Abstain: None

Absent: Miller

Motion: Passed

It was noted that Bekkie Emery has retired from her position in the County and as Commissioner. Attending members were provided with the Appointment Nominations and Resumes for Katheryn Reihl and Tawny Bailey. Katheryn and Tawny introduced themselves and provided short bios with professional qualifications and experience.

Motion to approve Commission applicants

Motion: Mulheren, Second: D'Anis

Yes: Mulheren, D'Anis, May, Applegate, Anderson

Abstain: None

Absent: Miller

Motion: Passed

ITEM 6 BUDGET TRACKER

The current Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual for July 2023 through February 2024 was reviewed. First 5 Mendocino is underbudget in general, the year is 67% complete and only 48% of the allocated budget has been used. One reason is the office move was cheaper than anticipated. There has also been no draw down yet for the DHCS Grant because of delayed activation from the state.

ITEM 7 **POLICY REVISIONS: HEALTH BENEFIT REVISIONS (ACTION)**

ED Saye explained the current employee health insurance benefit of \$600 has not been modified in a decade though insurance premiums have continued to rise. To align with First 5 Mendocino family first values, the recommendation to the Commission is to add an optional dependent benefit of \$200 per employee dependent, for up to four dependents. The name of the policy will be changed to Family Friendly Health Benefit. Commissioner D’Anis added that from the EC perspective, Jenna Flesh, had assured them it was a sustainable change.

Motion to approve the recommended and renamed Family Friendly Health Benefit Policy

Motion: Anderson, Second: Mulheren

Yes: Mulheren, D’Anis, May, Applegate, Anderson

Abstain: None

Absent: Miller

Motion: Passed

ITEM 8 **POLICY REVISIONS: RETIREMENT AND WELLNESS BENEFIT (ACTION)**

ED Saye explained that this update is a process change with regards to what type of income is used in determining retirement benefits. This revision will ensure only earned income is used rather than any income that is generated from gross up amounts for paid taxes towards the Family Friendly Health Benefit or the Wellness Benefit.

Motion to approve the wellness and retirement benefit policy revisions

Motion: Anderson, Second: Mulheren

Yes: Mulheren, D’Anis, May, Applegate, Anderson

Abstain: None

Absent: Miller

Motion: Passed

ITEM 9 **FY 2024-2025 DRAFT BUDGET (ACTION)**

ED shared an income and disparity infographic with the Commission and pointed out that the majority of our community falls into the area of earning less than what it takes to pay for basic expenses like rent, food, and utilities. This graph was intended to set the tone for the upcoming draft budget review and recommendations. In Mendocino County only a single working adult with no children and two working adults with no children are in the green regarding income vs. expenses.

ED Saye noted that due to increased grant activity in FY 23-24, more Prop 10 dollars have been able to be reserved towards FY24-25 activities. There are three areas of recommended activities to consider for FY 24-25:

1. In collaboration with the Community Foundation, First 5 funds could be used to support the seeding of a new Native Cultures Fund to help establish equitable supports for Tribal families with young children to improve access to needed services. Based on ideas brought forward during ED Saye’s Executive Director Leadership training and discussions with other community leaders, the recommendation would further support the practice of providing Land Acknowledgements while creating a call to

action for community members to contribute to the fund as well. In other states, this activity has been recognized as a “Voluntary Land Tax” that is used to further support Tribal families. The Community Foundation is actively working to create the fund and would be the managing authority, while First 5 would only be providing initial seed money and the Commission could vote annually on what amount, if any, would be allocated moving forward. The EC approved conversations with the Community Foundation and in reviewing the budget have estimated an allocation of \$70,000 in FY 24-25. There is no expectation of future funding; however, potential future funding opportunities are being explored for future grants and contracts. The allocation amount was determined on based on the high needs of Tribal families.

2. Directly funding Community Supports that help to provide essentials like diapers, wipes, and formula. The recent proposal to fund Diaper Depot was vetoed at the State level and is expected to be a continued need for the community considering the income disparities in Mendocino. Estimated allocation is \$40,000.

3. Exploring the potential of offering “scholarships” to parents with young children who may fall out of the qualifying incomes for childcare subsidies. North Coast Opportunities provides subsidies, but it is unknown what the currently need is for parents. This allocation would require more research but is being brought to the Commission for consideration and further exploration. Estimated allocation is \$ 25,500.

Regarding these budget considerations, additional research will need to be conducted, but these recommendations are being brought forward to the Commission for consideration based on stories and information collected anecdotally from families and partners.

Commissioner Mulheren expressed concerns about funding programs that are known to work, like basic needs, versus funding programs that have not been proven to work or are in pilot stages and may not be sustainable.

Commissioner Applegate confirmed that the Action Item would be voting on the concepts for these budget considerations not the actual amounts. ED Saye confirmed that a vote in favor would be approving the categories for addition to the upcoming budget, but the dollar amount might change.

Estimated Prop 10 funding for Budget year 2024-25 is \$510,166.00, allocations based on prior Commission approval are 80% program allocation at \$408,133.00 and 20% Long-term planning allocation expected to be \$102,033.00.

Motion to approve the FY 2024-25 draft budget and recommended considerations

Motion: D'Anis, Second: Mulheren

Yes: Mulheren, D'Anis, May, Applegate, Anderson

Abstain: None

Absent: Miller

Motion: Passed

Commissioner Ben Anderson left the meeting at 2:03.

ITEM 10

ED & STAFF REPORT

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Staff made pinwheels and decorated the office. The Board of Supervisors proclamation recognizing the month was attended by staff.

The State of the Child was successful and well attended. All the books purchased were handed out to attendees. Approximately 50 different agencies were represented over the two days. The wall of "Success Stories" was very popular, and we received many stories from different agencies depicting their wins.

The team is working on many different Community Resiliency Model (CRM) trainings including trainings at Howard Memorial Hospital, Mendocino Coast Clinics, and The Ukiah Boys & Girls Club. Staff shared snapshots of the trainings presented. Upcoming trainings will include schools. Commissioner Mulheren suggested contacting the City of Ukiah for the Summer Safari programs.

There are conversations in the works to have a CRM train the trainers event to train more individuals who can they bring the information back to their teams.

ED Saye and Bonnie Boek attended the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) SELPA Training in Riverside. Saye and Boek both shared that the breakouts were very well done. Following the conference, Saye did a presentation for the SELPA Directors including services and resources provided by the Family Empowerment Center.

Multiple letters of support were written including the following:

- AB 2982 Prenatal-to-Three Work Group
- Sponsorship for the \$1 Million Dollar General Fund request
- AB 1015 Diaper Distribution (vetoed by the Governor)
- AB 3218 Flavored Tobacco Ban Enforcement

A Community Navigator has started working in Round Valley with the Round Valley Indian Clinic. Her name is Deb Oliver.

Staff provided childcare at the SELPA and RCRC Parent Training event, which was very informative.

Dr. Tina Payne Bryson recorded a webinar, 10 Big Ideas for Teachers for Elevating Discipline, and First 5 Mendocino has 6 months to share it with partners.

On May 20, 2024, First 5 Mendocino is hosting Kin First Systems of Care at the Redwood Valley Rancheria.

Alex Rounds shared about the upcoming Indigenous Doula Training from April 30 - May 3. Fourteen (14) registrants are Indigenous and four (4) are community allies.

Rounds also updated the Commission on the support and education being offered to Doulas surrounding the Medi-Cal Doula benefits. First 5 Mendocino is working with Adventist Health Ukiah Valley and Care for Her to support and educate the medical community on the importance of Doulas and positive health outcomes.

Raise & Shine Program is creating their own strategic plan to better guide outreach and program goals. Sariah Neff is the lead on this project.

The Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) grant is being completed. If funded, this grant would help support the community by

providing Community Health Workers billable through Medi-Cal (CalAIM). First 5 Mendocino will be meeting with Adventist Health to discuss their Community Health Worker certification program.

Rounds updated the Commission on obtaining Care Continuity access with Adventist Health Ukiah Valley to identify patients that need services to create more wraparound services for families who have just given birth.

Jade Aldrich position has been updated to Coastal Coordinator and will be providing Triple P Peer support county-wide.

Sariah Neff will also be transitioning from her position into a Triple P Facilitator only.

ITEM 11

COMMISSIONER REPORTS, STAFF COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, QUORUM CHECK & ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Commissioner Mulheren reported that the County deficit will cause a loss in programming as the County restructures and available funding decreases. Social Services and Behavioral Health are being restructured. Loss of programming will be hardest on the most vulnerable of our population: children and elders. Mulheren also invited attendees to the Family Line Dance Event on the upcoming Friday.

Karla Kohler thanked the Commission for voting to include the basic needs in the FY 2024-25 budget.

Commissioner Applegate thanked the staff for their dedication and work.

Attention was brought to the additional materials and all attendees were encouraged to review the information regarding strengthening economic support.

The next meeting will be on Monday, June 17 in Social Services Big Sur conference room. The meeting will start at 1:00 but lunch will be served at 12:30. The meeting invite will be updated to reflect the time shift.

Commissioners D'Anis, Applegate, Mulheren, and May confirmed attendance. Anderson and Miller will be polled.

Commissioner D'Anis closed the meeting at 2:44 pm.