



## Commission Meeting MINUTES

Monday, June 10, 2019, 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 6:05 PM.

Commissioners present: Dr. Rocio Hernandez, Monica Merrill for Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Supervisor Diane Burgis, and Dr. Chris Farnitano.

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

Not present were Commissioners Marilyn Lucey, PJ Shelton, John Jones, Kathy Gallagher & Kathy Marsh. Alternates not present were Supervisor Candace Andersen, Katharine Mason and Roslyn Gentry.

### 2.0 Public Comment

No comment from the public.

### 3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

Sean Casey noted that there were no recusals from voting on contracts on the docket this period. Diane Burgis made a motion, seconded by Lee Ross, to approve the consent calendar.

**AYES:** Dr. Rocio Hernandez, Monica Merrill for Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Supervisor Diane Burgis, and Dr. Chris Farnitano.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

The consent calendar was **APPROVED**.

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

Gareth Ashley opened the public hearing on the First 5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan 2016-20.

The Strategic Plan can be found online at:

[http://www.first5coco.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Strategic\\_Plan\\_Approved\\_10\\_5\\_15.pdf](http://www.first5coco.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Strategic_Plan_Approved_10_5_15.pdf)

Sean Casey gave this report:

We are entering the final year of this five-year plan (2019-2020). The theme of this plan was to further our concentrate our efforts into key systems: quality early learning (QRIS), family support (F5Cs and home visiting), and early intervention (HMG and early mental health). Also building out a broad set of policy advocacy activities, including community leadership development, engaging policy stakeholders, and re-orienting our former evaluation department to a broader strategic information resource.



We've done two updates on indicators in the last year showing the steady progress of the work we set out to do five years ago:

- Over 3000 children now in 61 high-quality early learning sites
- Over 80% of parents in Triple P experience decreases in the number and intensity of their child's behavioral challenges.
- Over 500 parents gaining capacity for leadership through our regional groups and community advisory councils
- Big gains in daily reading by parents after 24 months of participation in family support programs.
- And more information tonight about Help Me Grow.

At our July retreat, we will have more time to go into the current status of these endeavors, including not only the strategic milestones, but also the resources we will have to sustain them going forward. We will have some difficult choices to make, but ultimately we are still on track to continue to make important systems change in the final year of this plan, and in the years coming up.

There were no questions from the floor.

Gareth Ashley closed the public hearing and asked for a motion to maintain the First 5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan 2016-20.

Dr. Chris Farnitano made a motion and Lee Ross seconded, to maintain the First 5 Contra Costa Strategic Plan 2016-20.

**AYES:** Dr. Rocio Hernandez, Monica Merrill for Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Supervisor Diane Burgis, and Dr. Chris Farnitano.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

**6.0 Approve revision of the First 5 Contra Costa FY 2018-19 budget to include anticipated expenditures for the East County First 5 Center renovation.**

Finance and Operations Director Marnie Huddleston explained that the budget for the FY 2019-19 year is to be revised to reflect the total anticipated expenditures for the capital improvements on the First 5 Center in Pittsburg. We will have a full expenditure report for the Commission when we are ready to present the Notice of Completion for the project, hopefully at the next meeting.

Chris Farnitano made a motion and Rocio Hernandez seconded, to approve revision of the First 5 Contra Costa FY 2018-19 budget to include anticipated expenditures for the East County First 5 Center renovation.

**AYES:** Dr. Rocio Hernandez, Monica Merrill for Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Supervisor Diane Burgis, and Dr. Chris Farnitano.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion **APPROVED**.



## 7.0 Help Me Grow (HMG) Update Presentation

Early Childhood Intervention Program Officer Wanda Davis and HMG Program Coordinator Liliana Gonzalez provided the update on Help Me Grow to the Commission. They were joined by staff from a key partner, the Contra Costa Crisis Center, Executive Director Tom Tamura and Director of Programs Leslie Garcia.

HMG is a framework for developing processes for assessing the array of services for children with developmental needs and linking children and families to them. In that way, HMG is like a “power grid” of interconnectivity to prevent children from falling through systems cracks.

HMG is formed around four cooperative and interdependent core components:

- a) **Health Provider Outreach.** Since 2015, all 28 high-Medi-Cal-volume pediatric sites in Contra Costa have been trained in developmental screening and HMG referral practices. In that time, 699 children needing support have been identified.
- b) **Community and Early Childhood Education Outreach.** In 2017, we initiated “Help Me Grow cafes” to bring community partners together to address systems challenges and barriers, and build interconnectedness with each other and with others systems partners like Head Start, mental health, libraries, WIC, etc. HMG is also partnering with Quality Matters to bring early childhood education providers into the “power grid.”
- c) **Centralized Access Point.** Our partnership with the Contra Costa Crisis Center has allowed them to augment the capacity of 211, a highly-trained, 24/7 staff and data system, to respond to early-childhood specific needs and referrals coming from HMG families and providers. Since 2015, 15,725 families with children 0-5 have accessed 211. Annually, the system is making about 550 outbound referrals for developmental needs.
- d) **Data Collection and Analysis.** The call center provides the opportunity for tracking the breadth and depth of HMG. We know that developmental concerns subsequent to screening make up 90% of pediatric referrals to the call center. This highlights our capacity to reach out to physicians and engage them in the process. On the other hand, it also highlights the fact that there are still a lot of system partners that we have yet to engage connect to this resource. What are the children’s needs? We find that communication and social emotional needs tend to be the biggest concern. We found that 50% of the children, year to year, have concerns specifically around communication delays. We also learned that there are children who may not qualify or meet eligibility for regional center or school district, but still have significant concerns. Knowing this, we formed the “Help Me Grow Developmental Playgroups” which especially target children with mild to moderate needs and are located throughout all our First 5 Centers. To date, 850 of these children have participated in these developmental playgroups.

Wanda then shared an example of a mother who reached out to the referral given to her as a result of calling in. The 24-hour call center provided busy parents critical access to help and direction.



Tom Tamura and Leslie Garcia appreciated the opportunity to work with HMG. They point out the rapport that their call center staff is able to develop with families through multiple interactions, that allows that to make the best linkages for parents at any time.

**8.0 Consider creating an ad hoc committee of no more than four Commission members to oversee recruitment efforts for Executive Director.**

Sean Casey reported that he has been informing key First 5 partners of his intention to step down from his position at the end of 2019.

Staff recommends that the Commission form an ad hoc sub-committee, of no more than four members to initiate and oversee the recruitment process and to develop the process and timeline with staff and an external search consultant. This group will report and update the Commission at its regular meetings.

Sean named four commission members who volunteered: PJ Shelton, Marilyn Lucey, John Jones and Lee Ross. Because John Jones and Marilyn Lucey together form a quorum of the Executive Committee, County Counsel recommended they not serve at the same time. Rocio Hernandez volunteered at this time. Sup. Diane Burgis suggested that John Jones serve as an alternate for Marilyn Lucey.

Dr. Farnitano made a motion, seconded by Diane Burgis, to create an ad hoc committee to oversee the recruitment efforts for the Executive Director, with the committee members being Marilyn Lucey (with John Jones as alternate), PJ Shelton, Lee Ross and Rocio Hernandez.

**AYES:** Dr. Rocio Hernandez, Monica Merrill for Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Supervisor Diane Burgis, and Dr. Chris Farnitano.

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Motion **APPROVED.**

**9.0 Policy & Advocacy Report**

**9.1 Accept the First 5 Association's Legislation Agenda**

Sean reported that the packet includes a Bill Tracker from the First 5 Association. Since many of the bills are likely to land in the final state budget, and the First 5 Association is actively supporting the others, Sean did not feel the Commission needed to take action on this item at this time.

Matt Regan mentions that he has been appointed to a task force created by the governor to look into expanding the family leave benefit to 8 weeks paid leave.

**10.0 Executive Director's Report**

Sean reported on several big events since the Commission's April meeting:

The April 30 First 5 Advocacy Day at the Capitol turned out to be a bigger day than we had earlier expected. It became another great festival atmosphere on the East Lawn, with activities for children and families. First Partner Jennifer Newsom read stories to kids in English and Spanish, and then addressed the crowd from the Capitol steps with a strong message of support for First 5 and for families, also bilingually.

Commissioner Marilyn Lucey joined Deputy Director Ruth Fernandez and myself in visits to the offices of all our local legislators, many with our colleagues who share districts in Alameda and Solano Counties.



Our message was one of strong support for the Governor’s budget proposals, which was met everywhere with equal support.

On that note, I had the opportunity to meet directly with our newest Assemblymember, Buffy Wicks, a few weeks later, along with the First 5 Association Policy Director, Margot Grant Gould. The Assemblymember is chairing the Select Committee on Youth Mental Health. She was very interested in our ideas about early mental health and was open to the idea of having a hearing about it. Margot is working up a proposal on it.

And...we opened the East County First 5 Center! Aspiranet staff started moving in in late April, and then did a week of daily soft opening events starting Saturday May 12. On the 15<sup>th</sup> we had an open house for local government, including City Council and School Board members, with a good turnout from both. The Center is seeing more families every week as the regular activities schedule ramps up.

May 30<sup>th</sup> was our second annual Coffee and Kids policy breakfast. Just over 100 attendees heard me “interview” Kris Perry, the Governor’s special advisor on early childhood, on a range of issues within the Newsom agenda for young children. Congressman DeSaulnier then gave a far less rosy picture from the federal level. Thanks especially to Sup. Burgis, for opening the session, and Sup. Gioia, for closing it. I made sure to note at the end how fortunate we are to have such champions on our Board of Supervisors.

Coming up in the next weeks:

Our staff retreat on Friday will be a chance for all of us to take stock of where we are and what we hope for as an organization moving forward. This will help us in our presentation to you at the Commission strategic planning retreat, which is another thing coming up, July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Also coming up is the second meeting of the Children’s Leadership Council, which is developing an action framework for supporting a broad children’s agenda in the county. That convening is July 10; if you are interested, I will make sure you are on the list to receive registration information.

**11.0 Communications**

Contra Costa Early Childhood Investments

The packet includes a letter that was sent to the Governor in strong support of his early childhood education budget proposals, and signed by Supervisor Gioia, Superintendent of Education Lynn Mackey and Sean Casey. Several Bay Area counties sent similar letters to the Governor; First 5 Association staff received feedback from the Governor’s office that those letters were extremely useful and appreciated.

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

There were no commissioner updates.

**13.0 Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

The next meeting is the Thursday, July 18, 2019 Commissioners’ retreat.