



## Commission Meeting

### MINUTES

Monday, December 4, 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 6:08 PM

Chair Kathy Gallagher began the meeting with introductions from all the attendees.

Commissioners in attendance were: Rocio Hernandez PhD, PJ Shelton, Vice-Chair Gareth Ashley, Secretary-Treasurer John Jones, Dr. William Walker, and CFS Director Kathy Marsh.

Alternates present were: Lee Ross, Matt Regan, and Katharine Mason.

Also present was Deputy County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Absent were: Marilyn Lucey, Supervisor Federal Glover, Alternates Trisha Mindel, 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 Dr. Walker and seconded by Gareth Ashley to approve the consent calendar.

**AYES:** Rocio Hernandez, PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, William Walker, and Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

#### 5.0 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 milestones:

Fran Biderman, Special Projects Coordinator for 15 years of service.

Alex Khu, Executive Assistant for 5 years.

After the recognition, PJ Shelton led the Commission into a brief session thanking Commissioners and Staff for their work and accomplishments in making a difference in the lives of young children in Contra Costa County.

#### 6.0 Consider approving the Slate of Officers of the Commission for 2018:

Nominating Committee member, Matt Regan introduced the new Slate of Officers for the Commission in 2018. He thanked them for taking the time to serve. The nominees were:



Chair: Gareth Ashley  
Vice-Chair: John Jones  
Secretary / Treasurer: Marilyn Lucey  
Additional Non-Voting Member: Lee Ross

PJ Shelton made a motion, and Matt Regan seconded to approve the Slate of Officers of the Commission for 2018.

**AYES:** Rocio Hernandez, PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, William Walker, and Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

## 7.0 Presentation of the 2017 Year in Review

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

- We served 17,280 parents, 7,900 children and 2,425 providers through programs such as QRIS, college advising, mental health consultation, ASQ and other activities.
- This year brought new challenges such as new federal policies that were met with fear and anxiety in communities across the county. First 5 Contra Costa responded by providing a forum to help providers respond to families' needs and find advocate organizations for help. First 5 Centers also held conversations and workshops with families about the needs of their children in the current climate.
- Our support for the Stand Together Contra Costa initiative was specifically called out by the Board of Supervisors in their eventual support for this rapid response program for immigrant families.
- Our Regional Groups secured \$2.5 million for some of the county's most neglected parks resulting in opening of 4 new playgrounds and increased park programming, usage and safety. 250 volunteers participated in the one-day building of the Pittsburg playground.
- The Regional Groups also supported 7 safe haven/sanctuary policies adopted by school districts and cities (Concord, Antioch, and San Pablo among the cities).
- We are officially owners of the future East County First 5 Center building in Pittsburg. Improvements to the structure begin next year and aim to open by the end of the year. Classes will continue at the current Bay Point site in the interim.
- First 5 Centers served about 2100 parents last year. Parenting classes are the core of the First 5 Center services and we are seeing great results that show statistically significant increases in five domains of parent knowledge and behavior.
- Of the 156 programs that participated in Quality Matters in 2017, 110 have been rated to date. About half of the rated programs are in the upper tiers (4 and 5) – the highest quality area. Fifty percent of rated programs are publicly funded meaning they are serving the children who stand to benefit the most.
- In the Help Me Grow system we expanded developmental screening training to over 250 staff from 15 high-volume, Medi-Cal-serving pediatric clinics. Phone support and referral services through 211 continue to expand. 288 children, mostly in the mild to moderate range on the ASQ participated in Developmental Playgroups in our First 5 Centers.
- We continue to see a steady decline in children's sugary beverage consumption since the launch of Sugar Bites in 2013. Both our family survey and the California Health Interview Survey

show similar trends in juice consumption and Contra Costa is exceeding state trends.

- Our shift to policy is a major theme of much of the work this year. We have worked to expand advocacy activity with our many key partners such as Family Economic Security Partnership, Ensuring Opportunity, Healthy and Active Before 5 and the Early Learning Leadership Group. Our statewide First 5 Association has been expanding its policy and communications capacity to lead the First 5 network as a single force to advocate the needs of young children and their families across the state.
- We successfully co-sponsored AB435, recently signed by the governor. When implemented, it will allow greater local flexibility in the use of state funds for subsidized early learning in our county and ensure that no funds go unused each year.

What we look forward to in 2018:

- The new East County First 5 Center
- The results of the first countywide Kindergarten Readiness Assessment
- We will be piloting services and outreach methods to improve service for AA families.
- We are partnering with the Office of Education to produce a needs assessment for Child Care Facilities
- We are rolling out a new curriculum for a “train-the-trainer” model addressing trauma-informed approaches in Early Education setting.
- We will look forward to a new Governor (4 of the candidates expressed importance of a universal preschool in California).
- The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Prop 10’s passage by California voters.

## 8.0 Annual Report to First 5 California for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

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

Chairwoman Kathy Gallagher opened the public hearing at 7:01 pm on the annual report to California First 5 for the fiscal year 2016-2017. She informed the Commission that 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 reported that the findings and data support the year-end report above. Highlights of the summary include AR1 budget financials (our funding in their terms), essentially our annual expenditure. The format of the summary was prescribed by the state.

There were no questions from the Commission after the report.  
Chairwoman closed the public hearing at 7:07 pm.

John Jones made a motion to adopt, seconded by Dr. Walker.

**AYES:** Rocio Hernandez, PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, William Walker, and Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

## 9.0 Advocacy Updates

Sean reported that this month’s attachment to the Advocacy Update includes the bills that the First 5

Association tracked in the recent legislative cycle, showing those that passed, those that were vetoed, and those carried over. Among those passed was AB 752, prohibiting a state-contracting child care agency from expelling or un-enrolling a child for behavior without rationale.

**10.0 Executive Director's Report**

Sean noted that the Year-in-Review summary serves as his report.

**11.0 Communications**

None Received

**12.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates**

Matt Regan will be participating as part of a 15 member task force for AB 1520. The bill broadly drafted to examine ways to lift children out of poverty rate and effects of high cost of living in the area. First meeting likely to be in Sacramento.

**13.0 Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM