

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

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2017 (Approved January 24, 2018)

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
James Forester, DDS	Medical Representative (Central Coast Dental Society)
Janet Murphy	Community at Large
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
Bob Watt	Community at Large

Commissioners Absent/Excused

Devin Drake	Department of Social Services
Tracy Schiro	Children's Services Network

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 3:11 PM.

ITEM 1 –Chair Comments

Chairman Gibson reminded Commissioners that the meeting would be concluding early so that Commissioners and staff could join the Hands-on Heroes Year-End Celebration at Rancho El Chorro Conference Center.

ITEM 2 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates

Commissioner Borenstein announced that the Public Health Department is recruiting for a new Oral Health Program Manager. She also updated the Commission on two funding awards coming to the county for capacity building in oral health services—1) a Dental Transformation Initiative grant and 2) Proposition 56 funds.

Commissioner Brescia provided a summary of progress at the Governor's office related to building the Early Childhood Education workforce statewide. He will be meeting with legislative staff in January 2018 on this issue.

ITEM 3 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

Felipe Gonzalez from DSS gave an update on resource family recruitment activities. He highlighted the Options for Recovery program and interest by potential resource families. He also reported on a December 2 Resource Family party attended by 80 families and children. An informational meeting about the Resource Family opportunity will be held on December 11 from 6-8 p.m., and is open to the public.

ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the October 25, 2017 Minutes

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brescia and passed unanimously.

ITEM 5 First 5 at 20 Years

Jason Wells and Misty Livengood presented on the recent First 5 Association Staff summit and the concept of a statewide Network.

The Network Strategy is built around six core areas: Communications, Advocacy, Collaboration, Skill Building, Innovation and Learning.

Staff outlined state- and local-level plans to mark the 20-Year Anniversary of First 5. Ms. Livengood highlighted the following key points:

- From a collective standpoint, how do we unify our voice?
- Same message, many times, multiple platforms.
- May 2 is First 5 Advocacy Day in Sacramento, includes Legislative Visits and "Family Fun Day."
- It will be important throughout the anniversary year to both celebrate success, but also place gravitas on what is left to be done.
- The First 5 Association has hired a new Communications Director.
- The First 5 Association and First 5 California have also produced toolkits with materials to facilitate hosting of local Town Halls.
- In addition to local and state events, we will be looking for Regional Collaboration opportunities, especially with First 5 Santa Barbara County.

Public Comment: None

ITEM 6 First 5 Advocacy Agenda

Executive Director Wendy Wendt presented a summary of the 2017 Advocacy Agenda and progress made during the past year. She also announced a plan to update the Agenda for 2018 and present it to Commissioners for consideration and approval at the January 2018 meeting.

Commissioner Watt urged that sustainability be a theme within all First 5 work, including advocacy.

Commissioner Gibson commented that it is good to continue identifying and working on two advocacy goals for each priority area; and to start small. He also questioned how we can measure success of our advocacy efforts? He pointed out that 2017 has been a year to set groundwork, initiate conversation. Now 2018 challenges us to “step it up a notch.”

Public Comment:

ITEM 7 – Parent Peer Support Program RFP

Associate Director Jason Wells presented a summary of the proposal submitted by the United Way of San Luis Obispo County to offer a Born Learning Academy as a “Parent Peer Support Program” at Pacheco Elementary School.

Mr. Wells’ presentation included several concerns expressed by the proposal review committee and echoed by staff – e.g. limited focus on parent *peer* support and instead emphasis on learning outcomes for children; implied focus on older children (the RFP was clear in its focus on 0-3); monthly meeting times seemed too spread out to encourage community-building.

Commissioner Murphy commented on the United Way’s longstanding work with the Born Learning theme. She recollected the Born Learning Trails that were brought to our community several years ago; she expressed confidence that the staff and partnering faculty at Pacheco would be able to modify the program model to address stated concerns.

Mr. Wells clarified that this would be the first time a Born Learning Academy is launched in California.

Commissioner Watt asked if the Born Learning classes could be stand-alone? United Way staffer Rachel Cementina responded that they can be.

Commissioner Watt also clarified that it will be important that this program services our age demographic. Its placement at a school seems like it would be geared to school-aged children, and it might be challenging to recruit families with children aged 0-3.

Ms. Cementina explained that the program will be offered to Spanish speaking families who are just having children, with the goal to help them establish an early connection to a school.

United Way is interested in placing the program at Pacheco because anyone who lives in the San Luis Coastal District territory might send their kids to Pacheco.

United Way Executive Director Rick London commented that United Way has long been involved with early childhood programming and advocacy. In 1989 United Way started Success by Six. Born Learning Academies have been launched in several states and also in South America. He pointed out that United Way and First 5 can reinforce each others' work.

Commissioner Watt supported the concept of starting with a focus on a Spanish speaking group.

Commissioner Sokolowski asked if Born Learning is evidence-based. Mr. Wells responded that the RFP allowed for programs that are considering "promising practices." Mr. London asserted that The Born Learning Academy curriculum is evidence-based.

He also confirmed that there is some flexibility in the curriculum, while adhering to core principles.

Commissioner Gibson commented that in general the proposal sounds like a good opportunity, and the budget is reasonable. He proposed setting up a probationary phase to determine if the program could be successfully implemented with the modifications being proposed.

Commissioners agreed to give staff direction to work through challenges/issues with the United Way, and bring back for a January review and vote.

ITEM 8 – Election of Officers for 2018

Commissioner Brescia made a motion to approve Bruce Gibson as Chair and Penny Borenstein as Vice Chair for the Calendar Year 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

Public Comment: NONE

ITEM 9 – Staff Updates

Staff updates were tabled due to time constraints.

ITEM 10 – Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.