

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
October 28, 2015 (Approved December 9, 2015)

**Current Commissioners Present**

Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health Department
James Brescia	SLO County Office of Education
Lee Collins	Department of Social Services
James Forester, DDS	Medical Representative (Central Coast Dental Society)
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Tracy Schiro	Children's Services Network
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
Bob Watt	Community at Large

**Commissioners Absent/Excused -- None**

**Staff Present**

First 5 staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood  
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer  
Commission Counsel: Ray Biering

**Guest:** Robert Crosby, CPA, Crosby Company (External Auditor)

**Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

**ITEM 1 – Chair Comments**

Chairman Gibson introduced Legal Counsel Ray Biering to provide an update on the annual Executive Director Performance Review. All Commissioners, staff and select funded partners will be sent an evaluation feedback form to complete in the next two-three weeks. The Executive Director will also submit a self-evaluation report with goals for the coming year. Mr. Biering and Mr. Gibson will present summary findings during a closed session at the December Commission meeting.

**ITEM 2 - Public Comment**

Dr. Stephen Hansen (internist and former First 5 SLO County Commissioner) spoke on the topic of climate change, “the biggest existential crisis of our age, far greater than tobacco.” He pointed out that all strata of society will be affected, and all parts of the planet. Climate change is destined to reap dramatic effects on food/water security, disease patterns, animal/human survival. People interested in public health should join in global advocacy to put pressure on fossil fuel producers. Dr. Hansen encouraged First 5 to include language regarding advocacy and public education on climate change in its strategic plan.

Cortney Wagner, Program Supervisor at Martha’s Place Children’s Assessment Center provided an update on work at the Center during 2015. Between Jan – Sept. 2015, Martha’s Place received a total of 170 referrals, 62 coming from Child Welfare Services. Other referral sources were family members, doctors and childcare providers, an indicator that the word is getting out about Martha’s Place services. 100 children received initial pediatric evaluations; 105 were provided re-evaluations; 61 children were assigned to a medical management plan. Mental health therapists provided 107 intakes. The mental health team also provided ongoing therapy services. Ms. Wagner commented that on the mental health side, staff are able to conduct intake assessments in a timely manner (MediCal standard of 14 days). However, while the mental health team is currently well-staffed, the medical side of the house is under-capacity relative to demand. There is a one-two month lag getting in to see the pediatrician.

During summer 2015, Martha’s Place was the subject of an outcome evaluation project conducted by Cal Poly students and faculty. Following are some of the highlights of the study:

- 69% of referrals to Martha’s Place were children under 3 years old. This is a specialized population whom most outside mental health providers are not comfortable serving.
- 42% of referred children had known or suspected exposure to a substance.
- 45% of referred children were from North County, 25% South County, 19% from SLO, 10% from Coast. These figures indicate a high need in North County. Transportation is often a key barrier to services, especially ongoing treatment. As a result, Martha’s Place is referring out for ongoing treatment to North County providers.

Question (Schiro) – DSS and Martha’s Place need to work together with families to get them in for the initial mental health assessment within the 14 day period, even if it is not possible to schedule the pediatric assessment on the same day.

Question (Commissioner Sokolowski) – What North County clinics specialize with this population? Answer -- Primarily Kinship Center, though they mostly serve 4-5 year olds. There are also a couple of private providers in North County equipped to work with the younger children 3 years and under.

Question (Commissioner Borenstein) – With appointment backlog to see the pediatrician, is it possible to conduct a “surge” and catch up, after which the case backlog will not continue to be an issue? Answer – Dr. Abdul-Cader is maxed out at 20-25 hours per week. County administration is looking at other ways to expand pediatric medical capacity.

Mary Bianchi spoke as a member of Friends of Martha's Place. She emphasized that it serves as a portal to services with a multi-disciplinary team that is critical to what makes it effective. Martha's Place has identified two major and important staffing needs: 1) increased pediatric hours. 2) Case management for families that includes a warm welcome, referrals and follow-up. The P5 Children's Advocacy Network has been talking about the importance of Martha's Place in the continuum of supports to optimize early childhood development for all. She urged Commissioners to consider Martha's Place needs in its strategic planning discussion.

Marci Tarpley introduced herself as a member of the Central Coast Breastfeeding Coalition (CCBC), a group of professionals and parents in the birthing/home birthing community. CCBC has recently partnered up with the Center for Family Strengthening to serve as its fiscal agent. The Coalition is present at many local events. First 5 serves a population that CCBC cares deeply about. The website is: [www.centralcoastbreastfeeding.com](http://www.centralcoastbreastfeeding.com).

### **ITEM 3 - Consent Agenda**

- a) *Approve August 26, 2015 minutes*
- b) *Approve Contract Amendment – Early Learning for All (SLO County Office of Education)*

*Public Comment: None*

Program Officer Jason Wells noted a minor typo on the draft Contract Amendment that was distributed in advance of the meeting.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction to the ELFA Contract Amendment as noted by Mr. Wells. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brescia and passed unanimously.

### **ITEM 4 – Staff Reports**

Staff updated the Commission on various projects and information regarding First 5 SLO County.

Ms. Livengood

- SLO Chamber Ribbon Cutting: December 15, 4:30 p.m. at First 5 SLO County offices
- Hands-on Heroes Dinner: April 19, 2016 (Nominations open December 7, 2015)
- Raising of America: Five screenings co-sponsored with Center for Family Strengthening and County Public Libraries, during October and November

Ms. Wendt

- IMPACT Program: Application in progress with Quality Consortium members
- FY15-16 Quarter 1 Financial Report: To be submitted for approval at December 2015 Commission meeting

*Public Comment: NONE*

### **ITEM 5 – Commission Review & Approval: FY 2014-15 Annual Audit**

Wendy Wendt gave a brief overview of the audit results, including a comparison of last year and current year revenue/expense and information regarding GASB 68 requirements. Ms. Wendt then introduced Bob Crosby, Crosby & Company, to provide additional comments and answer questions from the Commission.

Mr. Crosby thanked First 5 staff members for their assistance. He reported the audit was clean, with no adverse findings. He also indicated that his office continues to stay current with GASB changes each year. He found no material weaknesses in internal controls.

Commissioner Collins noted a minor typo in the draft document related to Commissioner term dates. Mr. Crosby made note and committed to make the correction on the final document.

*Public Comment: None*

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve the 2014-5 annual audit as amended with date corrections noted above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watt and passed unanimously.

### **ITEM 6 – Commission Review & Approval: FY 2014-15 State Annual Report to First 5 CA**

Jason Wells, First 5 Program Officer, presented the information First 5 San Luis Obispo County will be submitting to the State for the annual report. He indicated that the numbers are duplicated and are not program related but are focus area related.

The report will be submitted to First 5 California following Commission approval by the October 31, 2015 deadline. Sections of the report include:

- 1) County Revenue and Expenditure Summary (AR-1): This section reports how funding was allocated to the four result areas: 1. Improved Family Functioning, 2. Improved Child Development, 3. Improved Health, 4. Improved Systems of Care, and matches the audit as required
- 2) County Demographic Worksheet (AR-2): The purpose of the County Demographic Worksheet (AR-2) is to capture service, outcome and demographic data about the population county commission programs serve.
- 3) County Evaluation Summary (AR-3): This section provides a standardized format for county commissions to submit information about their evaluation activities and their final Local Evaluation Reports.

In addition, each county submits county highlights to First 5 CA, which will be included in the state report.

*Public Comment: NONE*

Commissioner Brescia made a motion to approve the FY2014-15 State Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

## **ITEM 7 – Strategic Planning Discussion**

Wendy Wendt and Jason Wells introduced the strategic planning discussion with an update on Plan Design timeline, and an outline for a potential program funding mix that aligns with four strategic Priority Areas: Perinatal Readiness, Child Health, Early Learning and Development, and Family Strengthening. The Priority Areas and program funding mix concepts have emerged out of strategic planning discussions at the past several Commission meetings, community stakeholder interviews, and Commissioner work groups focused on each of the Priority Areas.

Commissioner Discussion (note: individual comments are paraphrased)

Commissioner Murphy: What themes are we missing? Answers: The disproportionate effect of poverty on early childhood; the evolving impact of climate change.

Commissioner Gibson: In the Child Health Priority Area, perhaps First 5's legacy is to ensure a fully-developed system to screen children who need our attention, so that no one with potential need falls through the cracks.

Commissioner Forester: The challenge in this idea is when treatment/interventions are not readily available after a child has been screened. By way of example, local capacity to treat young children with oral health needs is limited. Tolosa Children's Dental Center is taking no new patients. Community Health Centers has a lengthy waiting list for new patients.

Commissioner Sokolowski – Developmental screening as measured in the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is a practice that many providers use, but not across the board. We could be doing a better job at a more universal application of this tool, and could facilitate embed ASQ screening within existing networks.

Commissioner Borenstein – In the areas of home visiting and developmental screening, perhaps First 5 has a role to play as a clearing house and/or community convener to study the question of what it would take to increase home visiting supports in our county, and to align capacity on early developmental screening.

Commissioner Brescia – I agree in principle, but I feel that we would need First 5 to leverage and partner with other entities. I am not sure that First 5 is appropriate as a base of information on home visiting and developmental screening. But First 5 could be the driver of a community process to calibrate efforts. In both cases, it seems our community is investing, but not in a calibrated way.

Comissioner Gibson --- Could we scale back on the Oral Health Coordinator contract and take on new catalyzing initiative?

Commissioner Schiro – I don't see we have the staff to do that at First 5 at this time.

Commissioner Collins – Convenings bring about good energy on topics of broad interest.

Commissioner Gibson – We need to set an agenda around First 5's role on building capacity in Developmental Milestones and Home Visiting.

Commissioner Borenstein – It is important as part of this strategic plan to work with contracted providers on sustainability, and incorporate "milestones to independence" into expectations within contracts. We need to look for ways that the community can absorb the work that is seed-funded by First 5.

*Public Comment: NONE*

Staff will bring incorporate Commissioner comments into a proposed action item confirming Priority Areas and program funding mix.

Ms. Wendt commented that father involvement and father-friendly policies is a key theme across all Priority Areas and will be incorporated into future contract language/scopes of work.

## **ITEM 8 -- Commissioner Comments and Announcements**

**Commissioner Brescia:** SLO County Office of Education is currently in discussion with the CA Department of Education to possibly become the regional operator for migrant education (currently under the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara County Office of Education).

**Commissioner Sokolowski:** CAPSLO has recently been awarded a five-year Father Involvement contract with Santa Cruz County, representing the central region of California.

**Commissioner Collins –** The County's Housing Support Program has successfully secured permanent housing for 120 families who were formerly homeless/low-income. The State has awarded us another \$500,000 to continue the work in the coming year.

## **ITEM 9 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.