

Memo

To: Commission Members
From: Alexander Khu
Date: Monday February 2, 2015
Re: February 2, 2015 Commission Meeting

Enclosed are the materials for the February 2, 2015 Commission meeting which will take place as follows:

Time: 6:00 pm
Location: 1485 Civic Court Suite 1200, Concord, CA
925-771-7300

A light dinner will be provided.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

Alexander Khu, Executive Assistant
First 5 Contra Costa
1485 Civic Court
Suite 1200
Concord, CA 94520
925-771-7342 Direct
925-771-6083 Fax



AGENDA
Special Meeting of the Commission

Monday, February 2, 2015, 6:00 pm
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200
Large Conference Room
Concord, CA

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

2.0 Public Comment

The public may comment on any item of public interest within the jurisdiction of the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission. In accordance with the Brown Act, if a member of the public addresses an item not on the posted agenda, no response, discussion, or action on the item may occur.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

Action

A Commissioner or member of the public may ask that any of the following consent items be removed from the consent calendar for consideration under Item 4.

3.1 Approve the minutes from the December 8, 2014 meeting.

3.2 Accept the Executive Committee Report from the December 8, 2014 meeting.

3.3 Accept the FY 2014-15 Second Quarter Financial Report

4.0 Consider for discussion any items removed from the consent calendar.

5.0 Presentation of Conflict of Interest laws pertinent to Commissioners and staff

6.0 Presentation of Bay Area and Contra Costa efforts to reduce poverty: "Rise Together" and "Ensuring Opportunity"

7.0 Consider naming First 5 Contra Costa as a "partner" in the Rise Together initiative

Action

8.0 Presentation of the Alameda and Contra Costa plan to expand "Help Me Grow."

9.0 Executive Director's Report

10.0 Adoption of the 2015 Commission meeting calendar

Action



11.0 Communications

11.1 January 2015 First 5 California Briefings

11.2 Health Report Children With Delays and their Parents Find Help in Play

11.3 Parents Learn How to Nurture at Group

12.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

13.0 Adjourn

The First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to participate in Commission meetings who contact the Commission's offices, at least 48 hours before the meeting, at (925) 771-7300.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission to a majority of members of the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200, Concord, CA 94520 during normal business hours.

In consideration of those who may suffer from chemical sensitivities or who may have allergic reactions to heavy scents, First 5 Contra Costa requests that staff and visitors refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, or the use of strongly scented products in the work place. We thank you for your consideration of others.



Monday February 2, 2015

Agenda Item 3.1

Approve the minutes from the October 6, 2014 meeting.



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 8, 2014, 6:00 pm
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200
Large Conference Room
Concord, CA

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Chairwoman PJ Shelton.

Commissioners in attendance were:

Chairwoman PJ Shelton, Secretary/Treasurer Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, John Jones, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, Joan Miller for the Director of Children and Family Services, Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker, and Matt Regan for Gareth Ashley.

Alternate Commissioners in attendance were: Mister Phillips, Belinda Lucey and Toni Robertson.

Also present was Deputy County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Absent: Commissioners Gareth Ashley, Dr. William Walker, Supervisor Candace Andersen, Supervisor Karen Mitchoff.

2.0 Public Comment

Angela Gattis from Care Parent Network announced that their agency recently had the opportunity to help out 20 families who have children, some of whom are between 0 to 5 years old. She thanks the support of the community and enabled them to pass out gifts for up to 200 children.

Odessa Caton, District Director of Aspiranet Welcome Home Baby Monument expressed her thanks for the support given through the years by First 5 Contra Costa.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Maria Fort to approve the consent calendar.
John Jones seconded the motion.

AYES: PJ Shelton, Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, John Jones, Matt Regan, Wanda Session, Joan Miller, and Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion was **APPROVED**.

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2014
Page 1 of 5



5.0 Recognize First 5 staff who have surpassed service milestones and appreciate the entire staff for their continuing dedication and accomplishment

The Commission has adopted the practice of annually appreciating First 5 staff and recognizing those who have surpassed service milestones this year. Sean Casey recognized staff who had achieved service milestones with First 5:

This year, one staff member surpassed a ten year anniversary:

Marianne Dumas, Finance Coordinator

And two staff members have surpassed their five year anniversaries:

Marnie Huddleston, Finance and Operations Director
Heather Van Rink, Evaluation Assistant II

6.0 Presentation of the 2014 Year in Review

Sean Casey made a presentation of the highlights of the previous year. During the previous fiscal year First 5 Contra Costa's funded programs served 4,703 children, 17,752 parents and caregivers, 1876 Early Care Educators and 217 early childhood education sites

The ten top highlights and achievements for First 5 Contra Costa this year:

1. Contra Costa is now an affiliate of the national network Help Me Grow early screening and early intervention efforts. Locally we have invested in screening, resource and referral and developmental playgroups serving over 300 children with delays but not significant enough to qualify in regional centers services.
2. Improved Child Behavior: early childhood mental health programs and Triple P Parenting Program continue to show strong outcomes in reduce the severity of children's social-emotional challenges and increasing parents' competence in dealing with them.
3. QRIS: 101 sites serving over 3900 children are participating in quality improvement activities, including comprehensive coaching provided by First 5 and the Contra Costa Child Care Council.
4. Home Visiting Early Head Start Partnership: As a result of First 5's newly re-focused home visiting structure, the Community Services Bureau was able to align \$245,000 with home visiting providers to augment services, allowing another year of services for 65 families.
5. Father participation: New male home visitors have started serving fathers, and First 5 Centers are attracting more dads to center event.
6. Strengthening Families: 81 providers from 17 agencies have participated in training on the "5 Protective Factors" that form the core of the Strengthening Families model of family support.
7. Fostering Leadership: Parents and other community members participated in numerous activities through our Community Engagement and Family Support initiatives while learning valuable skills in organizing and leading group activities.
8. Sugar Bites: Our ads continued through ths summer in neighborhoods particularly affected by childhood obesity, and a new Sugar Bites video is on the way!
9. Ensuring Opportunity: Contra Costa's campaign to cut poverty gathered new partners from the business, labor and faith communities, and initiated staff hiring at the end of

**COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

December 8, 2014
Page 2 of 5

the year.

10. The Future Looks Bright: Renewed support for early childhood in the state legislature raise hopes for sustaining First 5's efforts; while early childhood education continues to gain support on the national scale.

Angela Gattis suggested that future year-end presentations show children with special needs and address First 5 accomplishments in helping kids with special needs.

7.0 Annual Report to California First 5 for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

The Commission is required to have a public hearing in its annual report to the State.

Chairwoman PJ Shelton opened the public hearing on the annual report to California First 5 for fiscal year 2013-2014. She informed the Commission that all the collected data from all First 5s is used by the First 5 Association to educate funders, advocates and legislators about the statewide impact of First 5.

Sean Casey thanked First 5 Contra Costa Evaluation Specialist Denece Dodson, who for many years has pulled together all the information for the data reports.

There were no comments from the public.

There were no comments from the Commission.

Chairwoman PJ Shelton closed the public hearing on the annual report to California First 5 for fiscal year 2013-2014.

A motion was made by Barbara Cappa to adopt the Annual Report to California First 5 for fiscal year 2013-2014. Matt Regan seconded.

AYES: PJ Shelton, Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, Matt Regan, Wanda Session, Joan Miller from CFS, John Jones and Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

The annual report to California First 5 for fiscal year 2013-2014 was **ADOPTED** unanimously.

8.0 Consider approving the Slate of Officers of the Commission for 2015:

Belinda Lucey introduced the new Slate of Officers of the Commission for 2015. She thanked PJ Shelton and Katharine Mason for agreeing to continue for another term. She also welcomed and thanked Kathy Gallagher and Gareth Ashley for agreeing to take their new position.

Chair:	PJ Shelton
Vice Chair:	Kathy Gallagher
Secretary / Treasurer:	Gareth Ashley

**COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

December 8, 2014
Page 3 of 5



Additional Non-Voting Member: Katharine Mason

A motion to accept the new Slate of Officers for the Commission for 2015 was made by Wanda Session.

Barbara Cappa seconded.

AYES: PJ Shelton, Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, Matt Regan, Wanda Session, Joan Miller from CFS, John Jones and Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Slate of Officers of the Commission for 2014 was unanimously **APPROVED**.

9.0 Consider approving the 2015 Employee Compensation and Benefits Resolution.

Sean reported that the 2015 employee Compensation and Benefits Resolution has minor changes but most of the adjustments were made by the Commission at the September 8, 2014 Commission Meeting approving the 2014 health premium contribution rates for active employees and changes in the eye vision carrier.

He noted that the executive committee approved a provision allowing staff to borrow against their own Deferred Compensation account, the same provision that offered for qualified county employees.

Katharine Mason made a motion to approve the 2015 Employee Compensation and Benefits Resolution. Maria Fort seconded the motion.

AYES: PJ Shelton, Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, Matt Regan, Wanda Session, Joan Miller from CFS, John Jones and Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

The Commission unanimously **APPROVED** the 2015 Employee Compensation and Benefits Resolution.

10.0 Executive Director's Report

Sean Casey gave the Executive Director's Report:

**COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

December 8, 2014
Page 4 of 5



a) He invited the Commission to sign up and participate in the upcoming contractor site visits.

b) Sean encouraged the Commission to attend the upcoming First 5 California Child Health, Education and Care Summit from February 10th thru 12th, 2015 in Sacramento. This summit brings together many state and county agencies serving young children. There will be a pre-conference session February 10 for county Commissioners. There will be two workshops during the Summit featuring Contra Costa programs.

Commissioners can be reimbursed for the registration costs and travel expenses to the summit. More information will be released as soon as it is posted by the First 5 Association.

c) Sean also reported that our state association has been in discussion with the legislature and Board of Equalization over the matter of reducing and possibly setting a cap to the administrative fee taken by the BOE in processing the Proposition 10 tobacco tax. The percentage being collected currently is over 3.5%. In Contra Costa County alone the excess fee amounts to approximately \$280,000 each year taken from our share of the tobacco tax revenue.

13.0 Communications

Sean called the Commission's attention to the communications in the packet:

- a) The briefing report of the recently concluded First 5 Association Staff Summit attended by county First 5 staff statewide.
- b) A news report originally published in the October 26, 2014 Richmond Pulse on sidewalk improvements along Rumrill Boulevard in collaboration with the community and county organizations including First 5's West County Regional Group.

12.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

PJ Shelton announced that she is going to sit on the board California Diversity Council, San Francisco, Advisory Board Education Chair beginning January 2015.

She also congratulated Mister Phillips for running for the West Contra Costa School Board. He was defeated by a very close margin. He announced that he also recently had a new baby boy.

13.0 Adjourn

PJ Shelton reminded that the next Commission meeting will be on February 2, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

The First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to participate in Commission meetings who contact the Commission's offices, at least 48 hours before the meeting, at (925) 771-7300.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission to a majority of members of the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200, Concord, CA 94520 during normal business hours.

In consideration of those who may suffer from chemical sensitivities or who may have allergic reactions to heavy scents, First 5 Contra Costa requests that staff and visitors refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, or the use of strongly scented products in the work place. We thank you for your consideration of others.

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2014
Page 5 of 5



Monday February 2, 2015

Agenda Item 3.2

Accept the Executive Committee Report from the December 8, 2014 meeting.



Executive Committee MINUTES

December 8, 2014
4:00 p.m.
Small Conference Room,
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200, Concord, CA

1.0 Call to Order

Present: Commissioners PJ Shelton, Maria Forte; Alternate Commissioner Katharine Mason; staff Sean Casey Marnie Huddleston, Cally Martin

2.0 Public Comment

There was none

3.0 Staff Updates

Cally Martin gave the following program update:

In the Quality Rating and Improvement program – QRIS - 61 sites have now been rated, with 3 in the very highest tier, tier 5, 25 in tier 4, 23 in tier 3 and 10 in tier 2. This is a good first round for the pilot; another 40 sites will be rated in the coming months.

First 5 Contra Costa was written into California's application for the federal Preschool Expansion Grant (PEG) as the lead agency for the six-county Bay Area QRIS. We find out this week whether California will be awarded a grant.

We met with County Office of Education to discuss the soon-to-be-released California QRIS Block grant - \$50M annually. The RFA was due to be released in the fall with an expected short turn-around time. We meant to ensure that we are prepared when it is released.

In November we received notification that our Community Wellness contract with the county Department of Health Services will be renewed with a \$3,000 increase. This will allow First 5 to purchase and install approximately 60 more car seats than last year. Families in need who attend one of our First 5 Centers or participate in one of our First 5 Home Visiting programs are eligible to receive car seats.

Two workshop proposals regarding First 5 Contra Costa funded programs were accepted by First 5 California for the Child Health and Education Summit in February 2015: 1) Implementation of Triple P in Family Shelters and 2) Developmental Screening in Low Income populations.

Contra Costa County is officially a "Help Me Grow" Affiliate – see attached letter.

With our partners at First 5 Alameda, we prepared a presentation to the TJ Long Foundation to support expansion of our implementation of HMG, and Sean Casey has been asked to present to the Trustees in January.

Our regional groups have been very busy working with local cities on parks improvement activities. East County Regional Group members met with the Antioch Parks and Recreation Director to share their park data. The Director will put the ECRG on the Parks Commission agenda for a broader presentation. ECRG members also attended the November Parks Commission meeting to advocate that the \$2 million



Prewett Park development funds are allocated to amenities/structures that would benefit families with young children. As a result of the ECRG efforts, the Parks Commission will recommend to Antioch City Council that funds are utilized to 1) create more play structures for young children, 2) install more shade, and 3) create an all-access park.

The Concord Parks Team, (First 5 Contra Costa, the Central County Regional Group, Monument Impact, CCHS, and Healthy & Active Before 5) presented the data and findings from our Monument Parks Assessment project to Concord's City Council on October 14th, 2014. Concord City Council members were supportive of the Team's work and invited us to participate in their Capital Improvements budgeting process this winter.

The West County Regional Group conducted an assessment of San Pablo parks in mid-October with over 50 families and partner agencies participating.

The Family Economic Security Partnership hosted a convening October 16 with over 100 participants to launch Ensuring Opportunity: The Campaign to Cut Poverty in Contra Costa County, a long term effort to address poverty in Contra Costa County.

4.0 Commission Updates

Sean updated the Committee on the Commission calendar for 2015, noting the later date in September – the 14th – due to the late Labor Day holiday

Sean notified the Committee that he will be soliciting bids for a consultant or consultant team to support the development of the strategic plan. He hopes to have a contractor in place by the beginning of January.

Regarding the two Commission vacancies, the CFS Director position has been posted by EHSD, and Supervisor Piepho's office is recruiting for the Alternate Commissioner in District 3.

5.0 Statewide Updates

California First 5 is sponsoring a "Children's Health and Education Summit" February 10-12, 2015. The Executive Committee confirmed that the Commission would support the travel and registration expenses for any Commission members who were interested in attending.

6.0 Items for Consideration

6.1 Proposal to add a benefit to allow staff to borrow on deferred compensation accounts

In the benefits resolution on the Commission's agenda is an added provision allowing First 5 staff to borrow from their own 403(b) accounts. Since Mass Mutual took over management of the County's deferred compensation plan last summer they have asked employers to confirm that their staff can borrow on those accounts. Staff are limited in the amount they can borrow and must repay any outstanding funds when they leave their employment. There is no cost to the employer for this benefit. The Executive Committee agreed that this provision could be included in the compensation and benefits resolution for consideration by the Commission.

6.2 Proposed update to the Commission's tobacco policy

First 5 Solano recently updated its tobacco policy to include e-cigarettes and other simulated tobacco



products. Staff propose to look at similar modifications to Contra Costa's language both to provide the opportunity for public discussion by the Commission on e-cigarettes, and to position the Commission for potential future efforts to include e-cigarettes in the Proposition 10 tax. The Committee enthusiastically supported staff's work on this.

7.0 Review agenda items for upcoming Commission meetings

The Committee reviewed the agenda items for the February 2, 2015 meeting, which will include the annual ethics update with County Counsel and collection of Form 700s. The Executive Committee will also begin the Executive Director's annual performance review in February.

8.0 Adjourn

Sean noted that this would be the last meeting with this Executive Committee and thanked Commissioner Maria Forte for her two years of service.



Monday February 2, 2015

Agenda Item 3.3

Accept the FY 2014-15 Second Quarter Financial Report

FY 14/15 Financial Report - 2nd Quarter

Line #	REVENUE	FY14/15 Budget			FY14/15 Actual Revenue and Expense				Notes
		F5 Contra Costa Funds	Other Funds	Total Budget	F5 Contra Costa Funds	Other Funds	Total Revenue and Expense	% of Budget	
1	Prop 10 - Tax Apportionment	8,154,941		8,154,941	4,191,591		4,191,591	51.4%	1
2	CAF5 - CARES Plus	-	300,000	300,000		10,476	10,476	3.5%	
3	Race to the Top	-	737,664	737,664		281,374	281,374	38.1%	
4	Thomas J. Long Foundation	-	990,000	990,000		507,375	507,375	51.3%	
5	Interest Income	120,000		120,000	48,574		48,574	40.5%	
6	MHSA Grant/Other misc income	-	81,050	81,050	1,003	26,119	27,122	33.5%	
7	Fund Balance	5,400,608	227,874	5,628,482	1,075,812	22,908	1,098,719	19.5%	
	TOTAL REVENUE	13,675,549	2,336,588	16,012,137	5,316,980	848,252	6,165,231	38.5%	
	PROGRAM EXPENSES								
	Initiatives	9,193,664	2,164,556	11,358,220	3,292,914	819,326	4,112,239	36.2%	
8	Early Care and Education Initiative								1
9	Professional Development	919,800	300,000	1,219,800	399,155	10,476	409,631	33.6%	
10	Early Learning Quality	275,494	1,783,506	2,059,000	29,976	782,731	812,707	39.5%	
11	Literacy	256,080		256,080	115,236		115,236	45.0%	
12	Total	1,451,374	2,083,506	3,534,880	544,367	793,207	1,337,574	37.8%	
13	Family Support								
14	First 5 Centers	2,314,957	6,050	2,321,007	1,007,142		1,007,142	43.4%	
15	Home Visiting	1,388,209		1,388,209	611,420		611,420	44.0%	
16	Training and support	64,200		64,200	8,876		8,876	13.8%	
17	Total	3,767,366	6,050	3,773,416	1,627,438		1,627,438	43.1%	
18	Early Intervention								2
19	Therapeutic Services	834,638	75,000	909,638	30,383	26,119	56,501	6.2%	
20	ECE Consultation	993,177		993,177	446,930		446,930	45.0%	
21	Children's Developmental Needs	663,733		663,733	215,300		215,300	32.4%	
22	Children Experiencing Stress/Trauma	784,290		784,290	220,358		220,358	28.1%	
23	Total	3,300,838	75,000	3,375,838	917,200	26,119	943,318	27.9%	
24	Community Information and Education								
25	Public Information	524,086		524,086	145,071		145,071	27.7%	
26	Community Engagement	140,000		140,000	57,661		57,661	41.2%	
27	Family Economic Stability	10,000		10,000	1,177		1,177	11.8%	
	Total	674,086		674,086	203,909		203,909	30.2%	
28	Program Expenses								
29	Program Salaries & Wages	1,190,135	153,600	1,343,735	590,268	26,213	616,481	45.9%	
30	Program Employee Benefits	799,334	18,432	817,766	356,365	2,713	359,078	43.9%	
31	Office Overhead and Other Expenses	231,607		231,607	101,052		101,052	43.6%	
32	Total	2,221,076	172,032	2,393,108	1,047,685	28,926	1,076,611	45.0%	
	TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	11,414,740	2,336,588	13,751,328	4,340,599	848,252	5,188,850	37.7%	
33	EVALUATION EXPENSES								
34	Evaluation Salaries & Wages	338,318		338,318	166,028		166,028	49.1%	
35	Evaluation Employee Benefits	212,971		212,971	99,938		99,938	46.9%	
36	Professional Services	306,000		306,000	133,046		133,046	43.5%	
37	Office Overhead and Other Expenses	60,533		60,533	21,780		21,780	36.0%	
	TOTAL EVALUATION EXPENSES	917,822		917,822	420,792		420,792	45.8%	
38	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES								
39	Administrative Salaries & Wages	562,956		562,956	271,700		271,700	48.3%	
40	Administrative Employee Benefits	351,677		351,677	165,454		165,454	47.0%	
41	Professional Services	135,500		135,500	18,741		18,741	13.8%	
42	Purchased Services, Equipment lease, supp	202,839		202,839	60,901		60,901	30.0%	
43	Office Overhead	90,015		90,015	38,793		38,793	43.1%	
44	TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	1,342,987		1,342,987	555,589		555,589	41.4%	
	TOTAL Expenses	13,675,549	2,336,588	16,012,137	5,316,980	848,252	6,165,231	38.5%	

Distribution of expenses by department:	Program	84.2%
	Evaluation	6.8%
	Administrative	9.0%
	Total	100.0%

NOTES:

1. First 5 CA CARES Plus pays for childcare provider professional development stipends at year end.
2. CC Mental Health contract has not been executed.

Fund Balance as of 6/30/2014:

Nonspendable	390,013
Prepays and Deposits	69,013
Loans Receivable - Perinatal Council	321,000
Restricted	223,109
Long Foundation	223,109
Committed	841,227
Capital Assets	841,227
Assigned	6,599,270
Elimination of FY14/15 Budget Deficit	5,628,482
Leases	970,788
Unassigned Funds	25,721,879
Contingency Fund	7,500,000
Unassigned	18,221,879
Total Fund Balance	33,775,498



Monday February 2, 2015

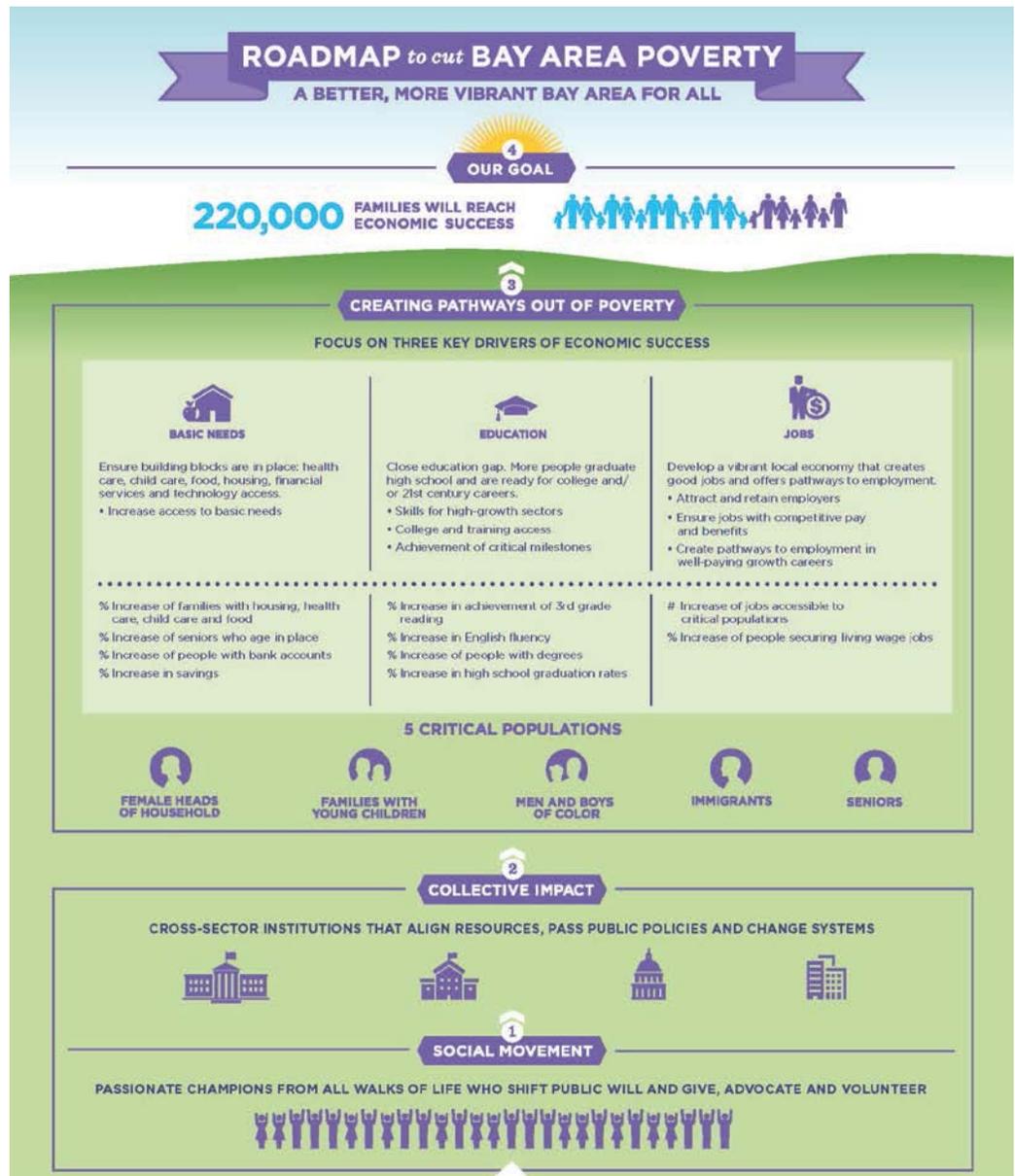
Agenda Item 6.0

Presentation of Bay Area and Contra Costa efforts to reduce poverty: "Rise Together" and "Ensuring Opportunity"

Fueled by a rising tide of conviction that reducing poverty is the moral and economic challenge of our time, in 2012 United Way of the Bay Area (UWBA) and our fellow leaders established Rise Together (RT), a comprehensive collective impact initiative to cut poverty in the San Francisco Bay Area, a major region comprised of nine counties and more than seven million people. Our bold call to action – the goal of cutting poverty in half in a decade – has been taken up as a common agenda by over 150 partners pledged to Rise Together’s **Roadmap to Cut Bay Area Poverty**.

Grounded in our commitment to shared community leadership and data-driven strategies, this growing network is led by a diverse 21-member Steering Council of proven leaders from various sectors that has launched a range of strategic activities, engaged the initiative’s members, and established a backbone organization and infrastructure.

Rise Together staff and partners are currently engaged in a variety of activities designed to address poverty reduction through a comprehensive, collective impact approach. This data-driven and community-informed model is the ideal frame for tackling such a long-standing and multi-faceted social problem.



Current activities include:

- *2014/15 Grants* – Seven poverty-fighting collaboratives across the Bay Area have been awarded Rise Together Action Grants of \$5,000-\$25,000 for projects to help alleviate poverty through a variety of system change and programmatic endeavors. They are:
 - *Redesign - EveryOne Home (Alameda)*
 - *Bridges Out of Poverty - Live Healthy Napa*
 - *Ensuring Opportunity - Richmond Community Foundation (Contra Costa)*
 - *Marin Promise - Marin Promise Partners*
 - *Safety Net Summits on Poverty Network - First 5 Solano*
 - *Innovation Grant - Thrive Alliance (San Mateo)*
 - *The Big Lift - Silicon Valley Community Foundation*

Through these partners, we are implementing important components of our Roadmap to Cut Bay Area Poverty. The 2014-15 grantees will form a Learning Circle to share progress and help inform potential expansions of grant funding.

- *Economic Modeling* – Through a partnership with the Insight Center, we are conducting economic modeling to find the most impactful components of poverty reduction in the areas of basic needs, educational attainment and workforce/economic development.
- *Opportunity Mapping* – UC Berkeley’s Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society is creating over 100 maps showing detail about our vulnerable target groups and proximity to work/work supports.
- *Partner Survey and Literature Review* – We are seeking the best evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies for poverty reduction.
- *Affiliations* – In each Bay Area county, we are establishing primary liaisons we call “affiliates,” to help us engage current and new partners in the movement to cut poverty.
- *Convenings* – In late Winter/early Spring 2015 we will hold at least one convening in each Bay Area county to give and get information leading to recommendations for future, specific poverty-reduction work.
- *Headline Strategies and Metrics* – in early 2015, our Steering Council will receive the results of our research and community input and declare their intent to promote a few, impactful “Headline Strategies” over the next 3-5 years.
- *Regional Conference* – In Spring 2015, we will hold the first annual “Poverty to Prosperity” regional event, and bring together Bay Area content and context experts, tapping their expertise, passion and commitment to move Rise Together forward.
- *Regional Work Groups* – Also in Spring 2015, 3 regional Work Groups (Basic Needs, Education and Jobs/Economy) will launch, to work on implementing Headline Strategies and more.
- *Committees* – 4 Rise Together Committees (Grants, Shared Measures, Social Movement and Policy) will launch or expand to support the collective impact infrastructure and action.

2016 and beyond: In just these first two years we have learned many lessons – contributing both to our successes and our course corrections – that will inform and strengthen the movement going forward. The next phase of our work will build on what we have learned, with key actions to:

- *Promote and scale the most impactful poverty-reduction strategies across the region;*
- *Expand our advocacy for key policy and systems changes;*
- *Foster a grassroots/grasstops social movement to change the “poverty paradigm”;*
- *Launch and learn from a shared measurement system that measures our progress, expands on success and charts course corrections; and*
- *Support our partners and other community members to co-lead and strengthen the work, including helping to build out local capacity for collective action.*

For more information, visit www.risetgetherbayarea.org / @Rise_BayArea or contact Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director, Rise Together Bay Area at carrostuto@risetgetherbayarea.org / 415.808.4450.

ROADMAP *to cut* BAY AREA POVERTY

A BETTER, MORE VIBRANT BAY AREA FOR ALL

4

OUR GOAL

220,000 FAMILIES WILL REACH ECONOMIC SUCCESS



3

CREATING PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY

FOCUS ON THREE KEY DRIVERS OF ECONOMIC SUCCESS



BASIC NEEDS

Ensure building blocks are in place: health care, child care, food, housing, financial services and technology access.

- Increase access to basic needs

- % Increase of families with housing, health care, child care and food
- % Increase of seniors who age in place
- % Increase of people with bank accounts
- % Increase in savings



EDUCATION

Close education gap. More people graduate high school and are ready for college and/or 21st century careers.

- Skills for high-growth sectors
- College and training access
- Achievement of critical milestones

- % Increase in achievement of 3rd grade reading
- % Increase in English fluency
- % Increase of people with degrees
- % Increase in high school graduation rates



JOBS

Develop a vibrant local economy that creates good jobs and offers pathways to employment.

- Attract and retain employers
- Ensure jobs with competitive pay and benefits
- Create pathways to employment in well-paying growth careers

- # Increase of jobs accessible to critical populations
- % Increase of people securing living wage jobs

5 CRITICAL POPULATIONS



FEMALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD



FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN



MEN AND BOYS OF COLOR



IMMIGRANTS



SENIORS

2

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

CROSS-SECTOR INSTITUTIONS THAT ALIGN RESOURCES, PASS PUBLIC POLICIES AND CHANGE SYSTEMS



1

SOCIAL MOVEMENT

PASSIONATE CHAMPIONS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE WHO SHIFT PUBLIC WILL AND GIVE, ADVOCATE AND VOLUNTEER



START HERE
TO CUT POVERTY



Ensuring Opportunity for 2015!

Happy New Year!

Ensuring Opportunity: The Campaign to Cut Poverty in Contra Costa County

is a long-term effort to cut poverty in Contra Costa County by raising awareness and addressing the systemic and structural causes of poverty. The Campaign is taking off and we thank you all for your participation in this critical issue. There is momentum, there is a great deal happening, and there will be more to come!

The Ensuring Opportunity (EO) Campaign has been created by Family Economic Security Partnership, the Contra Costa Safety Net Task Force, the Human Services Alliance, and the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition, representing more than 100 public and private agencies and 50 congregations, which collectively serve thousands of Contra Costa residents.

We look forward to working with you in 2015.

Here's to a new year full of hope, promise, and collective action!

Here is a year-end recap of activities that EO and/or our partners are involved in:

- The Family Economic Security Partnership (FESP) and EO held two convenings with over 200 people in attendance to talk about the structural changes needed to help people get out of poverty, policy-options, and the need to create a cross-sector movement to address poverty.
- EO formed a Campaign Leadership Team with representatives from public, private and nonprofit agencies, faith, business, and labor.
- EO selected six focus areas to address poverty: food security, housing security, economic security, health security, education, and safety (preventing family and community violence).
 - ◇ Food Security: A committee co-chaired by the county's Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) and the Food Bank is exploring and implementing a variety of ways to increase CalFresh enrollment for those who are eligible.
 - ◇ Housing Security: Contra Costa's Homeless Program will be working with a national organization, Community Solutions to implement "Zero: 2016," a campaign that aims to end veteran and chronic homelessness within two years.
 - ◇ Economic Security: A working group has been developed, led by Supervisor John Gioia, to explore increasing the minimum wage countywide. Business, labor, faith and service providers are involved.
 - ◇ Health Security: Outreach continues to enroll people in Covered California through the current enrollment period which ends on February 15, 2015.
 - ◇ Education: Exploratory efforts are beginning to look at the relationship between poverty and early care and education.

- The EO “Report Card” committee has nearly completed compiling provocative data and stories to raise awareness about food and housing security.
- The EO Convening and Events committee helped design the two major convenings and is discussing additional events to keep participants engaged.
- The Tri Valley Poverty Awareness campaign kicked off an initiative with over 150 people, aimed at halting suburban poverty trends and beginning a long-term collaborative effort to provide pathways out of poverty.
- The FESP Policy/Revisioning Community committee has developed a unique policy framework to address the structural causes of poverty, and surveyed over 125 representatives of community based organizations to identify priority policy issues (the three top issues were increasing the minimum wage, affordable housing and quality education).
- FESP held a Building Movement training with over 50 people from a wide variety of agencies.
- The Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition is actively recruiting volunteers and participating in/helping to enroll congregants and community members in CalFresh, Covered California, Zero 2016 and the Earn It, Save It, Keep It free tax assistance campaigns.
- A website has been developed to share information about the EO Campaign. www.cutpovertycc.org
- EO has agreed to become an affiliate of Rise Together, a regional effort to cut poverty by 50% by 2020. www.risetgetherbayarea.org
- A Campaign Director will be hired in early 2015 to coordinate all of these efforts as well as to develop a broad-scale media campaign to raise awareness and build a movement of people committed to addressing the root causes of poverty.

We thank you all for your dedication, hard work, and compassion.

Together we look forward to “ensuring opportunity” for all!

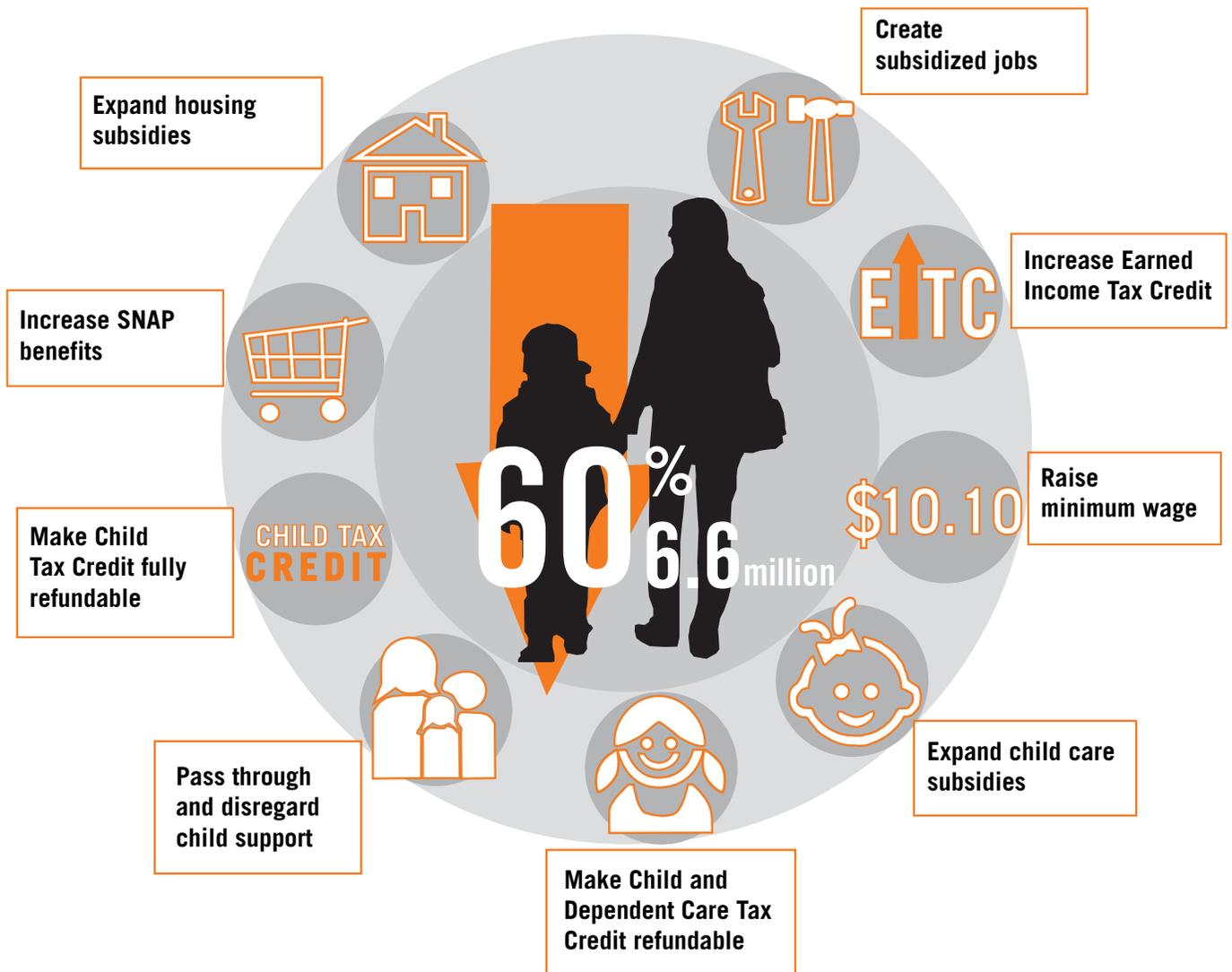
Ensuring Opportunity Leadership Team

- Marianne Balin, Kaiser Permanente
- Jim Becker, Richmond Community Foundation
- Fran Biderman, First 5 Contra Costa, Family Economic Security Partnership
- Paul Buddenhagen, Employment and Human Services Department
- Sean Casey, First 5 Contra Costa/Family Economic Security Partnership
- Kristin Connelly, East Bay Leadership Council
- Supervisor John Gioia
- Luz Gomez, Supervisor Gioia’s office
- Margaret Hanlon-Gradie, Central Labor Council
- Christina Hernandez, CCISCO
- Lauren Leimbach, Community Financial Resources
- Mariana Moore, Human Services Alliance
- Erwin Reeves, Richmond Community Foundation
- Wanda Session, Health Services
- Jasmine Tarkoff, Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition

“Poverty is not natural. It is man-made and can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.”

Nelson Mandela

HOW TO REDUCE CHILD POVERTY BY 60 PERCENT



CHAPTER 1

POVERTY HURTS CHILDREN AND OUR NATION'S FUTURE

Child poverty destroys dreams and opportunities.

Nearly 15 million children in America lived below the official poverty level — \$23,834 for a family of four — in 2013, based only on cash income. Over 40 percent of these children lived in extreme poverty, at less than half the poverty level. The youngest children were most likely to be poor, with more than 1 in 5 children under age 5 living in poverty during the years of rapid brain development.

America's child poverty rate is one of the highest among industrialized nations.

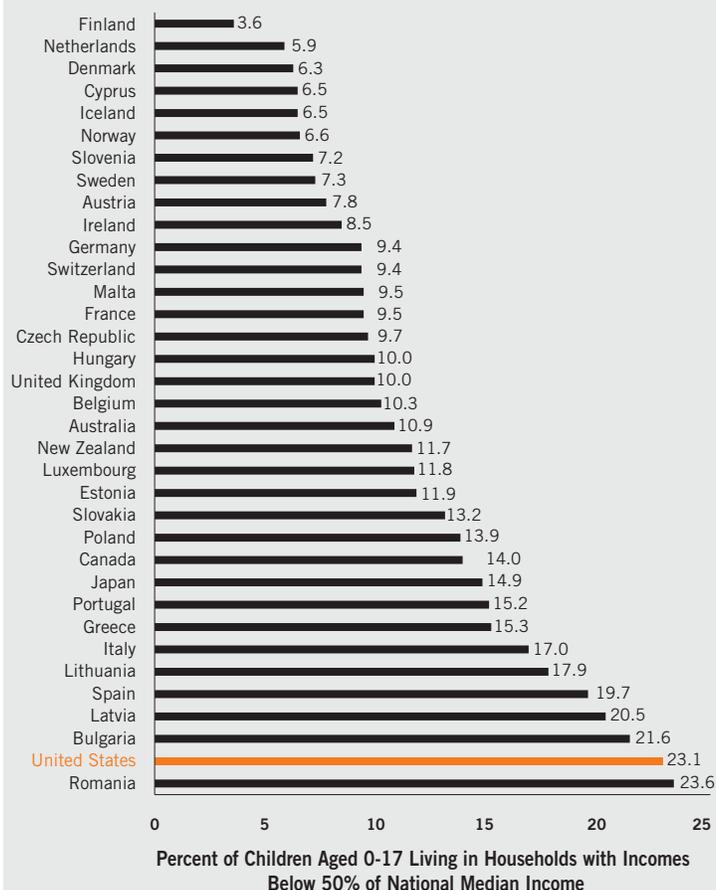
The United States, with the world's largest economy, has the shameful distinction of having the second highest relative child poverty rate among 35 industrialized nations.¹ With a rate more than six times higher than in Finland, the country with the lowest child poverty rate, the U.S. beat out only Romania, while lagging behind the rest of Europe, Australia, Canada, Japan, and New Zealand. Many countries with fewer resources have lower poverty rates, including the U.K., New Zealand, the Czech Republic and Hungary, a clear indication the U.S. could do much more to reduce child poverty.

Child poverty robs children of their future. Reducing child poverty would yield incalculable benefits for millions of children and the country as a whole.

Child poverty creates gaps in cognitive skills in babies.

Poor parents have fewer financial resources and often experience more stress, and as a result their young children are less likely to be read to, spend less time talking to adults, and hear many fewer words each week than children from more affluent families.² One study found that by age 4, high-income children had heard 30 million more words than poor children.³ Poor preschoolers are also less likely to be able to recognize letters, count to 20, or write their first names.⁴ Income-related gaps in cognitive skills can be observed in babies as early as 9 months old and often widen with age.⁵ These disparities create an early disadvantage that is often hard to overcome.

U.S. Ranks Second to Last in Child Poverty



Source: Unicef, 2013

Childhood toxic stress can negatively impact brain functioning for life.

When children experience strong, frequent, or prolonged adversity — such as physical or emotional abuse, chronic hunger and neglect, caregiver substance abuse or mental illness, exposure to violence, or the accumulated burdens of family poverty — the stressful environment can become toxic. If this so-called “toxic stress” continues and is not mitigated by adequate adult support it can literally rewire children’s brains, disrupting their social competence and ability to succeed in school and in life and increasing the likelihood of low educational achievement, unstable employment, adult poverty, and involvement in the criminal justice system.⁶

No Food, No Water, No Light

“ I remember not eating sometimes. I mean, the only time that we actually had food is when we went to my grandmother’s,” Carmen Griffith says bluntly. Her parents divorced when she was five, and her school teacher mother descended into alcoholism and depression. After one drunken episode when Carmen’s mother was arrested for breaking and entering, she lost her teaching job. Although she got sober and worked hard to turn her life around, the tough economic times got worse. Carmen and her younger sister had to go to grandma’s house to take baths, because there was no running water at their house. Sometimes there was no electricity. The family has struggled to eat and keep a roof overhead. Carmen never gave up and knows education will open doors for her future, and is pursuing her dream of becoming a child psychiatrist so she can help children struggling to overcome severe challenges, just as she has had to do.



Child hunger jeopardizes children’s health and ability to learn.

Poor children are more likely to experience hunger. In 2013, more than 45 percent of poor children lived in homes where not everyone had enough food.⁷ Food insecurity is associated with lower reading and math scores, greater physical and mental health problems, higher incidence of emotional and behavioral problems, and a greater chance of obesity.⁸

Poor children experience worse health outcomes.

Poor children are less likely to have access to affordable quality health coverage. Nearly 1 in 6 poor children lacks health insurance compared to about 1 in 12 non-poor children.⁹ Children in poor families are five times as likely to be in fair or poor health as children in non-poor families.¹⁰ They have more severe health problems than higher-income children, and fare worse than higher-income children with the same problems. For example, a poor child with asthma is more likely to be reported in poor health, spend more days in bed, and have more hospital episodes than a high-income child with asthma.

Traumatic experiences in childhood — often called adverse childhood experiences — also impact health throughout life. The more adverse experiences in childhood, the greater the likelihood of health problems in adulthood including heart disease, diabetes, substance abuse, and depression.¹¹

Poor children are less likely to graduate from high school.

Poor children are less likely to enter school ready to learn and to graduate from high school than their non-poor peers. One study found children who were poor for half their childhood were nearly 90 percent more likely to enter their 20s without completing high school than those who had never been poor.¹² And the younger the children were when they experienced poverty, the worse the impacts. Poor infants and toddlers — from birth to age 2 — were nearly 30 percent less likely to complete high school than children who first experienced poverty later in childhood.

Child poverty fuels the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

In one study, people who experienced poverty at any point during childhood were more than three times as likely to be poor at age 30 as those who were never poor as children.¹³ The longer a child was poor, the greater the risk of adult poverty.

Child poverty has substantial economic costs.

Costs of Child Poverty	
Lost Productivity	\$170 billion
Increased Crime	\$170 billion
Worse Health	\$160 billion
	\$500 billion

According to one study, the lost productivity and extra health and crime costs stemming from child poverty add up to roughly half a trillion dollars a year, or 3.8 percent of GDP.¹⁴ Another study found eliminating child poverty between the prenatal years and age 5 would increase lifetime earnings between \$53,000 and \$100,000 per child, for a total lifetime benefit of \$20 to \$36 billion for all babies born in a given year.¹⁵ And we can never measure the countless innovations and discoveries that did not occur because children’s potentials were stunted by poverty.

It doesn't have to be this way. Child poverty can be reduced.

Child poverty is not immutable. Poverty rates change with the economy and changes in government policies. Child poverty, based just on earnings and cash benefits, declined 49 percent during the economic expansion of the 1960s and 29 percent during the economic boom of the late 1990s, but *grew* 59 percent from 1969 to 1983 as the economy faltered.¹⁶

The U.S. has made substantial progress in reducing poverty over the past 50 years despite worsening inequality and increased unemployment. Child poverty dropped over a third between 1967 and 2012 when income from tax credits and in-kind benefits like nutrition assistance are counted.¹⁷ This is all the more remarkable given that unemployment and income inequality more than doubled during this period.

The United Kingdom provides a modern example of how a concerted effort to reduce child poverty can succeed, even during economic recession.¹⁸ In 1999, Prime Minister Tony Blair’s government committed to ending child poverty (see text box on p.14). Through a multi-pronged approach, the British government under Blair and his successor Gordon Brown managed to reduce child poverty by more than half over 10 years, and reductions persisted during the Great Recession. Many families with children benefited, but poorer children benefited most: Average incomes for families with children increased \$3,200, and incomes for families in the bottom fifth of the income range increased \$7,200.



Monday February 2, 2015

Agenda Item 7.0

Consider naming First 5 Contra Costa as a “partner” in the Rise Together initiative

Rise Together Roles Partners, Affiliates, & Steering Council Members

	Partner	Affiliate	Steering Council Member
Be named and acknowledged publicly as a Rise Together partner and endorser.	✓	✓	✓
Participate in decision making about the Roadmap to Cut Poverty.	✓	✓	✓
Help define success metrics and explore how we can share data with one another.	✓	✓	✓
Participate in at least one Roadmap Strategy	✓	✓	✓
Act as an “ambassador”, representing Rise Together to leaders and the general public		✓	✓
Identify key organizations and networks that want to engage with Rise Together.		✓	✓
Host or co-host a convening in your county to move local collective work forward.		✓	
Generate strategic members for work groups on the issues of basic needs, education, and jobs/economy.		✓	
Set priorities for Rise Together			✓
Secure and invest resources for Rise Together			✓
Oversee the backbone organization and staff			✓
Oversee shared measurement system and report results to partners and community			✓
Establish and oversee committees (currently overseeing Executive; Policy, Resource Strategy; Grant Making; Shared Measures; and Social Movement)			✓



Monday February 2, 2015

Agenda Item 10.0

Adoption of the 2015 Commission meeting calendar



Standing Meetings Calendar (dates subject to change)

2015

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Executive Committee (EC) <i>1st Monday of every month*</i>		2/2		4/6		6/1	7/6		9/14*	10/5		12/7
4:00 PM 1485 Civic Court (formerly Enea Court), Suite 1200 Small Conference Room Concord, CA												
Commission <i>1st Monday of every month*</i>		2/2		4/6	COMMISSION RETREAT Wednesday 5/13 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pleasant Hill Community Center 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA	6/1	7/6		9/14*	10/5		12/7
6:00 PM 1485 Civic Court (formerly Enea Court), Suite 1200 Large Conference Room Concord, CA												
*Moved to the 2nd week of the month due to conflicting events												



Monday February 2, 2015

Agenda Item 11.0

Communications:

- 11.1 January 2015 First 5 California Briefings
- 11.2 Health Report Children With Delays and their Parents Find
- 11.3 Parents Learn How to Nurture at Group



First 5 Briefings January 2015

Annual Meeting January 21, 2015

Moira Kenney and Association President John Sims welcomed new members Wendy Wendt (San Luis Obispo) and Michele Harris (Solano).

Association Election

Moira Kenney reviewed the process for assembling the slate of nominations for this year's Executive Committee. She and John Sims thanked outgoing Executive Committee members Amy Reisch (Marin), Lani Schiff-Ross (San Joaquin), Sheila Kruse (Tuolumne), and Karen Pautz (Siskiyou). The following members were unanimously elected:

President, John Sims
Vice President, Sean Casey
Secretary-Treasurer, Janis Burger
Advocacy Chair, Christina Altmayer
Communications Chair, Ben Romo

In addition, the Regions have selected the following representatives:

Regional Representatives:
Bay Area, Laurel Kloomok
Central, Martha Hermosillo
Northeast, Lindsay Dunckel
Northwest, Anne Molgaard
Sacramento, Ginger Harlow
Southern, Kim Belshé
Southern, Kim Medeiros

Association Updates

Moira Kenney shared the following updates:

- The Association has drafted a 2015 policy document, reviewed by the Advocacy Committee.
- The Executive Committee approved a contract with strategic communications consultant PR & Company. The focus will be on framing the Association's message for Sacramento and elected officials.
- Plans for Advocacy Day on February 10 continue; the schedule will be as follows:
 - 9AM-12PM: Legislative visits at the Capitol
 - 1PM-5PM: Pre-Summit Commissioner Workshop – to date, 106 people have registered
 - 5:30-6:30PM: Reception for Commissioners
- 2015 Summits: The Association will hold a Fiscal Summit in Alameda March 30-31, and a Staff Summit in Southern California September 28-30.

Renewing Our Partnership With Health Allies

Moira Kenney reported that the Board of Equalization issue has provided an opportunity to engage with health allies including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. For an overview of the BOE situation, click here: <http://first5association.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/BOE-Overview-NEW-012615.pdf>.

Speakers Dave Bonfilio, a founding First 5 Marin Commissioner and honorary life member of the California Division of the American Cancer Society (ACS), and Tim Gibbs, Senior Director of Government Relations for the ACS Cancer Action Network, discussed the work of ACS around tobacco control and health.

- The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is the advocacy affiliate of ACS. ACS CAN works at the local, state and federal level to make the fight against cancer a priority. ACS CAN was a critical partner in passing Proposition 10.
- ACS CAN has more than 250 Legislative Ambassadors around the state who engage in advocacy at all levels, including the local level. First 5s should utilize these ambassadors.
- ACS CAN is working hard at the local level to pass tobacco legislation in California, including e-cigarette, tobacco retailer licensing and comprehensive smoke-free policies.
- Current state-level policy priorities include:
 - Tobacco Tax Bill Legislation and Initiative
 - E-cigarette legislation
 - Rising BOE costs
 - Under 21 bill
 - Tobacco Cessation under Medi-Cal
 - Access to Care

Members engaged in discussion about current legislation and strategies. Moira encouraged members to engage with ACS CAN to make connections at the local level, while continuing to leverage relationships with commissioners and other advocacy partners.

Click here to visit ACS CAN's website:
<http://www.acscan.org/>

Click here for a 1-pager on ACS CAN:
<http://action.acscan.org/site/DocServer/acscan-one-pager.pdf?docID=721>

First 5 California Updates

Camille Maben reported that 650 people are currently registered for First 5 CA's February summit. Confirmed keynote speakers include Neera Tanden, Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, Dr. Ross Thompson, and Dr. Dowell Meyers. First 5 CA is partnering with the California State Library to host a

screening of *The Raising of America* followed by a panel discussion on February 11. Camille also shared the following updates:

- First 5 CA will partner with Too Small to Fail and the Clinton Foundation, as well as with the CBS First Book program.
- They are reviewing proposals for their next media campaign; they plan to announce the contract award in early February.
- Talk Read Sing ads will continue airing through February 25.
- A new bilingual cookbook has been released; click here to download:
<http://tinyurl.com/F5CAEnglishCookbook>
- New staff include Dana McVeigh, Melinda Geysler, Megan Bower, and Erin Gabel.
- The FY 2013/14 Annual Report will be printed and distributed; in the meantime it is available online:
<http://tinyurl.com/ccfc1314AnnualReport>

California Quality System of Support Overview

Sara Neville-Morgan provided an overview of next steps for CSP and CARES Plus. With these programs scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2015, and June 30, 2016, respectively, First 5 California and workgroup members partnered to design a transition path to a new California Quality System of Support (CQSS) investment initiative open to all county commissions by building on state and local investments in a QRIS.

Click here for the PowerPoint presentation:

<http://first5association.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/CQSS-Presentation-for-Jan-2015-Commission-Mtg-01-21-15snm2.pdf>

Early Care and Education Policy Outlook for 2015

Kim Johnson, Public Policy Director for the California Resource and Referral Network, provided an overview of policy and budget updates impacting the field, as well as additional opportunities.

Click here for the PowerPoint presentation:

<http://first5association.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Network-Presentation-First-5-Association-1-21-15.pdf>

Click here to view the R&R Network's policy resources: http://www.rnetwork.org/rr_at_the_policy_table

Erin Gabel, First 5 CA's new Deputy Director of External and Governmental Affairs, then reviewed ways in which First 5 can engage, highlighting the need to build bridges with K-12. She shared First 5 CA's draft policy agenda.

State Commission Meeting January 22, 2015

Commissioners Present:

George Halvorson, Chair
Conway Collis
Muntu Davis
Kathryn Icenhower
Joyce Iseri
Ex Officio Member: Jim Suennen

Chair Halvorson opened the meeting with comments about the state of the state and the country with regards to early childhood education. He said, "This is clearly the right time for this state and this country to focus on young children," continuing with comments on the impact of interventions focusing on the first 5 years. He also commented on the new Annual Report, focusing on the work of local commissions, calling those local investments "a model for the country."

Commissioner Collis reported on two studies his organization, GRACE, has been working on with the Stanford Center on Policy and Inequality. Stanford has recently completed a yearlong study on the evidence base and cost-benefit analysis for programs that address poverty and inequality. In conjunction with the study, GRACE conducted polling and focus groups statewide to test the responses of Californians to the findings showing the importance of, among other things, early childhood education, prenatal care, and home visiting. We will share those results with you when they are public, but he mentioned that the surprise finding was that they found a deep drop-off in public support for 0-5 when the focus was on parents, prenatal care, and home visitation.

First 5 Fresno Commissioner Hugo Morales provided public comment on the need for greater broadband access for low-income families. You can

find more information about the work he is doing with the California Emerging Technology Fund here: <http://www.cetfund.org/>

Executive Director Report

Camille Maben updated the Commission on the upcoming summit, recent program activity, staffing updates, and her visits to Commissions in Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Colusa. Please see the Association meeting updates for additional details.

Association Report

Moira Kenney provided an update on the policy and advocacy work of the Association, inviting the Commission to join First 5s across the state in this important work:

Early Learning: Commissions are taking the lead role in rolling out the new \$50 million Quality Rating Improvement System Block Grant included in last year's budget, and our early learning work is, as a result, focused on ensuring both that these funds are successfully implemented and that other funding – including the catalytic investments made by First 5 CA – are aligned.

Early Identification: The Association is calling on state leaders to commit to ensuring that 100 percent of California children receive recommended developmental screening and appropriate referrals. Last year, county commissions invested \$23.5 million to screen and assess 117,000 children, primarily ages 0-3. Commissions invested another \$24 million to provide children with identified needs the appropriate services. This year, we are working closely with Children Now to identify legislator champions who will help us in our work on these two goals.

On the state departments side, we are very excited that there is some indication that the Department of Health Care Services is working on an internal proposal to include the assessment of developmental delays in their Core Set indicators. In the next few weeks, we hope to meet with DHCS staff to understand this proposal. We have also been in conversation with staff at the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Programs at the California Department of Public Health who are

working on renewal of the federal Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant.

Family Strengthening: The Association is highlighting the need for increased and aligned investment to implement evidence-based family strengthening programs, particularly those with evidence of reducing the risk for child abuse and neglect. Last year, county commissions invested more than \$103 million in family strengthening programs – parent education, family support programs, and training for staff working with families. These investments reached more than 123,000 parents.

Specifically, the Association is working closely with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, which has committed to aligning its new RFA for county child abuse prevention programs with our local First 5 investments. At the same time, we must do more to ensure that all our child welfare departments are able to partner with First 5, to implement evidence-based programs, and to include the prevention of child abuse and neglect more centrally in their work.

Oral Health: The new report from the California State Auditor found that the state’s Denti-Cal program is failing to provide adequate care for children due to a shortage of dentists participating in the plan. The state audit found that 56% of enrolled children eligible for care under Denti-Cal did not use the program in 2013; the state’s utilization rate of 43.9% is below the national average of 47.6%. The audit suggested that many dentists don’t participate in the program because of low reimbursement rates. California’s reimbursement rates for the ten most common dental procedures averaged \$21.60, which was only 35% of the national average of \$61.96 for those same ten procedures.

We are working with child health advocates across the state to add our voice to the call for the state to address these serious issues, and as a key funder of oral health services for young children, we believe that our experience, working with these children left behind by the state program, can make a difference. Oral health continues to be an area of

focus across the state, with 33 county commissions investing a total of \$23 million to serve 182,000 children.

Board of Equalization: We submitted a letter to the BOE as part of the process requested by the Legislature, and outlined three alternatives for the Board to consider that would provide significant relief to First 5. As a reminder, county commissions are projected to pay more than \$14 million to the BOE for administrative costs this year, an amount roughly equal to the county commissions’ statewide investments in health access programs (premiums, outreach and enrollment), or their total investments in infant and toddler education programs. Clearly, we have many alternative uses for these critical funds, more in keeping with the mandates of Proposition 10.

Commissioners had a number of comments and questions. Commissioners Collis, Icenhower and Davis all commented on the family strengthening policy work. Commissioner Collis suggested that there was a need for public education around what family strengthening involves, since, as their polling and focus group work revealed, there is significant resistance, most particularly among low-income parents. Commissioner Davis noted that this resistance often stems from the experience parents have with public systems, especially when those systems are not operating from a strengths-perspective and when parents are required, rather than invited to participate. Commissioner Icenhower concurred with those comments and urged the Association to work beyond OCAP to engage the broader child welfare system. She invited the Association to engage with the Child Welfare Council on these issues as well. Finally, she suggested that the Association reach out to the Casey Family Foundation.

Toni Moore (Sacramento) and Laurel Kloomok (San Francisco) both made comments about the family support programs their commissions support. Laurel described as well some work in Colorado and other states to define family support programs as a strategy, rather than to simply focus on the evidence base for specific programmatic interventions (like parent education).

Commissioner Collis also had comments on the Oral Health policy issue, suggesting that Commissioner Suennen might be able to carry this issue to the Department of Health Care Services, focusing on the need to be more creative on the provider side.

Advisory Committee Reports

Audit Oversight Committee – Commissioner Collis reported that the committee (consisting of Commissioners Collis and Halvorson) met to discuss the Board of Equalization issue. He noted that the BOE members are also experiencing frustration on this issue. After reviewing the issue, the committee has decided to retain a consultant to look at the BOE issue from a broader systems analysis perspective, rather than a formal audit. The Commission will move ahead with that work.

California Quality Systems of Supports

Sarah Neville-Morgan presented the CQSS proposal. You can access a copy of her PowerPoint here:

<http://first5association.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/CQSS-Presentation-for-Jan-2015-Commission-Mtg-01-21-15nm2.pdf>

Commissioners Collis and Icenhower commented on the priority commissions placed (in the survey) on early identification services. They both asked for more information and thought in order to ensure that families are connected to the services they need, including health care and mentioned models on which First 5 CA could draw, such as the Promise Neighborhoods and Promise Zones.

Commissioner Iseri asked if the evaluation would be robust enough to show comparisons across counties and across program models.

Commissioner Icenhower emphasized her support for a the focus on infants and toddlers as well as for supports to license exempt facilities, a category that includes child care centers in substance abuse programs, teen parenting programs, etc. which have not had access to these quality resources previously.

Kim Johnson, CA CCRRN, thanked the Commission for the recognition of the diversity of child care providers in the proposal and the focus on both infant and toddler care and family child care homes.

A number of executive directors (Lani Schiff-Ross, Kathi Guerrero, Laurel Kloomok) commented positively on the focus on collaboration and layering to support the work, describing the multiple ways local commissions are creating local systems to reach diverse providers and non-traditional partners (like libraries). They also specifically thanked staff for the inclusive process and new approach to the state/county partnership. Laurel Kloomok also noted that the proposal is very ambitious, and cannot be realized with First 5 funds alone.

David Weller, an “end-user”, asked if there was any information to show outcomes for children participating in the programs, specifically focusing on college achievements.

Patty Scroggins, Child Development Training Consortium, commented on the important work her agency has provided to CARES Plus participants, and said she looks forward to the next round.

Commissioner Davis noted that we need to think creatively about which other programs and agencies we need to partner with in order to address the underlying need in looking at the social, economic and environmental health that are so important for a child’s healthy development and lifelong success.

Child Signature Program 1 and 3 – Transition Funding

Sarah Neville-Morgan also presented the plan to provide 1 year of transition funding for CSP1 and CSP3 counties. Her presentation was included as part of the previous item, and you can access the complete presentation here:

<http://first5association.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/CQSS-Presentation-for-Jan-2015-Commission-Mtg-01-21-15nm2.pdf>.

West Sacramento program staff, providers, and parents provided public comment. The transition funding was unanimously approved.

Report on the Effect of Young Children’s Contact with the Child

Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD presented the report and data she shared at the First 5 Association Summit in September 2014. While we don’t have her presentation from the State Commission meeting, we do have the Summit presentation on our website:

<http://first5association.org/2014summit/>

Commissioners were very interested in the presentation, asking questions about the specifics of the risk factors, county specific data, and possible impact of the increased social worker caseloads on the CPS data.

Commissioner Collis asked Dr. Putnam-Hornstein for her recommendations on next steps. Commissioner Davis commented that it’s important to think of the risk factors as social factors as well. Dr. Putnam-Hornstein agreed, and also noted that these risk factors are simply proxies for much more complex social, economic, and environmental factors. In response to a question about the power of specific variables, Dr. Putnam-Hornstein noted that, in terms of protective factors, participation in first trimester prenatal care lowers the risk for involvement in the child welfare system. Families where mothers sought prenatal care in the first trimester had the lowest rates of involvement, and those where prenatal care was started later had the highest risk.

Update on Alternative Sources for Additional Revenue

Frank Furtek provided an update on the staff activity, as directed by Commissioners, to explore additional revenue sources to continue First 5 efforts. The following is a summary of his presentation:

- Momentum is growing for a California marijuana initiative in 2016. The Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) is poised to place an initiative on the California ballot next year. Staff has made contact with DPA to assess its interest in including First 5 on the list of intended recipients for the 2016 initiative.
- A coalition of labor and health advocates recently unveiled a campaign to impose a \$2.00 a pack tax through legislation or a ballot measure. Staff has discussed the possibility of including funds for early childhood programs with campaign representatives.
- Staff are considering ways to include a “donate” button on the First 5 CA website that would allow donors to specify the target source of their donation.
- Staff will continue conversations with advocates and the Legislature to determine the interest in a future sugar-sweetened beverage excise tax, and whether First 5 could be included as one of the recipients of the tax if a bill were drafted.

Financial Update

Jennifer Clark provided an update on the Commission’s finances. Her complete report can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/ccfcFinancialUpdateJan2015>

She noted that staff are now using a more conservative approach to projecting future tobacco tax revenues. Total tobacco tax revenue received by the Fund decreased by 4.2 percent in FY 2013–14 and is expected to decrease by another 5 percent in FY 2014–15. Recent revenue projections provided by Department of Finance anticipate tax revenue to decline between 2.3 to 2.6 percent between FYs 2015–16 and 2018–19. Based on the significantly greater decrease over the past two fiscal years, staff decided to use a more conservative figure of 4.5 percent for revenue decline.

- First 5 California (F5CA) will work with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the First 5 Association to on the e-cigarette taxation issues.

Children with Delays and their Parents Find Help in Play

By **Heather Tirado Gilligan**

The cheerful sound of kids and their parents signing “head, shoulders, knees and toes!” filled a classroom in San Pablo on Monday morning. Despite the smiles and laughter, the play was purposeful, part of a playgroup for children with developmental delays.

If it weren’t for the playgroup, offered at the First 5 Center in San Pablo, the mostly low-income, Spanish-speaking parents may have been hard-pressed to find help for their children.

Despite documented delays in language, cognitive, social or behavioral ability, the children in the playgroups didn’t qualify for services at state-funded regional centers for the disabled.

Children who are 2 to 5 years old have to have a delay in at least 50 percent of the developmental categories to be eligible, explained Graciella Pagano, who teaches the playgroup in several First 5 Contra Costa locations. These strict guidelines were adopted during the Great Recession, when painful funding cuts hit social services across the state.

As the new requirement squeezed available services, First 5 Contra Costa was training about 300 children’s services providers to identify kids who weren’t meeting developmental milestones. A common concern emerged during the trainings: once those children were identified, were services available to help them?

Often, the answer to that question was no. “Even before the cuts, the regional centers weren’t adequately funded,” Cally Martin, deputy director of First 5 Contra Costa, explained. “It’s a terrible thing to screen a child and identify a need and then tell parents there are no services to provide.” The regional centers will adopt less stringent criteria for eligibility next year, she noted, but still won’t serve clients with milder developmental delays.

The playgroups started in 2013 as a pilot program for children who didn’t meet the high bar of eligibility for state services and became a full-fledged program earlier this year. The evaluation of the program is not yet ready for release, but several children from the first year of the program improved to the point where they no longer required services, according to Martin.

Intervention is most effective in the early years of life, when the brain is developing quickly and has the most plasticity. “Those years are the foundation for everything in life, including acquisition of the skills needed for school,” Martin said. “It’s the use it or lose it period.” Interventions later in life are possible too, she added, but they typically require more work and expense than early interventions.

In Monday’s class, Pagano was nudging kids toward one specific developmental milestone – learning the names of body parts, a lesson she calls “All About Me.” The rounds of signing “head shoulders knees and toes” were meant to teach by repetition, which is how younger children learn, Pagano explained.

The need for repetition is one reason why parents also attend the classes. They learn the games and activities and can practice them at home with their children. Parents and children also work one-on-one for the last part of the class, called table time. To learn about body parts, parents and their kids played with Mr. Potato heads and dolls with removable limbs. "There is a lot that parents can do at home," Martin said.

During table time, Pagano gently coaches parents on how to instruct the children. "The instinct is to correct," she explains patiently. "But we want to redirect. So when they touch the nose instead of the head, say, yes, that's the nose. Where is the head?"

Janice Grant of Richmond says she's seen a noticeable difference in her great grandson since they started attending the playgroup together three weeks ago. She began worrying about Brandon's speech when he was one. "At a year, most babies say hello and goodbye," Grant said. Brandon didn't speak or mimic the sounds he heard.

Grant was also concerned because Brandon, now two, is an only child and does not have many opportunities to interact with children his age. Since he started at the playgroup he's been mimicking a bit more, Grant said.

When Pagano brought the playgroup together to say goodbye for the week, Grant's face lit up with pride. "Did you hear that?" she asked Pagano as the families started to trickle out after class. "He said bye. He said bye back."

Parents learn how to nurture at group-based Contra Costa program

By Katrina Cameron kcameron@bayareanewsgroup.com

POSTED: 12/19/2014 02:24:59 PM PST **0 COMMENTS** | UPDATED: 18 DAYS AGO



Araceli and Miguel Oregel, of Brentwood, watch their 1-year-old daughter Kimberly during dinner held before the start of the Nurturing Parenting Education program at the Delta First 5 Center in Brentwood on Dec. 2, 2014. (Doug Duran/Bay Area News Group)

BRENTWOOD -- Parents Araceli and Miguel Oregel know from firsthand experience that caring for a baby and a toddler can be a handful.

The young mother would sometimes become so frustrated that she would yell at her daughters, Nayeli, 3, and Kimberly, 1. But Araceli Oregel recently learned through a local parenting program how to remain calm during those stressful moments.

"I'm the kind of person that screams a lot, but here they teach us how to be patient and how to not scream," the mother said. "I'm still working on it. I'm not perfect, yet, but they give good tips here for us to calm down before we react and scream around the kids."



Julie Rodriguez, of Brentwood, has her toddler son Julian walk to her during a Nurturing Parenting Education program class break held at the Delta First 5 Center in Brentwood on Dec. 2, 2014. (Doug Duran/Bay Area News Group)

Before losing her temper and yelling, she now takes a deep breath, counts from one to 10, relaxes and changes the subject that's causing any anger. She's becoming a more patient mother and realizing that she's not alone in facing the challenges of raising children.

The working mother thanks a group-based program for helping her and Miguel Oregel grow as parents as they work as a team to raise their daughters.

The Brentwood residents enrolled themselves in the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County's Nurturing Parenting Program to improve their parenting skills, Araceli Oregel said.

"Every Tuesday here, I've been able to improve myself as a father," Miguel Oregel said.

The Oregels are two out of 14 parents who have met every Tuesday night for the past 22 weeks to learn how to be better mothers and fathers at the free program, held at Delta First 5 Center in Brentwood.

"It's a good program for everybody to take because sometimes you think you're the only one with those problems, when actually everyone goes through the same thing," Araceli Oregel said.

The program is designed to reduce the risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect, Executive Director Carol Carrillo said. Parents voluntarily enroll in the parenting-education class, which is taught in Spanish.

"Basically, the great thing about the program is it teaches parents how to take care of themselves, as well as the children," Carrillo said.

The council provides the Nurturing Parenting Program at three other centers in the county: Shelter Inc. in Martinez, First 5 Center West County in San Pablo and First 5 Center in Concord. The agency is one of three dozen nonprofits to benefit from the Share the Spirit holiday fundraiser sponsored by Bay Area News Group.

Program director Maggie Velasco said the program is based on five concepts: appropriate expectations, developing empathy, positive nonviolent discipline, developing self-awareness of appropriate family roles and personal power through self-care.

The parents and their children begin the class by gathering in a circle for a sing-a-long and announcements. A free dinner is served before class, then the parents go to the round-table classroom setting to discuss the weekly concept while children are watched by child care providers.

Parents and children learn from a similar curriculum so they can practice the newly acquired skills at home, Velasco said.

"We provide structured child care so the children can review age-appropriate information that their parents are also covering," she said.



Kimberly Oregel, 1, of Brentwood, is held by her mother Araceli Oregel during the Nurturing Parenting Education program held at the Delta First 5 Center in Brentwood on Dec. 2, 2014. (Doug Duran/Bay Area News Group)

All of the child care providers have gone through the program themselves, which allows them to effectively implement nurturing techniques with the children, she said.

Marcela Lopez, who took the class in spring 2008 and became a staff member later that year, said she decided to become a provider because the curriculum taught her how to thrive as a nurturing parent.

She said she loves seeing the parents' progression throughout the lengthy course.

"It's impressive to see families' growth because when they first come, they say, 'Six months is a lot -- I don't want it,'" Lopez said.

Upon graduation day, each parent with at least 80 percent attendance receives a \$100 Target gift card from the council and a \$100 grocery gift card from Share the Spirit.

Araceli Oregel said she plans to keep in touch with new friends acquired through the program. The Oregels befriended fellow Brentwood residents Julie and Eddie Rodriguez, whose children, Eddie, 3, and Julian, 1, get along happily with theirs. The Rodriguezes and the Oregels already meet for child playdates throughout the week.

Miguel Oregel hopes more parents will consider enrolling in the free program to better understand what it means to be a dad or a mom.

"A lot of people think they're good parents," he said, "but I think you never stop learning how to be a parent."

Contact Katrina Cameron at 925-779-7164. Follow her at [Twitter.com/KatCameron91](https://twitter.com/KatCameron91).

Contact Katrina Cameron at 925-779-7164. Follow her at [Twitter.com/KatCameron91](https://twitter.com/KatCameron91).
Share the Spirit The Share the Spirit campaign, sponsored by the Bay Area News Group, benefits nonprofit agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.
To help, clip the coupon accompanying this story or go to <https://volunteer.truist.com/vccc/donate>.

Readers with questions and corporations interested in making large contributions may contact the Volunteer Center of the East Bay, which administers the fund, at 925-472-5760.

Nurturing parenting program

Call Maggie Valasco and 925-755-4200 or go to www.capc-coco.org to learn more about the Nurturing Parenting Program or the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County.

The original article is found on:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/east-county-times/ci_27172744/parents-learn-how-nurture-at-group-based-contra