

# Memo

**To:** Commission Members  
**From:** Alexander Khu  
**Date:** Monday September 14, 2015  
**Re:** September 14, 2015 **SPECIAL Commission Meeting**

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Enclosed are the materials for the September 14, 2015 Commission meeting which will take place as follows:

**Time:** **5:00 PM\***  
*(\*one hour early start time)*

**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, September 14, 2015, **\*5:00 pm**

*\*One hour earlier start time*

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.*

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#### 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 July 6, 2015 meeting.

##### 3.2 Accept the Executive Committee Report from the July 6, 2015 meeting.

##### 3.3 Approve the Contracts Docket

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Executive Director to execute a contract amendment with Contra Costa Crisis Center to increase the payment limit by \$66,000 (from \$191,157 to \$257,157) to maintain a web-based database of Contra Costa human services ([www.211database.org](http://www.211database.org)) for children birth through age five and their families and to oversee 211, a 24-hour phone referral service in which trained information and referral specialists refer callers to needed services. This telephone access line would be a primary point of connection for families and early childhood professionals seeking customized early childhood resources and referrals and provide information about developmental screening services. These activities will be supported by a 211 Young Child Resources Specialist who will serve as a liaison with community providers and will offer technical assistance to 211 line staff. FY2015-16 budget line: (\$126,000) Early Intervention Initiative: Children's Developmental Needs (\$1,164,116). 100% of additional funds are from Thomas J Long Foundation.

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

**Action**

#### 5.0 Consider accepting the final financial report for fiscal year 2014-2015.

**Action**

#### 6.0 Presentation and discussion of First 5 Contra Costa 2016-2020 Strategic Plan & Long-Term Financial Plan.

Discussion



<b>7.0</b>	<b>Executive Director's Report</b>	Discussion
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Communications</b> Letter to Secretary Diana Dooley Re: Improving Early Identification of Developmental Delays in California's Youngest Children	Discussion
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates</b>	Discussion
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	

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 September 14, 2015

Agenda Item 3.1

Approve the minutes from the July 6, 2015 meeting.



## COMMISSION MEETING

### Minutes

Monday, July 6, 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 6:12 PM by Chairwoman PJ Shelton.

Commissioners in attendance were: Gareth Ashley, Kathy Gallagher, Maria Fort, John Jones, Supervisor Candace Andersen, Dr. William Walker, and Joan Miller.

Alternates present were: Mister Phillips, Belinda Lucey, and Katharine Mason.

Also present was Deputy Counsel, Keiko Kobayashi.

Absent: Barbara Cappa, Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Matt Regan, Toni Robertson, Wanda Session, and Kathy Marsh.

#### 2.0 Public Comment

Jeanne Falla, a member of the National Coalition for Men (NCFM), an advocacy group based in San Diego, provided information regarding Empowered Fathers, a service program to help non-custodial parents (typically fathers) navigate through family court to help them with child support custody and visitation issues. It seeks to help support new fathers, especially low income fathers who face financial challenges. She asked to see communication with First 5 Contra Costa and its local agencies who deal with fathers and to encourage local fathers to be more involved. She then handed out some brochures about NCFM to the Commission.

#### 3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

Prior to voting, Sean Casey corrected the last sentence of agenda item 3.2.2:

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Executive Director to execute a contract with Better World Advertising, Inc. to develop a campaign that brands Contra Costa County's Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) and promotes it to target audiences, educates parents about quality child care, including how to identify it and why it matters to children's development, and informs Contra Costa County child care providers about the QRIS program in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for term July 7, 2015 to June 30, 2016. FY2015-16 budget line: Community Information and Engagement Initiative: Public Information (\$739,414). 100% of funds are from the Thomas J Long Foundation Help Me Grow grant. **100% of funds are from the California State Preschool Quality Rating and Improvement Block Grant.**

Half sheet handouts were passed around to the commission showing the correct statement.

A motion was made by Dr. William Walker and seconded by Kathy Gallagher to approve the consent calendar.

**AYES:** PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Gareth Ashley, Maria Fort, Belinda Lucey for Barbara Cappa, John Jones,

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Candace Andersen, Dr. Walker, and Joan Miller.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

#### **5.0 Annual presentation of reports from the First 5 Center Community Advisory Councils**

First 5 Contra Costa's Family Support Program Officer Lisa Morrell opened the presentation. Each of the First 5 Centers has a Community Advisory Council (CAC), members comprised of parent volunteers from the neighborhood. Each year they conduct a needs assessment in order to solicit parent input regarding programming at the Center. CAC members learn to devise surveys, interviews and analyze the data they gathered and prepare presentations. Recommendations from the needs assessment are built into Center activities in the following year.

Each First 5 Center CAC made a five minute slide presentation outlining their processes, determining needs assessment by conducting various surveys (in English and Spanish focus groups), establishing their priority needs, and outcomes and solutions. All centers based their priorities on the elements of the "Five Protective Factors" (conditions or attributes in families and communities that help its members deal more effectively with stressful events and mitigate or eliminate risk in families and communities). Each center indicated very similar priorities: a) Parental Resilience; and b) Child's Social and Emotional Competence. Many of the parent presenters indicated "stress" as a common reason for wanting more assistance and help in attaining Parental Resilience. And their young children's emotional well-being is a close priority that they would like to see improvement in their lives.

Various solutions often rely on community resources for support. Bay Point CAC presenters cited that for some families, generational differences where parental "style" prompts strain in family relations and parents are forced to source out support through friends and community for assistance. Networking opportunities, peer support and more parenting classes were often sought as a result. The Delta First 5 CAC especially pointed out the need for support for Spanish speaking families.

Delta First 5 CAC reported that they were invited to meet and present their findings to Assemblymember Jim Frazier as part of their incentive program for the 2013-2014 CAC as well as an opportunity to promote Delta First 5 Center. The presenters indicated that this not only boosted their morale, but were encouraged by the donation made by the Assemblymember to the CAC.

#### **6.0 Strategic Plan Update**

Sean reported that since the May 13, 2015 Strategic Plan retreat, First 5 staff and Nicole Young drafted an outline of the structure for each of the three initiatives. Included in the Commission's agenda packet was a draft sample (using Early Childhood Education Initiative as an example) that included the recommended wording for goals, indicators and strategies. The goal is to get the key elements of what we are trying to do or achieve put in a few ideas and see what long term impact would look like.

Mister Phillips commented that the sample draft's "Long-Term Impact", "Indicators of Communitywide Progress" and "Strategic Directions and Results" bullet point contents appear to be the same. He hoped to see more goal setting to show targets and indicators as a clearer way of measuring achievement.

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Kathy Gallagher asked if there were existing data that might show the direction we are moving and by how much and suggested that we define goals, and determine what is high quality based on that. A “Benchmark Approach” to set standards against recognized best practices may be ideal. It will have the ability to be clear, provide a better baseline, and resonate with those invested in First 5 Contra Costa.

Sean responded that currently we have data on the number of children currently in preschool. He also pointed out that we may have to use new metrics to define the goals for kids who are ready to go to kindergarten.

Katharine Mason offered to provide the results from the CSB Head Start Program outcome data of children leaving the program heading into kindergarten.

She expressed support for the numbers and percentage goal for its accountability and ability to explain the highs and lows of the results of the initiative’s goals and achievements.

After all the inputs, Sean proposed that the September 14, 2015 Commission meet an hour earlier at 5:00 PM to allow additional time to further the Strategic Plan discussion, bring to the Commission the draft plan, get further feed backs and return to the October meeting with an action plan.

The Commission agreed to meet at 5:00 PM on Monday September 14, 2015 for a Special Meeting of the Commission.

## 7.0 Executive Director’s Report

- 1) **Presentation from Regional groups.** Our regional groups, who you heard present at our June meeting, had another success two weeks ago when the Concord City Council approved \$845,000 for park improvements in Ellis Lake Park, this, on top of recent action by the San Pablo City Council makes for over \$1.1 million in local budget allocations supported by the regional groups this year. The regional group recommended that the Concord funds support bathrooms, play structures and lighting at Ellis Lake Park. Gareth Ashley also spoke of collaboration and support toward all these improvements. Still to come: potential budget allotments in Antioch and Pittsburg.
- 2) **Renewing the California State Preschool QRIS block grant.** In the funding area, we have joined the County Office of Education in renewing our funding from the California State Preschool QRIS Block Grant for the 2015-16 fiscal-year. This application will include over \$332,760 for First 5 to support coaching and other QRIS activities.
- 3) **F5 California released newest initiative: IMPACT.** Last week First 5 California released its long-awaited Request for Applications for its newest initiative: IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive). County First 5’s have the primary opportunity to apply for these funds, which will be available for five years, starting in the current 2015-16 year. Contra Costa is projected to receive up to \$3,536,500 over this period, which can be used to sustain and expand our existing quality improvement activities. For us that means we will be able to continue our QRIS after the Race to the Top grant ends this year, and possibly sustain some of the professional development stipends we have provided under the First 5 California CARES funds that will also end this year. IMPACT will also fund regional technical assistance hubs, for which we may join our regional

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partners in a joint application. Our letter of intent is due next Monday; Phase I of the application, for Base layer funds, is due August 10; Phase II, for Step layer funds, is due November 9.

IMPACT funds will also be available for regional training and technical assistance activities. We will be working with our regional First 5s to prepare for this. The date for release of the RFA for these funds is no yet determined.

- 4) **New Staff at First 5.** We are bringing on two new staff to support our expanding efforts. Kim Stadlander will begin later this month as our second early learning quality coach, working with QRIS participating sites on carrying out their quality improvement plans; and we have extended an offer, yet to be signed, for the Help Me Grow coordinator position. Both of these are entirely grant-funded positions.
- 5) **Next week QRIS National Conference.** Next week, Cally Martin, Edirle Menezes and I will fly, with a local team including Ruth Fernandez from the Office of Education, Janissa Rowley, Associate Director at Community Services Bureau and John Jones from the Child Care Council, to Washington DC for the annual National QRIS Conference. We will get a chance to hear from practitioners from around the country, many of whom have been doing this longer than we have, to consider how to sustain and improve our efforts. We have also scheduled a visit with former First 5 Commissioner and now Congressman, Mark DeSaulnier.
- 6) Presentation of a KQED radio 5 minute interview about Brighter-Beginnings male home visitor, who is working with new fathers in Contra Costa County, funded by First 5 Contra Costa.  
[http://firstfivecc.org/uploads/Home/Home\\_VisitsforDads\\_KQED\\_6\\_2015.mp3](http://firstfivecc.org/uploads/Home/Home_VisitsforDads_KQED_6_2015.mp3)

## 8.0 Communications

Articles on the Concord City Council's approval of park upgrades, a letter of support to the State Governor regarding investing in Quality Early Education Funding in the 2015-16 fiscal budget as well an article on the grant to First 5 for early detection of developmental delays. No presentation was given.

## 9.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

Katharine Mason announced the Head Start enrollment in child care (low cost and or subsidized). Please contact Head Start:

**East and Central (925)427-8852**

**West (510)374-7144**

**Website: [www.cccounty.us/ehsd](http://www.cccounty.us/ehsd)**

Mister Phillips also announced that this may be the last Commission Meeting he will attend. He conveyed how much he appreciated what he learned in the three years of his service, and hoped to see more help go towards local communities, including African American communities in the county, that still remain underserved.

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Gareth Ashley, a Concord resident, thanked Sean Casey and Rhea Laughlin for advocating the park improvements at the Concord City Council meeting of June 9, 2015. He noted that the meeting lasted a long time, but resulted in the eventual approval for park improvements in Ellis Lake Park. He acknowledged the hours and efforts of many people that went in to it.

**10.0 Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

**COMMISSION MEETING**

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Monday September 14, 2015

Agenda Item 3.2

Accept the Executive Committee Report from the July 6, 2015 meeting.



## **Executive Committee MINUTES**

July 6, 2015  
4:00 p.m.  
Small Conference Room,  
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200, Concord, CA

### **1.0 Call to Order**

Present: Commission members PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Gareth Ashley, Katharine Mason; staff Sean Casey, Cally Martin, Marnie Huddleston

### **2.0 Public Comment**

None given

### **3.0 Staff Updates**

Cally Martin provided a brief program update:

Our joint application (First 5 and COE) to the California Department of Education for the FY 2015-16 CSPP-QRIS Block Grant was submitted last week. The total grant amount is \$1,307,937, of which a little more than \$300,000 will support First 5's ongoing coordination, coaching, social marketing and assessments.

We have filled the new HMG Coordinator position. Shaun-Adrian Chofla comes to us with a strong early childhood background and a master's degree in early childhood studies. He has experience in project and program management which will be useful in our starting up of ASQ online services and in mapping out the HMG project. He starts July 9th. We also hired Kim Stadlander as a part-time QRIS coach; she comes to us with many years in home visiting and early childhood education and is highly trained in the assessment protocols we use in the QRIS.

We completed part two of the 4-day Motivational Interviewing training series. Seventy-seven program staff attended each day, representing the range of service providers: AOD, home-visiting, mental health, parenting programs, inclusion, shelters, WIC, First 5 Centers, and more.

The San Pablo City Council has allocated over \$400,000 in the city's capital improvement budget for parks improvements based upon recommendations from the San Pablo Obesity Prevention Task Force. Regional Group members serve in leadership roles on the task force and led the park assessment project which formed the basis of the recommendations to the city. A similar effort with the City of Concord resulted in the city approving \$700,000 for park improvements at Ellis Park and Meadow Homes. The project included regional group members meeting with city staff and council members, and providing public comment at a number of city council meetings.

### **4.0 Commission Updates**

Sean let the Commission know that four Commission terms are up in August, including the Districts 2 and 4 Commissioners and the Alternate Commissioners in Districts 1 and 4. Staff are working with the respective Supervisors' offices to effect smooth reappointments or transitions. The District 3 Alternate Commissioner seat remains open.

The Committee discussed plans for the strategic plan presentation at the September Commission

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meeting. The Committee agreed to propose to the Commission a 5:00 PM start time to ensure adequate time for presentation and public response.

**5.0 Statewide Updates**

There were no state updates.

**6.0 Items for Consideration**

No items were on the agenda.

**7.0 Review agenda items for upcoming Commission meetings**

The Committee reviewed upcoming agenda items and agreed to move as many business items as possible to the October meeting to give time for the strategic plan presentation in September

**8.0 Closed session with staff – Executive Director performance review**

The Committee went into closed session to discuss the Executive Director's 2015 performance review.



Monday September 14, 2015

Agenda Item 5.0

Consider accepting the financial report for fiscal year 2014-2015.

FY 14/15 Financial Report - 4th Quarter

Line #	FIRST 5 CONTRA COSTA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION	FY14/15 Budget			FY14/15 Actual Revenue and Expenditures				Notes
		F5 Contra Costa Funds	Other Funds	Total Budget	F5 Contra Costa Funds	Other Funds	Total Revenue and Expense	% of Budget	
<b>REVENUE</b>									
1	Prop 10 - Tax Apportionment	8,154,941		8,154,941	8,194,261		8,194,261	100%	
2	CAF5 - CARES Plus	-	300,000	300,000		303,249	303,249	101%	
	California State Preschool Program	-	-	-		99,781	99,781		1
3	Race to the Top	-	737,664	737,664		663,871	663,871	90%	
4	Thomas J. Long Foundation PMD	-	990,000	990,000		990,000	990,000	100%	2
	Thomas J. Long Foundation Help Me Grow	-	-	-		640,000	640,000		3
5	Interest Income	120,000		120,000	112,879		112,879	94%	
6	MHSA Grant/Other misc income	-	81,050	81,050	2,444	105,241	107,685	133%	
	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>8,274,941</b>	<b>2,108,714</b>	<b>10,383,655</b>	<b>8,309,584</b>	<b>2,802,142</b>	<b>11,111,726</b>	<b>107%</b>	
7	Fund Balance	5,400,608	227,874	5,628,482	3,582,798	(633,471)	2,949,327	52%	3,4
	<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>13,675,549</b>	<b>2,336,588</b>	<b>16,012,137</b>	<b>11,892,382</b>	<b>2,168,671</b>	<b>14,061,053</b>	<b>88%</b>	

PROGRAM									
<b>Initiatives</b>		<b>9,193,664</b>	<b>2,164,556</b>	<b>11,358,220</b>	<b>7,934,872</b>	<b>2,046,820</b>	<b>9,981,692</b>	<b>88%</b>	
8	<b>Early Care and Education Initiative</b>								
9	Professional Development	919,800	300,000	1,219,800	872,543	303,249	1,175,792	96%	
10	Early Learning Quality	275,494	1,783,506	2,059,000	134,302	1,624,801	1,759,103	85%	1,2
11	Literacy	256,080		256,080	256,080	15,000	271,080	106%	
12	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,451,374</b>	<b>2,083,506</b>	<b>3,534,880</b>	<b>1,262,925</b>	<b>1,943,050</b>	<b>3,205,975</b>	<b>91%</b>	
13	<b>Family Support</b>								
14	First 5 Centers	2,314,957	6,050	2,321,007	2,191,291	9,241	2,200,532	95%	
15	Home Visiting	1,388,209		1,388,209	1,335,700		1,335,700	96%	
16	Training and support	64,200		64,200	53,128		53,128	83%	
17	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,767,366</b>	<b>6,050</b>	<b>3,773,416</b>	<b>3,580,119</b>	<b>9,241</b>	<b>3,589,360</b>	<b>95%</b>	
18	<b>Early Intervention</b>								
19	Therapeutic Services	834,638	75,000	909,638	301,031	75,000	376,031	41%	5
20	ECE Consultation	993,177		993,177	984,844		984,844	99%	
21	Children's Developmental Needs	663,733		663,733	490,129	14,529	504,658	76%	3
22	Children Experiencing Stress/Trauma	784,290		784,290	635,294		635,294	81%	
23	Training and Consultation	25,000		25,000	25,452		25,452	102%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,300,838</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>3,375,838</b>	<b>2,436,750</b>	<b>89,529</b>	<b>2,526,279</b>	<b>75%</b>	
24	<b>Community Information and Education</b>								
25	Public Information	524,086		524,086	513,828	5,000	518,828	99%	
26	Community Engagement	140,000		140,000	140,073		140,073	100%	
27	Family Economic Stability	10,000		10,000	1,177		1,177	12%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>674,086</b>		<b>674,086</b>	<b>655,078</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>660,078</b>	<b>98%</b>	
28	<b>Program Expenses</b>								
29	Program Salaries & Wages	1,190,135	153,600	1,343,735	1,157,112	104,284	1,261,396	94%	
30	Program Employee Benefits	799,334	18,432	817,766	626,692	17,567	644,259	79%	
31	Office Overhead and Other Expenses	231,607		231,607	189,039		189,039	82%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,221,076</b>	<b>172,032</b>	<b>2,393,108</b>	<b>1,972,843</b>	<b>121,851</b>	<b>2,094,694</b>	<b>88%</b>	
32	<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>11,414,740</b>	<b>2,336,588</b>	<b>13,751,328</b>	<b>9,907,715</b>	<b>2,168,671</b>	<b>12,076,386</b>	<b>88%</b>	

EVALUATION									
33	Evaluation Salaries & Wages	338,318		338,318	334,522		334,522	99%	
34	Evaluation Employee Benefits	212,971		212,971	177,728		177,728	83%	
35	Professional Services	306,000		306,000	303,539		303,539	99%	
36	Office Overhead and Other Expenses	60,533		60,533	45,591		45,591	75%	
37	<b>TOTAL EVALUATION</b>	<b>917,822</b>		<b>917,822</b>	<b>861,380</b>		<b>861,380</b>	<b>94%</b>	

ADMINISTRATION									
38	Administrative Salaries & Wages	562,956		562,956	544,364		544,364	97%	
39	Administrative Employee Benefits	351,677		351,677	297,520		297,520	85%	
40	Professional Services	135,500		135,500	95,363		95,363	70%	
41	Purchased Services, Equip lease, supplies	202,839		202,839	114,823		114,823	57%	
42	Office Overhead	90,015		90,015	71,217		71,217	79%	
43	<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>1,342,987</b>		<b>1,342,987</b>	<b>1,123,287</b>		<b>1,123,287</b>	<b>84%</b>	
44	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>13,675,549</b>	<b>2,336,588</b>	<b>16,012,137</b>	<b>11,892,382</b>	<b>2,168,671</b>	<b>14,061,053</b>	<b>88%</b>	

<b>Distribution of expenses by department:</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>85.9%</b>
	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
	<b>Administrative</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Fund Balance as of 6/30/2015:</b>	
<b>Nonspendable</b>	<b>415,239</b>
Prepays and Deposits	94,239
Loans Receivable - Perinatal Council	321,000
<b>Restricted</b>	<b>718,031</b>
Long Foundation - Help Me Grow	625,471
Long Foundation - PMD	92,560
<b>Committed</b>	<b>841,227</b>
Capital Assets	841,227
<b>Assigned</b>	<b>4,589,823</b>
Elimination of FY15/16 Budget Deficit	3,854,231
Leases	735,592
<b>Unassigned Funds</b>	<b>24,242,127</b>
Contingency Fund	7,500,000
Unassigned	16,742,127
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>30,806,447</b>

**NOTES:**

- 1 New state block grant for QRIS program quality improvement.
- 2 Final payment of Long Fdn PMD grant. \$91,622 rolled over to FY15/16.
- 3 Help Me Grow payment from Long Fdn, majority went to restricted fund for FY15/16 expenditures.
- 4 66% of budgeted unrestricted fund balance used.
- 5 County Mental Health contracts reduced based on history of underexpenditure of F5 fund.



Monday September 14, 2015

Agenda Item 6.0

Presentation and discussion of First 5 Contra Costa 2016-2020 Strategic Plan  
and Long-Term Financial Plan.



# First 5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan & Long-Term Financial Plan

FY 16/17 – 19/20

Commission DRAFT – Presented September 14, 2015



# Acknowledgements

## Commission Members

### Commissioners

Supervisor Candace Andersen  
Maria Fort  
Barbara Cappa  
PJ Shelton, Chair  
Gareth Ashley, Sec/Treasurer  
John Jones  
Dr. William Walker  
Kathy Gallagher, Vice Chair  
Joan Miller

### Alternates

Supervisor Karen Mitchoff  
Mister Phillips  
Belinda Lucey  
Matt Regan  
Toni Robertson  
Wanda Session  
Katharine Mason  
Kathy Marsh

## Strategic Planning Team

Sean Casey, Executive Director  
Cally Martin, Deputy Director  
Marnie Huddleston, Finance and Operations Director  
Lyn Paleo, Evaluation Manager  
Tracy Irwin, Public Affairs Manager

## Strategic Planning Consultants

Nicole M. Young, MSW

Nicole Lezin, MMPM



# About First 5

## Our Vision

Contra Costa’s young children will be healthy, ready to learn, and supported in safe, nurturing families and communities.

## Our Mission

To foster the optimal development of our children, prenatal through 5 years of age.

## Our Guiding Principles

First 5 Contra Costa’s investments and activities are guided by the following principles:

- **Equity.** We prioritize allocation of our resources to benefit families in greatest need in order to reduce disparities.
- **Community.** We honor and respect community voice and engage community members in respectful and meaningful ways.
- **Diversity.** We respect our diverse communities and strive to ensure all children have access to high-quality, culturally responsive services.
- **Sustainability.** We invest in systems, programs, and partnerships that create long-term impacts for children and families in the community.
- **Efficacy.** We invest in high-quality programs that use promising or evidence-based practices to ensure our investments create meaningful impacts.
- **Evaluation.** We measure our efforts and outcomes for continuous quality improvements and to ensure our investments achieve the intended results.

### Proposition 10

*In November 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10, the California Children and Families First Initiative, which added a 50-cent per pack tax on cigarettes and tobacco products. Eighty percent of the tax revenue is disbursed to the 58 counties in California to **promote the early health, learning, and family support for children from the prenatal stage through five years of age.** The California Children and Families Commission augments County-specific efforts with statewide mass media campaigns, education for parents and providers, and research and evaluation activities.*

### First 5 Contra Costa Commission

*The Commission consists of 18 members who have the authority to administer and allocate Contra Costa County’s Prop 10 funds. Commissioners represent county government, public health, social services, education, and early care and education.*

# Building a Strong Foundation for Early Childhood

**Together with our partners, First 5 Contra Costa has been building stronger foundations for our county's youngest children for more than 15 years.** With investments topping \$120 million, we have created effective programs and developed systems to ensure young children start kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life. We have noted many successes along the way, such as the five First 5 Centers, a new system to improve child care quality, and the countywide use of a common screening tool to help all children reach their optimal development.

Through it all we have remained true to the spirit of Proposition 10: **investing** in the earliest years in order to save down the road; **promoting** programs with the highest likelihood of success; and effectively and responsibly **administering** tax revenues under the authority of an independent local Commission.

**The promise of Proposition 10 is paying off.** Fifteen years later, the inherent potential of early childhood investment is increasingly recognized by policymakers, the media, funders, and the public. The results of the brain science, program evaluation, and economic analysis of the last 30 years are now frequently cited in even the most routine discussion of early childhood policy. Even more, investment in early childhood is commonly pointed to as a key element in lifting families and children out of poverty. As the consensus for young children continues to grow, First 5 will play a key role in promoting the systems and policies that could be adopted statewide in the next five to ten years.

**Our FY 16/17 – 19/20 Strategic Plan builds on First 5's past efforts, takes the changing fiscal landscape and community needs into consideration, and focuses our investments on strategic initiatives that build the systems, partnerships and policies that will have the most enduring impact on children's health, education and well-being.** This new plan provides a road map to help First 5 navigate the ever-changing landscape in partnership with county agencies, community-based organizations, elected officials, First 5 participants, and other community members who share our vision of ensuring that Contra Costa's youngest children are happy, healthy and thriving.

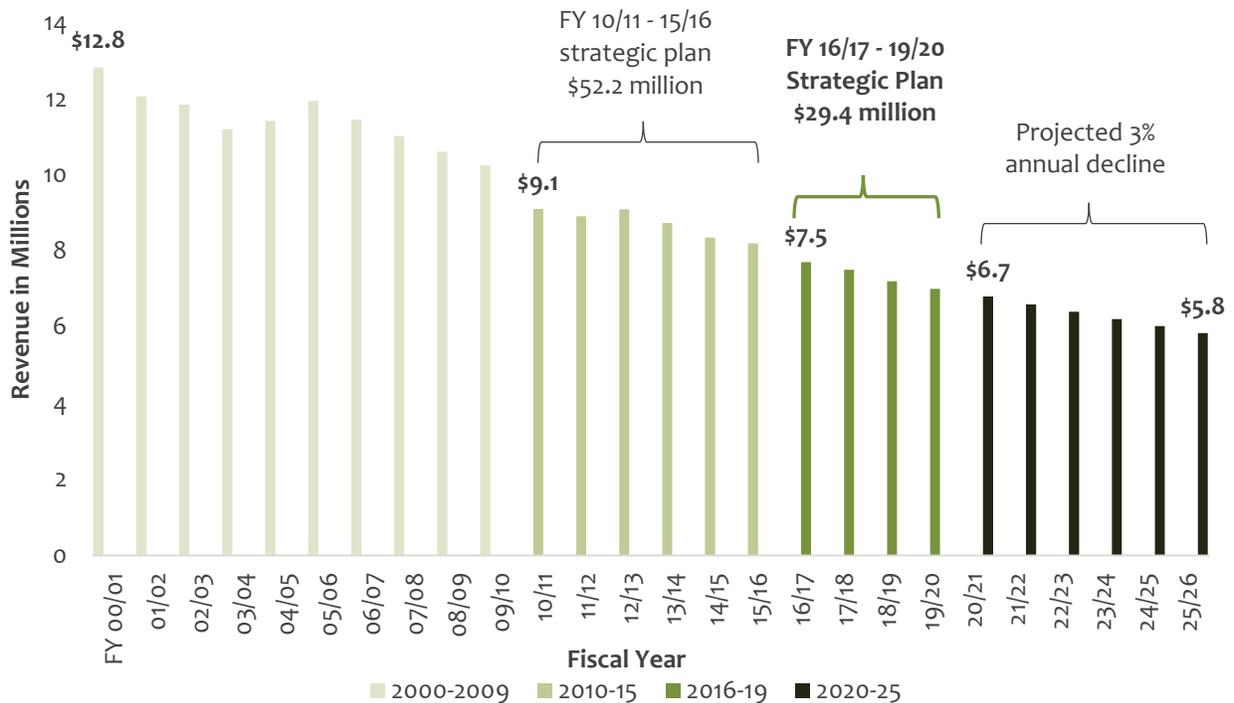
# Our Long-Term Financial Plan

First 5 Contra Costa’s Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP), provides a **framework to guide the Commission’s investments** during the FY 16/17 – 19/20 strategic plan. The LTFP does not name specific programs that will receive funding, nor does it obligate the Commission to actual contracts or funding awards. Rather, it describes First 5’s fiscal landscape and states the Commission’s intent to invest its resources in areas where it can exert influence and achieve lasting change.

## Our Fiscal Landscape

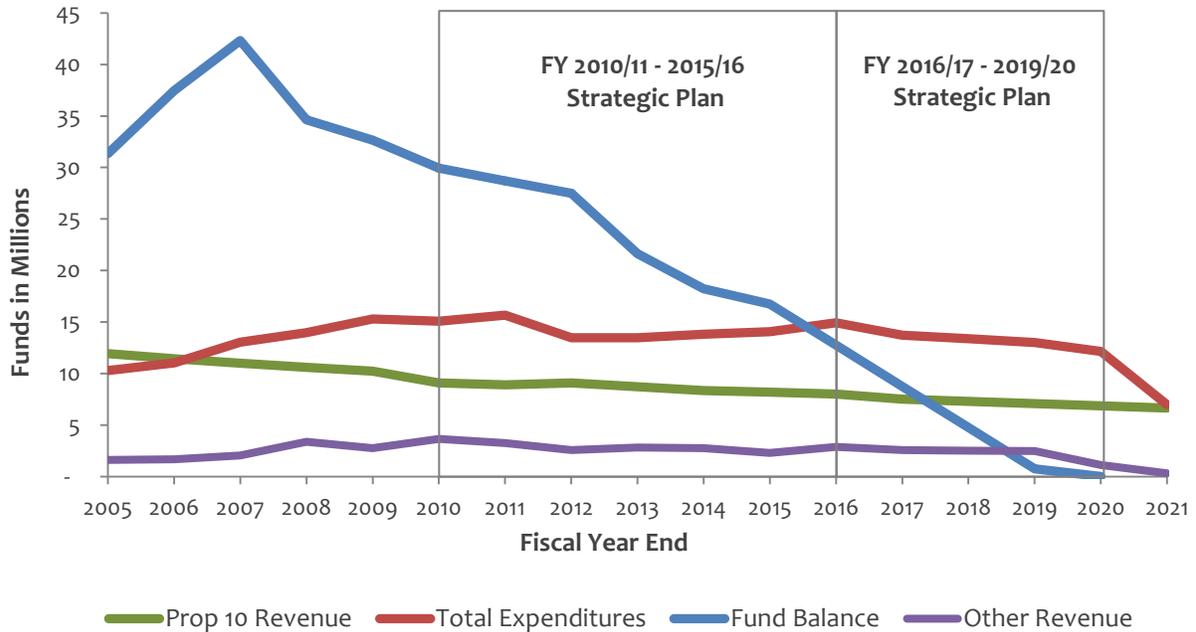
Looking ahead, our greatest challenge will be the **progressive decline of Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenue**, shown in the chart below. Our annual Prop 10 revenue is now 36% lower than what it was 15 years ago – down from a high of \$12.8 million in FY 00/01 – and is projected to continue decreasing an average of 3% per year. During the course of the FY 16/17 – 19/20 strategic plan, our Prop 10 revenue will decline 9%, from \$7.7 to \$7.0 million.

**First 5 Contra Costa Prop 10 Tobacco Tax Revenue (millions) – History & Projections**



In addition, our **expenditures have exceeded revenue** since FY 06/07, as shown below, requiring us to rely on our fund balance and external resources to meet our funding obligations. While this strategic use of our fund balance allowed us to maintain program investments over the last several years, particularly during the Great Recession, **this approach is not sustainable in the long-term**, as the discretionary reserves in our fund balance will be exhausted by the end of FY 19/20.

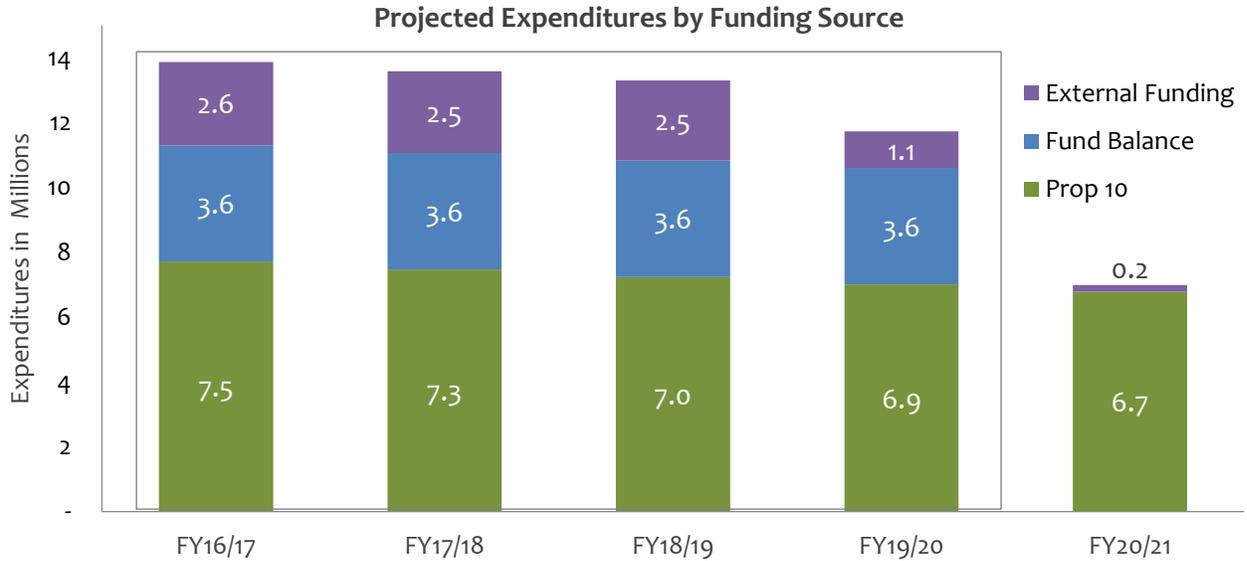
**First 5 Contra Costa Revenue and Expenditures, 2005-2021**



### Other Fiscal Projections

The chart on the following page provides a more detailed look at our projected expenditures by funding source during the FY 16/17 – 19/20 strategic plan period. Projections are based on information known at this time, and will be updated annually.

- Total revenue projections for FY 16/17 – 19/20 include **\$29.4 million in Prop 10 revenue** and **\$8.7 million in external revenues**. Projected **expenditures** for the same period total **\$52.5 million**, funded in part with the last **\$14.4 million from the fund balance**.
- First 5 will continue to **spend down the discretionary reserves in its fund balance** through FY 19/20, at which point a balance of **\$7.5 million** will be maintained as an **Emergency Reserve** in the event that First 5’s revenue suddenly decreases.



- First 5 anticipates receiving significant external funding through FY 20/21, primarily to **support systems-building strategies** in the Early Childhood Education and Early Interventions Initiatives.
- Beginning FY 20/21, First 5’s revenue will be **limited to its annual Prop 10 tobacco tax allocation** and a nominal amount of external funding. By then, First 5 will likely be a smaller agency in scope and size.

### Our Investment Approach

First 5 will work with other county leaders and partners to proactively pursue new opportunities to obtain or leverage resources that support the early childhood system in Contra Costa County. These resources may flow directly to First 5 or to another partner in the county, which would help distribute and institutionalize the funding responsibility among other entities. However, it is unlikely that these pursuits will ever completely make up for the declining funding stream specifically established for First 5. **This fiscal reality sets the stage for First 5 to transition to a new way of investing in early childhood that allows us to live within our means, is sustainable, and achieves lasting change.**

# Our Evolving Approach

When First 5 Contra Costa was established 17 years ago, the influx of new money dedicated to early childhood allowed us to use our resources to build or enhance programs and direct services that impacted individual children and families. As we make the transition to a leaner organization with fewer resources, we must maintain our sights on our vision, mission, and guiding principles – our “North Star” – while **shifting our role and funding approach to create an enduring impact for the greatest number of young children in Contra Costa.**

Going forward, we will increase our emphasis on **strengthening the systems that serve children and families** and decrease our emphasis on funding direct services. To accomplish this, First 5 Contra Costa will engage in a broad set of **education, advocacy and public policy activities** that foster or drive systems change. More specifically, we will convene and collaborate with partners working toward shared goals, conduct public education and social marketing campaigns about the importance of investing in early childhood, support the development of community leaders, and advocate for policies that institutionalize long-term support and funding for direct service programs.

These systems-building activities are essential to advancing First 5’s mission and vision and achieving the goals of our **strategic initiatives**:

1. **Early Childhood Education:** All children have access to high-quality, affordable child care and early learning.
2. **Early Interventions:** All children will achieve their optimal development.
3. **Family Support:** All children are raised in supportive and nurturing families.



As we pivot to this new approach, **we will prioritize direct service investments** that:

1. Directly address the Goal(s) and Strategic Directions in one or more of our three **strategic initiatives**.
2. Have a high likelihood of impacting **systems or policy changes** prioritized in First 5's strategic plan.
3. Are grounded in **evidence-based and best practices** and have a strong likelihood for favorable child and family **outcomes**.
4. Are closely **aligned** with other initiatives, funding opportunities, and/or partners working on the same or similar issues.

**Over the first two years of this strategic plan, the Commission will end its financial support for currently-funded direct service programs that do not align with these priorities.** The specific time table for transferring or ending First 5's funding for such programs will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

We intend to work with our partners and other local funders to create where we can a “soft landing” for programs that First 5 is no longer able to fund, in order to minimize the impact on organizations and the families they serve. In cases where there is not another ready funding source, we will step down our funding over the first two years of this plan. Although the steps needed to shift our approach may not be easy to implement, they will ensure the sustainability of a strong service system for children and families for many years to come.

This parallel approach to streamlining First 5's direct service investments and pursuing new opportunities to leverage resources is the best and most sustainable path to realizing First 5's vision that all children in Contra Costa County are healthy, ready to learn, and supported in safe, nurturing families and communities.

## Our Strategic Initiatives

During the FY 16/17 – 19/20 strategic plan, First 5's priorities and investments will be aligned with three Strategic Initiatives focused on Early Childhood Education, Early Interventions, and Family Support.

Each Initiative lists an aspirational **Goal**, followed by the hoped-for **Long-Term Impacts** that could be achieved by First 5 and our partner agencies and collaborations in the county. The initiative's long-term impacts are matched with a set of **Indicators of Communitywide Progress**, which First 5 cannot achieve alone but can make a contribution towards. Two **Strategies** are listed for each Initiative, along with **Strategic Directions** that outline our priorities for the next four years. The Strategic Results will be measured by several **Efforts** (activities to implement the strategy) and **Outcomes** (results of the activities).

In addition to the specific Strategies and Strategic Directions described in each Initiative, First 5 will apply an **Overarching Strategy** of convening, education, advocacy, and policy work to all Initiatives. The Strategic Directions for these **drivers of system change** will be the common thread that runs throughout all of our initiatives, and links our everyday work to our mission and vision.

## DRIVERS OF SYSTEMS CHANGE

**Overarching Strategy:** Convene partners and engage in education and advocacy for policies that promote the optimal health and education of young children and their families.

### Strategic Directions

- Advocate for **policies, funding, and systems changes** that advance First 5's vision, mission and core initiatives.
- Support **community advocacy and leadership** around issues concerning families with young children.
- Engage in **social marketing and public education** to support First 5 strategies and raise awareness of other issues concerning families with young children.
- Convene and engage in **partnerships and collaborations** to advance policies that support families of young children in Contra Costa.
- Work with partners to develop strategies to effectively reach and engage marginalized families – particularly **African-American families** and those living in poverty – in family support activities.
- Continue to identify **high-quality practices** to be incorporated into family support programs and services.
- Provide **training and professional development** to build providers' capacity to provide high-quality family support programs.
- Support countywide efforts to boost **family economic security** and reduce poverty.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INITIATIVE

**Goal:** All children have access to high-quality, affordable child care and early learning.

### Long-Term Impact

- Children enter school prepared to succeed socially, emotionally and academically.
- Early learning workforce is sufficiently educated and trained to successfully meet standards of high quality.
- Standards, policies, and funding for ensuring access to high-quality ECE are institutionalized.

### Indicators of Communitywide Progress

- Percent of children birth-5 receiving high-quality early learning.
- Percent of children ready for school at kindergarten entry.
- Percent of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children reading at grade-level proficiency.

**Strategy 1: Support education and professional development necessary for ECE providers to meet standards of high quality.**

### Strategic Directions

- Support education and professional development in community **colleges**, prioritizing providers serving children in highest need areas.
- Support and advocate for **local B.A. pathways** for early learning professionals.
- Provide educational and professional development **incentives** as funding allows.

### Strategic Results, measured by:

#### Effort

- ✓ Number of early learning professionals who participate in community college advising programs
- ✓ Number of advising and support services provided

#### Outcome

- ✓ Percent of early learning professionals who advance in their education and permit pathways

**Strategy 2: Continue to build the ECE quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) to foster ongoing improvement of early learning program quality.**

### Strategic Directions

- Evaluate, assess and refine **quality improvement methods and activities**.
- Support **site-level quality improvement activities** through workforce development, on-site coaching and consultation, and family engagement practices.
- Expand where possible the **quality rating and improvement system** beyond the county's areas of highest need.

### Strategic Results, measured by:

#### Effort

- ✓ Number of early learning program sites participating and rated in QRIS
- ✓ Number of children attending QRIS programs

#### Outcome

- ✓ Percent of QRIS sites rated at high quality levels
- ✓ Percent of QRIS sites with improved rating elements
- ✓ Within the QRIS system, percent of children attending sites that are in high-quality tiers

## EARLY INTERVENTIONS INITIATIVE

**Goal:** All children will achieve their optimal development.

### Long-Term Impact

- Parents and caregivers have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to support their children’s optimal development.
- Children have access to prevention and early intervention supports and services that foster optimal development.
- Standards, policies, and funding to meet children’s developmental and behavioral health needs are institutionalized.

### Indicators of Communitywide Progress

- Number of children requiring special education services at kindergarten entry.
- Children enter special education at earlier ages and remain in special education for fewer years.

**Strategy 1: Develop the “Help Me Grow” system to expand and enhance the system of early screening and access to services that meet children’s developmental needs.**

### Strategic Directions

- Expand **universal developmental screening** and referral efforts in **pediatric care** and **early learning settings**.
- Develop a **centralized care coordination and referral phone line** that integrates client-tracking and data collection systems.
- Increase the availability of assessment and services for children with **mild-to-moderate concerns and delays**.
- Launch **social marketing** efforts that promote developmental screening and early intervention.

**Strategic Results, measured by**Effort

- ✓ Number of children under age 6 receiving developmental screening
- ✓ Number of early learning and pediatric sites that participate in Help Me Grow
- ✓ Number of calls to the Help Me Grow hotline
- ✓ Number of children with mild to moderate delays participating in supportive activities
- ✓ Description of public education campaign

Outcome

- ✓ Percent of children under age 6 who improve in one or more developmental domains
- ✓ Percent of families who access referrals given to them
- ✓ Degree to which families are more aware of their children's development
- ✓ Percent increase in public awareness of the importance of screening and early intervention

**Strategy 2: Support effective practices to improve children's early mental health.****Strategic Directions**

- Support implementation and expansion of **Triple P** in multiple settings.
- Support the system of services for children affected by **chronic stress and trauma**.
- Provide professional development for service providers on **evidence-based practices and trauma-informed services**.
- Convene **partners** to improve and increase access to the early childhood mental health service system.

**Strategic Results, measured by:**Effort

- ✓ Number of children and families who complete a Triple P course
- ✓ Number and type of locations where Triple P classes are offered
- ✓ Number and type of providers trained in evidence-based and/or trauma-informed practices

Outcome

- ✓ Percent of children improving in key behavioral domains (Triple P)
- ✓ Percent of parents improving in key parenting domains (Triple P)
- ✓ Percent of training participants who report changes in practices as a result of training

## FAMILY SUPPORT INITIATIVE

**Goal:** All children are raised in supportive and nurturing families.

### Long-Term Impact

- Parents and caregivers have the knowledge, confidence, and skills to develop positive parent-child relationships.
- Families have strong and supportive connections in their communities.
- Parents access needed services for themselves and their children.
- Families achieve financial stability and security.
- Standards, policies, and funding that strengthen the family support system are institutionalized.

### Indicators of Communitywide Progress

- Percent change in rate of substantiated child abuse and neglect.
- Percent change in rate of removal to foster care.
- Percent of families who access WIC and SNAP.

**Strategy 1: Provide and expand the availability of place-based family support services.**

### Strategic Directions

- Support **First 5 Centers** and expand programming and reach as possible through satellites, collaborations with community partners and external funding.
- Support multi-agency family support network to increase capacity and expertise regarding the **Strengthening Families** framework.
- Support efforts to **increase literacy** in young children.
- Support **Community Advisory Councils (CACs)** to ensure planning and delivery of First 5 Center services is reflective of community needs.

## Strategic Results, measured by

### Effort

- ✓ Number of First 5 Center services and classes provided
- ✓ Number of First 5 Center participants
- ✓ Number of caregivers enrolled in evidence-based parent education classes
- ✓ Number of children receiving developmental screening
- ✓ Number of adult males participating in programming
- ✓ Number of active CAC members

### Outcome

- ✓ Percent of caregivers who improve their parenting skills
- ✓ Percent of caregivers who report increases in social support
- ✓ Percent of CAC members who improve their leadership skills
- ✓ Percent of families who read to their children daily

## Strategy 2: Provide home-based family support services.

## Strategic Directions

- Support **home visiting programs for parents of children prenatal to 2 years.**
- Support **alignment with other Contra Costa home visiting programs**, including Early Head Start, Nurse Family Partnership, and Healthy Families America.
- Seek additional revenue and funding partners to **support and expand the availability** of home visiting programs in Contra Costa.

## Strategic Results, measured by

### Effort

- ✓ Number of families who receive home visiting
- ✓ Number of families who participate in home visits during pregnancy
- ✓ Number of adult males who participate
- ✓ Number of children receiving developmental screening
- ✓ Median duration of home visiting services

### Outcome

- ✓ Percent of families linked to needed services
- ✓ Percent of mothers who breastfeed three months after delivery
- ✓ Percent of caregivers who improve parenting skills
- ✓ Percent of caregivers who report increases in social support
- ✓ Percent of participants with improvement in depressive symptoms

## Our End Goal

By the end of our FY 16/17 – 19/20 strategic plan, First 5 Contra Costa will have been in place for over two decades. During that time, our resources and relationships will have helped thousands of Contra Costa’s youngest children be healthy, happy, and ready for school and life. While improving outcomes for children is at the core of our mission, we believe our true legacy will be the strengthened partnerships, improved systems, and sustainable funding streams that will support children’s health and wellbeing long into the future.

## APPENDIX A – Our Planning Process

The reality of declining Prop 10 revenue required First 5 to embark on this strategic planning process with an eye toward sustainability and systems-building. This strategic plan reflects a comprehensive planning process that began with gathering stakeholder input about First 5’s strengths and challenges, opportunities and threats, and past and future roles and contributions. Stakeholder input was gathered through:

- An online survey for First 5 Commission members;
- Two stakeholder meetings focused on early mental health and family support; and
- Key informant interviews

First 5’s staff and strategic planning consultants also conducted in-depth reviews of community demographics and indicators of child wellbeing; policy and funding trends at the local, state and national levels; and the efforts and outcomes of First 5’s current initiatives.

These efforts culminated in First 5 Contra Costa’s Briefing Book (available at <http://bit.ly/1L2wnH4>), which provided a series of “snapshots” about the needs of young children and families in Contra Costa County and the changing landscape in which First 5 exists. The Briefing Book provided a context for further analysis and discussion at the Commission’s strategic planning retreat, at the end of which Commission members stated their commitment to:

- Maintain First 5’s Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles;
- Invest in three Strategic Initiatives that build systems and supports related to Early Childhood Education, Early Interventions, and Family Support;
- Invest in education, advocacy, and policy work to advance First 5’s mission, vision and core initiatives; and
- Focus investments and efforts on areas of the community with the greatest need.

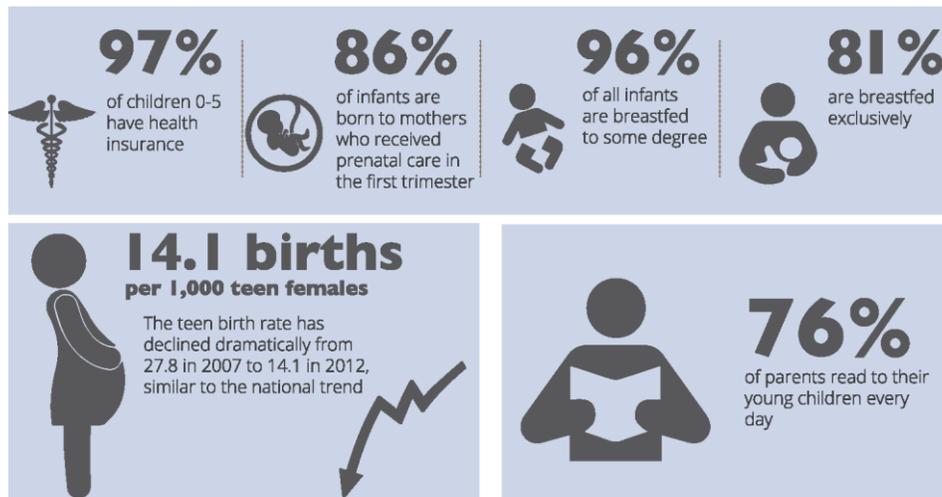
The strategic plan was developed to reflect the Commission’s stated priorities, and presented for review and discussion at the September 2015 Commission meeting.

## APPENDIX B – The Changing Landscape

The current economic, political and strategic landscape in which First 5 works presents both challenges and opportunities. In addition to First 5’s fiscal projections, the following key trends and data have shaped First 5’s strategic intent and direction, as described in this plan.

### A Snapshot of Contra Costa County’s Children

As one of the Bay Area’s fastest-growing counties, Contra Costa is now home to 1.1 million people – a 15.4% increase since 2000. In recent years, Contra Costa has become a “majority minority” county, in which no single race or ethnicity constitutes a majority of the total population. Children under the age of 6 comprise 8% of the county’s population, and in many respects, they are faring well in crucial areas of development. For example:



However, a closer look at community data reveals that many of Contra Costa’s children continue to experience adversity in health, safety, education, and family economics. For example:

- **Fifteen percent of all children under the age of 6** live in families whose incomes are at or below the Federal Poverty Level (\$24,250 for a family of 4 in 2015).
- **One-third of African-American children (33%) and nearly a quarter of Latino children (24%)** live in poverty.
- And of equal concern are **the high percentages of children in Contra Costa who do not have reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food (20%) and are not enrolled in preschool (42% of 3-4 year olds)**. These socioeconomic stressors in early childhood are just two examples of likely contributors to later disparities, illustrated by the staggering

fact that 2 out of 3 African-American and Latino 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are not at grade-level proficiency in English Language Arts, which in turn increases the risk for future academic and economic disparities.

<p>Nearly <b>20%</b> of Contra Costa County's children live in food insecure households. What is the impact on children's ability to learn and grow?</p> 	<p><b>Over 1/3</b> of 3-4 year olds are not enrolled in preschool, increasing their risk of entering school behind their peers in language, literacy, math and social-emotional skills.</p> 	<p><b>2 out of 3</b> African-American and Latino 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are not at grade-level proficiency in English Language Arts, a warning sign of future academic and economic disparities.</p> 
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- 15 percent of Solano and Contra Costa County adults report **experiencing four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) such as abuse, neglect, or other household dysfunction.** Research shows that more adverse experiences during childhood elevate the lifetime risk – and associated costs – of poor physical and emotional health.

While progress has been made to foster the optimal development of young children in Contra Costa, there is still much work to be done to ensure that all children get a strong start in life.

### Aligning Evidence, Policy and Investments

**Early childhood has achieved unprecedented prominence in recent years.** Decades of research has proven that the first five years of life are crucial in setting the future trajectories of health, emotional well-being, educational achievement, and economic stability as adults.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, by boosting the chances of better outcomes and reducing adverse ones, investments in early childhood pay for themselves many times over. Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman estimated rates of return on these investments to be between 7 and 10 percent — higher than market returns on equity.<sup>2</sup>

**A growing awareness of the evidence, combined with persistent advocacy, is paying off at the local, state and national levels in the form of increased investments, policies and high-**

<sup>1</sup> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. 2014. *Early Childhood Experiences Shape Health and Well-being Throughout Life.* Issue Brief. RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America, August 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Heckman J, Moon S, Pinto R et al. The rate of return to the HighScope Perry Preschool Program. *Journal of Public Economics*, 94(1-2): 114-128, 2010.

**quality programs and practices that benefit young children and their families.** Recent developments include:

- Local implementation of **nationally recognized strategies** such as Strengthening Families, Help Me Grow, and Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS);
- Increased attention to the impact of **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and best practices for trauma-informed care;**
- Funding from the California Department of Education to increase the number of low-income children in **high-quality state preschool programs** (QRIS block grant);
- First 5 California’s 5-year Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) initiative, focused on supporting a **continuum of quality improvement systems;**
- Inclusion of **early childhood education** in *A Blueprint for Great Schools 2.0*, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction’s **roadmap for education;** and
- Proposed state legislation and policies that would **mandate universal developmental screening.**

In addition, County First 5s have the experience, data and credibility to influence policies in ways that were unimaginable just 10 years ago. Policymakers and funders look to First 5s for guidance on the most effective investments in the health, education and wellbeing of young children. Local education and advocacy efforts are bolstered by a deeper partnership with First 5 California, the First 5 Association’s policy agenda and communications strategy, and efforts of other early childhood advocacy organizations – many of which are in the Bay Area.

**This growth and alignment in the evidence, policy and investments in early childhood holds more than just symbolic significance.** These are the drivers of systems changes that are necessary to mitigate socioeconomic disparities and close the opportunity gap that still exists for many of Contra Costa’s youngest children.



Monday September 14, 2015

Agenda Item 8.0

Communications

# California Legislature

June 17, 2015

Diana Dooley, Secretary  
California Health and Human Services Agency  
1600 Ninth Street, Room 460  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Improving Early Identification of Developmental Delays in California's Youngest Children**

Dear Secretary Dooley,

We are writing to seek your leadership on the critical need to ensure full access to developmental and behavioral screenings for young children, as required by federal and state law. These obligations and responsibilities flow from our national understanding that early childhood is a time of critical importance, as children progress through a huge number of foundational developmental milestones in a few short years. This pace – coupled with the early years' enormous influence on long-term health and learning outcomes – makes early childhood a critical time to monitor children's development, and to deliver needed support or intervention services when they have maximum impact and minimal cost.

### ***California Underperforms With Respect to Early Identification***

Despite the growing acknowledgement of the importance of early intervention and prevention, California is achieving disappointing results when it comes to providing developmental and behavioral screenings for the more than 3 million children aged 0-5. Parent-reported survey data indicate that **less than one-third (28.5 percent) of California's infants and toddlers received a developmental screening at their regular health visits** in 2011/12. Insufficient levels of screening, identification, and referral have been documented for some of California's most vulnerable, at-risk child populations: children in foster care; infants participating in neonatal follow-up programs due to an elevated risk for delays or challenges; infants and toddlers with special health care needs; and children in need of special education supports.

### ***California is Not Meeting Existing Requirements for Early Identification***

California's poor performance in providing infant and toddler developmental and behavioral screenings falls far short of the mandates in place for early identification of developmental delays. California must do a better job in meeting the specific policies and program requirements, including:

- **Children's health insurance coverage in California is required to cover developmental and behavioral screenings without cost-sharing** as part of the package of covered preventive services for children through the long-standing federal Medicaid (Medi-Cal) Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit administered by the



Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), as well as through Assembly Bill 2345 (Chapter 657, Statutes of 2010) which applies to private insurance like that sold in the Covered California marketplace; and further,

- **California has an obligation to identify, locate, evaluate, and refer all children in need of early intervention services** through the state's participation in Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which is administered by the California Department of Developmental Services (CDDS), and explicitly for children in the state's foster care system overseen by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in accordance with the federal Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA).

### ***California Needs State Leadership On Early Identification***

State implementation of the above requirements falls under the jurisdiction of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS). Because your agency is uniquely positioned to ensure compliance with state and federal law, we ask for your leadership in making early identification of developmental and behavioral delays a statewide priority.

We especially encourage your attention to current opportunities to support a California response, including the state's Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant renewal application in which the federal government has identified developmental screenings as a potential performance measure.

**We specifically urge you to use your existing Agency authority to immediately pursue a short-term, statewide actionable plan to improve the provision of developmental and behavioral screenings for infants and toddlers. This plan should coordinate and optimize the current activities of Departments within CHHS, resulting in:**

- **Established cross-sector consensus among stakeholders on a benchmark improvement goal to increase rates of developmental/behavioral screening provision and utilization;**
- **Analysis of obstacles contributing to the current unacceptably low rates of developmental/behavioral screenings in order to identify specific strategies to address these challenges;**
- **Articulated agency and departmental guidance and directives necessary to monitor progress towards the state's goals, while maintaining transparency and promoting accountability; and**
- **Consideration of innovative local approaches or scalable models to successfully provide developmental/behavioral screenings and seamlessly linking children to needed early intervention and other health or social services.**

Our state's families, pediatricians, and early childhood professionals are eager for – and deserving of – greater state leadership in meeting the state's obligations to screen, refer, and support children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. We encourage meaningful and intentional coordination between CHHS and programs and services administered or coordinated by the California Department of Education, Covered California, First 5, and local county agencies and providers. In recent years, California's First 5 commissions have overwhelmingly prioritized developmental and behavioral screenings and have invested significant resources to build local

systems by integrating these essential services in to the health and early learning systems that serve their communities.

Investments in the early years are investments in the next generation of Californians. We appreciate your commitment to the important work of improving the lives of all California children and their families, and look forward to supporting and assisting your Agency's leadership and efforts in this regard as we work together toward a healthier California and a better future for our children.

Sincerely,



Rob Bonta, Assembly District 18



Rich Gordon, Assembly District 24



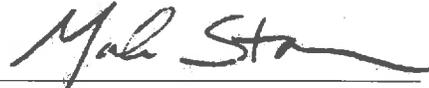
Jim Wood, Assembly District 02



Kansen Chu, Assembly District 25



Frank Bigelow, Assembly District 05



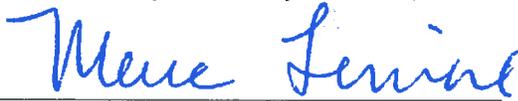
Mark Stone, Assembly District 29



Kevin McCarty, Assembly District 07



Henry Perea, Assembly District 31



Marc Levine, Assembly District 10



Katcho Achadjian, Assembly District 35



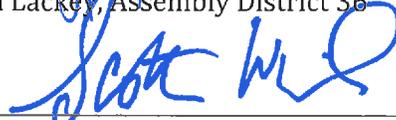
Kristin Olsen, Assembly District 12



Tom Lackey, Assembly District 36



Catharine Baker, Assembly District 16



Scott Wilk, Assembly District 38



David Chiu, Assembly District 17



Patty López, Assembly District 39



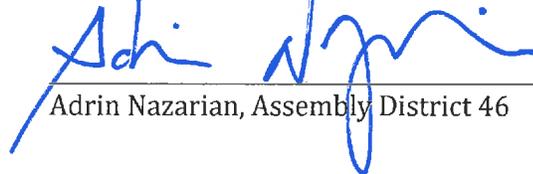
Bill Quirk, Assembly District 20



Mike Gatto, Assembly District 43



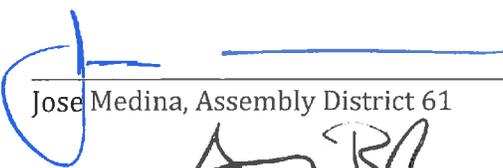
Adam Gray, Assembly District 21



Adrin Nazarian, Assembly District 46

  
Freddie Rodriguez, Assembly District 52

  
Miguel Santiago, Assembly District 53

  
Jose Medina, Assembly District 61

  
Anthony Rendon, Assembly District 63

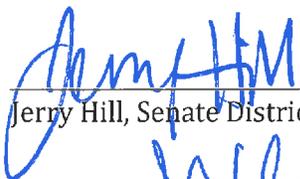
  
Mike Gipson, Assembly District 64

  
Rocky Chávez, Assembly District 76

  
Lorena Gonzalez, Assembly District 80

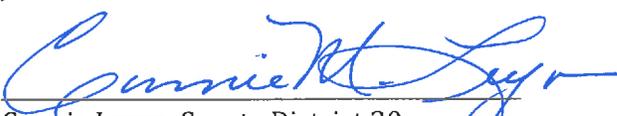
  
Bob Wieckowski, Senate District 10

  
Anthony Cannella, Senate District 12

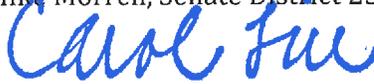
  
Jerry Hill, Senate District 13

  
Andy Vidak, Senate District 14

  
Jim Beall, Senate District 15

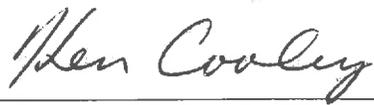
  
Connie Leyva, Senate District 20

  
Mike Morrell, Senate District 23

  
Carol Liu, Senate District 25

  
Ricardo Lara, Senate District 33

  
Isadore Hall, Senate District 35

  
Ken Cooley, Assembly District 08

cc: Jennifer Kent, Director, California Department of Health Care Services  
Mari Cantwell, Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Health Care Services  
Dr. Karen Lee Smith, Director, California Department of Public Health  
Will Lightbourne, Director, California Department of Social Services  
Santi Rogers, Director, California Department of Developmental Services  
Tom Torlakson, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Camille Maben, Executive Director, First 5 California  
Peter Lee, Executive Director, Covered California  
Robert Duca, Assistant Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency