

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

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES (APPROVED January 27, 2016)  
December 9, 2015**

**Current Commissioners Present**

Bruce Gibson	SLO County Board of Supervisors (Chair)
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
Melinda Sokolowski	Child Care Planning Council
Bob Watt	Community at Large

**Commissioners Absent/Excused**

Tracy Schiro	Children's Services Network
--------------	-----------------------------

**Staff Present**

First 5 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 4:06 PM.

**ITEM 1 –Chair Comments**

Chair Gibson thanked Community Action Partnership for hosting tonight's meeting and Commissioner Sokolowski for arranging the logistics. He also congratulated the agency on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He made a note of the upcoming closed session at the conclusion of the meeting for the purposes of Executive Director performance review.

Mr. Gibson announced that he has been designated by the Board of Supervisors for another one-year term as representative to the First 5 Commission, commencing in January 2016.

**ITEM 2 - Public Comment**

Dr. Nisha AbdulCader, pediatrician serving Martha's Place, shared her perspective on the Center's history, achievements and challenges. She commented on First 5's important role in launching Martha's Place, and is pleased to have been able to build her training and practice to work with children who have experienced maltreatment. She pointed out two milestones: 1) 2016 marks Martha's Place's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary; and 2) over 1000 children have been seen during this time. She pointed out an additional unexpected milestone and a potential case study – she recently encountered a patient in her work at Juvenile Services Center who she first met as a patient at Martha's Place.

Medical services at Martha's Place involves not just pediatrics, but also nursing services and coordination. She stressed the importance of collaboration – a multidisciplinary model that incorporates behavioral/mental/medical. Other programs are now emulating the model. Another component that is so important is the extent to which we can review records, all the way back to prenatal. That expertise can be shared with the mental health team as well. A lot of the children will have limited contact with mental health providers, but with their pediatrician they may maintain a relationship for the duration of childhood.

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

- a. Approval of the October 28, 2015 Minutes
- b. Approval of FY15-16 Q1 Financial Report
- c. Approval of IMPACT Program Local Area Agreement (Base Layer Funding)
- d. Approval of 2016 Commission Meeting Calendar

*Public Comment: None*

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

### **ITEM 4 – Election of Officers for 2016**

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the nomination of Bruce Gibson and Penny Borenstein as Chair and Vice Chair for the year 2016.

*Public Comment: None*

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

### **ITEM 5 – Staff Reports**

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

- First 5 Executive Director Wendy Wendt gave a presentation on December 8 to the Board of Supervisors, both on First 5 work and the imperative to prioritize early childhood in policy, provider supports, and parenting.
- The Raising of America documentary screening project has mobilized community interest in more advocacy in early childhood. Commissioner Forester commented that a patient of his who attended one of the screenings wants to get involved.
- The Talk.Read.Sing. Campaign has been getting TV exposure through a First 5 CA commercial airing locally. First 5 SLO County staff will present a proposal for a local campaign launch at January 2016 Commission meeting.
- First 5s around the state are getting involved in promoting increased access to the Earned Income Tax Credit during the upcoming tax season. Commissioners recommended staff to contact the United Way regarding their tax prep assistance program.
- Active involvement with the SLO Chamber presents First 5 with strong opportunity to forge partnerships with employers and private sector supporters of early childhood.

*Public Comment: NONE*

#### **ITEM 6 – Commission Action to approve draft Strategic Plan Priority Areas, Programs and Related Funding Ranges for Planning and Contract Negotiations**

Chair Gibson reminded Commissioners of their obligation to announce any conflicts of interest, while recognizing that they are part of First 5 in part because of their collective content expertise.

Executive Director Wendy Wendt introduced the item. After 12 months of review/data/sharing/workgroup deliberation, this is the meeting to begin making decisions. The evening's focus is on 1) Confirming Priority Areas; 2) Confirming Program Mix (including a combination of continuing contracts, expansion/reductions, and new funding areas); and 3) Confirming an estimated amount per program as a starting point for negotiation with partner organizations and/or develop concrete processes in new program areas.

The suggested time-horizon for Strategic Plan 2016+ and contract cycles is 4 years, with the majority of initial contracts extending 2 years. Sustainability/Community Partnership building opportunities will be embedded in this structure.

Program Officer Jason Wells provided an orientation to a proposed program spreadsheet that outlines Priority Areas, Funding Mix, and Estimated Amounts. Green highlighted rows represent continuing funding; blue represent new program areas. An annual "margin for contract increases/negotiations" is included. The total annual amount incorporates approved annual allocations in the Long-Range Plan and remaining unallocated funds from the current Strategic Plan (minus \$30,000 which is being held in the current plan for proposed launch of a Talk.Read.Sing. Campaign, to be presented for Commission approval at the January 2016 meeting).

Proposed Priority Areas, Programs and Est Annual Funding		
Priority Areas	Current and Proposed Areas of Program Support	Est Annual Funding
<b>Perinatal Readiness</b>	BABES Breastfeeding Support	\$177,250
	Post-Partum Depression Support	\$6,767
	Baby's First Breath Tobacco Cessation	\$55,000
	<b>Home Visiting Systems Study and Needs Assessment</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
	<b>Perinatal Home Visiting Support</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$349,017</b>
<b>Family Strengthening</b>	Parents Helping Parents	\$42,000
	Family Support Counselor	\$60,000
	SR Family Advocates(2)	\$88,000
	<b>Early Childhood Family Advocates (2)</b>	<b>\$88,000</b>
	<b>Family Support Counselor</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
	<b>Parent Peer Support/Ed Groups</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$438,000</b>	
<b>Early Learning</b>	First 5 Preschools	\$192,104
	School Readiness Neighborhoods	\$194,430
	Extended Day at 3 SR Sites (1 Year)	\$171,545
	Early Learning For All	\$44,409
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$602,488</b>	
<b>Child Health and Development</b>	Vision Screening	\$34,800
	Oral Health Coord (system change and screening)	\$40,000
	Tolosa Oral Health Preventive Treatment (SLO)	\$53,820
	Health Access Trainers	\$34,262
	WIC Oral Health (Ed Class Only)	\$7,500
	BEST PALS-Therapy for Developmental Delays	\$45,000
	<b>Developmental Screening and Referral Study</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
	<b>Developmental Screening and Referral Support</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$275,382</b>	
<b>All</b>	<b>Annual Public Awareness Campaigns</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
	<b>Margin for Contract Increases and Negotiations</b>	<b>\$93,516.53</b>
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$143,517</b>
<b>All Programs Total</b>		<b>\$1,808,404</b>

Questions/Discussion

- Chair Gibson commented on the concept of the Margin. He proposed an alternative to distribute a contingency into each of the four main area, or to reserve 5% overall contingency for what we don't know. His first inclination is to include an overall contingency. Commissioner Collins proposed identifying the \$93,000 as an overall contingency. Chair Gibson suggested a percentage of 5% contingency on the total allocated amount.
- Commissioner Watt asked if historically some contract amounts have risen over years, while others have stayed level funded? And are there some for which we can anticipate an increase and others will remain relatively stable. Mr. Wells answered that both scenarios are the case, historically and looking into the future.
- Commissioner Sokolowski commented that the two studies identified (Home Visiting and Developmental Screening/Referral) might produce a whole new effort we haven't anticipated.
- Commission Gibson commented on the importance of giving staff the discretion to work with partners
- Commissioner Borenstein asked for clarity on the new line items in Family Strengthening for Family Advocates. Staff explained that family advocates represent a strong component of existing School Readiness neighborhoods. Creating a new dedicated line to add more family advocates creates a piecemeal opportunity to provide supplemental school readiness supports in additional school neighborhoods.

MOTION: Commissioner Collins moved to support the four Priority areas with the total dollar amounts as assigned in each area. Keep the \$50,000 for public awareness campaigns. In addition, create a General Purpose Contingency Fund of 5.75% (approximately the amount currently identified in the draft plan as "Margin" plus the remaining ~\$11,000 unassigned). Motion seconded by Commissioner Watt.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Watt suggested keeping the Contingency Fund amount at 5% and using the excess to increase the amount for public awareness campaigns. He commented that \$50,000 seemed low. Other Commissioners agreed.
- Ms. Wendt reminded Commissioners of additional advocacy funds in the amount of \$50,000-\$75,000 annually for advocacy activities, that can augment more targeted public awareness campaigns represented in the proposed \$50,000 listed above.

*Public Comment: NONE*

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. Motion passed.

**ITEM 7 – Commission Strategic Planning Discussion: Community Partnerships and Sustainability**

Commissioner Gibson proposed due to lack of time remaining in the meeting that this item be taken up through a reconvening of the Commissioner Work Groups.

Commissioner Brescia cautioned that the Commission does not appear to have a consensus on our approach to sustainability.

Commissioner Collins pointed out that sustainability requires a nuanced approach with individual programs.

*Public Comment*

Sandi Miscovich, MCAH Program Manager, County Public Health asked if First 5 requires grantees to describe a sustainability plan. Mr. Wells explained that currently there is language in contracts which encourages sustainability planning but does not require it.

Ms. Miscovich added another comment that with its limited and diminishing funding, First 5 should consider investing as much as possible in systems change and solutions, vs. services.

Cheri Fields, County Public Health Field Nursing Program asked if First 5 would consider providing technical assistance/funding to help programs plan for sustainability. Commissioner Borenstein responded that lack of capacity to secure ongoing funding is an indicator of a struggling program.

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

NONE

**ITEM 9 -- Closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b): PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

**6:40 p.m. Open to Commission**

Chair Gibson reopened Public Comment to CAPSLO employees Debi Welch (Head Start Director) and Vickie Farley (Head Start Area Manager). (Staff and Commission Chair had not been aware that prior to Closed Session Ms. Welch and Ms. Farley had submitted Public Comment slips).

Ms. Welch and Ms. Farley expressed concern that the Head Start Summer Enrichment Program, currently funded under the existing Strategic Plan, is not included in the proposed program mix in the new Strategic Plan. They emphasized that this program provides an important educational opportunity for many children with no prior preschool experience as they

prepare to enter kindergarten (45% of the total 72 participants in 2015). For these children and also those with behavior challenges (5% of the total), socialization is critical. Families and kindergarten teachers express deep appreciation for the opportunity, available in four communities (Los Osos, Paso Robles, Oceano, and Atascadero).

They further pointed out that the First 5-funded Head Start summer enrichment program serves the working poor, those who couldn't get into Head Start during the year.

## **ITEM 10 – Adjournment**

6:50 PM