



Special Meeting
COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN RETREAT
MINUTES

Thursday, July 18, 2019, 9:00 am
Pleasant Hill Community Center, Perera Pavilion
320 Civic Drive,
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting called to order at 9:15 AM by chair Gareth Ashley.

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

Also present was District 1 Alternate Commissioner Genoveva Calloway.

Absent were Commissioners Dr. Rocio Hernandez, PJ Shelton, Kathy Gallagher, Kathy Marsh, alternates Monica Merrill, Matt Regan, Supervisor Candace Andersen, and Roslyn Gentry.

2.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

John Jones made a motion, seconded by Diane Burgis to approve the consent calendar.

AYES: Genoveva Calloway for Rocio Hernandez, Marilyn Lucey, Lee Ross for PJ Shelton, Gareth Ashley, John Jones, Diane Burgis, Christopher Farnitano, and Katharine Mason for Kathy Gallagher.

NOS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Kathy Gallagher, Kathy Marsh, alternates Monica Merrill, Matt Regan, Supervisor Candace Andersen, and Roslyn Gentry.

Motion **APPROVED**.

Commissioners Rocio Hernandez and PJ Shelton arrived at this time.

4.0 2020 – 2023 Commission Strategic Plan

Strategic Planning consultant Nicole Young opened the session with an outline of the planning process and a review of the structure for the day.

Sean Casey then followed with a review of the Commission’s strategic planning processes over time and noted that each plan has set out to refine and concentrate our efforts as we learn more about families’ needs, First 5’s expertise, and new science and understanding of early childhood. This next plan will be similar but formulated in the context of a strong California economy, growing support for early childhood programs in the legislature, and Governor Newsom’s very strong intentions to support young children and their families, as demonstrated in the 2020 budget. Ironically, just as the highest levels of state leadership are embracing early childhood, our biggest challenge will be our declining resources. With this much change and uncertainty in the landscape, staff is recommending a three-year plan, from FY 2020-21 through FY2022-23.

Sean then led the Commission in a review of First 5’s life journey, using a timeline created by staff at their recent retreat and noting major events in First 5’s world since Proposition 10 was passed in 1998. Just as staff had noted when they arrived at First 5, so did Commissioners put their names on the timeline and mentioned what first 5 was doing when they joined the Commission.

Supervisor Diane Burgis left the meeting at 10:30 am.



Program staff – Deputy Director Ruth Fernandez, Quality Improvement Coach Nelly Orantes, Program Officers Lisa Korb and Wanda Davis, and Community Liaison Cecilia Perez-Mejia – then presented vignettes about parents, providers and community members who participated in First 5 programs. Commissioners appreciated this look into how First 5’s activities have changed systems, even lives.

Sean then presented a systems change framework he has been working on with staff based on First 5’s experiences over the years and encompassing not only technical systems-building, but also engagement of stakeholders of all kinds and advocacy for sustained change.

At 12:05 pm, Gareth Ashley opened the session for public comments. There were no comments from the public.

After lunch, Sean made a presentation on the fiscal landscape facing First 5. Proposition 10 revenues are expected to continue to decline as they have since inception. We are also facing the end of the Thomas J. Long Foundation grant that has supported Help Me Grow for five years, as well as the transition of First 5 California’s IMPACT funding for Quality Matters to “IMPACT 2020”, the details of which are not yet fully known. In addition, the Commission has nearly exhausted its reserve funds. Staff will prepare funding recommendations for the Commission in the fall when the Commission’s June 30, 2019 fund balance has been determined, and other funding questions may be answered.

Nicole then led the Commission through small-group discussion on what they have heard and learned in the day’s session, and what more they want to know about First 5’s work and the broader landscape. She then asked Commissioners for their main “take-aways” from the day. They reported having an understanding of where First 5 is now, needing to stick with what we do in the current plan, and strong support for the staff and what they’ve accomplished. They also acknowledged that the Commission itself could do more to support First 5’s efforts.

Dr. Chris Farnitano left the meeting at 1:30 pm

At 2:05 pm, Gareth Ashley re-opened the session for public comments. There were no comments from the public.

5.0 Adjourn

Gareth Ashley adjourned the meeting at 2:06 PM.