



**Commission Meeting  
MINUTES**

Monday, October 15, 2018, 6:00 pm  
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200  
Large Conference Room  
Concord, CA

**1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Gareth Ashley called meeting to order at 6:00 PM, followed by introductions from all attendees.

Commissioners present were: Marilyn Lucey, PJ Shelton, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, Wanda Session for Dr. Christopher Farnitano, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh.

Alternates present were: Lee Ross and Matt Regan.

Absent were: Kathy Gallagher, Kathy Marsh and Alternate Supervisor Candace Andersen.

**2.0 Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar**

A motion to approve the consent calendar was made by John Jones seconded by Diane Burgis.

**AYES:** Marilyn Lucey, PJ Shelton, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, Wanda Session for Dr. Christopher Farnitano, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

District 2 Alternate Commissioner Monica Merrill arrived at this time.

**5.0 Consider accepting the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Financial Audit.**

The Chair opened the public hearing on the First 5 Contra Costa Annual Financial Audit 2017-2018. The report was given by auditor James Ramsey of the accounting firm Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co.

Highlights of the reports as follows:

- 1) The independent auditors determined that the financial statements were fairly presented.
- 2) The auditors determined that the new requirements for accounting of post-employment benefits were met and presented appropriately.
- 3) The Commission received the highest form of opinion, an unmodified opinion on all financial statements, with no findings. There were no material weaknesses and no issues with internal controls. And no instances of non-compliance were found.



There were no questions from the floor.

Chairman closed the public hearing on the FY 2017-2018 Financial Audit.

Dr. Rocio Hernandez arrived at this time.

A motion was made by PJ Shelton and seconded by Marilyn Lucey to accept the Annual Financial Audit for FY 2017-2018.

**AYES:** Marilyn Lucey, PJ Shelton, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, Wanda Session for Dr. Christopher Farnitano, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Rocio Hernandez

Motion was **APPROVED**.

**6.0 Presentation of new initiative and grant from the Dean and Margaret Leshar Foundation to deepen community efforts to increase school readiness in East County**

Melissa Stafford Jones, Executive Director of the Dean and Margaret Leshar Foundation gave the following presentation with Sean Casey on the new initiative and grant from the Leshar Foundation.

One of the Leshar Foundation's core values is education, especially for children who come from low-income families. The Foundation's is looking at addressing the opportunity gap that is evident in third grade reading scores and other measures. A new opportunity for the Foundation is to focus on early childhood support and education in Contra Costa. Because of the ongoing population growth in East County, particularly that families with young children, the foundation's strategic focus is to continue to support expansion of non-profit capacity in East Contra Costa.

The Foundation is establishing a new partnership with First 5 Contra Costa by making a 5-year grant of \$1.1 million to launch of a new initiative to increase school readiness of East County children and transform the region into one that prioritizes early childhood development and early literacy. First 5 will concentrate its existing efforts and build new community partnerships and expansion of evidence-based programs and services to support families with young children.

Wanda Session asked if First 5 Contra Costa had outlined plans on how to begin the community efforts to increase school readiness in East County. Sean responded that the grant includes an initial planning period to research other communities that have taken similar efforts in raising school readiness activities in their region. We will begin in the city of Pittsburg and eventually move throughout east county.

Melissa added that the effort of getting everybody to participate would probably reveal more opportunities. One of the things that we are working on is a very small project with Children Now and the Contra Costa Economic Partnership to pull together additional data on the opportunity gap for our young children.



Matt Regan asked with the migration of many families to the east part of the county, do we know what percentage of children ages zero to five are we looking at? Sarah Crow, Strategic Information Planning Manager, informed that data will be coming soon.

Diane Burgis thanked the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation for their grant. We are grateful for this partnership and opportunity.

John Jones thanked Melissa and the Leshner Foundation. He informed that East County is the region where young families move to start. East County is a great example of the impacts of all the things in our society that can hit a community. If this works well, it will be a great test case for other counties as well. And it affects more than just early education, but it affects housing and health, transportation etc. The challenges are there as we continue to reach out to the greater reaches of the County.

#### **7.0 Presentation on 2018 legislative results pertaining to children 0-5 and their families**

Sarah Crow gave the following presentation.

We just finished the 2018 leg cycle. Overall this is a good year for early childhood. We won a lot of new Childcare slots through the budget process. Better CalWORKs grants.

Highlights include:

SB1004 (Weiner) – The Mental Health Services Act: Prevention and Early Diagnosis. This bill would further define that MHSA Prevention Early Intervention must be spent across four primary categories including Childhood trauma prevention and early intervention, Outreach, Early psychosis and mood disorder detection, and other programs that the commission identifies.

AB 605 (Mullen) – Day Care Centers: Birth to first grade license option. This bill would require the Department of Social Services to adopt regulations by January 2019 to develop and implement a birth to entering first grade license option for day care centers. The bill will require the regulations to include age-appropriate transition times, a requirement that a single integrated license option list the age groups of children being served at the day care center, and a requirement that all other licensing regulations that apply to a day care center shall also apply to a birth to entering first grade license option.

AB 11 (McCarty) – Relating to Medi-Cal: Developmental Screenings. This bill adds language to existing law requiring the administration of developmental screenings in alignment with the Bright Futures periodicity schedule, for all children, zero to three, who are enrolled in Medi-Cal.

AB 2626 /9Mullin) -- Child Care and Development Services Act. This bill would make a number of changes to family eligibility, contracting and professional supports to help counties capture more funding allocated to child care each year.

#### **8.0 APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Executive Director or his designee to execute a 3-year lease agreement with one 3-year renewal option with 1485 Civic, LLC for a 9,232 square foot suite located at 1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200, Concord, CA.**

Sean reported that in 2007, First 5 Contra Costa entered into a lease with the owners of 1485 Civic Courts, Suite 1200, Concord CA for 64-month term lease with one option to extend the lease for 5 years. The lease was later amended on September 6, 2013 to revise the termination date to December

31, 2018. The new lease is scheduled to commence January 2019. It will have an initial term of 3 years with one option to renew for 3 additional years. The monthly rent will be \$2 per square foot with 3% annual increases thereafter. Total financial impact of the 3-year lease is \$684,844.53. If the additional 3-year renewal option is executed, the total 6-year financial impact is \$1,433,192.64.

Katharine Mason made a motion, seconded by PJ Shelton to approve and authorize the Executive Director or his designee to execute a 3-year lease agreement with one 3-year renewal option with 1485 Civic, LLC for a 9,232 square foot suite located at 1485 Civic Court Suite 1200, Concord, CA.

**AYES:** Dr. Rocio Hernandez, Marilyn Lucey, PJ Shelton, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, Wanda Session for Dr. Christopher Farnitano, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

**9.0 APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Executive Director or his designee to execute a 1-year lease agreement with two 1-year renewal options with 1485 Civic, LLC for approximately 195 square foot suite located at 1485 Civic Court, Suite 1339, Concord, CA.**

Sean reported that on June 1, 2015, First 5 Contra Costa entered into a one-year lease to rent 315 square foot suite located at 1485 Civic Court, Suite 1476, Concord CA ("Suite 1476"). The lease contained an option to extend the term for one year. First 5 exercised its option to extend the lease on April 29, 2016, thereby extending the term to May 31, 2017. On June 1, 2017, First 5 entered into a new lease for Suite 1476 with an expiration date of December 31, 2018. The suite is used to store Help Me Grow program supplies and materials and serves as an additional small meeting room space. The total financial impact for the lease if renewal options are executed is \$18,000.00.

This space is 100% funded by HMG funds.

**AYES:** Dr. Rocio Hernandez, Marilyn Lucey, PJ Shelton, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, Wanda Session for Dr. Christopher Farnitano, Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher, and Roslyn Gentry for Kathy Marsh.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

**10.0 Executive Director's Report**

Sean gave the following report:

September 29: A Great Day. At our last meeting I mentioned all the things we would be doing at the end of September, particularly on Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup>. It turned into a great day, indeed. Ruth Fernandez and I started at 9:00 in Richmond for the Richmond parks assessment that the WCRG did, with the HAB45 Collaborative and staff from the City of Richmond. It was a fantastically organized operation in which residents formed five groups and fanned out across the city in pre-designed routes, with transportation provided by the City, so that all 25 parks could be assessed in one day. A great job by our community engagement team to pull it off.



Then we were off to Antioch, where another great team comprised of our family support staff and those of Aspiranet put together a fantastic street fair on a couple block of 2<sup>nd</sup> St, with tents for all kinds of programs and activities for families and children. Lamar Thorpe emceed a program of speakers including two very inspiring parents. Then Gareth Ashley cut the ribbon on the new First 5 Center site and everyone had fun thereafter. Over 400 adults and 200 children attended. Several folks from the community mentioned how appreciative they were that we were still in the neighborhood. The Mayor and City Council were in attendance as well as the City Manager with his grandkids.

And that was only a day after we “broke ground” on the Pittsburg F5C site which was a fun party also, with Aspiranet staff and a number of families with kids from the Bay Point site. District Attorney Diana Becton said a few words and expressed genuine appreciation for our work. She sent her Deputy to the Antioch celebration the next day.

The week after, FESP sponsored an educational forum with the state director of the League of Women Voters on a few of the state propositions that could have implications for families. Last week the CCRG, with other local sponsors, held a candidates’ forum in the Monument Corridor area for the two running in the new district election for City Council.

On October 16 and 17, several of First 5 Staff, including Commission members Lee Ross, Marilyn Lucey, and Katharine Mason will be attending the 2018 ACEs Conference in San Francisco. This event brings together a national audience of agencies and policymakers addressing childhood trauma and its effects throughout the life course. Wanda Davis has created an interactive poster presentation illustrating the process for developing resilience in children that is described in the early childhood trauma training course that we have developed with WestEd. (handout) We recently presented the second training day of that course – Trauma 102 – for which we had about 40 providers from various settings who work with young children. We had a pretty long waiting list as well, so we hope to do it again soon.

Finally, our Help ME Grow program was selected by the HMG National Center to participate in a nationwide Community of Practice (COP) for select HMG affiliates across the nation enhancing their integration of HMG system in the early learning sector HMG Contra Costa was one of 9 selected HMG systems. There are over 40 HMG systems across the nation and 28 states represented.

#### **11.0 Communications**

There were none.

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

The following updates:

Diane Burgis shared that she attended the First 5 Antioch Grand Opening. She thought that organizers did a great job. The event was very family friendly very celebratory, very well represented about what we all do.

Dr. Hernandez reported that the city of San Pablo police department got one of the state grants for tobacco cessation. In an attempt to partner with them on possible future projects, Dr. Hernandez arranged for the Police Department to meet with Alexina Rojas, director of West County First 5 Center and let them know more about what we do. This initial meeting resulted into the co-hosting of an upcoming event for Wednesday October 17 from 5 to 7 pm, for a Health and Safety fare at the First 5



Center in San Pablo for the community to meet with the local Police Department, and to have a better understanding of the First 5 Community.

**13.0 Adjourn**

The next meeting will be on December 3, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.