



**DRAFT COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting**

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**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

PJ Shelton welcomed new officers Vice Chair Kathy Gallagher and Secretary-Treasurer Gareth Ashley.

Commissioners in attendance were:

Chair PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Gareth Ashley, Maria Fort, John Jones, Dr. William Walker, and Alternate Commissioner Joan Miller for the Director of Children & Families Services.

Alternates present were:

Belinda Lucey, Wanda Session, and Katharine Mason.

Also present were County Counsel representatives Keiko Kobayashi and Mary Ann Mason.

Absent: Supervisor Candace Andersen and Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Commissioner Barbara Cappa, and Alternates Matt Regan and Toni Robertson.

**2.0 Public Comment**

Shelter Inc. Executive Director Tim O Keefe reported that the Mountain View Family Shelter in Martinez remains at full capacity. He also announced that former Director of Program Services Jennifer Baha retired after over 24 years of service. He also informed that the Shelter Inc. office will soon be moving to Concord sometime in March 2015.

**3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar**

Motion was made by John Jones to approve the consent calendar. Seconded by Gareth Ashley.

**AYES:** PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Gareth Ashley, Maria Fort, John Jones, William Walker, Joan Miller and Belinda Lucey for Barbara Cappa.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTENTION:** None

The motion was **APPROVED**.

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

Assistant County Counsel, Mary Ann Mason made her annual presentation to the Commission updating and clarifying new items with regards to their responsibility in disclosure and reasons and processes of recusal, and reviewed the Political Reform Act Government Code Section 1090 and case law that addresses the appearance of conflict of interest.

After the presentation, she addressed questions from the commissioners with matters pertaining to when, or how to disclose.

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

There were two presentations made.

First, Sean Casey first introduced Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director of RISE TOGETHER. She made a slide presentation outlining the work of the 21 member Steering Council of Bay Area leaders from various sectors that has launched a range of strategic activities, engaged the initiative’s members, and established the organization’s structure.

Sean Casey followed with a slide presentation from Ensuring Opportunity:

Ensuring Opportunity’s effort represents more than 100 public and private agencies and 50 congregations that collectively serve Contra Costa residents. He noted that half of the residents in the county live below the self-sufficiency standards. In 2014, 12.5% of Contra Costa residents lived below the federal poverty level for a family of four, \$28,850, with 14.9% of children below the FPL. He noted that although direct services are essential to address the impact of poverty, it is not enough to end poverty. He suggested the need for public policies that address poverty at the root causes by providing families with high-quality early childhood education and higher education, self-sufficiency wages, housing that is affordable, health care, quality food, and more.

Sean thanked First 5’s Special Projects Coordinator Fran Biderman for her dedicated work in helping to form and support the Campaign Leadership Team. For more information:

<http://www.cutpovertycc.org>

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

A motion was made by Maria Fort to name First 5 Contra Costa as a “partner” in the RISE TOGETHER initiative. Motion was seconded by Gareth Ashley.

**AYES:** PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Gareth Ashley, Maria Fort, John Jones, William Walker, Joan Miller and Belinda Lucey for Barbara Cappa.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTENTION:** None

The motion was **APPROVED**.

## **8.0 Presentation of the Alameda and Contra Costa plan to expand “Help Me Grow.”**

First 5 Deputy Director Cally Martin made a slide show presentation of the Alameda and Contra Costa plan to expand “Help Me Grow”.

She explained that the Help Me Grow is a core component of a broader Early Childhood system linking children and families with services that meet their unique needs. It is an expanded system that can help children reach their optimal development by Kindergarten. This aligns with the mission of First 5, ensures children receive the services and support needed at an early stage.

HMG is currently in 23 U.S. states and territories. In California, there are 8 counties (including Contra Costa) that are now HMG affiliates and an additional 15 are in development. The foundation of HMG is in promoting regular developmental screening for all children 0-5, by trained providers using a standardized, comprehensive tool. Both the Contra Costa and Alameda First 5s have been working on building an integrated, effective system of care that will allow developmental concerns to be addressed at the earliest point in time and enables children to gain timely access to local resources. Cally informed the Commission that the Thomas J. Long Foundation would soon award a major grant to First 5 Contra Costa and First 5 Alameda to expand HMG in the region.

Wanda Session asked if there were ways to help parents navigate to access the right resources for their children.

Cally informed that there are “call center” staffs that are trained, and provide follow ups depending on what each child’s needs are. Early Intervention Program Officer Wanda Davis, said these call center staffs are trained to handle parents’ questions and concerns regarding their children’s developmental issues. The Contra Costa Crisis Center (211.org) has staff in place to do this.

Dr. Walker asked if HMG had been in contact yet with representatives from the Contra Costa Health plan as Developmental Screening is funded partially by the state, especially for the Autism Spectrum issues.

Wanda Davis said we are currently in dialog on establishing HMG with the CC Health Plan.

## **9.0 Executive Director’s Report**

Sean Casey reported the following:

First 5 California’s Summit on Child Health Education and Care is next week. There are five Commissioners attending the pre-Summit County Commissioner session and a few staying for the Summit itself. There are two sessions being presented by Contra Costa staff and providers.

Wednesday May 13, 2015 is the Commissioners’ Strategic Planning Retreat. Over the holidays First 5 Contra Costa brought on some consultant support to help in the preparations. Nicole Young, the owner and principal of Optimal Solutions Consulting, has provided similar assistance to Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Mateo First 5s. Over the next couple of months we will be holding some small stakeholder sessions for input on various aspects of our work, and Nicole will be carrying out some key informant interviews as well.

In addition to the anticipated funding for Help Me Grow, we have other funding news. Cally Martin and Edirle Menezes have been working closely with staff at the County Office of Education on an application due

Wednesday to the California Department of Education for the so-called “QRIS block grants” authorized in this year’s state budget. Of the \$50 million available for the state, Contra Costa is eligible to receive close to \$1.5 million. These funds are to support state preschool sites that have achieved a 4 or 5 on the QRIS rating matrix. Most of the funds will be passed on to providers, with some held for QRIS activities jointly carried out by COE and First 5. This marks what we believe will be a new standard of reimbursement for high-quality providers that will make implementing state preschool more financially viable.

On Saturday January 31, 2015, Sean Casey attended a West County Regional Group event in San Pablo with the City staff, organizing the significant amount of data collected by the Regional Group regarding the conditions of the City’s parks. The data will help the city prioritize its parks improvement activities. John Jones, who had previously worked with the City of Antioch on its parks, commended the Community Engagement program for their collaborative efforts.

Sean Casey thanked Commissioners and Alternates ( Barbara Cappa, Mister Phillips, PJ Shelton, Belinda Lucey, John Jones, Katharine Mason, Maria Fort) who all signed up for site visits.

#### **10.0 Adoption of the 2015 Commission meeting calendar**

A motion was made by Kathy Gallagher to adopt the 2015 Commission meeting calendar. Dr. Walker seconded the motion.

**AYES:** PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Gareth Ashley, Maria Fort, John Jones, William Walker, Joan Miller and Belinda Lucey for Barbara Cappa.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTENTION:** None

The motion was **APPROVED**.

#### **11.0 Communications**

Sean directed the Commission to recent articles in the packet. .

#### **12.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates**

There were no announcements from the Commissioners.

#### **13.0 Adjourn**

Chair PJ Shelton reminded the Commission that there will be no meeting in March.  
Next meeting will be on Monday April 6, 2015.  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.