



COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, April 7, 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 6:08 PM by Vice-Chair Valerie Earley. She introduced Joan Miller, the nominee for Children & Families Services alternate commissioner, to the Commission. She is currently the division manager for east county operations, with 15 year experience in child welfare.

Commissioners in attendance were:

Vice-Chair Valerie Earley, Secretary/Treasurer Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, Gareth Ashley, Supervisor Candace Andersen, John Jones, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher and Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker.

Alternates who were present were:

Mister Phillips and Belinda Lucey.

Also present was County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi

Absent: Commissioners PJ Shelton, and William Walker; Alternate Commissioners Matt Regan, John Mills and Toni Robertson.

Valerie announced to the Commission the appointment of a new District 4 Alternate Commissioner, Matt Regan to the commission.

On behalf of the Commission, Sean Casey presented a token of thanks to Kathy Lafferty for her service to the Commission. She served for two terms since 2005. Kathy thanked the Commission for the opportunity. She also thanked the First 5 staff and expressed her appreciation for everything they had done to help children.

2.0 Public Comment

Family Support Specialist Linda Moran at Care Parent Network brought to the Commission information packets about their agency as a way of informing and updating the commission about the variety of contacts and services available.

Angela Gattis, also from Care Parent Network came in to thank and report to the Commission some of the collaboration that they have been doing with Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) and their focus on helping kids with special needs. She informs that they now have a support group in Concord with 7 participants and a weekly meeting in Bay Point that has been running for 8 months now.

Tim O'Keefe from Shelter Inc. reports that they recently had a new family with 6 children whose parents are working towards getting themselves towards becoming self-sufficient. Currently they have 10 families comprising 15 adults and 18 children. Fourteen of the children are between 0 to 5 years.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

Katharine Mason made a correction to the February 2014 Commission Minutes. Under Section 11.0 Commissioner FYI Updates. Paragraph 4 under the announcement regarding Head Start. It should read that 14 out of 14 sites are currently active.

Motion to approve the consent calendar was made by Maria Fort and seconded by Candace Andersen.

AYES: Valerie Earley, Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, Gareth Ashley, Supervisor Candace Andersen, John Jones, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher and Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Dr. William Walker

Motion was **APPROVED**.

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

There were no items from the consent calendar removed for discussion.

5.0 Public Hearing on the First 5 California 2012-13 Annual Report

Sean Casey reported that it is a statutory requirement that each county First 5 hold an annual public hearing on First 5 California's Annual Report. He noted that on page 38 of the 2013 Annual Report is a brief summary of some First 5 Contra Costa activities including QRIS, Preschool Makes A Difference, Developmental Screening, parent education and child enrichment classes, and pilot playgroups.

A motion was made by John Jones and seconded by Wanda Session to accept the First 5 California 2012-13 Annual Report.

AYES: Valerie Earley, Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, Gareth Ashley, Supervisor Candace Andersen, John Jones, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher and Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Dr. William Walker

The motion **APPROVED**.

6.0 Public Hearing on the First 5 Contra Costa 2010-2015 Strategic Plan

Sean Casey provided a few comments on the strategic plan. The coming fiscal year will be the final year of the strategic plan. Staff are not proposing or anticipating any changes at this time. He called attention to the recently updated and interactive “data dashboard” on the First 5 Contra Costa website (<http://www.firstfivecc.org/index.php?page=our-impact>) which summarizes First 5’s activities in the past year. The arrangement of activities on the data dashboard reflects the intent of the strategic plan, which was to organize the many strategies into four initiatives focused on supporting families, raising the quality of child care, addressing children’s developmental needs and educating Contra Costa residents broadly about issues affecting children. The next plan will have to address how to the available funds for the next 5 years and figure out what we would be able to build upon, looking at our major initiatives.

John Jones mentioned that the last time they did this, they were given so much information in advance that was truly helpful, including statistics from the county. All those snapshots were very helpful. Valerie added that reading may have been a task but it was helpful.

A motion was made by John Jones and seconded by Maria Fort to maintain the First 5 Contra Costa 2010-2015 Strategic Plan without revision.

AYES: Valerie Earley, Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, Gareth Ashley, Supervisor Candace Andersen, John Jones, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher and Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Dr. William Walker

Motion was APPROVED.

7.0 Consider approving the proposed First 5 Contra Costa budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Sean Casey reported that the 2014-15 budget is very similar to the current year with no major dramatic differences. He noted that we are entering the last 18 months of the Thomas J. Long grant and the Race to the Top grant, both of which end December, 2015. The 2014-15 budget includes an increase in Race to the Top spending, based on the increased allocation from the California Department of Education. These funds will be used to being on two quality improvement coaches to work with child care sites as well as other quality improvement activities.

The budget also includes funds for a new anticipated contract for countywide child development resource and referral activities as part of supporting Contra Costa becoming a “Help Me Grow” county.

The budget also includes a 2% cost of living increase for staff and a 2% increase for contractors not working under multiyear contracts. The Commission’s actions to pre-fund its retirement and OPEB obligations are expected to save over \$145,000 in the coming year. Overall, the FY 2014-15 budget is \$40,000 less than the current year.

Angela Gattis asked if the Commission would consider restoring community grants? Sean acknowledged that the Commission dropped the funding in 2012 as part of the AB 99 budget reorganization. We have not talked about restoring community grants, but we are finding projects that bring stronger community participation.

A motion was made by Gareth Ashley and seconded by Katharine Mason to approve the proposed First 5 Contra Costa budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

AYES: Valerie Earley, Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, Gareth Ashley, Supervisor Candace Andersen, John Jones, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher and Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Dr. William Walker

Motion was **APPROVED**.

8.0 Consider approving the proposed salary range of \$110,000 to \$160,000 for the position of Executive Director

Valerie Earley explained that the proposal was prompted when the Executive Committee realized that there was no salary range for the Executive Director, thus making it difficult for the Committee to determine and increase in the Director's salary.

There were questions from the Commission regarding how the base salary was determined. Shawn Garcia explained the process to establish the range to the commissioners.

A motion was made by Candace Andersen and seconded by John Jones to approve the proposed salary range of \$110,000 to \$160,000 for the position of Executive Director.

AYES: Valerie Earley, Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, Gareth Ashley, Supervisor Candace Andersen, John Jones, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher and Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Dr. William Walker

Motion was **APPROVED**.

9.0 Consider approving the proposed increase in salary for the Executive Director, from the current salary of \$130,553 to \$137,081

Valerie Earley reported that the Executive Committee had been contemplating this salary increase for the Executive Director since completing the performance review last August 2013, as a

recommendation from the Chair.

Candace Andersen asked for more information to support the motion.

In PJ Shelton's absence, Sean noted that the Commission had not increased the Executive Director's salary since 2008. The Executive Committee had considered an increase at that time, but Sean did not accept as staff were not being offered a COLA that year.

John Jones added that he had actually chaired that Executive Committee at that time. He said that it's fair to give him the well-deserved raise and that it be applied at this time.

Wanda Session also added that Sean has not had a raise throughout the years and financially speaking, the commission is now in a place and space where we can recognize his work.

A modified motion was made by Maria Fort and seconded by John Jones to approve the proposed increase in salary for the Executive Director, from the current salary of \$130,553 to \$137,081 retroactive to August 1, 2013.

AYES: Valerie Earley, Maria Fort, Barbara Cappa, Gareth Ashley, Supervisor Candace Andersen, John Jones, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher and Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Dr. William Walker

Motion was **APPROVED**.

10.0 Executive Director's Report

Sean Casey reported on the following:

Sugar Bites

The next phase of the Sugar Bites campaign is underway, this time targeting juice drinks. He showed a slide presentation of the various places where the new campaign ads were posted. Most notably about 55 convenience stores display the posters in English and Spanish. There are 23 billboards, mostly in the Richmond/San Pablo area. Seven bus shelters in Concord have posters, as well as some Contra Costa BART stations. And 22,000 door hangers were distributed in Richmond and Bay Point.

First 5 California ads

Sean showed two First 5 California TV and radio ads running in markets across the state this month. (<http://www.youtube.com/user/First5CA>) Locally, the Bay Area Council is working on a similar campaign due to be released later this year.

Bruce Perry and Steve Robbins

We held two large speaking events: First was with renowned expert on early brain development, Dr. Bruce Perry, on February 19. We sold out the Leshner Center – 300 seats for the event, including over 50



staff from Children and Family Services, all of our contractors, and representatives of numerous schools and other agencies.

On March 12, we hosted diversity expert Steve Robbins, who talked about difference and diversity from a brain science perspective. Over 200 attended this talk, including the First 5 staff, our contractors and many staff from public and private agencies serving children.

We have heard enthusiastic response for both these sessions and hope to replicate them in the future.

Board of Equalization Administration fees

The First 5 Association is looking into the significant increase in fees the BOE has taken for Prop. 10 funds over the last 15 years, from 0.3% to 3.4%. The BOE takes its fee off the top of Proposition 10 revenue, before it is deposited in the state Children and Families Trust Fund. Based on the projected BOE fee of \$17.8 million for FY 2013-14, the estimated amount of funds lost to Contra Costa is \$400,500. The First 5 Association is discussing remedies with BOE staff as well as with legislators.

First 5 Day at the State Legislature

March 19, Assembly Speaker Perez marked the 15th anniversary of Proposition 10 with a reception in the Capitol basement attended by over 200 First 5 staff and Commissioners, legislators and their staff, and early childhood advocates. Speaker Perez, flanked by many of his colleagues, was effusive in his praise for First 5 and particularly thanked First 5 for supporting Stage 3 childcare in 2011 before the legislature could restore cuts made in the budget.

During the day, Commissioner John Jones, First 5 Alameda ED Mark Friedman and Sean Casey met with Assembly members Joan Buchanan and Nancy Skinner, and the staffs of Senators Mark DeSaulnier and Loni Hancock. They also attended meetings with the Governor's staff and with Speaker Perez' staff. They noted time and again how different it is for First 5 and early childhood in the legislature right now.

SB 837 and SB 1123

The major topic in the legislature was SB 837, Senate President Darrell Steinberg's bill to expand transitional kindergarten into a universal program for all 4-year-olds. Both Assembly members Buchanan and Skinner are skeptical at best about it; Buchanan chairs the Education Committee and Skinner the Budget Committee. No one thinks the Governor will sign it. Many think it is an opportunity to engage the legislature in sustained policy development that could lead to a stronger program down the road.

Sean Casey has been meeting with our local Early Learning leadership – John Jones, Ruth Fernandez, Camilla Rand, Dr. Joe Ovick and Pamela Comfort. – to discuss the potential local impact. While we support the increased funding and increased wages for teachers, we have concerns about how it would be implemented. John, Camilla and Sean Casey met with the BOS Legislative Advocacy Committee (Mitchoff and Piepho) last week. The BOS will keep the bill on "watch" status.

A companion bill, SB 1123, has been introduced by Sen. Carol Liu to expand supportive services for children 0-3. Much of the funding for this will come from existing state preschool dollars which will be split off from the 4-year olds served in transitional kindergarten. This bill is a big opportunity for expanding a much-neglected area and as written would include funding for such services as home visiting and community services like our First 5 Centers.

EHS Expansion

We are very pleased to announce that our Community Services Bureau approached as about using Early Head Start funds to expand the home visiting services that we fund. The federal funding for Head Start and Early Head Start was restored by Congress, after cuts in recent years. The additional funds, over \$200,000 to start, will increase the number of home visitors by 2.4 FTE and the number of families by over 100. We very much value our partnership with CSB on this and we hope it is the beginning of a beautiful relationship.”

LPC Young Children’s Issues Forum

March 29 was the annual presentation by the Local Planning Council. This was perhaps the best ever, featuring a rousing call to action by Congressman George Miller and robust conversation with the almost the entire Contra Costa legislative delegation (Loni Hancock was not present). Commission members in attendance included Sup Anderson, Dr. Walker, John Jones, and Katharine Mason. Ruth Fernandez did a monumental job in bringing the event to fruition.

Contractor site visits

Our site visits are done and we appreciate the participation of PJ Shelton, Belinda Lucy (3), Gareth Ashley (3), and Katharine Mason. Belinda Lucey commented on how good it was to see the contractors and see what the work has accomplished. Both Gareth Ashely and John Jones expressed the same sentiments.

FESP/Safety Net Event

Please plan to attend the event currently being planned by the Family Economic Security Partnership and the Safety Net Task Force: “Ensuring Opportunity: Addressing Poverty in Contra Costa County” May 16, 8:30 – 2:00 at the Pleasant Hill Community Center.

11.0 Communications

- Memorandum from CCCERA to the Commission.

Sean Casey noted the key chart projecting retirement rate decreases in future years.

12.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

John Jones announced early registration for the Contra Costa Child Care Council’s 20th Annual Early Learning Conference that is going to be held on Saturday May 3, 2014 at Diablo Valley College. The conference information can also be found on the website:

<http://www.cocokids.org/blog/924/conference/>

13.0 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.