



## Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 14, 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 and MUST REGISTER in advance in order to do so.*

### 1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair, Marilyn Cachola Lucey opened the meeting at 608 PM.

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

Commissioners present on roll call:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernández

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey

District 3: Lee Ross

District 4: Gareth Ashley

District 5: John Jones

Board of Supervisors: Diane Burgis

EHSD: Kathy Gallagher

Health Services: Dr. Chris Farnitano

Children & Families Services: Kathy Marsh

Also present was Deputy Counsel Keiko Kobayashi.

Alternates present on roll call:

District 1: Genoveva Garcia Calloway

District 4: Matt Regan

Absent were Alternates Daniel Peddycord and Roslyn Gentry.

### 2.0 Public Comment

Ruth Fernández informed that there is no AGENDA 7 for today.

There were no comments from the public.

### 3.0 Approval of Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

A motion was made by John Jones and seconded by Diane Burgis to approve the Consent Calendar.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernández - Aye

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey - Aye

District 3: Lee Ross - Aye



District 4: Gareth Ashley - Aye  
District 5: John Jones - Aye  
Board of Supervisors: Diane Burgis - Aye  
EHSD: Kathy Gallagher - Aye  
Health Services: Dr. Chris Farnitano - Aye  
Children & Families Services: Kathy Marsh - Aye

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
Absent: None

The Board unanimously **APPROVED** the consent items as presented.

**4.0 Presentation honoring First 5 Board of Commissioner PJ Shelton for 12 years of service and First 5 Alternate Board of Commissioner Katharine Mason for 9 years of service to the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission.**

The Commission thanked and recognized PJ Shelton for her over 12 years of service as the Commissioner for District 3.

The Commission thanked and recognized Katharine Mason for her 9 years of service as the Alternate Commissioner for EHSD (Employment & Human Services Department of Contra Costa County).

**5.0 Presentation honoring First 5 partner Odessa Caton for nine years of service at the First 5 Contra Costa Centers.**

The Commission as well as her former colleagues from ASPIRANET, thanked and recognized Odessa Caton for her 9 years of partnership with the First 5 Contra Costa Centers.

**6.0 Consider appointing the Nominating Committee for 2021 Officers' Election**

Executive Director, Dr. Ruth Fernández informed that she had approached some of our Alternate Commissioners to ask them if they wish to serve in the Nominating Committee for 2021 Officers' Election.

She announced that both Genoveva Calloway and Matt Regan accepted to serve.

Dr. Fernández also informed the Commissioners that any Commission member may serve on the Nominating Committee.

Gareth Ashley volunteered to serve.

Motion to appoint Genoveva Calloway, Matt Regan and Gareth Ashley to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2021 Officers' Election was made by Dr. Farnitano and seconded by Lee Ross.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernández - Aye  
District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey - Aye  
District 3: Lee Ross - Aye  
District 4: Gareth Ashley - Aye  
District 5: John Jones - Aye



Board of Supervisors: Diane Burgis - Aye  
EHSD: Kathy Gallagher - Aye  
Health Services: Dr. Chris Farnitano - Aye  
Children & Families Services: Kathy Marsh - Aye

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
Absent: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

**7.0 Consider endorsement of two Revenue Generation measures:**

**Contra Costa Sales Tax Measure X and State Prop. 15: Schools and Communities First**

The Executive Director gave the following report on background of Contra Costa Sales Tax Measure X and State Prop 15.

In previous meetings, the Commission had been informed of the First 5 Contra Costa's involvement on the Working Group of the local sales tax measure now called Measure X.

A staff report in the packet highlights the overwhelming disparity that exists in Contra Costa County and exacerbated by COVID-19.

The County proposed measure of a 0.5% sales tax increase would bring in potentially \$80 million annually to the county.

Additionally, the California November ballot also includes Proposition 15, a statewide ballot measure that would close corporate tax loopholes related to Proposition 13.3, that could raise an estimated \$12 billion annually for schools and local communities. (Also detailed information sheet in the packet under item 9.0).

Marilyn asked if the Board of Supervisors had endorsed Prop 15?

Supervisor Diane Burgis replied that Measure X is in the ballot and we do not know where it will be allocated if approved.

Dr. Fernández also added that included in the Commission packet was a County Memo indicating "support" for specific Ballot Measures, which included Prop. 15.

There were no additional questions from the panel.

There were no questions from emails and from the chat room.

A motion to endorse the two Revenue Generation measures was made by Gareth Ashley and seconded by Dr. Farnitano.

All in favor by roll call:

District 1: Dr. Rocio Hernández - Aye

District 2: Marilyn Cachola Lucey - Aye

District 3: Lee Ross - Aye  
District 4: Gareth Ashley - Aye  
District 5: John Jones - Aye  
Board of Supervisors: Diane Burgis - Aye  
EHSD: Kathy Gallagher - Aye  
Health Services: Dr. Chris Farnitano - Aye  
Children & Families Services: Kathy Marsh - Aye

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
Absent: None

Motion was **APPROVED**.

### **8.0 Presentation of the COVID-19 Survey Findings and Report**

Communications Manager, Natalie Blackmur and Communications Specialist, Brian Kelley gave a presentation of the COVID-19 Survey Findings and Report. The survey conducted on behalf of First 5 Contra Costa gathered important information on the needs of families with young children in the county and what parents identify as the supports that would be most beneficial in the COVID-19 era. (See packet item 10.0 for the complete details of this survey presentation).

The presentation followed a discussion based on the prompt introduced by First 5 staff: How do you see this data and First 5's role?

In addition to this prompt, the following questions were asked by the panel:

Marilyn asked what type of debt forgiveness that families asked for?

Natalie replied that no specifics were asked in the debt forgiveness.

Dr. Farnitano commented that 13% listed internet access is critical. At a time where remote schooling is essential, it is concerning that internet access is still problematic.

Genoveva Calloway informed that in West County, the available internet access is usually very weak and for families that have multiple children, it is very challenging.

John Jones commented that this survey was targeted towards young families' needs. Which explains why there were only 13% who listed internet access as a need. Had the survey include families with older children who are needing internet access for school, the percentage would be higher.

Supervisor Burgis said some school districts are helping out, some libraries have hotspots, some areas / buildings offer free internet access. She also commented that this data is very helpful and asked to made available to all.

A landing page is made available online for easy access for all:

<http://www.first5coco.org/covid-19-impact-survey/>

Genoveva Calloway asked related to cash assistance if we were able to differentiate families who were not qualified for unemployment benefits and stimulus checks? As cash assistance is most important to

those families without access to public assistance. Genoveva suggested that it would be important to outline access/eligibility differences to assist those who are without these benefits to rely upon. To be considered in future data collection.

Natalie informed that no, the survey did not have that differentiation.

Lee Ross asked if there was any feedback/follow-up information provided to the respondents related to resources to address their family needs.

Natalie informed that the survey has not been followed up to the respondents.

Marilyn asked if part of the advocacy work was to train groups with these data and let people know what we have found and identify the families who need the help the most. Who are these groups?

Natalie informs it that there is a working list right now on who should have access to these data. One of the groups targeted are funders and grant makers in the county. Also hope to reach out to the business community. And this data needs to get back to the community who provided the survey answers and get back to them on how their needs are being resolved.

Marilyn asked Natalie if her team would circle back to the Commission and provide us the update on the outcomes.

## **9.0 Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Ruth Fernández gave the following Executive Director's Report:

- a) First 5 Contra Costa welcomed new staff Tatiana Hill, Evaluation Analyst; Julie Elis, ACES Aware Grant Trauma and Resiliency Coordinator; Emily Hampshire, Masters Social Welfare Intern. We are actively reviewing applicants for Finance and Operations Director and ECE Program Officer.
- b) Update on the First 5 Contra Costa Remote Work Assessment – slide deck from Social Finance was included in the Commission packet with an overview of the Remote Work Analysis conducted for First 5s as discussions continue about the pros and cons of long-term remote work.
- c) Update on First 5 Association's Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Planning Committee. The recently formed REDI Planning Committee will be developing a RFP for consulting services to help guide and shape the Association's REDI work going forward. The planning committee will continue to provide leadership for the work by advising Melissa Stafford Jones and First 5 staff team on next steps.  
Ruth is excited to report that she is a member of the planning committee.
- d) Updates on ACES Aware grant first network convening September 18, 2020 with over 200 RSVP'd. Commissioners were invited.
- e) Ready Kids East County Initiative Update:  
The Ready Kids Design Team (composed of community leaders and parents) conducted an African American Parent Advisory focus group. In this group, parents were asked to consider the factors that they believe are critical in supporting their child's learning, what they feel they need

as a parent, and the hopes and dreams for their children. These are the key themes of their responses:

- Need for Respectful and Nurturing kindergarten environments
- Need for Communication and Relationship Building from teachers and school district
- Need for Concrete resources

The Design team has been busy meeting and planning the different logistics and elements required curating a culturally relevant and family centered virtual café. Dates and times for the virtual bi-weekly Parent Cafes in November and December were going to be voted on this week.

- f) **County Initiatives and Policy Advocacy:** Ongoing dialogue & collaboration with county coalitions and work groups to continue to examine data on the impact COVID-19 for families and emerging needs in the community.

- g) **First 5 Network Updates:** First 5 Association's REDI Planning Committee, Master Plan on the QRIS Letter, and Cal HOPE Program Survey reports

*Master Plan QRIS Letter*

First 5 California recently held a meeting that brought together the authors—California R&R Network, Parent Voices, and the Child Care Law Center-- of the recent letter to state leaders pointing to the racism and racial inequity in QRIS. Colleagues from CDE and CDSS, as well as First 5 California and First 5 Association, also participated in the call.

It was recognized that this meeting was a first conversation. First 5 California is in dialogue with the R&R Network and other partners about next steps for ongoing listening and dialogue, including how to meaningfully engage parents and providers.

The Contra Costa Quality Matters Consortium also discussed the letter and will continue dialogue looking at QRIS and racial equity at the local level and ways to increase involvement of parents and providers.

*Cal HOPE Survey*

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) received a grant from FEMA to establish the Cal HOPE program. CalHOPE provides an array of supports to help alleviate frustrations, stress, and worry to prevent people from needing more intensive interventions to address their challenges.

DHCS requested First 5 California's assistance to identify First 5-supported activities that promote parent and family mental health and wellbeing. Local First 5 Commissions will be asked to complete the survey to inform resources for the CalHOPE program.

- h) **Legislative Updates:** included several bills that are currently on the Governor's desk and support letters have been submitted on behalf of the First 5 commissions, urging the Governor to sign the measures. The Governor has until September 30th to sign or veto bills. Bills reported on included: AB 2164 (Rivas & Salas), AB 2360 Telehealth: mental health, AB 2405(Burke) Right to safe, decent and affordable housing, and SB 1383 (Jackson) Extends job protection under the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) for employees who take leave to care for themselves, a new child, or an ill loved one. Regarding the Nicotine Based Vaping Tax - this bill was stalled for this legislative session therefore currently no vote.



John Jones commented that his agency (CocoKids.org) is also looking at remote work practices and using similar strategies as First 5. He shared First 5's Remote Work Analysis slide deck with his team.

Gareth Ashely gave an observation as a manager that the plan to setting parameters and balancing work life with the remote work assessment were also relevant in his work place and commented on how it is vital for the morale of employees.

Matt who was part of the family leave task force of the governor also added that SB1383 was a 12-month process, the work of the First 5 Commission was valuable to get the bill in front of the Governor but was riddled by opposing businesses.

**10.0 Communications**

Marilyn wanted to thank the staff for including the article on how to talk to the youngest about race. Full article included under communications.

Ruth Fernández highlighted the attachments under communications that includes updates on the Legislative Tracker, some of the letters we had sent including the joint Budget and Vape Tax letter as well as other letters of support for SB 1383, and the QRIS Master plan.

All these can be found in the packet under item 10.0

**11.0 Commissioner F.Y.I. Updates**

There were no Commissioner updates given.

**12.0 Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.