



Commission Meeting MINUTES

Monday, June 8, 2020, 6:00 pm

To slow the spread of COVID-19, the Health Officer's Shelter Order of March 16, 2020, prevents public gatherings (Health Officer Order). In lieu of a public gathering, the First 5 Contra Costa Children's & Families' Commission meeting will be accessible via Zoom Meeting to all members of the public as permitted by the Governor's Executive Order 29-20.

Members of the public may participate in the meeting online, or by telephone but MUST REGISTER in advance in order to do so.

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

John Jones for Marilyn Lucey opened and closed the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held on a web-based platform. The Chair introduced meeting protocols.

Commissioners present on roll call as follows:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernandez

District 3: Lee Ross for PJ Shelton

District 4: Gareth Ashley

District 5: John Jones

Board of Supervisors: Diane Burgis

EHSD: Kathy Gallagher

Children & Families Services: Kathy Marsh

Also present was Deputy Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Alternates present on roll call as follows:

District 4: Matt Regan

EHSD: Katharine Mason

Absent were: District 2 Marilyn Lucey, District 3 PJ Shelton, Health Services, Dr. Chris Farnitano, District 1 Alternate Genoveva Calloway, BOS Alternate Candace Andersen, Health Services Alternate Daniel Peddycord, and Children & Families Services Roslyn Gentry.

2.0 Public Comment

There were no comments from the members of the public via phone or online. There were no public written comments sent to the Communications manager's email.

3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

The chair asked to pull items 3.2.21 and 3.2.22 from the Contracts Docket for consideration under item 4.0 so that Commissioner John Jones may vote on the rest of the consent motion.



Motion to approve the consent calendar was made by Lee Ross and seconded by Kathy Gallagher.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1 Dr. Rocio Hernandez: Yes
District 3 Lee Ross for PJ Shelton: Yes
District 4 Gareth Ashley: Yes
District 5 John Jones: Yes
Board of Supervisor Diane Burgis: Yes
EHSD Kathy Gallagher: Yes
Children & Families Services Kathy Marsh: Yes

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Absent: District 2 Marilyn Lucey, District 3 PJ Shelton, Health Services, Dr. Chris Farnitano, District 1 Alternate Genoveva Calloway, BOS Alternate Candace Andersen, Health Services Alternate Daniel Peddycord, and Children & Families Services Roslyn Gentry.

By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board has APPROVED the consent items as presented.

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

John Jones left the meeting after he made a statement and recused himself during this item discussion.

Dr. Rocio Hernandez chaired, and asked the remaining voting members to consider pulled item 3.2.21 and 3.2.22.

Motion made by Gareth Ashley and seconded by Diane Burgis to approve items 3.2.21 and 3.2.22.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1 Dr. Rocio Hernandez: Yes
District 3 Lee Ross for PJ Shelton: Yes
District 4 Gareth Ashley: Yes
Board of Supervisor Diane Burgis: Yes
EHSD Kathy Gallagher: Yes
Children & Families Services Kathy Marsh: Yes

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Absent: District 2 Marilyn Lucey, District 3 PJ Shelton, District 5 John Jones, Health Services, Dr. Chris Farnitano, District 1 Alternate Genoveva Calloway, BOS Alternate Candace Andersen, Health Services Alternate Daniel Peddycord, and Children & Families Services Roslyn Gentry.

The motion was approved by a vote of 6 to 0.

John Jones returned to the meeting after the vote.

5.0 Presentation of the First 5 Contra Costa COVID-19 Response Efforts

Ruth Fernández, introduced the presentation on First 5 Contra Costa's COVID-19 Response Efforts with a PowerPoint presentation. The report began with the organization's protocol with shelter in place and staff response to continue engagements, services, resource delivery plans to contractors, data collection, community surveys, policy advocacy, and emergency supplies and resources distribution.

Brian Kelley, Communications Specialist provided a report on Parenting & COVID-19 Community Impact Survey currently in development in collaboration with Applied Survey Research (ASR) and First 5 staff. ASR will disseminate survey to over 300 families linked to First 5 services and an additional random sample of families with children ages 0-5 years across all three county regions. Survey expected to close July 2. A report of survey findings will follow mid-July.

Lisa Korb, Family Support Program Officer reported on a COVID-19 Grant award to First 5 Contra Costa courtesy of the California Family Resource Centers (CFRA) whose priority groups consist of Tribal families, foster families and First 5 Center families. Resources and supplies reached out to over 1000 eligible individuals.

Wanda Davis, Early Intervention Program officer shared efforts with the Child Care Community. First 5 CA released \$4 million in supplies and materials for child care providers and community needs. Materials include diapers, baby wipes, hand soap, books, and disinfectants. Material distribution to child care providers coordinated by CocoKids, the First 5 Contra Costa Quality Matters coaching team, and First 5 Staff.

Rhea Laughlin, Community Engagement officers reported on policy advocacy efforts specifically on eviction and rent-increase moratoriums lead by members of First 5 Regional Groups. Additionally, First 5 Contra Costa co-authored an Op Ed: "COVID-19 Further Accelerating Disparities in Housing, Income, and Race". On April 21, a cohort of five First 5 staff and First 5 Commission Chair, Marilyn Lucey participated in First 5 California Association's Virtual Advocacy Day by facilitation 6 legislative visits. On May 11, the First 5 Regional Groups participated in a Statewide Virtual Immigrant Day of Action.

Ruth Fernandez wrapped up the presentation by referencing the agency's statement released earlier "Together We Can Make a Change" in acknowledgement of the urgent call to stand against bigotry and structural-racism and First 5's continued commitment for systems change on behalf of young children and families. Reminded the board of First 5 Contra Costa's core organizational values of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Cultural Humility, and Community Partnership – and ongoing commitment to operationalize these values

After the presentation, Diane Burgis asked how the organization has been incorporating the Census messages to ensure that everyone is counted.

Rhea Laughlin informed that the various regional groups had been "phone-banking" during shelter-in-place and reaching out to undercounted families and the hard to reach communities making up to 3,000 calls to date. The regional groups are also shifting to voter registration and encourage the community to vote.

Gareth Ashley asked if the survey will include a category on Early Childhood Education be part of the survey?

Ruth Fernandez replied that there is a section on Child Needs that includes developmental needs, child-care concerns including social emotional matters, school readiness, and parents' concern of sending children back to child care and transitional kindergarten in the fall. The First 5 Association is also working with the State Commissions regarding Census outreach.

John Jones commented that Early Childhood Education is an item to consider for discussion on upcoming meetings, six months down the line on how the changes to children's schooling and child care



practices will shift in light of, the report from the State Superintendent Tony Thurman which provides guidance to returning to school. Superintendent outlines that schools can't have as many kids in the classroom. This poses some challenges.

6.0 Executive Director's Report

Legislative budget agreement reached last Wednesday. Both houses agreed on a package similar to what the Senate had previously approved. Extending trigger cuts to October 1, 2020 to see if federal funding materializes. While there are many notable aspects of the budget agreement, some of the highlights closely followed by First 5 Association are:

- a) ECE provider rates were not subject to trigger cuts. Proposal to cut reimbursement rates by 10% rejected. Child care reimbursement rates remain the same for child care contractors.
- b) An approval of \$30 million reduction to CalWorks Home Visiting Program. However, this includes language to ensure current case load is not affected, only future participation.
- c) Agreement reject \$4.5 million cut to Black Infant Health programs. Includes a \$42 million to extend the Earned Income Tax Credit and Young Child Tax Credit to ITIN filers.
- d) Agreement defers Nicotine-Based Tax. There were Vaping Tax discussions and how the tax revenue will be structured. Dialog includes if sales revenue would follow existing tax revenue disbursement structure that includes 14.8% to Prop 10 services. Ongoing conversation has been deferred to October.

Ruth gave the following staffing updates:

- a) Welcome Camilla Rand as new Deputy Director.

Status update provided about other key positions open: A candidate for the Communications Manager has been identified, search for a new Evaluation Analyst continues with hundreds of resumes received to date. The Early Childhood Education Program Officer position is open and currently reviewing applicant resumes.

- b) Finance and Operations Director search is being done through CPR Consulting. In the interim, a consulting firm is currently supporting the agency to keep up while search is going on.

Ruth also informed the Commission on the ACEs Aware Grant applied for in February - where First 5 Contra Costa was informed to be a finalist.

Ruth announced that the First 5 Association announced their new Executive Director, Melissa Stafford Jones previously Director of the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation

There were no questions from the panel.

There were no comments from the members of the public via phone or online.

There were no public written comments sent to the Communications manager's email.

7.0 Communications

- None Received.

8.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates

Dr. Cio Hernandez asked "where do we at First 5 Contra Costa" go to make decisions on what efforts to support when approached by other policy groups for support, causes and initiatives? Because First 5



Contra Costa is a public funded organization, she asked if there is protocol outlined and bounded by Prop 10?

John Jones mentioned that we have to maintain our mission to ensure we do not step out of that and referred to Ruth Fernandez as our default spokesperson is authorized to make final decisions.

Ruth Fernandez reminded that we need to always be grounded in our mission on the “Whole Child and Whole Family”, ensuring our children in the county are not left out, and issues of poverty and systemic oppression is always on the advocacy forefront of the organization. There is enough research that we cannot separate family wellness from child wellness. Young children depend on the adult community to provide for them and that includes house security, food security, education, and child care. We will always speak out through that lens.

Supervisor Diane Burgis reminds to put into consideration that COVID-19 is still a contagious disease while things are slowly opening up. Many changes happening will affect everyone’s mental health.

Supervisor Diane Burgis commented that collectively, our mental health aspect got pushed aside and how we need to be focusing on wellness more than ever. COVID-19 is still very contagious. And, while we are opening things up there is a lot of things happening in the county. We are going to see number of people who were receiving enhanced unemployment funds that could go away by the end of July. The county’s economic health, mental health, overall health are very fragile right now. What First 5 Contra Costa does is provide the support to people in need. I hope the Federal Government extend things further to assist.

Ruth thanked Supervisor for the reminder and words of caution on the pandemic. First 5 Contra Costa will continue to keep an eye on the data we are collecting and be strategic on how we share it and how we coordinate our efforts. Now more than ever our focus on systems change, coordinating efforts with county departments, and CBOs is critical.

Gareth Ashley also wanted to thank Dr. Chris Farnitano for helping the county health through this difficult situation. Please heed his advise.

Ruth gave a final update. In July, we will share more information regarding First 5 Contra Costa’s commitment to African American engagement. We did a Needs Assessment 3 years ago and we presented to you findings and recommendations. Also, we received a Leshner Grant 2 years ago to work on East County school readiness with a focus on African American young children living in East county. We will start the effort in Pittsburg. We have a team of staff working on the next phase, and will bringing other partners to the table. We want this to be a community-lead effort and want African American parents at the table as part of our design team.

9.0 Adjourn

John Jones thanked everyone.

The next standing meeting is on July 13, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.