



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

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

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.

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