

**FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

October 25, 2017 (Approved December 6, 2017)

**Current Commissioners Present**

Bruce Gibson (Chair)	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D. (Vice Chair)	SLO County Public Health Department
James Brescia	SLO County Office of Education
Devin Drake	Department of Social Services
James Forester, DDS	Medical Representative (Central Coast Dental Society)
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Tracy Schiro	Children's Services Network

**Commissioners Absent/Excused**

Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
Bob Watt	Community at Large

**Staff Present**

First 5 staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood, Ana Plasencia  
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer  
Commission Counsel: Natalie Frye-Laacke

**Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

**ITEM 1 –Chair Comments**

Commissioner Gibson welcomed Natalie Frye-Laacke as legal counsel for the meeting in Ray Biering's absence.

He announced that following the December 6 Commission meeting a Hands-on Heroes 2017 reception will be held at Rancho El Chorro.

Commissioner Gibson spotlighted that the County Teacher of the Year is Fiona Lloyd-Moffett. He attended an event honoring her, heard Ms. Moffett speak with passion about her work as an early childhood educator at Baywood Elementary School. Commissioners added signatures to a card of congratulations to be sent to Ms. Moffett.

## **ITEM 2 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates**

Commissioner Drake attended the recent California Welfare Directors Association conference and was at a breakout session on the local ASPEN initiative to partner with school districts in recruiting resource families. It was an impressive presentation, and put SLO County in the spotlight for its innovative work to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

Commissioner Brescia, people commented on SLO County's strong track record with multi-agency collaboration, a feature he has repeatedly heard mentioned at state meetings.

Commissioner Borenstein reminded all to be vigilant around the Halloween holiday to be sure little ones are safe trick or treating and to monitor candy intake.

## **ITEM 3 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda**

Cynthia Fletcher, Department of Social Services, gave an update on foster home recruitment. More families are coming on board for Options for Recovery homes; the ASPEN program is also moving forward – an initiative to recruit resource families in partnership with school districts. The program is planning to begin working more with Head Start. There is a need for families to provide homes for teens and children needing specialized care. Resource Family Approval now includes more training and assessments for homes.

Commissioner Gibson praised the Resource Family Approval process work to streamline the process of adoption.

Commissioner Schiro underscored the importance of the work and progress that has been made.

## **ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of the September 27, 2017 Minutes
- b. Approval of Q1 2017-18 Financials

Wendy Wendt noted a minor typo in the draft minutes. The first name of the SLO County Teacher of the Year is Fiona Lloyd-Moffett, not Stephanie Lloyd-Moffett.

*Public Comment: None*

Commissioner Brescia made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction to the Minutes noted above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

## **ITEM 5 (ACTION ITEM) – Public Hearing: Commission Review and Approval of FY2016-17 Annual Report to First 5 California**

Mr. Wells outlined programmatic and fiscal data to be submitted to First 5 CA by October 31, 2017 in compliance with State Annual Report requirements.

Mr. Wells explained that the Annual Report is a consolidation of data received from funded partners. These data generally track demographics contacts with children and families in “Result Area” categories established by First 5 CA – Improved Family Functioning, Improved Child Health, and Improved Systems Change. Total number of individual contacts (children, families, providers) was approximately 10,000

Commissioner Gibson commented on the high number of vision screenings performed in comparison to dental screenings. Ms. Wendt surmised that the disparity is largely due to more time required for a dental screening than a vision screening. It was also noted that the high percentage of Spanish language speakers (37%) is reflective of the county’s Spanish-speaking child population in the county (higher than overall Spanish-speaking population). Commissioners inquired what demographics are part of the Annual Report data set. Mr. Wells responded that the state requires language and ethnicity, not income.

Ms. Wendt commented that First 5 is proud to be able to reach as many children and families as it does with its annual investment in early childhood programs and services, including Kits for New Parents. *Public Comment: None*

Commissioner Schiro made a motion to approve First 5 SLO County’s FY2016-17 State Annual Report submission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borenstein and passed unanimously.

#### **ITEM 6 (ACTION ITEM) -- Approval of Family Support Services Contract with Joan Fusco, LCSW**

Mr. Wells introduced this item which was first presented at the September 2017 Commission meeting as an information item. The only change from the original contract draft is an additional \$150 to accommodate materials and travel.

*Public Comment: None*

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve a Family Support Services contract with Joan Fusco, LCSW for \$50,150 over the period November 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Drake and passed unanimously.

#### **ITEM 7 – Funded Partner Presentations**

Jason Wells introduced partner presentations by Nancy Norton (SLOCOE – CSPP/First 5 preschools) and Janelle Merzon (Public Health – Baby’s First Breath)

Nancy Norton presented enrollment figures for CSPP/First 5 Preschools across the county, which at 182 (33 funded through First 5) are only 8 under-capacity. The recent change in the First 5 funding pattern has significantly improved the program’s ability to maximize enrollment countywide. CSPP funds cover families who meet the income requirement, and First 5 funds

enable additional families over the income threshold to also enroll where space is available. SLO County Office of Education has been tracking the range of over-income families, which is between \$300 and \$2000 over gross-income guidelines. Commissioner Brescia explained a long-term goal of combining this program with fee-based programs to allow for more integration of children from families at multiple income levels.

Ms. Norton explained a goal to reach full capacity, in part by working with Head Start in north county where that program has waiting lists and CSPP has open spaces. She also pointed out that there are areas of the county with limited or no access to the program, such as Shandon.

*Public Comment: NONE*

Janelle Merzon, health education specialist and Inger Appanaitis, program manager with County Public Health, provided an overview on Baby's First Breath. An expanded workforce within the Tobacco Control program is allowing Janelle to focus more attention on Baby's First Breath.

Overall, Tobacco Control is responsible for promoting healthy retail environments, supporting tobacco free school campuses, encouraging students to participate in tobacco free activities, and engaging community members in Tobacco Control Coalition. They offer tobacco cessation programs, and free free Nicotine Replacement Therapy. First 5-funded Baby's First Breath cessation programs are similar to the general population, with a focus on pregnant and newly parenting individuals and including a combination of group and one-on-one counseling. 80 people can participate in a year, the quitting rate is at 25%, confirmed. Follow up is difficult, however the quitting percentage is probably higher. E-cigarettes pose a new challenge, are particularly popular among youth. Three of four women Ms. Merzon currently counsels are using e-cigarettes.

Commissioner Forester inquired about referral methods. Ms. Merzon responded a variety of sources, including medical providers, and the Perinatal Extended Outpatient Group (POEG) program at County Drug and Alcohol.

Commissioner Borenstein praised the new regional airport for making the facility completely smoke/tobacco free.

Commissioner Drake asked for clarification on the 25% estimated quit rate. Commissioner Borenstein explained that absent program intervention, quitting rates for the new parent population is 18-20%, so 25% is significant.

*Public Comment: NONE*

## **ITEM 8 – Staff Updates**

Misty Livengood provided a summary of First 5 activities in the last month.

- Ms. Livengood and Mr. Wells will attend the First 5 staff Summit in Asilomar in November.
- First 5 SLO County is in the process of updating our website, logo, and photo library.
- Care Cope Connect booklets continue being distributed. Sesame Street has also expanded their resources for families coping with stress and trauma; this is an excellent site to access for families who need this information.
- This weekend in Morro Bay is the Latino Health Coalition's recurring Resource Fair.
- First 5 SLO County was a sponsor of two recent events:

- the Asset Development Network Conference, attended by 85 people on the subject of Assets and Trauma-Informed Practice.
- Breast Feeding Coalition Milk Drive. 1,200 ounces of breastmilk were donated by 13 women. This drive is important because it provides milk to the San Jose Milk Bank which serves NICU's all over the western United States, including Sierra Vista.
- First 5 and Talk.Read.Sing. were the theme of a Women's Shelter booth at a staff resource fair at the California Men's Colony.
- Ms. Wendt plans to attend the Maternal Mental Health Symposium at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center on November 6.
- Paula Lewis is the October Hands-on Hero. She is a retired teacher in Atascadero who mentors a young teen through Big Brothers Big Sisters of SLO County. Annie Storrs, a youth volunteer, has been nominated by the United Way Youth Board as the November Hands-on Hero.
- A celebration of all 2017 Hands-on Heroes will be held Dec. 6th following the Commission meeting.

*Public Comment: NONE*

### **ITEM 9 – Help Me Grow Update**

Wendy Wendt and Health Access Trainer Becca Carsel presented on progress toward launching a Help Me Grow (HMG) in San Luis Obispo County.

They provided a brief refresher overview on HMG as a system-alignment framework uses existing system resources to help families track and address developmental issues early in life.

Ms. Carsel introduced the CDC Milestone Moments booklet and the recently released CDC Milestone Tracker app.

Concrete steps taken to build HMG locally include several stakeholder meetings in recent months, launch of two work groups (one on health provider outreach and one on a centralized access point), connection to the statewide HMG Network, and research on potential sources of funding to support the project.

Discussion:

Commissioner Gibson commented that there is the clear need for staff person who is dedicated to moving this work forward.

Commissioner Murphy encouraged staff to include CDC Milestone Moments booklets in the New Parents Kits. Linking parents to the app is also important so they can be up-to-date with their child's development.

Ms. Wendt agreed with Commissioner Gibson that the project needs to identify an organization/person to shoulder the bulk of the coordination for at least this launch period. It may not be permanent, but it is needed.

Commissioner Forester expressed hope that the Oral Health Coalition can be involved with HMG.

Ms. Wendt elaborated on the concept of a Centralized Access point. This access point would have live response and on-my-own-time response. We would find ways to maximize access for everyone in the community. The person who answers the phone would be able to customize information, and on the web too. We would also be able to track what happened to the family who accessed it. It also must be available in multiple languages. There would be focus on parenting education, to help parents to be better informed.

Still to be determined: What is the best centralized access point model? The work group is providing input on next steps.

Overall issues for our consideration:

- How might First 5's allocation for developmental screening be used in the context of Help Me Grow?
- Where best to house the overarching coordination function for HMG?

Commissioner Gibson comment that this initiative appears to have a good organizing framework. As to allocation, we look to the strategic plan and sustainability. Whatever we put into this, is expected to prove to be a good idea and it is expected to stick around.

Commissioner Borenstein articulated that this work is central to the First 5 mission. First 5 has the respect and neutrality within our community. She recommended funding a full-time person at First 5, for a year at least to launch this program.

Commissioner Schiro clarified the difference between the coordinating function, which could potentially start at First 5, versus the actual work of the of the program; which agency oversees the Centralized Access Point, for example? We are such a collaborative county, we need a coordinator of efforts that could actually be at First 5.

Ms. Wendt summed up by pointing out that the community is ready to launch something. There is energy to start soon, or to build on something preexisting. But, regarding the Centralized Access Point in particular we have been advised not to rush it by those in other counties who have already launched a HMG system. There is support for a Centralized Access Point, but it is the most important and the most complicated component to design effectively.

#### **ITEM 10**

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.