



**Commission Meeting
MINUTES**

Monday, July 11, 2016, 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 6:17 PM.

Commissioners in attendance were:

Vice-Chair Kathy Gallagher for PJ Shelton, Secretary-Treasurer Gareth Ashley, Maria Fort, Dr. William Walker, and Joan Miller.

Alternate Commissioners who were present were: Katharine Mason and Matt Regan.

Also present was Contra Costa County Deputy Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

2.0 Public Comment

Jessica Buscho, a Delta First 5 Community Advisory Council member thanked First 5 for helping her family during the formative years of her three young children. She emphasized the importance of having the community in her life. The community is like family to her especially when her family needed moral support. Because her youngest child is turning 6 years old, she felt it was time for her to move forward.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Dr. Walker and seconded by Gareth Ashley to approve the consent calendar.

AYES: Kathy Gallagher, Gareth Ashley, Maria Fort, William Walker and Joan Miller.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

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

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

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

The Family Support Initiative Program Officer, Lisa Korb opened the presentation. Each of the First 5 Centers has a Community Advisory Council, members comprised of parent volunteers from the neighboring communities. Each year, they conduct a needs assessment in order to solicit parent input regarding programing at their respective Center. CAC members learn to devise surveys and interviews and analyze the data they gathered and prepare presentations. Recommendations this year were based on the focus of their year-long projects on the "Five Protective Factors" (the foundation of the Strengthening Families framework).

Each of the five Centers (Delta, Bay Point, Antioch, West County and Monument) then made five minute presentations outlining their findings and recommendations, including classes and workshops that highlight parenting skills and fostering social and emotional competence of their children.

- 1) **BAY POINT:** The focus area is on parent and child development and the social and emotional competence of children and on the value of healthy eating. The council noted that they discovered their survey results varied from the focus group results. The group also found a number of parents having concerns regarding a sibling vying for attention from the newborn. Their recommendation encouraged more parent trainings and peer support.
- 2) **ANTIOCH:** The focus is also on the social and emotional competence of children and parents' resilience to stress. They also recommended more activities like "parent cafés" (informal gatherings in the center for parent support) that focus on stress reduction.

The commission noticed that the father participation in their information-gathering was very little and encouraged the group to consider how to bring in more participation.

- 3) **MONUMENT:** The focus is also on children's social and emotional well-being and parents' positive discipline. Their recommendation includes more positive parenting programs (such as Triple P) to help with parents' questions on how to handle stressful situations. Three quarters of the parents who participated on their focus group had seen the benefits of having learned from the Triple P class offered through the center.
- 4) **DELTA:** The members reported that the community indicated a need for support with limiting time spent using a mobile device and instead making more in-person social connections. Their recommendation: Encourage parents to be the child's first teacher at home by providing more parent-child interaction.
- 5) **WEST COUNTY:** The members reported that their community wanted to find ways to dialog with their own children with socially relevant matters such as money, poverty, etc. They want to determine what is appropriate to share and talk to children about. Their recommendations were to find ways to empower parents' ability to discuss household issues with their children and include them in the solving process. They hope this process in turn helps support their child's self-identity and to value the diversity of others as they develop through social connections. The group also memorialized Lionel Johnson in their presentation. Lionel Johnson had been a very active member of the West County First 5 community almost since its inception.

The commissioners thanked all the presenters and centers with their findings.

Maria Fort suggested that centers and their members share their findings with each other and help each other with their recommendations.

Lisa Korb informed that some of the centers have done that and sometimes if a matter is not adequately addressed, the following CAC will likely be presenting it the next year.

6.0 Discuss potential structure and agenda for Commission Retreat in October.

Sean reported that some of the feedback he heard from the Commission and staff about our move into the next strategic plan has been about the role of the Commission in advocacy and policy. While we have dabbled in this somewhat over the years, it clearly is becoming more prominent in our work, and should only be more so in the years to come. He proposed that the Commission hold an October retreat to look at the issue and more publicly define the Commission's advocacy role and the objectives we

seek. The retreat would include a review of the kinds of advocacy activities we have engaged in, an opportunity to hear from the First 5 Association, other children’s advocates and local stakeholders as to the role First 5s can play as local advocates for children and families, and discussion of the breadth and depth of advocacy that the Commission would be willing to engage in going forward.

Commissioners agreed that it would be great to have the visit from First 5 Association to share with us what the other counties are doing and see what else may resonate for us, keeping in mind the change of direction of our strategic plan. Staff will work on setting up a date and place for the retreat.

7.0 Executive Director’s Report

QRIS Ratings

Last month, just as our “Race to the Top” funding from California CDE was coming to an end, we finished the first set of re-ratings for QRIS sites. The good news is that across the board sites are showing significant improvement as a result of their participation in quality improvement activities. Professional development, coaching and environmental improvements have all resulted in 2s becoming 3s, 3s to 4s, and 4s to 5s. These improvements are seen in both centers and family child care, public and private. Keep in mind also that the funding for Race to the Top required that we prioritize those providers who were serving the children of greatest need. This cohort includes 8 Head Starts, and 13 West Contra Costa School District state preschool sites. There were also 18 family child care sites, including one that jumped from a 2 to a 5. We have to commend the providers who participated in this first cohort – they were brave to step up at the beginning of this project – as well as our partners at the County Office of Education and at the Child Care Council, and of course our crack ECE Initiative staff, Edirle Menezes, Elida Treanor, Kim Stadlander, Francisca Hernandez and Linda Frazier-Stafford.

Early Head Start teams up with Welcome Home Baby

Last month the Commission approved a new, three-year home visiting contract for Welcome Home Baby. Since then I wanted to let you know that the Community Services Bureau renewed 59 Early Head Start slots that Welcome Home Baby carried last year, as well as 22 additional West County slots previously carried by Brighter Beginnings, and 24 new slots countywide. As a result, our \$1.2 million contract this year, supporting 13.5 FTE home visitors, will now leverage an additional \$500,000 and 8.75 FTE home visitors, creating 105 additional home visiting slots. Many thanks to CSB for being such a great partner on this.

First 5 California Conference in the fall

First 5 California has set November 8, 9, and 10 as the dates for its Health Education and Care Summit in Sacramento. We expect to receive a preliminary agenda for the event next month. We’ll send it out to the Commission at that time. As always, we will pay the registration and travel expenses for this event. We have reserved a block of 20 rooms for Commissioners and staff, so no one should feel they have to make arrangements on the side.

Upcoming FESP meeting

I thought you might be interested in the upcoming Family Economic Security Council meeting, July 21. The topic is taxes, specifically how tax structures could work better for families. Presenters will include Ezra Levin, with CFED, the Corporation for Enterprise Development, and Alissa Anderson, with the California Budget and Policy Center. That forum will be here.

New staff!

Last but not least, we will have another new staff member next week, when Liliana Gonzalez joins us as the new Help Me Grow Coordinator. She will replace Shaun-Adrian Chofla, who left that position in

May.

8.0 Communications

None received.

9.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

There were none.

10.0 Adjourn

Kathy Gallagher reminded, that in observance of the Labor Day Holiday, the next standing meeting on the calendar is Monday, September 12, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.