



**Commission Meeting  
MINUTES**

Monday, July 10, 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 6:06 PM.

Chairwoman Kathy Gallagher moved Agenda Item 2 Closed Session until after the Approval of the Consent Calendar at item 4.

Kathy Gallagher began the meeting with introductions from all attendees.

Commissioners in attendance were: Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey for District 2, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, John Jones, Wanda Session for Dr. William Walker, and interim Children & Families Services Director Kathy Marsh.

Alternate present was Katharine Mason.

Also present was County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Not present were Commissioners PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, Supervisor Federal Glover, Dr. William Walker and Alternates Supervisor Candace Andersen and Matt Regan.

**3.0 Public Comment**

Laurel te Velde, Transition Services Director from Shelter Inc. shared a success story of a mother with a three month old son from recovery center, who availed of the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) had just found a permanent home through their "Rapid Re-housing Program".

**4.0 Approval of Consent Calendar**

Sean Casey pulled Item 4.3 for consideration at a future date.

Kathy Gallagher asked to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2017 Commission meeting, and accept the Executive Committee Report from June 5, 2017.

**AYES:** Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross, John Jones, Wanda Session, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

**5.0 Consider for discussion any items removed from the consent calendar.**

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

## **2.0 Closed Session**

Public Employee Performance Review

Title: Executive Director

At 6:12 PM, the Commissioners went into Closed Session.

After the session, the commissioners returned to the meeting.

At 6:37 PM, Chairwoman Kathy Gallagher reconvened and informed that a follow-up report resulting from the closed meeting will be presented at a future meeting.

## **6.0 Presentation of Proposed First 5 Centers Plan, 2017-2020**

Sean Casey reported on the proposed First 5 Centers Plan for the next three fiscal years.

First 5 Contra Costa first conceived the centers as a “Family Learning and Resource Center”. Over the years, the model has been transformed to what is now: the essential resource for parents of young children. 1832 families attended a First 5 Center last year.

With the approach of the scheduled re-bidding this year of the First 5 Center contracts, staff took the opportunity to review and refine the program model and to explore the possibility of obtaining better sites for the centers, particularly in East County. The process included several months of research and input from the centers and the families they serve as well as reviewing demographic data. Key findings of this process included the significant growth and demographic change in East County, and the underserving of African-American families in the Centers.

Staff also found that resident families are mobile and will travel across the region to use First 5 Centers services. Sean also noted that our experience over the years is that larger, flexibly configured sites reach more families and that our owned site in West County is our least expensive.

Based on these findings, staff proposed establishing two large regional sites in East County to replace the existing three small sites; purchasing a site in Pittsburg and searching for a new site in Antioch; and piloting new family support services directed toward African American families. AS a result, more families – particularly more African-American families -- will be served in the long run. Families will still receive services during the transition.

Marilyn Lucey asked whether First 5 Contra Costa considered assistance in transportation services to serve low income families with limited or no access to transportation. Sean said that it was discussed and we are looking at sites near bus lines and transportation.

Marilyn Lucey also asked if programs were also offered in different times of the day to reach out to parents and care givers with limited availability. West County First 5 Center Director Alexina Rojas informed that the centers often provide early childhood classes in the evenings and Saturdays. She also reported that these off-hours classes are very well attended.

Lee Ross asked to clarify if the RFQ needs assessment is county-wide? Lisa Johnson verified that it is County-wide.

Wanda Session asked whether the satellite site in West County was successful.

Alexina Rojas informed that the satellite-site in Richmond is located in a concentrated area where there were many families with zero to five children. Whereas there were more “walkers” at the San Pablo First 5 Center site. She pointed out though that each site offers different environments. While one site is bigger and more spacious, the smaller satellite site they found “nurturing”. She also noted that there were families that simultaneously availed of the services of the two sites.

Kathy Gallagher asked if the African American family support services will be assessed directly by First 5 Contra Costa or will be conducted by a third party?

Sean informed that it will be conducted by a third party on behalf of First 5 Contra Costa. They will do a broad community survey much of which will be conducted face to face. First 5 will have its own data to add.

District Director at Aspiranet, Odessa Caton, commented on liking the redesign and believed that the East County and Delta would be better served.

**6.1 Accept staff recommendations to fund two large regional East County First 5 Centers, and pursue Pittsburg and Antioch site purchases.**

After the presentation questions, a motion to accept staff recommendations to fund two large regional East County First 5 Centers and pursue Pittsburg and Antioch site purchases was made by Maria Fort and seconded by John Jones.

**AYES:** Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross, John Jones, Wanda Session, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

**6.2 Accept staff recommendation to pilot family support services for African American families.**

Motion to accept the staff recommendation to pilot family support services for African American families was made by Lee Ross and seconded by Kathy Marsh.

**AYES:** Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross, John Jones, Wanda Session, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

**6.3 Authorize the release of a Request for Qualifications to cover the period of January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020 for up to \$5,534,033 for First 5 Center services as outlined in the staff report.**

Sean reported that the RFQ will be for 4 sites for a contract term of two and half years starting in

January 2018 for First 5 Center services.

Motion to approve the consent calendar was made by Marilyn Lucey and seconded by Maria Fort.

**AYES:** Maria Fort, Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross, John Jones, Wanda Session, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

**7.0 Thank you to Barbara Cappa for serving as District 2 Commissioner from January 15, 2013 thru June 5, 2017. Welcome Marilyn Lucey as incoming District 2 Commissioner.**

Sean thanked Barbara Cappa and presented a plaque in appreciation of for her years of service to the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission.

He also announced that District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen reassignment of Marilyn Lucey for the remainder of her term as the new Commissioner.

**8.0 Policy and Advocacy Report**

Sean Casey presented the following:

AB 435 update: Cleared the Senate Education Committee in June; will be heard in the Senate Human Services Committee tomorrow. Steve Glazer serves on the committee; we briefed his staff on it a couple weeks ago. If approved in Human Services, the final stop is Senate Appropriations. We are working on reducing the apparent cost of the bill, including an agreement for the three counties to submit a single plan to CDE to reduce their administrative cost.

The Central County Regional Group has been working with the City of Concord on a potential “welcoming and inclusive” or “sanctuary city” resolution. As First 5 we will sign on to a multi-organizational letter urging the City to do so.

**9.0 Executive Director’s Report**

Sean Casey announced two staff changes.

Our long-time program assistant, first for community engagement and currently with communications, Walter Aab, will be leaving us July 21. He has been with us since 2011 and we will miss him and his wife Marzy as they start a new life in Chicago.

I also need to let you know that Cally Martin will also be leaving us at the end of the month. She is moving on to a new, more spectacular job at an organization I can’t even name, because they haven’t announced her hire yet. Cally has been with us since 2008 and I can confidently say that there is not a single aspect of our organization that she has not made some significant contribution to. We are who we are today in large part because of her. We will have some sort of party for her and you will all be invited as soon as we know what it is.

**10.0 Communications**

There were none received.

**11.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates**

Katharine Mason informed that the Employment & Human Services Department's Community Services Bureau published the 2016-2017 annual report.

The report can be found on the EHSD / Head Start Community Services section:

<http://ehsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Contra-Costa-County-EHSD-CSB-2016-17-Annual-Report.pdf>

John Jones announced the rebranding of the new CoCoKids from the Contra Costa County Child Care Council.

<https://www.cocokids.org/cocokids-frequently-asked-questions-about-name-change/>

The organization remains to provide child care subsidy and resources and to champion and advance quality child care and early education. They will continue to focus on services for families and child care providers.

**12.0 Adjourn**

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next Commission meeting will be on Monday, September 11, 2017.

Kathy Gallagher adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.