



Commission Meeting

MINUTES

Monday, September 10, 2018, 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 6:02 PM.

Chair Gareth Ashley opened the meeting followed by introductions from all attendees.

Commissioners in attendance were: Monica Merrill for Dr. Rocio Hernandez, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, Dr. Christopher Farnitano, Kathy Gallagher, and Kathy Marsh.

Alternates present were: Wanda Session, Katharine Mason and Roslyn Gentry.

Also present was County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Absent were Commissioners Dr. Rocio Hernandez, Marilyn Lucey, PJ Shelton and Alternates Supervisor Candace Andersen and Matt Regan.

2.0 Public Comment

Odessa Caton, Director of Childhood Services from Aspiranet announced the Antioch First 5 Center's Grand Opening on Saturday September 29, 2018 from 10 am to 3 pm. Many activities planned to welcome the children and families of the community and everyone is invited to participate.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

A motion to approve the consent calendar was made by Kathy Gallagher seconded by Lee Ross.

AYES: Monica Merrill for Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, John Jones, Christopher Farnitano, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Gareth Ashley, Diane Burgis.

Motion was **APPROVED**.

5.0 Mid-Point Report on 2016-2020 Strategic Plan Indicators.

Sarah Crow, Strategic Information Manager, gave the Mid-Point report on the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan Indicators. This report covers half of the indicators listed in the plan. The second half will come to the Commission in a future meeting.

What percent of all QRIS sites are high-quality?

- 67% of Contra Costa child cares sites participating in QRIS are rated as high quality, serving over 3000 children each year.

What percent of children improve in one or more developmental domains?

- 54% of children whose initial Ages to Stages developmental screen identified a concern were no longer scoring in a zone of concern in a subsequent screen.

What percent of parents show increased awareness of their children's developmental stages?

- 93% of parents know more about what to expect about their child's growth and development after participating in a developmental playgroup.

What percent of children are improving in key behavioral domains?

- Of the 585 parents participating in the Triple P parent education program in 2017-18, 74% experienced a decrease in their child's behavioral challenges, and 75% showed a reduction in the intensity of their child's behavior.

What percent of parents have social connections in their communities?

- Across the last two years, between 85% and 92% of parents participating in family support programs reported having people to talk to when they are lonely or have a crisis.

How many parents and community members gain capacity for leadership?

- 509 parents and other community members participated in leadership-building activities in the past two years.

What percent of families read to their children daily?

- Approximately one-third of First 5 Center and home visiting families were reading to their children on a daily basis after an average of 24 months of participation, up from less than 5% at intake.

Wanda Session asked if the data on the developmental screening from year to year were based on the same children in the research?

Mostly, yes some of the data were from the same children who were participating in First 5 programs, parents who are active participants.

Christopher Farnitano asked if there were any baseline data from children who had not participated on any of the behavioral and developmental domains program?

No, we don't have information to compare improvement among children who participated in the program, with those who had not participated in any program.

6.0 Community Services Bureau presentation 2017-18 Annual Report by Katharine Mason

The report was given by Commissioner Katharine Mason, Division Manager for the Community Services Bureau. Each year, the CSB Annual Report showcases the efforts in the community, summarizes all of the services that has been done in the past year. Highlights include:

- Serving 190 new infants / toddlers
- New partnerships in San Ramon Unified School District
- New Teacher Assistant Trainee and Teacher Apprenticeship programs
- Deployed new SMS system enabling easy contact with parents (establishing communication with them)

CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) is a countrywide domain scores that indicate quality. This year, CSB scored well above the internal threshold.

DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile) – Pre-Kindergarteners showcased baseline, mid-year and

year-end outcomes of preschool children entering into kindergarten for each domain based on the DRDP rating. Each actual year outcomes scoring high mostly in the 75 or higher percentile and much better than the expected outcomes. DRDP–Infants and DRDP–Toddlers each showed a very high year end outcomes above the 89 percentile across the board.

CSB is required to reserve at least 10% of their enrollments for children with an IFSP or IEP for disabilities. In the past year, 128 had speech or language impairments, 16 were on the autism spectrum, 13 with other disabilities, 2 multiple disabilities, and 1 non-categorical developmental delay.

CSB had multiple audits resulting in a “no findings” outcome (means the agency had been highly compliant in all points of audit.)

Gareth asked how threshold scores on CLASS results calculated?

Katharine reports that this is based on an internal monitoring conducted twice a year by Head Start conducts that also Federal review. Each monitors are certified reliable assessors in house through QRIS.

Lee Ross asked about how long is the current wait list to enrollment?

Currently actively enrolling, and have 6,000 children on a wait list.

7.0 APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Executive Director or his designee to execute a 7-year lease agreement with two 5-year renewal options with 2310 Country Hills, LLC for a 4,800 square foot building located at 2330 Country Hills Drive, Antioch, CA.

At the July 2017 Commission meeting, the Commission approved the staff plan to establish two large centers in the East and Delta regions to replace the existing smaller centers in Bay Point, downtown Antioch and Bentwood. Since then, we have purchased the building in Pittsburg that we are currently renovating for the East County First 5 Center. We have also found a suitable site for lease in southeast Antioch. The high cost of renovation, and the low supply of suitable spaces for sale in that part Antioch makes leasing the more realistic alternative.

With support from the County’s real estate division and with County Counsel we have agreed on the essential terms of the lease with the owner which we are bringing to the Commission for approval now so that we are able to execute in the coming weeks.

The building, at 2330 Country Hills Road, is in an area where there are a number of medical buildings, including a County clinic across the street. It has 4800 square feet and is well laid out, requiring only a few tenant improvements other than new paint and floor coverings. The rent starts at \$1.58 per square foot, with 3% annual increases. First 5 will be responsible for paying common area maintenance charges, operating expenses, property taxes and insurance. The total amount of the seven-year lease is \$697,466.40.

John Jones asked how this compares with what we are paying on the current Delta Site?

With the capitalization of the Pittsburg site, the cost of this lease and improvements is comparable to the what the current leases in East County would be over seven years.

Dr. Farnitano asked how much time before you close down the current site and transition over?

The downtown Antioch site has a three-year lease and will remain open in future years as a satellite

depending on our fiscal situation. The Brentwood site will remain until we are ready to move into the new site, sometime in early 2019.

Wanda Session asked why if we are looking way into the future we are not purchasing but leasing. Sean responded that while we anticipated the cost of purchasing we did not anticipate the cost of potential renovations. We don't feel it would be a wise use of the fund balance right now for another purchase and renovation. Seven years feels a long time, but we are confident it will fit in our long term fiscal outlook and an investment that we think we can serve our local community.

Diane Burgis expressed concern for losing the Brentwood First 5 Center. There is going to be a need and the need to continue to grow. However, with Antioch real estate prices continue to go up, and the \$1.58 per square foot rent is a good deal right now. But as the general population of East County grows, particularly in the further east, she is concerned we might lock people out of these services due to the distance.

Sean noted that our east county strategy is to have highly visible hubs where we can do a lot more outreach in the region. Barring additional revenue, this is the best plan to sustain the centers over the next 10 and more years.

A motion to approve and authorize was made by Diane Burgis then seconded by Lee Ross.

AYES: Monica Merrill for Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, John Jones, Diane Burgis, Christopher Farnitano, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

8.0 Consider accepting the 2019 health and dental premium employer contribution rates for active employees; and accept the 2019 premium contribution rates for intermittent employees, COBRA participants, retirees and survivors at the same levels as the County.

Since its inception the Commission has opted to provide First 5 employees the County's health benefit plans. Each year the County negotiates premiums with the health insurance carriers and provides a rate sheet to First 5 listing the employer and employee contribution. The Commission has elected an 80% employer, 20% employee split, meaning that any increase in the cost is born by both. We ask the Commission to approve these rates so they can provide to staff during the October open enrollment period.

Diane Burgis informed that the county is in the process of finding a lower cost health benefit option. She also encouraged participants to look at the high deductible plans that for some might be not as expensive in the long run.

Christopher Farnitano made a motion to approve, seconded by Kathy Marsh.

AYES: Monica Merrill for Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, John Jones, Diane Burgis, Christopher Farnitano, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

9.0 Consider accepting the final financial report for fiscal year 2017-2018

Marnie Huddleston, Finance Director provided the report. Overall, it was a good year, fiscally, with higher revenues than anticipated and total expenditures at around 90% of budget. This allowed us to save \$1.7 million in reserve funds necessary to balance expenditures.

Highlights included nearly \$7 million in Proposition 10 tax revenues, as well as the first Proposition 56 tobacco tax backfill payment, for the final quarter of the 2016-17 fiscal year, totaling \$325,296.

External funding exceeded \$2.3 million, with the largest sources being the First 5 California IMPACT initiative, the California Office of Education QRIS block grants and the Thomas J. Long Foundation Help Me Grow grant, for which we received the final payment.

A motion was made by Lee Ross seconded by John Jones to accept the final fiscal year 2017-18 report.

AYES: Monica Merrill for Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, John Jones, Diane Burgis, Christopher Farnitano, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

10.0 Consider appointing nominating committee for 2019 Officers Election

Sean thanked and introduced the nominating committee for 2019 Officers Election: Chair Wanda Session and Members Matt Regan and Lee Ross.

A motion was made by Kathy Gallagher seconded by Diane Burgis to appoint to the nominating committee for the 2019 Officers Election.

AYES: Monica Merrill for Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, John Jones, Diane Burgis, Christopher Farnitano, Kathy Gallagher and Kathy Marsh.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

11.0 Executive Director's Report

Renovation has begun on the site of the new East County First 5 Center in Pittsburg. We will have our first on-site meeting with the architect and builders this Friday, by which time, most of the demolition will be completed. We are having a ribbon-cutting to mark the initiation of work later this month on the morning of Friday September 28. All Commission members are invited to attend and get in the picture!

The day after we "break ground" in Pittsburg we will celebrate the opening of our new Antioch First 5 Center on H Street downtown. The site has been open for several months already, but we wanted to have a "grand opening" for the entire Antioch community. There will be fun for families, tables from many of our partner agencies, and of course speeches by local dignitaries.

That Saturday will be a busy one for us, across the county. In Richmond, that morning, we convene the Richmond community parks assessment. Over 50 community volunteers, and their children, will fan out across the city that day to assess 25 parks for their overall condition and suitability for young children.

The assessments will be used to form the basis for prioritizing parks in high need and advocating to the city for needed improvements.

Also that day we'll be sponsoring "Making the Most of Classroom Interactions", for providers in our QRIS program. The training provides strategies to help with engagement and critical thinking activities to help children understand concepts and to strengthen teacher knowledge on effective ways to provide higher order thinking opportunities.

This Thursday September 13, FESP, the Family Economic Security Partnership, is holding a workshop called "**Wait, Whose Movement is This? – Encouraging Agency and Non-Exploitative Storytelling**", dealing with the stories of people and communities and how they are used to advocate for change.

Last month I attended a statewide meeting on cannabis and the risk for pregnant and parenting women and the babies. A joint convening by the First 5 Association and the CA Department of Public Health, I was joined by Natalie Berbeck from our county's MCAH program, who is working on these issues in the county's prenatal clinics. Young women across CA overwhelmingly believe that cannabis is virtually harmless and use it frequently to alleviate stress and anxiety in their lives. Our challenge will be to put out the message that there is no safe level of use for developing fetuses and secondhand smoke is as dangerous for children and tobacco smoke. And we need to help young moms find other coping mechanisms to manage stress.

LA was also the location of this year's statewide HMG convening in August. Ruth Fernandez, Wanda Davis and Lilliana Gonzalez all participated, first in a workshop that laid out the development of our HMG Grow public education campaign ("From Whining to Walking") and also in a poster session describing our developmental playgroups. We received strong appreciation and feedback on both.

A few staff transitions. Cindy Ray, whom many of you met out our front desk the last several years, has retired and moved to Mexico. Sonja Thompson, previously supporting our early intervention group, has moved over to the front desk, working part-time as she returns to school. We are very close to filling her position as well.

Lastly, we are pleased to report that the auditors who were here last week had completed their audit within two and a half days, thanks to the Finance and Administrative and Grants and Contracts teams for providing them all the information they need.

12.0 Communications

"Childcare, preschool availability weighs on Bay Area parents"
Sean was interviewed for this article in the East Bay times.

13.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

There were none.

14.0 Adjourn

Next meeting is October 15, 2018
The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.