

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
December 7, 2016 (Approved January 25, 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
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

**Staff Present**

Commission Staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood  
Commission Evaluator: Tom Keifer  
Commission Counsel: Ray Biering

**Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

**ITEM 1 – Chair Comments**

Commission Chair Gibson acknowledged that this is Commissioner Collins' last First 5 meeting before retiring from his position as Director of Department of Social Services.

He also reported on First 5 staff public comment at the December 7 SLO Council of Governments meeting to thank Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian for his years of service with both First 5 and the CA State Assembly.

**ITEM 2 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates**

Commissioner Watt announced early departure from the meeting due to a work obligation.

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

Joel Diring (First 5 Health Access Training Project) commented that he recently met with former Commission Chair Julian Crocker, who sends his regards to the Commission.

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

- a. Approval of the October 26, 2016 Minutes
- b. Approval of Administrative Assistant Job Description

*Public Comment: None*

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

**ITEM 5 (ACTION ITEM) – Election of Officers for 2017**

*Public Comment:*

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve Commissioner Bruce Gibson as Chair and Commissioner Penny Borenstein as Vice Chair for the Calendar Year 2017. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schiro and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 6 (ACTION ITEM) – Commission Review and Approval of the 2017 Advocacy Agenda as an Attachment to the 2016-20 Strategic Plan.**

Ms. Wendt introduced the Advocacy Agenda draft. Discussion ensued.

Some Commissioners were concerned with the normative “should” language. Others felt that the strong tone is appropriate in an advocacy document. It was suggested to include a recognition of good work already being done in the community.

Several edits were suggested and documented by staff for the final draft.

*Public Comment: Joel Diringer, Health Access Training Project, suggested a word change.*

Commissioner Brescia made a motion to approve the 2017 Advocacy Agenda with minor edits. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watt and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 7 – Advocacy in Action: Commissioner Discussion on Engagement in Advocacy Agenda Activities**

Ms. Wendt introduced the concept of individual Commissioners serving as “Advocacy Champions” for specific goal areas.

Commissioner Gibson offered to serve as a “Generalist” and to connect local First 5 advocacy work with the state legislative agenda.

Additional Commissioners self-assigned as follows:

Family Leave – Incoming Commissioner Drake (proposed by present Commissioners)

Early Parent Education/Support – Commissioners Sokolowski, Murphy

Developmental Milestones – Commissioner Borenstein

Access in Oral Health – Commissioners Forester, Borenstein

Parent as First 5 Teacher – Commissioners Murphy, Watt

Quality and Affordability ECE – Commissioners Brescia, Sokolowski

Homes – Commissioner Schiro

Family Friendly Workplace – Commissioner Watt

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Joel Diringer, Health Access Training Project, suggested using the following outcome goals for the year:

- At least one Action on a Policy Level
- At least one Action on a Community Engagement Level
- At least one op-ed letter on a particular piece of legislation related to each of the goals

#### **DELAYED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Borenstein announced the launch of a Perinatal Mood Anxiety Disorders system alignment project being managed out of the Public Health Department's Maternal Child Adolescent Health Program.

Commissioner Forester gave an update on the Oral Health Coalition and status of the Dental Transformation Initiative grant proposal submitted through the Public Health Department. He also announced that he has finished his term as Dental Society President. Andy Van Sickland is the incoming President. Commissioner Forester has also attended a meeting of the Slingshot Initiative through the Workforce Development Board to look at workforce capacity in the health professions. A particular focus in pediatric dentistry is on Registered Dental Assistants. This is a critical position in a pediatric dental practice, yet demand for SLO County RDAs outstrips supply. Commissioner Brescia offered to trouble shoot and possibly connect Career Technical Education efforts with workforce development for Dental Assistants.

#### **ITEM 8 -- Staff Reports**

Staff and Commissioners summarized their experiences at the recent First 5 state Summit – Jason Wells attended sessions related to early literacy; Wendy Wendt focused on sessions related to state level advocacy; Misty Livengood attended sessions on messaging and Talk Read Sing; Commissioner Sokolowski went to “big picture” sessions and home visiting sessions.

[look at the rest of the ppt]

Wendy Wendt, Commissioners and staff paid tribute to outgoing Commissioner Collins with a “Talk. Read. Sing!” theme that including a bag of children's books and a sing along led by First 5 Counsel Ray Biering.

Collins offered farewell comments. He has always believed that his role in children's welfare has been to "protect the least of us from the greatest of us. It takes courage by elected officials to vote on behalf of children who don't have a vote."

His answer to "What will you do now?" -- Travel. Write a children's book for his grandkids.

Commissioner Gibson closed with the following comment: "I am in awe of the job you do. You sit close to the human condition at its least beautiful. You've always brought that energy and passion to this piece of the work as well."

*Public Comment: NONE*

**ITEM 9 --- Closed Session pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b)(1), to consider Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Executive Director.**

First 5 Counsel Ray Biering summarized closed session outcome: Commissioners (8 members present, one absent) discussed the Executive Director's evaluation with unanimous consensus on her excellent performance.

Commissioner Murphy announced the upcoming Color Run on January 21, 2017.

**ITEM 10 -- Adjourn  
6:20**