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## **EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Thursday, November 29, 2007 2:30 p.m.

*First 5 Monterey County*

1125 Baldwin Street; Salinas, California 93906

**Call to Order:** Len Foster, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

**Roll Call:** A legal quorum was present.

**Commissioners in attendance:** Len Foster and Robert L. Black

**Absent:** Xochitl Pasaye

**Committee Members, Funded Partner Representatives, Consultants and Staff in attendance:** David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer; Ana Gonzales-Romo, Program Officer; Francine Rodd, Executive Director; Gay Spitz, Salinas Adult School; Chris Shannon, Door to Hope; Reyna Navarrete, United Way; Jeff Bryant, Community Foundation; Patricia Zerounian, Monterey County Health Department and Lisa Luis, Program Support (recorder).

**Approve Agenda:**

Agenda was approved by as presented.

**Public Comment Period:** *Members of the audience desiring to address the Commission may do so during this time. Public comments on items not already on the agenda will be accepted.*

No public comment.

**Action/Information Items:**

**1. Data System Recommendation – David Dobrowski, Evaluation Officer**

David Dobrowski explained the Data System RFQ selection process to Committee. Committee also had documents that explained process, showed the Pros and Cons of the Persimmony Database and Questions & Answers from Persimmony.

The Data System Review Panel saw four demonstrations by potential vendors – Persimmony, Mosaic GEMS, Social Solutions/ETO and Child Plus. The panel identified Persimmony as the most accessible for our Funded Partners and First 5 Monterey County.

**Group discussion followed with comments, concerns and questions from Committee.**

Dr. Black inquired why First 5 Sonoma County did not choose Persimmony in the end. David answered that they liked the general look a bit more, GEMS was designed for evaluators. Since both could meet their functional needs, and GEMS was less in cost, they chose GEMS.

Chris Shannon commented GEMS ranked fourth for the review panel. ETO was ranked second – is a very large corporation, based on East Coast. If you needed support they would be closed at

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2 or 3 p.m. She is very concerned about having to use four or five different databases between First 5, County, Community Foundation, etc. Persimmony is a smaller company, can do all your financials in the database, even import your Quickbooks into it. GEMS had no financial capability integrated in database.

There is some concern that Michael is so key to Persimmony (about 12 person staff), what would happen to company and to our level of support if he left the company? Chris pointed out that even in a larger company like ETO (80 person staff), one person is usually making things run smoothly.

David showed Committee a demo of the database and showed some of the features. Has a very clean front page and is totally customizable. He also showed example of a Screening Report. Persimmony is completely web-based. Can even collect data on a Pocket PC or Palm Pilot.

Jeff Bryant asked if Intellectual Property was discussed with Persimmony.

If there is an MOU between the Funded Partners, you could then view each other's client information.

Reyna Navarrete asked if Persimmony included a referral system that will track activity, how frequently clients are referred, how is agency notified of referral, and if it is prompt.

David explained that Jud Slusser from Persimmony was available via phone to answer questions from the Committee during this meeting. Committee did generate several questions, but due to time restriction, group decided that David should place the call after meeting. Some of the questions included:

1. Will F5 have a dedicated tech person assigned to them?
2. How are FP alerted when a referral happens?
3. Is there an audit function?
4. Clarification on the costing structure

**ACTION:**

By consensus, the Committee recommended to proceed with Persimmony as the selected Database Vendor for First 5 Monterey County.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

**Upcoming Commission Meetings:** *Unless otherwise noted, Meetings take place at: **First 5 Monterey County**; 1125 Baldwin Street; Salinas.*

*The dates below are tentative and are contingent upon approval at the December 3, 2007 Regular Commission Meeting.*

- Regular Commission Meeting: December 3, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.
- Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting: December 13, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.
- Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting: January 4, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.
- Executive Committee Meeting: January 9, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.

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