



**Commission Meeting
MINUTES**

Monday, June 5, 2017, 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

Chairwoman Kathy Gallagher began the meeting with introductions from attendees.

Commissioners in attendance were: PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, Dr. William Walker, and interim Children & Families Services Director, Kathy Marsh.

Alternates present were Lee Ross and Katharine Mason.

Also present was County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Absent were: Commissioners Barbara Cappa, John Jones, Supervisor Federal Glover, Alternates Marilyn Lucey, Matt Regan, Supervisor Candace Andersen and Wanda Session.

2.0 Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Gareth Ashley and seconded by William Walker to approve the remaining items on the consent calendar.

AYES: Kathy Gallagher, Gareth Ashley, PJ Shelton, Dr. Walker, and Kathy Marsh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

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

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

Commissioner Maria Fort arrived at this time.

5.0 Public Hearing on the First 5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan 2016-20

It is an annual requirement to hold a public hearing on the current Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan is found online at:

http://www.first5coco.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Strategic_Plan_Approved_10_5_15.pdf

Chairwoman Kathy Gallagher opened the hearing on the First 5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

Sean Casey reported that as we are completing the first year of the plan we wanted to review the plan's core community indicators to show what looks like currently. He showed graphs reflecting the historical status of the following broad indicators:

1. Children ready for school at Kindergarten.
First 5's upcoming countywide Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will provide the first baseline data for this.
2. 3rd graders reading at grade level.
Contra Costa ahead of California. General increase reflects well on all efforts to support literacy in the early years
3. 3 and 4 year olds in preschool.
Decrease in previous years likely due to budget cuts in Great Recession. Partnership with COE/LPC this fall on countywide demand and supply for childcare, pre-school, and facilities plan.
4. Kindergarteners receiving special education services.
Assumption is that increase in percent reflects better ascertainment of need in the early years.
5. Children Served by Special Education.
Children are entering special education at earlier ages, and staying in shorter durations.
6. Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect:
Contra Costa County has made gains in last ten years. African-American 2016 rate in particular is half of 2006 rate.
7. Entry into Foster Care:
Contra Costa showing similar gains as above.
8. CalFresh/WIC (Women, Infants & Children) Enrollment in Contra Costa County:
Findings showed divergence of two programs. Children receiving CalFresh are up. However, 44% of people eligible for CalFresh are not enrolled. Families receiving WIC are down.

Kathy Gallagher closed the public hearing on the First 5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan 2016-2020. There were no questions from the floor.

5.1 Consider maintaining the First 5 Contra Costa 2016-2020 Strategic Plan without revision.

Gareth Ashley made a motion and Maria Fort seconded, to maintain the First 5 Contra Costa 2016-2020 Strategic Plan without revision.

AYES: Kathy Gallagher, Gareth Ashley, Maria Fort, PJ Shelton, Dr. Walker, and Kathy Marsh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

6.0 Presentation on changes at Bay Point First 5 Center

Sean reported that after June 30, 2017, STAND! For Families Free of Violence will be unable to continue managing the Bay Point First 5 Center. Staff met with STAND's interim Executive Director last month

when he expressed that their agency's financial difficulties would necessitate the shedding of several contracts including the Bay Point First 5 Center.

Staff then initiated dialog with ASPIRAnet (which currently runs the Monument and Brentwood First 5 Centers) regarding the possibility of taking over the Bay Point site for six months until the end of the current calendar year when the upcoming RFQ is completed. As a larger organization, ASPIRAnet has the organizational capacity to assume the vacancy, and agreed to take over the remaining months beginning July 1, 2017. This assures the continuity of services to the community and families in the area. Sean thanked ASPIRAnet and their staff for responding quickly to this community need.

There were no questions from the floor.

Sean also reported that the Bay Point Center, for which we have long sought a permanent space to serve the wider community, is experiencing increasing problems as the homeless population grows along the Willow Pass corridor. The building has access to water and electricity, making it desirable for people who want to clean-up and charge their phones. For the staff it can be challenging when they arrive each morning, not knowing what they might need to clean up before families arrive. Recently, staff have identified a potential site in Pittsburg, on Leland at Harbor, across from Supervisor Glover's office. The site would be significantly larger and able to accommodate simultaneous activities and serve the wider Bay point/Pittsburg community. This could be a great opportunity for the Commission to create a permanent site, as well as a long-term asset under the Commission's control. Staff hope to report back to the Commission on this at the September Commission Meeting.

There were no questions from the floor.

7.0 Policy and Advocacy Report

Sean gave the following First 5 Contra Costa policy and advocacy updates:

AB 60

- The bill has been passed by the Assembly and has had its first reading to the Senate.
- The three components of the bill (12 month eligibility; defrosted 70% SMI threshold for incoming eligibility; 85% SMI income threshold to exit eligibility) have been written into trailer bill language, which was adopted in the budgets passed by both houses. These policy changes have been budgeted to cost \$20M. If the Governor adopts this language in his final budget, the bill will become moot.

AB 435

- Made it through the Assembly Appropriations committee and is now in the Senate.
- The Department of Education has attached some staffing costs to the implementation of AB 435 and similar pilot bills. Those costs may pose a barrier to getting these bills passed through the Senate.

AB 992

- This bill would establish the Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program, which would provide home visiting services for families on CalWORKs.
- Social services agencies would be required to coordinate these services with existing home visiting programs already available in their county.
- Despite its estimated cost of \$100M in general fund dollars, the bill has passed out of the Assembly and is now in the Senate.

Governor's budget

- The Governor released the May Revision to his 2017-18 budget on May 11. The Governor forecasts revenues higher than projected in January, allowing him to make several changes to the original budget proposals.
- The new budget continues plans for a multiyear reinvestment in subsidized child care and preschool, which had been put on hold in the January version. Specifically, the May revise provides funding to increase the reimbursement rate for providers that contract with the state, updates the payment rate for voucher-based providers, and increases the number of state preschool program slots.

In addition, the Family Economic Security Partnership (FESP) wrote a letter of support to the Governor to: a) expand the CalEITC to include all households currently eligible for the federal EITC by increasing the income eligibility threshold and include earnings from self-employment; b) include funds in the budget to continue and expand outreach; and c) expand the credit itself so that it truly can benefit those most in need.

8.0 Executive Director's Report

More than 170 children's services providers and advocates attended [the April 20, 2017 forum](#) we hosted last month to strategize ways to protect immigrant children and families in Contra Costa County. The half-day event featured child development experts, attorneys, and advocates who provided the latest information on immigration policies and rights, the detrimental impact deportation policies can have on children and families, and tips and resources for easing children's fears and helping families prepare plans. Attendees were invited to consider how they planned to take the information they heard and put it to use.

The meeting started with Reverend Kamal Hassan from Richmond, who said: "We need a revolution of values. No human being is illegal. Human life is more important than the fear of the privileged. Do your work. Help the people."

It was an inspiring and informative event that received media attention in the Contra Costa Times, SF Chronicle, Telemundo and Univision. Resources for immigrant families are on our website. You can read more about the forum and see the news clips and CCTV video in the article in our May newsletter online.

<http://www.first5coco.org/about-us/news-room/newsletter/may-2017-news/>

We will be following up with participants to connect them to existing advocacy groups and determine if more training or information is needed to help them best support families.

Staffing Update:

We recently filled two open positions. For our Strategic Information and Planning Assistant we welcome Leah Rooney, who started on May 30th. Leah will support Strategic Planning and Evaluation staff and be working closely with Sarah Crow.

We also have promoted Gabi Rivas, the former West County Liaison, to the newly created Community Engagement Coordinator position. This grant-funded position will provide programmatic and research support to carry out the CE program's leadership development, advocacy, and funding goals.

Our auditors were in the office during the Memorial Day week for their spring field work. As always staff were ready and the auditors were done in two days. Thanks to Marnie Huddleston, Marianne Dumas,

Shawn Garcia, Lisa Johnson, Monica Nevarez and Vanessa Miller for being so well prepared.

An Antioch neighborhood is celebrating a brand new playground thanks to a group of parents who worked with the city to renovate one of Antioch's most dilapidated parks. The campaign began when the East County Regional Group, rated every park in Antioch. The parents presented their findings to the Antioch City Council and city staff joined their efforts and successfully renovated the new and improved [Prosserville Park](#). Celebration is on Saturday June 10th, at W 6th and M Streets in Antioch.

[Ensuring Opportunity](#) is hosting a [Contra Costa Housing Forum](#) on Tuesday June 20, 2017 from 8:30 am to Noon at the Pleasant Hill Community Center.

9.0 Communications

There were none received.

10.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

There were no updates from the Commissioners.

11.0 CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Property: 355 E. Leland Road, Pittsburg, California

Agency negotiator: Dave Silva

Negotiating party: First 5 and Centurian Enterprises

Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

The Commissioners, County Counsel, and staff Sean Casey and Marnie Huddleston went into Closed Session at this time.

12.0 Adjourn

Kathy Gallagher adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.