



**Commission Meeting  
MINUTES**

Monday, April 8, 2019, 6:00 pm  
1485 Civic Court, Suite 1200  
Large Conference Room  
Concord, CA

**1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Gareth Ashley called meeting to order at 6:09 PM, followed by introductions from everyone in the room.

Commissioners in attendance were Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, Dr. Christopher Farnitano, and Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher.

Also present were Alternate Matt Regan and Deputy County Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Absent were Commissioners Dr. Rocio Hernandez, PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Kathy Marsh, Alternates Monica Merrill, Supervisor Candace Andersen, Lorena Martinez Ochoa and Roslyn Gentry.

**2.0 Public Comment**

Odessa Caton, Director of Childhood Services for the East County First 5 Center gave some center updates. She reported that the anticipated move in date is coming. Meanwhile, they had completed move out from the former Bay Point Center and began interim services for the community. This gave families an opportunity to get to know the satellite site in Antioch. Families response had been very positive including a recent new family who was referred the site by a physician.

**3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar**

Sean Casey noted that beginning with tonight's meeting, the program update report will be included in the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Katharine Mason and seconded by Lee Ross to approve the consent calendar.

**AYES:** Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, Dr. Christopher Farnitano, and Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Gareth Ashley

Motion was **APPROVED**.

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

There were no items removed from the consent calendar.

**5.0 Update on Quality Matters**

First 5 Deputy Director Ruth Fernandez and Early Childhood Education Program Officer Edirle Menezes gave the following update:

First 5's Early Childhood Education Initiative aims to ensure that all children have access to high quality, affordable childcare and early learning. High-quality child care programs provide safe, healthy, nurturing and stimulating environments that support and promote all areas of a child's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. Quality Matters is Contra Costa County's Quality Ratings & Improvement System initiative (QRIS).

Quality Matters supports and incentivizes childcare providers to offer the best care possible. Participating programs are rated on their level of quality and engage in activities to raise their ratings. Rating criteria



include teacher-child interactions, environment, teacher qualifications, child observations and health & development. In the last ratings cohort, 86% of participating sites meet or exceed quality standards. Of these sites, 19% have reached the highest rating level. Family childcare homes comprise 27% of rated sites, while 73% are private centers, state preschools or Head Starts. All these sites receive onsite coaching, professional development training, and financial incentives.

Currently, we have 144 QRIS sites participating in Quality Matters, including 50 in West County, 53 in East County, 37 in Central County and 4 in South County. These sites are rated every two years. There are also six QIS sites (Quality Improvement Systems) that are preparing to become QRIS within a year. In addition, there are Quality Improvement sites primarily engaged in quality improvement activities through literacy, including the Tandem's Story Cycles programs. Professional development trainings last year reached 190 child care professionals. This last year we had added 48 new family childcare homes, 25 new private centers and 2 new school districts.

Quality Matters is implemented in partnership with the County Office of Education, CoCoKids and the three community colleges. We are part of a statewide movement called Quality Counts California that includes 42 consortia across 58 counties. They are operated through funding from the California Department of Education and the First 5 California IMPACT initiative.

John Jones asked how Contra Costa measures against other bay area counties. Edirle responded that Contra Costa does very well in teacher qualifications and in the high number of participating family childcare providers.

Sup. Diane Burgis asked out of over 800 childcare homes, have there been attempts to reach out to those who are not yet participating? Ruth Fernandez responded that we work closely with Cocokids to provide outreach and recruitment. Word of mouth among providers is powerful. The Quality Matters website is designed for both parents and providers.

## **6.0 Public Hearing on the First 5 California 2017-2018 Annual Report**

Gareth Ashley opened the public hearing on the First 5 California 2017-2018 Annual Report.

It is a statutory requirement for First 5 Contra Costa to hold a public hearing on First 5 California Annual Report. Sean Casey reported some of the highlights for First 5 Contra Costa found on pages 34-35 of the annual report. The entire report can be found on the First 5 California Website:  
[http://www.cfc.ca.gov/pdf/about/budget\\_perf/annual\\_report\\_pdfs/Annual\\_Report\\_17-18.pdf](http://www.cfc.ca.gov/pdf/about/budget_perf/annual_report_pdfs/Annual_Report_17-18.pdf)

There were no questions from the floor.

Gareth Ashley closed the public hearing and asked for a motion to accept the First 5 California 2017-2018 Annual Report.

Diane Burgis made a motion, seconded by Christopher Farnitano to accept the First 5 California 2017-2018 Annual Report.

**AYES:** Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, Dr. Christopher Farnitano, and Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

## **7.0 Public Hearing on the First 5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan 2016-20**

In order to better provide the Commission with information on the current First 5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan, Sean asked that this item be tabled and move it to the June 10, 2019 Commission Meeting Agenda.



## 8.0 Consider approving proposed First 5 Contra Costa Budget FY 2019-2020

Marnie Huddleston gave the following summary on the proposed First 5 Contra Costa Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

This budget represents the fourth and final year of the Commission's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. This year the initiatives will continue to blend Proposition 10 tobacco tax and outside funding.

The projected Proposition 10 tax revenue is 6% less than the previous year's budget, not including the backfill provided by Proposition 56. The revenue also includes the final year of the First 5 California five-year IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) initiative totaling \$1,183,179. Marnie also noted that FY 2019-20 marks the final installment of \$300,000 of the five-year Thomas J. Long Foundation grant for the Help Me Grow Program.

Grant funded programs will draw down and use \$787,000 of restricted funds received in prior years. As planned, the budget calls for using \$3.88 million of the Commission's unrestricted fund balance to make up the difference between revenue and expenditures.

Gareth asked how much is left of the fund balance.

Marnie said she will look it up and provide an answer in the next Commission Meeting in June.

Christopher Farnitano made a motion, and Marilyn Lucey seconded to approve the proposed First 5 Contra Costa Budget FY 2019-2020.

**AYES:** Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Supervisor Diane Burgis, Dr. Christopher Farnitano, and Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

## 9.0 Policy and Advocacy Report

Sean Casey gave the following report:

I had hoped that by today I would have the First 5 Association's legislation list for you examine and consider adopting. Unfortunately, the Association's Policy Director just returned from maternity leave last week and the leg list won't be ready for a couple more weeks. We can bring it to the Commission in June for adoption; by then we will know what bills have been absorbed in the May Revise budget.

We will definitely have a list of bills by the First 5 Advocacy Day coming up April 30 in Sacramento. This year the Governor's budget will be the principal topic, but as always, we use the opportunity to talk about what we do and how we support families and the systems that serve them.

First 5s statewide will be working to increase outreach in anticipation of next year's census. Our Special Projects Coordinator Fran Biderman has been appointed to our county's Complete Count Committee and next week will make a presentation to the Committee about the issues around the undercount of young children. Did you know that pregnant women with a due date of April 1, 2020 or later can count their fetus? Neither did I. Babies are also particularly undercounted. Young children were undercounted by over a million nationwide in 2010, with California having the highest undercount. Last week Fran and I took a small team –with John Jones (CoCoKids), Camilla Rand (Community Services Bureau) and Susan Jeong (County Office of Education) – to a Bay Area convening on census outreach strategies for children



0-5. The First 5 Association has received grant funds to provide technical assistance and outreach materials to county First 5s working on this issue.

March also marked the first stakeholder meeting for the Contra Costa Children’s Leadership Council. With EHSD and Health Services Departments we brought together leadership from across the county to start the process of what we hope will be a highly visible and vocal entity that will advocate for children of all ages across the county. We had several Commission members in attendance: Marilyn Lucey, John Jones, Dr. Farnitano, Kathy Gallagher, Katherine Mason and Kathy Marsh.

Last thing: At our FESP meeting next week, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Jessica Bartholow of the Western Center on Law and Poverty will speak to what is in the budget this year and what trends she sees going forward to lift families out of poverty. We’ve had a number of great speakers at FESP this year, and this should be another one, if you’re interested.

**10.0 Executive Director’s Report**

Sean Casey gave the following Executive Director’s report.

East County F5C: So close! We are in the final throes of construction completion. With any luck, we passed the final fire inspection today, and hope to pass the final site inspection tomorrow or Wednesday, and occupy soon after. This project obviously has taken longer than we anticipated, but we are very excited about the space. We had a staff field trip out there one recent morning just so everyone could see what it is we’ve been talking about all this time. I look forward to getting the Commission out there soon as well.

At our last meeting I talked about the Trauma “fellows” who recently complete a year-long training-of-trainers process to become trauma experts in their agencies and communities. They now continue to work in a community of practice as they plan the trainings they will conduct in the coming months. This morning, Wanda Davis and one of the fellows participated on a trauma panel for the Contra Costa Funders group, with other agencies participating as well. It was a great session and showed the progress we are making in organizational change, though much is still to be done. Wanda will be presenting to the Bay Area Early Childhood Funders in May as well.

**11.0 Communications**

None received.

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

On May 10, 2019, Matt Regan will be on a panel with Kristen Connelly at the 2019 Rise Together Opportunity Summit at the San Jose Convention Center.

[https://whova.com/embedded/event/rtos\\_201905/?utc\\_source=ems](https://whova.com/embedded/event/rtos_201905/?utc_source=ems)

Gareth reported that at the February Concord State of the City meeting, the chair recognized First 5 Contra Costa Commission along with the various dignitaries, offices, city council and special districts.

Marilyn Lucey reported that she recently attended the California Social-Emotional practice in Sacramento led by the California Department of Education. She also reported that they currently are learning more about Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma. She noted that she could not find any First 5 or Early Learning participants in the group.

**13.0 Adjourn**

The next standing meeting is on Monday June 10, 2019.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.