



Commission Meeting

MINUTES

Monday, December 5, 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 6:09 PM.

Chair PJ Shelton began the meeting with introductions from all the attendees.

Commissioners in attendance were: Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey for Barbara Cappa, Secretary -Treasurer Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Kathy Marsh.

Alternates present were: Lee Ross, Matt Regan.

Also present was Deputy County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Absent were: Barbara Cappa, Supervisor Federal Glover, Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Dr. William Walker and Kathy Gallagher.

2.0 Public Comment

Laurel te Velde, Director of Transition Services from Shelter Inc. shared progress of some of the parents with young children who are finding employment and or in the process of moving out to apartments of their own. She also reported that many of the parents who are in the shelter had participated in the Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) that was facilitated through C.O.P.E. (Counseling Options and Parent Education) Family Support Center in Concord.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

Sean Casey asked to have item **3.4 - Consider approving the updated First 5 Contra Costa Employee Compensation and Benefits resolution**, be removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

A motion was made by Maria Fort and seconded by Gareth Ashley to approve the remaining consent calendar.

AYES: Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey for Barbara Cappa, PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for William Walker, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

4.0 Consider discussion of any items removed from consent calendar

Sean Casey reported on Item 3.4, updates on the First 5 Contra Costa Employee Compensation and Benefits Resolution. The updates served either to clarify existing language or to inserted policy previously approved by the Commission, e.g., the 2017 health and dental benefits.

John Jones asked for a better way of clarifying the Benefits Resolution accrued vacation for eligible intermittent employees who work 20 hours a week or less. Administrative Manager Shawn Garcia acknowledged his request and said that she will look into it.

After discussion, Katharine Mason made a motion and Gareth Ashley seconded, to approve the updated First 5 Contra Costa Employee Compensation and Benefits Resolution.

AYES: Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey for Barbara Cappa, PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for William Walker, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

5.0 Consider accepting the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Financial Audit.

Chairwoman PJ Shelton opened the public hearing on the First 5 Contra Costa Annual Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

The report was given by Nicholas Rosas, lead auditor of the accounting firm Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Company. He informed the Commission that he participated in the Executive Committee meeting prior to the Commission meeting and gave a more detailed report on their audit.

He referred to the handout provided in the packet and reported that in their opinion, the Commission complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on the California Children and Families Program for the year ended June 30, 2016.

The Commission received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest form of opinion, on the financial statements, with no findings.

There were no questions from the floor after the report.

Chairwoman PJ Shelton closed the public hearing on the FY 2015-2016 Financial Audit.

A motion was made by Katharine Mason and seconded by Maria Fort to accept the Annual Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

AYES: Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey for Barbara Cappa, PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for William Walker, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

6.0 Recognize First 5 staff who have surpassed service milestones and appreciate the entire staff for their continuing dedication and accomplishment

The Commission has adopted the practice of annually appreciating First 5 staff and recognizing those who have surpassed service milestones:



Two staff members have surpassed their fifteen year anniversaries:

Monica Nevarez, Grants and Contracts Assistant II

Alejandra Plascencia, Community Liaison East County and Central County

One staff has surpassed their ten year anniversary:

Vanessa Miller, Grants and Contracts Assistant II

And one staff member has surpassed their five year anniversary:

Walter Aab, Public Affairs Program Assistant II

After staff recognition, Sean Casey presented to PJ Shelton a commemorative vase to thank her for her contributions to the Commission during her term as Chairwoman 2013 to 2016. PJ Shelton will remain as a Commissioner.

7.0 Consider approving the Slate of Officers of the Commission for 2017:

Wanda Session, Chair of the Nominating Committee introduced the new Slate of Officers of the Commission for 2017. She thanked all the officers who stepped up and offered their time to serve:

Chair: Kathy Gallagher

Vice-Chair: Gareth Ashley

Secretary / Treasurer: John Jones

Additional Non-Voting Member: Marilyn Lucey

Wanda Session made a motion and Maria Fort seconded, to approve the Slate of Officers of the Commission for 2017.

AYES: Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey for Barbara Cappa, PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for William Walker, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

8.0 Presentation of the 2016 Year in Review

Sean Casey presented the year in review with the following highlights:

- **Over 8,345** children were served directly last year by F5-funded programs.
- **20,247 parents and caregivers** were reached - including home visiting, First 5 Centers, 211 calls from families with 0-5 children, new parent kits and more.
- **1904 early care and education providers** received training and educational support through programs such as PMD, QRIS, college advising and support, mental health consultation and/or inclusion services. This figure also includes Raising a Reader classroom providers.
- **1238 training participants (representing 659 individuals)** also benefited from First 5-sponsored training and workshops, such as on the ASQ and those led by FESP and our internal training efforts.

We continue to serve the families who otherwise would not have access to such services. Almost two thirds earn less than \$30,000, since 2005, 75% of new families reported income in this range. About a quarter of mothers did not have a high school diploma. We also find that 29% of new parents to a



program other than a First 5 Center said that they already visited one.

Family practices around sugar-sweetened-beverages have also changed. 93% of children had not consumed soda the previous day, and 41% had not consumed juice, up from 35% last year and the highest percentage since we began asking the question 3 years ago.

This year, 95% of children have a regular health care provider. 66% of children receive Medi-Cal. And 12% of children exposed to tobacco smoke, which is a drop of 3 percentage points over last year.

Our impact from 2015-2016:

- 1) **Help Me Grow:** We continued this year to build out our HMG system to streamline developmental services for families. In our Family Survey, 29% of parents had concerns about their child's development. 19% of children already had been identified as having a developmental delay or disability when they start services. Concern about children's development has been climbing over the past few years even as the percentage of children already identified or diagnosed with a disability or delay has remained fairly constant for the past 4 years. All 211 operators are now trained to provide information about child development and to probe callers with young children to determine if they have particular child development concerns. Over 240 providers were trained to use the Ages to Stages Questionnaire, including First 5 Center staff and early learning providers in the QRIS. The Centers are also mapping programming to developmental domains on the ASQ so families can find activities that could benefit their children. As a result, more children are being screened and earlier with the average age dropping from 32 months to 29 months. County pediatric clinics are moving to screening children at 9, 18 and 24 to 36 months to be in line with the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended screening schedule.
- 2) **The First 5 Centers:** We are seeing that parents are reading more to their children, more often and for longer periods when they participate at Centers for 9 months or more. 2,100 adults participated in First 5 Center classes and activities, 14% of whom were dads. Enrollment is at capacity and nearly 5,200 hours of scheduled classes and activities as well as 62 community events and 118 Community Resource Workshops, with the "5 Protective Factors" at the framework of their support programs.
- 3) **Early Childhood Education:** We are now up to 111 participating early learning sites in the Quality Rating & Improvement System, which in turn enroll nearly 3,800 children. These include 19 private centers, 57 public centers and 35 family child care homes. Over 700 ECE students received advising and support at the three community colleges, over half of whom worked at QRIS sites. With First 5 Funds, the colleges were able to purchase textbooks to loan to 600 students. This year, 101 students advanced on the State's child development permit matrix and 41 graduated with an Associates' Degree in Early Childhood Education.
- 4) **Community Engagement:** Currently 180 parents participate in the three Regional Groups. They've secured \$2.5 million in city funding to improve parks in Antioch, Concord, Pittsburg and San Pablo. Three playground improvement projects have been completed and three more are in process. The groups are also partnering with residents and police and have launched four new Neighborhood Watch programs, clean-up days, and physical activity programs in the parks. In Pittsburg, a \$20,000 Kaiser grant is supporting the new "Pittsburg PACE (Physical Activity, Community Engagement)" program. The Monument group was part of a broad coalition that

helped raise \$12.5 million to improve pedestrian safety in San Pablo and Concord. The Monument group has been so visible that they were asked to join the Raise the Roof Coalition, a faith-based labor non-profit advocating for rent control and renter's protection in Concord.

- 5) We have begun our new school readiness assessment process in September 2016 in 19 schools in the Antioch, Pittsburg and Mt. Diablo school systems. The assessment covers four domains – self-care & motor skills, self-regulation, social expression and kindergarten academics – and then looks across all four to determine which children are ready, partially ready and not ready for kindergarten. Preliminary data show that 32% of children were fully ready for school, 35% partially ready and 33% not ready. It has been found that children who attended a preschool, child care or transitional preschool in the previous year were more prepared for kindergarten. More report on this will be made in the February 2017 Commission meeting.
- 6) Triple P (Positive Parenting Practices) Program: Parents who completed the program report fewer and less intense behavioral challenges with their children as a result of their participation. This year we have initiated discussions about expanding Triple P into settings as diverse as child welfare, health clinics, school districts, probation offices and so on to create a larger ecology of positive parenting across the county. Earlier this year, Matt Sanders, the psychologist who created Triple P as part of this PhD thesis 30 years ago in Australia visited with 24 stakeholders from a variety of sectors and learned about the program. Dr. Sanders also facilitated 2 Master Class trainings for 20 Triple P practitioners in the county.
- 7) This past year we also have been learning and thinking about trauma and its effects on child development with our partners at Zero Tolerance the RYSE Center and Contra Costa Behavioral Health. With them, we were able to host a day with Dr. Vincent Felitti who coined the term “adverse childhood experiences” in his groundbreaking research starting in 1995. 182 people attended representing a diverse and wide swathe of agencies and providers.
- 8) The Year Ahead: First 5 Contra Costa will continue to deepen and broaden our efforts in our main systems while building our advocacy efforts, strengthening partnerships and doing more to help the families with young children in Contra Costa County. We'll continue to build and strengthen our many collaboratives and coalitions such as the Family Economic and Security Partnership; the Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to end poverty in Contra Costa; and the Early Learning Leadership Group which will be working with school districts as new federal rules will require them to develop 0-18 plans.

9.0 Annual Report to First 5 California for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

The commission is required to have a public hearing on its annual report to the State.

Chairwoman PJ Shelton opened the public hearing on the annual report to California First 5 for the fiscal year 2015-2016. She informed the Commission that all the collected data from all First 5s is used by the First 5 Association to educate funders, advocates and legislators about the statewide impact of First 5.

Sean Casey thanked Lyn Paleo, of the Strategic Information and Planning Department for taking this on this year. He also thanked Sara Burke, Database Coordinator and Heather Van Rykn, Strategic Information and Planning Assistant, and Marnie Huddleston, Finance Director for helping complete the report.



First 5 Contra Costa was asked to provide data on service highlight reports on Targeted Intensive Family Support Services, on Quality Early Childhood Care (ECE – Early Childhood Education) Investments. Service Highlight of Policy and Broad Systems Change Efforts (FESP – Family Economic Security Partnership), Public Education and Information (Quality Matters), and Organizational Support (Database Management).

There were no questions on the floor. Chairwoman PJ Shelton closed the public hearing on the annual report to California First 5 for fiscal year 2015-2016.

A motion was made by John Jones, and seconded by Marilyn Lucey, to adopt the Annual Report to First 5 California for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

AYES: Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey for Barbara Cappa, PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Wanda Session for William Walker, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

10.0 Executive Director's Report

Sean Casey reported that this year, several Commissioners joined him and some of staff at the November 9 and 10, 2016 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit in Sacramento, California. Wanda Session, Lee Ross, John Jones, Katharine Mason and Marilyn Lucey shared their experiences at the summit, noting the variety of workshops and great speakers including the keynote. Sean Casey was presenter on a pre-session workshop on Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and with Commissioner John Jones on a Commissioner Panel Discussion on the future of First 5 funding.

Sean also announced that the First 5 Association will be holding the 2017 Advocacy Day, Tuesday January 31st. He encouraged Commissioners to participate.

11.0 Communications

There were no reports this month.

12.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

Gareth Ashley reported that he had the opportunity to attend a Monument First 5 Center's Parent Café. He observed that it was very well attended with many fathers participating. He also commended the center staff for being very helpful. Much of the discussion that evening was on the subject of Parent Resilience.

PJ Shelton asked the group to remember those whose lives were lost in the recent Oakland warehouse fire as well as all were affected by the tragedy.

13.0 Adjourn

PJ Shelton thanked the Commission and staff for all the support she received during her service as Chairwoman. She reminded that the next Commission meeting will be on Monday, February 6, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM